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THE

Fishing Gazette :

DEVOTED TO

ANGLING, RIVER, LAKE, AND SEA FISHING
AND FISH CULTURE.

EDITED BY R. B. MARSTON

(HON. TREASURER OF THE FLY FISHERS' CLUB).

WITH ILLUSTRATIONS.

VOL. XXXVIII., JANUARY TO JUNE, 1899.

LONDON :

SAMPSON LOW, MARSTON, AND COMPANY, LIMITED

ST. DUNSTAN'S HOUSE, FETTER LANE, E.C.

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THE FISHING GAZETTE is published every Saturday, and can be obtained at Messrs. W. H. Smith and Son's Railway Bookstalls and of the principal Newspapers and Fishing Tackle Dealers in London and the Provinces. Communications relating to the Literary Department, Fishing Tackle for Notice, Books for Review, &c., should be addressed to R. B. MARSTON, Editor of the FISHING GAZETTE, St. Dunstan's House, Fetter-lane, London. Correspondents are requested to write on one side of the paper only, and give their real names and addresses, not necessarily as signatures to their letters, but as a guarantee of good faith. Unless this rule be adhered to no notice will be taken of such communications.

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The Fishing Gazette

WITH WHICH IS INCORPORATED

ANGLING AND CLUB GOSSIP.

SATURDAY, JANUARY 7TH, 1899.

THE FLY FISHERS' CLUB.

A CORRECTION.

SIR SAMUEL MONTAGUE, M.P., will preside at the annual dinner of the Fly Fishers' Club, to be held at the Hotel Cecil on Wednesday, Feb. 8, not Feb. 2 as previously stated.

A DAY'S FISHING FROM JERUSALEM.

A DAY'S fishing from Jerusalem! I do not suppose there are many people now living who ever had one, and it is more than fifty years since I had one myself. Some months ago there was a short letter in the *Fishing Gazette*, telling of the fish in the streams which run into the Jordan, and it reminded me forcibly of very happy days spent long ago with gun and rod on the banks of some of those streams. At this season our thoughts naturally turn to that land of sacred memories. A land which might be one of the richest on the face of the earth, but is, at least for a great part of it, a desert. But the streams were full of fish, and on the hills French partridges abounded, there were woodcocks about the pools of Solomon, quails on

the plain of the Jordan, and wild boars in the jungle near Jericho. Jerusalem is, I hear and read, very much changed. Fifty years ago there was not a wheeled vehicle in the country, but now the train takes you from Jaffa to Jerusalem in a few hours, and I fear that before long the traveller's ears will be pierced with the shrill cry of the "Bethlehem 'Bus," or "change here for Jericho," when he arrives at the Holy City. No doubt the new state of things will be much more convenient to the average tourist of to-day. A Cook's ticket will take you to what are called all the places of interest in the Holy Land, but you will not see it as I saw it. You will be shown sites of sacred places, many of which are manifestly mythical, but of the scenery of the country and of the character of the people you will learn little or nothing. We had our own horses, our own tents, and our own servants, and wandered at our own sweet will wherever our fancy led us. So it came about that in the streams in Lebanon, specially those that ran into the head waters of the Jordan, I saw swarms of fishes. Being on a journey, and no tackle handy, there was no chance of fishing; otherwise, from future experience, I have no doubt that we might have killed big baskets of fish, from $\frac{1}{2}$ lb. to $\frac{3}{4}$ lb., with a possible pounder now and then. When we arrived at Jerusalem, where I lived for more than a year, I hunted up an old fishing book which held some tackle, which I had been accustomed to use in burn fishing in Scotland, and determined that I would be prepared if ever I came across another stream with fish in it. About the end of February, 18—, a proclamation was made that the whole family was to prepare for a picnic on the plain of the Jordan. It was to last for three weeks at least, and perhaps more. Tents were routed out and looked over, guns cleaned, and powder and shot (a very scarce article in those days) procured, and my old fishing book overhauled. One fine morning we made an imposing cavalcade—five or six horses, two donkeys, and many mules laden with tents and all manner of stores. Out of the St. Stephen's Gate we streamed in a long procession, over the shoulder of the Mount of Olives; and down the long defile, past the Castle of Blood, we wended our way to the plain of the Jordan. This is the road down which the traveller went who was robbed and left for dead by the wayside, where the Good Samaritan found and succoured him. It had an evil reputation in the days of which I write, but we passed through without adventure, and, reaching the plain, turned to the left, and pitched our camp close under what is supposed to be the site of the ancient Jericho. There was one large dining tent, four sleeping tents for ourselves, and one or two for the servants. Having made friends with one of the chiefs of a tribe of Bedouins that wander about that part of the country we had guides and guards supplied, and were in no way troubled or molested. Not far from our camp I found a great spring, the Ain es Sultan (possibly the "Diamond of the Desert" of Sir Walter Scott), rising just under a high mound, and spreading out into a considerable pool. In it were many little fish. To cut a reed from the bank of the stream below and tie a gut trace to it did not take long. But how about bait? No worms or grubs could I find, so making up a little paste, with some cotton wool mixed with it, I cast in my hook carefully covered, and we had fish for supper. They would not have weighed more than 2oz. or 3oz. apiece, but they were excellent to eat. The next day being Sunday, we went for a walk in the afternoon to explore our surroundings, and found a lovely stream rippling down from a deep gorge in the hills; its banks were in places lined with tall canes, and just where it emerged from the hills it was spanned by an old Roman aqueduct. As we walked up the bank the stream was sometimes hidden by bushes and clumps of canes, but we could see enough of it to show that if there were fish in it it would afford excellent opportunities for upstream fishing with bait. In fact, it reminded us of Scotch burns from which we had filled many a basket with lovely little trout. Suddenly round a sharp bend we came to a long, thin shallow, and as we watched the clear water

rippling over the stones, and making that music so dear to the angler, two or three fish started in hot haste to run up into the pool above. Having a good stick in my hand, I dashed into the shallowest part of the stream, and slew two fish that were struggling up with their backs out of water. My father, who had been a keen angler in his younger days, was much interested in the performance, and when I brought the two fish ashore, was, I firmly believe, on the point of complimenting me on my success, but suddenly calling to mind the fact that it was Sunday, he administered a rebuke instead. However, I noticed that he had no objection to taste the fish, which were cooked for supper, and pronounced them to be good. I was thereupon ordered to rig up some tackle for him and myself, so that on Monday we might go a-fishing, and it was decided that we were to make a long day of it, and that all the family were to meet at a certain spot near the old Roman aqueduct, and were to have a picnic luncheon together. We promised ourselves that we would fry, and roast, and boil, and cook in every conceivable fashion the fish which we thought we should catch, and have a feast such as I had often had before by many a Scotch burn. As soon as it was daylight I was off to cut canes for rods, and managed to get two beauties about 9ft. long each. A piece of old line was soon tied to each, and two or three lengths of gut put to soak. But how about bait? A diligent search under stones, and much digging with a pointed stick (which was a weariness to the flesh), produced nothing in the shape of a worm. Suddenly I bethought me of grasshoppers, which I had heard were used as bait in heathen lands. Grasshoppers there were, no doubt. But did you ever try to catch a Syrian grasshopper? The sun was up, the vegetation was rank, and the grasshoppers displayed a phenomenal agility. After a few minutes of exciting work I found myself with the perspiration running off my nose and with only two grasshoppers, and those crushed out of all shape by the snatch which I had made at them. There was nothing for it, therefore, but to use paste, so having made up a good sized lump, with plenty of cotton wool mixed with it, I made for the breakfast tent and reported all preparations for fishing complete. When we reached the bend in the stream where I had killed the two fish the day before, my father elected to fish downstream and I was to go up. We agreed to meet at a certain tree, which stood a little way back from the stream, in two hours' time, and report progress. I began to fish, taking the utmost care to keep out of sight, hiding behind bushes and crawling carefully where there was no cover, and I soon had a few nice little fishes, but nothing over $\frac{1}{2}$ lb. The part of the stream where I was fishing was shallow and rapid, but just round a bend I saw above me a pool with a little fall at the head of it. I got well back and dropped my bait just over the edge of the bank. It could hardly have touched the water before I got a vigorous pull, that suggested something bigger than I had yet caught. Keeping a tight line and walking downwards, I got my fish out of the pool and landed a nice $\frac{1}{2}$ -pounder. Returning to my old place, I dropped my line again just over the edge, but instead of reaching the water it got caught on something. I could not get it free, so was obliged to go forward to the edge. It was very vexing, because I had counted on a harvest from that pool. It was difficult to free the line, the hook had caught on a root near the water, and I had to lean over and reach down—tackle was too scarce to risk a break. There, below me in the clear still water, were lots of nice fish swimming about. They had all seen me, and would not therefore take a bait, so I thought, and standing up on the bank looked at them with the intention of coming back and trying for them later on. There were some among them which looked to me to be up to $\frac{3}{4}$ lb., and while I looked, it struck me that they also were looking at me, not as a Scotch trout would look before he fled beneath his accustomed stone, but with an expression of gentle curiosity in their gaze. One of them, in fact, came up and almost smiled at me. To reward him for his evident sympathy, I dropped my bait to him, which he instantly took. Having deposited him comfortably in my make-shift basket, I presented my bait to another fish, who

seemed to have a look of expectancy on his countenance; he took it at once. And so it went on till I had cleared the pool of all the good fish in it; some of them would, I think, have weighed $\frac{3}{4}$ lb. In pool after pool, as I fished on upstream, the same performance was repeated. I stood up boldly on the bank and looked down at the fish. The fish looked up at me, and accepted my bait with a smile. The basket got heavy, so I tackled up, and found my father waiting for me under the appointed tree.

His experience had been much the same as mine. The rest of the family arriving with all sorts of pots, and kettles and pans, I was set to gather materials for the fire, while my father cleaned some of the fish, and we had a royal feast. The fish were good, at least we thought them so, and with other good things which my mother had brought with her, lest we should catch no fish (the dear old lady had little faith in fishermen), we made a not-soon-to-be-forgotten luncheon.

How many fish we had caught I do not exactly know, but twelve dozen would be under the mark. What they were I do not know. They were not trout or grayling. In shape they were like a trout, and all I can say of them is that they gave us one of the most charming few hours' fishing and delightful luncheon that I can remember.

Next day I thought to repeat the experience, but a change had come over the spirit of the fish, suspicion had taken the place of confidence. They refused my bait with scorn in the water which I had fished the day before. I was driven to hide behind bushes, and crawl and squirm on the bank, and then got only a few. So we turned our attention to partridges and quail, and had some very fair sport.

As I headed this paper "A Day's Fishing from Jerusalem," let me add that it would be quite possible for one who was young and strong to start at sunrise and be back in the city by sunset. A three hours' ride would easily take him to the stream. Four or five hours' fishing ought to give him as much as he would care to carry, and leave him four hours for the home journey.

I do not suppose a line has ever been cast in the stream since we were there, and I hope that the next angler who tries it may find the fish as numerous and as confiding as we did.

C. HEVIT (Hon. Chap. F. G.).

FISHING AND FISHERS.*

THIS is a pleasant little book of angling gossip by an enthusiast, very attractively illustrated, and bound in a cover on which figures a burly keeper with an enormous landing net. It is not half a bad idea, because any angler seeing this cover must at once be impressed with the great size of the fish the author is in the habit of catching if such a gigantic landing net is necessary.

In his introduction to Mr. Taylor's volume, "Red Spinner" divides angling writers into the practical and the poetical. After referring to several of the former school, he says: "To the accepted instructors above mentioned there have succeeded a procession of writers bent apparently upon entertaining rather than lecturing and teaching. They sketch and plead rather than expound and argue; they lay more stress upon the incidental charms of angling than upon the technicalities of either its sport or the manifold mechanical preparations of tackle. . . . I hope the author of 'Fishing and Fishers' will not be offended if I invite him to place himself in this category, content to know that the giving of pleasure is not less praiseworthy than the imparting of knowledge."

We certainly think Mr. Taylor need not be offended at thus being placed among those who amuse rather than instruct—for our part we think there is far more room for amusement than instruction, the latter branch of the literature of the subject having been considerably overdone of late years.

As a specimen of Mr. Taylor's book, we give his short chapter entitled, "On Houghton Water," especially as many of our readers know the spot well.

Although it is rather startling to be awakened by the first strokes of a water-mill, instead of an alarm, the

noise, when you begin to recognise it as a familiar friend, is rather soothing than otherwise; and had I slept many more nights in the old mill-house at Houghton perhaps the sound of the wheel might merely have served as a pleasant reminder that there was no train to catch.

Most men on the first morning of their sojourn become suddenly virtuous, as far as early rising is concerned, and find themselves, long before breakfast is ready, strolling up or down the river, with an eye for "rises."

The downward excursion could be only for a few yards, as the water belonging to the Houghton Club extended but a short distance in that direction, and its main point of interest was the mill-tail and pool. In these were lots of good grayling and a few trout, and the very few "duffers" the club contained are rumoured to have taken most of their fish from these troubled waters. My friend did not suggest that I should try this spot; and this was, I suppose, a compliment, though ill-deserved and unwished for.

It was near here a celebrated north-country grayling fisher took his record bag of giant grayling with worm, by special permission.

It was not till after a leisurely breakfast and a quiet walk of a quarter of a mile up the river that any fishing was so much as thought of. Nor would a fly have been cast perhaps till afternoon had it not chanced to be an early-rising day, so that feeding fish were soon visible, and could be attacked in true orthodox fashion. From the first to which I was formally introduced I failed to get a rise. Indeed, I "put him down"—so much was he scandalised at my style of casting. Perhaps the next had received a less finished education, for he took my delusive snare most sweetly, and after some exciting play was fairly under control and nearly in the net, when the hold gave, and he was free!

After this I tried to admire the scenery for awhile, and watch my companion, who, contrary to his usual habits, was actually fishing in a steady and persistent manner, and

secured by many a noted angler, from "Red Spinner" downwards.

Trying this corner, I kept rising dace, and, perhaps unwisely, soon abandoned it. Big roach are also taken sometimes here, and pike, alas! are only too abundant, though well looked after, both with wire and bait. It is seldom they are left to reach a heavy weight, and while very small they do comparatively little harm. Big trout are far worse than little jack. When a trout outgrows his proper 4lb. weight he soon becomes a cannibal, and if such fish were taken out no river would be equal to the crystal Test.

In Chapter XXII. a brief account is given of the Fly Fishers' Club, of which the author was the first hon. sec. "Within this club," he says, "are found every variety of the genus fly fisher, from the ancient veteran who looks down upon us all with tolerant superiority, to the callow youth, who, in his raw enthusiasm, would pull the whole affair about our ears to model it afresh. Every sort of fly fishing has its representative advocate, from the head centre of the inner brethren, who thinks it almost profane to speak disrespectfully of the dry fly, to the reckless advocate of crude whipping with three formless insects on the tumbling waters of a Devon stream."

His chapter "The Lessons of a Diary" show that Mr. Taylor has had a long and varied experience as an angler—he is very modest in recounting his captures, but there are very few indeed who can quote from their diary the entry of a perch of just under 4lb., for instance. He gives an excellent piece of advice where he quotes (p. 198)



THE WELLAND, ST. JAMES' DEEPING, NEAR PETERBOROUGH.

curiously enough without much ultimate success, though I saw him hook three good trout in a few minutes.

This was on a wide shallow, and the fish were rising all around and often taking, when properly covered. Yet only one fish came to bank all day, and that fell to my companion's rod, and weighed about a pound and a half; not large for this grand water. We had some undersized fish also which were not counted. I remember that towards evening we met the late Mr. Marryat, and afterwards "The Major," and the last had taken some nice grayling, which he showed us; but I saw no other trout.

Next day was very sunny, and we fished but little; and once more I had to be content to return my fish, for all were small. The show of fish in the bright sunshine was most tantalising. All along the river, by sedgy deep, bright rapid, or spreading shallow, trout, and big trout, were lying plainly visible, but not in rising mood; and to throw over them, even when they seemed to touch the surface, is not orthodox.

In other circumstances I am not by any means a purist, but in these I naturally conformed to the very virtuous sentiments expressed by my respected host as to the injury done to trout streams by those reckless men who will insist on casting over sulky fish and making them still sulkier.

The worst of it is that I fear my host is partly right, and that the best way for a man always on the spot to secure a good proportion of big fish in a season is to cast only over rises. It is far otherwise with a visitor. Yet it is only right that he should conform to the same rule, and take his chance.

In the Hampshire fisheries comfort reigns supreme, and in the wettest weather (of which, indeed, we had a little) we could keep dry clothes by means of the charming little huts dotted about at many a noted spot upon the banks. I don't remember one at the famed "leg of mutton swim," where such heavy grayling have often been

advice sometimes given to him: "I am often advised, before casting for a big fish, to consider the possibility of landing him; but I sometimes cast first, and consider afterwards, if necessary. It seldom is. Very often a large trout in a difficult position has had little experience, and, when he is hooked, acts in some unexpectedly foolish way, and enables you to overcome difficulties which seemed insuperable."

We quite endorse what Mr. Taylor says on this point. Our maxim has always been to give the fish the chance to take the fly or other bait if possible, and then land him if possible. Not to attempt because the odds seem all against the angler is probably to leave the fish for someone with more pluck. None but the brave deserve the big fish. To have, perhaps, a fortnight of really good fishing in a year, and to hesitate about trying to catch a 2lb. or 3lb. trout, or other good fish, for fear of breaking your cast or your rod is ridiculous.

Opposite p. 192 Mr. Taylor gives us a picture on the celebrated Lion Hotel water, on the Darent, in Kent. We remember it as it used to be in the time of Phelps, the actor and angler, who loved the place. At that time the river divided in the lower meadows, and spread out into wide, shallow streams, where now it runs sharply in one. Mr. Taylor's picture reminds us of many a delightful first of May spent on the Red Lion Hotel water in the sixties and seventies.

* FISHING AND FISHERS. By J. Paul Taylor. With an introduction by "Red Spinner." Illustrated. London: Ward, Lock, and Co., Ltd.

We quite agree with our author when he says that "Among modern angling verses I have seen none to surpass those contained in a little work published by Horace Cox, and called 'Lyra Piscatoria.'" The author writes under the name of "Cotswold Isis," but it is an open secret that these poems are by the Rev. Richard Glover.

On p. 159 our author says: "Next to Frank Buckland, Francis Francis was certainly the most powerful popular advocate of fish culture, and his book still remains one of the most useful works."

Yes; we wish some modern advocates of stocking great rivers by means of a few pounds spent on a hatching apparatus, would take the trouble to see what was done in the endeavour to re-stock the Thames with salmon and trout between 1850 and 1890.

Mr. J. Paul Taylor writes so sincerely and modestly, that while one may not by any means agree with all his views, yet we think few anglers who light a cigar or a pipe, preparatory to reading it, will not agree with us that in addition to having quite a pleasant little style of its own, it

Had he been born a rich man, he might have made for himself a name as a keen and famous sportsman; but he was born a simple and poor peasant of the Government of Kazan, and his name was never known much outside his own village and the small circle of sportsmen for whom he used to act as gillie on their shooting and fishing expeditions to the lakes near which his native village was situated. He was a great favourite with most of them, though some objected to his remarks when they happened to cripple a bird and did not at once stop shooting until they had retrieved it; he did not care much as to how his remarks were taken, but would quietly say: "Well, I think we ought to find that bird, and put it out of its pain; we are sportsmen, not knackers!" and go for that bird, and follow it till he found it, little caring for his employer *pro tem.* and his ruffled sentiments.

So you see he had the true spirit of the sportsman in him. This did not, however, prevent him from using pretty freely such appliances for catching fish which, in the eyes of an "up-to-

shooting, some on angling—had struck their camp on the banks of Long Lake (Dólgoye Ózero) something like half a mile from Ivan's village; Ivan had been sent for at once, and towards evening he might have been seen busily engaged in setting his favourite "forks" and other engines of the "take care of yourself" kind. Among the party encamped on the bank of Long Lake there happened to be two amateur photographers with their cameras, and they made up their minds to play old Ivan a trick. Late in the evening, when all were busy round the "samovar" refreshing themselves with good caravan tea, one of these two gentlemen managed to absent himself for a few minutes, and to return as unnoticed as he had disappeared. But even if his absence had been noticed, it would have been difficult to suspect him of anything mischievous, so perfectly guileless was the expression of his countenance.

In the morning Ivan had to accompany a party of sportsmen to the duck-shooting grounds, where they remained till about nine o'clock; the anglers, who had been devoting the early part of the day



EXPECTATION.



REALISATION.

contains many useful hints and pleasant memories. As we said before, the illustrations are most attractive. By the kindness of the publishers we are able to give a specimen—a pretty view on the Welland.

"EXPECTATION" AND "REALISATION"; OR THE PIKE WHICH OLD IVAN POACHED.

SOME time ago, in rummaging through a lot of "odds and ends" referring to old fishing days, I came upon the two photographs accompanying the present sketch, and bethought myself of giving the readers of the *Fishing Gazette* an account of one of the most amusing fishing incidents I had the good luck to witness.

Ivan Petroff, better known under the name of "Old Ivan," in order to distinguish him from his nephew, who rejoiced in the same name and patronymic as his uncle, was quite a character.

date" disciple of Izaak Walton, would appear unorthodox, to say the least of it. Thus he was very partial for set lines for pike, his pet "engine" being the time-honoured "fork," a very simple yet very killing device, consisting of a forked branch on which the line—baited with a live fish—is wound, being held at a convenient distance from the bottom by jamming it in a cleft of the said fork. This device is sufficiently well known all the world over, so as to render a more detailed description of it superfluous; in England it is considered, as far as I know, a poaching instrument, but is in pretty general use among Russian fishermen, the very advanced ones excepted. Old Ivan most decidedly did not belong to the latter category, but some of his patrons did; and their attempts to bring him to see the wickedness of set lines and "forks" were a sore trial to the poor man, driving him at times into fits of sulkiness (which, however, never lasted long).

One fine day about the end of August a number of sportsmen—some intent on duck

to roach fishing (Long Lake being famous for the size and the remarkable beauty of its roach) also put in an appearance at the camp towards that time, and the whole company fell to too a copious breakfast with an appetite born of a pure conscience, early rising, and inhaling the bracing, crisp air of the country. Ivan took a very prominent part in the proceedings, his special line being the disposing of numberless glasses of scalding hot tea with an elegant ease that made the uninitiated stare; those familiar with Ivan knew the performance well, and generally designated it as "Ivan's scalding of his innards."

After having gone through his usual feats in that direction, Ivan began to gather himself for an effort of some kind, as could be plainly seen by the way in which he was stretching his long limbs. The two photographic fiends seemed to be taken with a sudden emulation of Ivan's doings, and also began to pull themselves together, with the most innocent facial expression which they could assume. But there was a very "Mephisto-feline" smile playing round

their mouths—and there were both their cameras standing ready for action on their tripods. Slowly Ivan wended his way towards a reedy nook of the lake, thoughtfully scratching the back of his head, as he used to when solving some piscatorial problem. Then he disappeared in the thick growth of reeds fringing the lake, and after a few minutes emerged out of them on its bank. A look at the nearest of his rods told him that something was “on,” and a delighted grin spread over his face. He lifts the rod cautiously—strange how dead the pull of the fish feels—he must have taken the bait at dawn, gorged too deep, perhaps damaged the gills, and died in the water, or he has run the line under a root and sticks fast there. The second rod is instantly got out of the water, so as not to interfere with the killing of the fish—if the fish should happen to want killing still—“a long pull and a strong pull,” and up he comes—an old linden-bark shoe worn by the peasants, and known as “lapot” (plural “lapti”). The face of Ivan was a study—the “realisation” did not come up to the “expectation!”

But when Ivan ought to have been photographed—that’s when he was shown his “counterfeit presentment” taken under such distressing circumstances for his piscatorial *amour propre*; he swore some, you bet! And long after that if one wanted to send Ivan off in a fit of hard and systematic cussing, he only needed to ask him how much the big pike weighed which he had so skilfully taken on Long Lake.

BARON PAUL TCHERKASSOV.

St. Petersburg, Dec. 17, 1898.

FLY FISHING.

BY SYDNEY BUXTON, M.P.

[THE following short extracts are from a long and pleasant article (more than twelve pages) on fly fishing in the January number of the *Nineteenth Century*, which we recommend to the notice of all fly fishers.—ED. F. G.]

Why is fishing such a fascinating sport? There are many reasons. In it anticipation, the pleasures of hope, play an exceptionally large part—man seldom is, but always to be blessed. Then, there is no sport in which the unknown has so obvious and so fascinating a share; no bounds need be, nor indeed are, set to the imagination. The pleasure does not even largely lie, is certainly not entirely dependent, on the killing. Fishing is fishing, even if you catch no fish. And a blank day’s fishing—unless due to human or Satanic agency, a broken rod, rotten casts, over-tempered flies, weed cutting or yellow floods—may be open to regret, but is never detestable. All day long the fisherman has been exercising his skill and his intelligence; and if, for once, the fish have got the better of him, there are always a thousand good reasons for his want of success.

One of the chief charms, however, of fly fishing lies certainly in the knowledge that the sport depends on, and is a fair contest between, the fish and the man. That is much. And further, and that also is much, one cannot tell what the day will bring forth. Your purse or your host may provide you with a river, and a river with salmon or trout in it; but no human being can foretell what your bag will be—a blank, a record, a betwixt and between.

Some dry-fly fishermen enjoy, I know (in books), a blustering downstream wind, and can throw as easily against it as with it. I know I cannot; I know that such a wind is bad for my temper, and largely destructive of my sport and pleasure. The ideal day for trout fishing is a day fine, still, warm, and fleecy. Such a day is physically delightful. Such a day enables one the more easily to see, and the better to observe, the fish and the whole performance. On such a day, moreover, the fly usually hatches the best, and consequently the fish are more likely to rise.

It is all this, and much more, which, in spite of the strain involved to brain and eye and hand, makes a day’s fly fishing, snatched from the worry and scurry of life, the most fascinating of pleasures, the truest of recreations, the greatest of rests.

As regards trout, there is fly fishing and fly fishing—there is chalk and there is cheese. There is loch fishing. There is the downstream fishing

of the northern streams, the “chuck and chance it” system, where you flog along with a couple or three flies on your cast in the blind hope that a fish will be there and will hook itself on. There is the more scientific “wet”-fly fishing, with one or two flies, casting upstream. Finally, there is the newest and the most skilled system—fishing with one fly, always floated dry on the surface, and only presented to a fish on the feed. In this case the “wet” fly is confined to its legitimate sphere, a tailing fish, rough shallows, hopeless days—when it also will probably not catch fish.

Frederic Halford is the Izaak Walton. George Dewar is the Charles Cotton of dry-fly fishing—and I would that they had lived earlier, or preached sooner. For one recalls, with something of a sigh, the fishing days in years gone by, before dry-fly fishing was. Delightful as they were, how much more delightful they would have been if one had fished with a “dry” fly instead of with a “wet” fly, had fished the rise instead of whipping the stream, had always, instead of only occasionally, fished at a fish instead of for a fish.

How Kingsley and Froude would have loved the dry fly had they but known of it. The rhapsody over the Alder (as a wet fly fully deserved) would have been nothing to the pæan of praise that Kingsley would have melodiously poured forth over the floating Quill Gnat or Olive Dun, if only he had written his Chalk Stream Studies in this year of grace instead of forty years ago. And twenty years later the charm of Cheneys would have been much enhanced to Froude if, instead of knotting his March Brown and “never failing Red Spinner” to the same cast, he had fished the lovely Ches, by the home of the Russells, with a single well dried, well cocked fly.

Cheneys: what delightful memories it recalls! There, some fifteen or twenty years ago, I went, on more than one occasion, with Matthew Arnold to enjoy with him his three days’ annual Whitsun fishing—days which to him were of peculiar delight. How well I remember the quaint old inn, the quiet, tree-shaded, well ordered village, the limpid stream, the rising trout; and the evenings spent with the most genial and delightful of men. His preference, when fishing, was for numbers rather than size, mine for size rather than numbers. So he cast line for choice in the swift and gurgling streams below the mill, while I fished the deeper and stiller waters above where the two and three-pounders lay.

INDEX TO VOL. 37.

As a supplement to the *Fishing Gazette*, we this week (Jan. 7) publish an index of articles, illustrations, correspondence, &c. It will be found in the centre of the paper.

THE FLY DRESSER’S LIBRARY.

BY VAL CONSON.

BOOKS on the subject of fly dressing fall under three heads, viz.:

- (1) Those which contain mere catalogues of flies, with particulars more or less elaborate of their component parts.
- (2) Those which deal merely with entomology, with or without particulars of the dressings of imitations of flies.
- (3) Those which contain instructions in the mechanics of fly tying, either with or without entomological information, catalogues of flies, and particulars of component parts.

To enumerate all the works which deal in one form or another with fly dressing would involve such large drafts upon the catalogue which is due to the patient labours of Messrs. Westwood and Satchell, that these gentlemen might justly complain. It is the purpose, therefore, of these papers to trace briefly the history of the subject, and to touch upon such writings as constitute landmarks in the history of the art, and to indicate the books which the amateur who is desirous of having a sound working library of the art should not fail to acquire.

It is necessary to premise that the art of dressing trout flies is not so modern as the literature of the subject in the English would at the first blush lead one to believe. The first reference to

fly fishing is to be found in the frequently quoted passage in *Ælian*, in which he gives, from the point of view of a stranger to the art, a lively picture of angling for a fish, from his description surprisingly like trout, with a fly called Hippurus, strongly resembling a Soldier Palmer.* It is not too much to infer that the Macedonians did not confine themselves only to the use of the fly described by *Ælian*, but that *Ælian* saw no other used.

Ælian wrote about the end of the second century of our era, and with the exception of a reference of his cotemporary Oppian to the practice of fly fishing for a sea fish called the *Scarus*, there is no literature on the subject until the year 1496, when Wynkyn de Worde issued from the press in black letters Dame Juliana de Berners’ Booke of St. Albans, on Fysshynge with an Angle.

Dame Juliana was a sporting abbess, and she sets out with some *naïveté*, and no attempt at minute description, a list of trout flies for the months from March to August inclusive, of which the following is a fair specimen:

MARCH.—The Donne Fly: the body of donne wolle and the wynges of the pertridge. Another Donne Fly: the body of blacke wolle, the wynges of the blackest drake, and the jay under the wyng and under the tayle.

Incoherent and difficult to follow as this is, it is evident that a good deal of experiment with various feathers had been tried, and a good deal of observation of natural flies had been had to arrive at these results. They are written rather as memoranda of things well known than as novel information for the reader.

Nearly another century elapsed before the next recorded work appeared, viz., Leonard Mascall’s “Booke of Fishing with Hooke and Line.”

Mascall’s book is in black letter. It contains a list of twelve kinds of flies, with very insufficient descriptions of the materials composing them.

For reasons which seem to have been foreign to his merits Mascall appears to have had a lengthy reign as an authority, for though Izaak Walton, in his first edition of “The Compleat Angler,” published in 1653, gives without much variation a transcript of the instructions which appeared in Barker’s “Art of Angling” in the year 1651, he falls back in his second edition (1655) on Mascall, and copies his instructions verbatim.

It is true that Gervase Markham, in 1635, produced “The Pleasures of Princes or Good Men’s Recreations,” with a list of flies and particulars of their materials, but they are almost as primitive as Dame Juliana Berners. Yet the book ran through several subsequent editions.

Venables (“The Experienced Angler,” 1662) gives no list of flies, but gives some serviceable directions on the subject of materials and dressing. He is as insistent as the most modern authorities on the necessity of accurate observation of the natural fly, and the dressing of the artificial from it, and not from set rules.

Izaak Walton, in his first edition, names a short list of flies, some of which are recognisable, others not, and he goes on to give some instructions for the dressing of a winged fly, which the expert will find no difficulty in following, but which, like all, or almost all, of the books of instruction which appeared until the latter end of this century, prove very difficult of comprehension to the tyro. Then he gives directions for dressing the “May

* The Macedonians who live on the banks of the river Astræus, which flows midway between Berea and Thessalonica, are in the habit of catching a particular fish in that river by means of a fly called Hippurus. A very singular insect it is, bold and troublesome like all its kind, in size a hornet, marked like a wasp, and buzzing like a bee. These flies are the prey of certain speckled fish, which no sooner see them settling on the water than they glide gently beneath, and before the Hippurus is aware, snap at and carry him as suddenly under the stream as an eagle will seize and bear aloft a goose from a farmyard, or a wolf take a sheep from its fold. The predilection of these speckled fish for their prey, though familiarly known to all who inhabit the district, does not induce the angler to attempt their capture by impaling the living insect, which is of so delicate a nature that the least handling would spoil its colour and appearance, and render it unfit as a lure. But adepts in the sport have contrived a taking device to circumvent them; for which purpose they invest the body of the hook with purple wool, and having adjusted two wings of a waxy colour so as to form an exact imitation of the Hippurus, they drop these abstruse cheats gently down the stream. The scaly pursuers who hastily rise, and expect nothing less than a dainty bait, snap the decoy, and are immediately fixed to the hook.

fly" and the "Oak fly," and some references to the dressing of the Hawthorn fly, and others.

In 1676 Charles Cotton's contribution to the book known as "The Compleat Angler" was published. He gives a number of flies for each month, but maintains that "the Green Drake and Stone fly are the matadors for trout and grayling, and in their season kill more fish in our Derbyshire rivers than all the rest, past, to come, or the whole year beside."

In later editions of "The Compleat Angler" the list of flies is greatly extended, and that of Samuel Baxter (the seventh edition) contains a very considerable selection.

Jas. Chetham, of Smedley, published in 1681 "The Angler's Vade Mecum," with a list of some twenty flies without dressings. Then, changing his mind, he gives a list of sixty-six flies (February to September) with their dressings, as well as some incidental patterns. There is a very good artificial "cod bait" of "shammy leather" or beeswax with a black silk head. The book is very well arranged, bright, and interesting. The author is strong on good imitation. He is the first to recommend starling wings as superior to drakes. He advises the dressing of Duns with yellow silk, and Browns with red silk, and in September the use of silks of violet and horse-flesh colour. Beyond this there are no directions for tying. His Palmer fly reads much like the Sanctuary. It is dressed with the "whirl of a partridge feather and a red hackle of a capon."

In 1714 appeared, anonymously, "The Whole Art of Fishing," with a list of a dozen flies apparently borrowed from Walton, and a brief page of instructions for dressing.

In "The Compleat Fisherman," by James Saunders, 1724, occurs the first mention of silk-worm gut. Except successive editions of Walton and Cotton, there is little of permanent value in the fly-dressing literature of the eighteenth century till we come to Richard Bowlker's work of 1758. This was a great advance on anything in this direction which had gone before, and was reprinted many times. The 1758 edition was issued by Richard Bowlker, at Worcester, as "The Art of Angling Improved in all its Parts." In 1766 it was reprinted in London, with some additions, as "The Universal Angler." The second edition, printed at Birmingham in 1774, was claimed by Charles Bowlker, and was called "The Art of Angling and Compleat Fly Fisher." Other editions followed in 1785, 1786, 1788, 1792, 1806, 1814, 1826, 1829, 1839, &c., and up to quite a recent date reprints of this work were being advertised by some one of the name of Bowlker in the angling press. The 1826 and subsequent, and perhaps earlier, editions contain some creditable coloured representations of trout flies, with a list of thirty-six patterns, and careful instructions for dressing them.

In 1766 came Sir John Hawkins' edition of "The Compleat Angler," with a greatly extended list of flies. In the same year Richard Brookes, M.D., published "The Art of Angling," containing a new art of fly making. This work also, though distinguished by wholesale conveyances from Chetham—perhaps because of it—ran through numerous editions till the early years of the present century. It gives two lists of flies, each of great length, one called "Cotton's list," the other a modern catalogue.

In 1784 Thomas Shirley published "The Angler's Museum," treating, in Part V., "Of Fly Fishing and the Preparation of Artificial Flies." This list of flies is directly cribbed, apparently without acknowledgment, from Bowlker.

Three years later Thomas Best published his "Concise Treatise on the Art of Angling," with a frontispiece, on which some six artificial flies are illustrated, all tied on eyed hooks, and apparently by the jam knot. He gives an elaborate list of trout flies for each month of the angling year, and then, beginning all over again, he describes a series of twenty-one natural flies, and gives brief dressings of each. Successive editions of this work followed every three or four years, until the thirties.

In 1795 Ralph Cole published "The Young Angler's Companion, including . . . the art of making artificial flies, &c." This work went through a second and a third edition in 1813 and 1816.

In 1800 Samuel Taylor's "Angling in all its Branches" appeared, containing, "thirdly, a list

of artificial flies"; and (to quote the modest words of the author) "the whole forming a work of real ability . . . and of a very different nature from those insignificant little pamphlets hitherto published, which treat chiefly of angling in the Thames, the New River, and other waters of equal consequence about London." The list comprises twenty day flies (several of them dubbed with fox fur) and three night flies.

In the same year comes George Scotcher with "The Flyfisher's Legacy," "containing accurate descriptions of all the principal natural flies that frequent the water, laid down in such familiar manner that the angler may readily distinguish them: together with the most successful method of imitating them, forming the fisherman's grand desideratum, a long wished for instructor." It is a rare local work, which preceded Bainbridge (1816), Carroll (1818), and Ronalds (1836).

(To be continued.)

FISH CULTURE IN NORTH DEVON.

BUCKLAND FISHERY, BRAUNTON, NORTH DEVON.

THE yearling fish offered for sale this season are of exceptional size and quality. Rainbow yearlings are grown to a length of 11in., and trout yearlings to 9in. It is believed that these large yearlings will be found suitable for many of the purposes to which two-year-olds are commonly applied.

TIME OF STOCKING.—In most south country waters stocking in autumn or early spring is recommended, except when a short length of water only is to be stocked. When trout are to be turned out in late spring into the lower waters of rivers holding salmon, stocking should be deferred until the seaward migration of kelts is completed.

VARIETIES OF TROUT (*S. fario*).—Three varieties of *S. fario* are for sale: 1. Best fitted for swift waters rich in food. 2. For large waters with many still deeps. 3. For small barren streams and waters on high ground. 1 and 2 are of different blood; 3 are reared under somewhat different conditions from 1 and 2.

RAINBOWS.—Rainbows are especially suitable for waters which from their polluted condition, high temperature, or deficient oxygenisation do not give the best results with trout. They are particularly recommended for small ponds and reservoirs.

The following natural foods can sometimes be supplied. Prices on application: Pond snail, fresh-water limpet, planorbis, fresh-water shrimp, Cyclops quadricornis, larvae of Alder Fly, March Brown, Blue Dun, Stone Fly, caddis worms.

RAPID GROWTH OF RAINBOWS.

An instance of quick growth of a rainbow may be of interest. This fish was hatched in May of last year, and on Nov. 19 measured 9½in. in length with a weight slightly exceeding 4oz., his age being a fortnight over six months.

F. G. RICHMOND.

FISH CULTURE AT MALVERN WELLS.

THE following notes about this establishment are from the circular and price list of Messrs. Wm. Burgess and Co.

"It is hardly necessary for us to give a detailed description of the Malvern Wells Fishery, as it has been established so many years, and is now so well known to the public; suffice to say that it occupies one of the best possible sites for bringing fish into existence by artificial methods, and extends over many acres. The water supply is obtained in plenty, and from untainted sources. Before reaching the hatcheries it is adequately filtered, so that it comes to the ova in suitable condition. The water in the ponds can be regulated according to the requirements of the fish, be they fry, yearlings, or matured fish, or it can be drawn from the ponds when it is desired to empty them, for the purpose of sorting or dispatch. One series of ponds is provided for fry, another for yearlings, and another for older fish, some of them having a depth of 10ft. The brooks which supply our fishery come direct from the Malvern Hills, the water is very rich in insect life, which form the natural food, and it is no doubt partly owing to this that our fish grow so fast and thrive so well. We have a number of ponds specially set apart for breeding and rearing perch and other coarse fish.

"To prevent disappointment, orders should be given as early in the year as possible. During cold weather less water is required, and the cost of carriage is much lighter.

"It is highly important that a suitable conveyance (on springs) should meet the train by which fish arrive, as delay at railway stations is often fatal, owing to the water not being kept in motion, otherwise we cannot be answerable for any loss that may occur.

"A book containing much useful information on fish culture will be forwarded on application."

SALMON ANGLING RENTALS.

WITH the advent of a new year comes the near prospect of the opening again of the salmon angling season. The spring angler begins to feel a new interest in life, and longs for the opening day, when, freed of all legal fetters, he can again grip the rod, wend his way to the river, tie up a Jock Scott or a Silver Doctor, or a gaudy Gordon, and, sending it out over the "mill pool," or the "kelpie's hole," feel the electric shock of an eight or ten-pounder tugging at his line; and, after a battle royal, often fought from a bank of slush and snow, land the "first blood" of the angling season.

The popularity of salmon angling, if we may judge from the rentals paid for salmon waters in recent years, is steadily on the increase, and evidently high-water mark has not yet been reached.

This may be evidenced from the rental just paid for the lease of the Ballater Invercauld water of £1575, which was formerly let to the lessee of the Ballater Hotel at the (which must now be considered moderate) sum of £175. A rise of £1400 on the same stretch of water must indicate some initial and drastic change in the demand.

Really good salmon water is priceless, and where there is a guarantee of sport the figures will rise. The quantity of good waters is very limited, and where improvements have been established, rents are bound to rise. Salmon angling is truly the rich man's sport, and he will give any amount for a good reach of spring or autumn water. The Glentana Dee water let last year for £1500 for three months of the spring.

It was the only really good bit of early spring water, and on the principle that a good thing is never too dear, or, put otherwise, that a bad thing is dear at any price, the Glentana waters were well worth the money after all. It was a matter of simple arithmetic to compute that almost every cast cost one shilling and sixpence, yet when compared with the six hundred odd fish grassed during February, March, and April, it was not so dear as the cost of waters lower down, which cost about sixpence, or even less, per cast, and yet produced scarcely a fish per week, or little beyond a score for the season.

These waters are bound to carry old figures, if they are not already let at higher ones; and those determined to have a good finger well into the spring pie of Scotch salmon angling are quite prepared for the increased demand. There is a tendency in other quarters to retain waters which are beginning to lose, or have already lost, cast, and bring them up to date by having them well fished, either by putting on local fishermen or letting the beats at moderate rents to anglers of known repute. We hear of two such transactions where arrangements have been made to fish the water, on the one hand by the proprietor and his friends, when every day every pool will be effectively covered, and every chance made the most of. In the other instance the water has been let at half last year's rent to a well-known angler, rich enough and of good social standing, but who works on principle, and never gives more than he can help to get his rod on; and so £35 a month is his fixture for the coming spring, whereas it was £70 or thereabouts last year and the year before. All over there is a downward tendency of about from twenty to twenty-five per cent. on last year's rental, and where, except a lease can be got and a syndicate formed, it is pretty evident that for ordinary salmon waters the market will be considerably lower than has been the case for years back. Of course one swallow does not make a summer, neither does one or two transactions in salmon waters fix the salmon waters' market; but, on the other hand, straws show how the wind blows, and this is the first tendency of the New Year arrangements which cannot but have been anticipated by those looking sensibly back on the

disastrous results of the past few seasons, and especially on those of last year and the year before.

On the other hand, the New Year brings considerable activity to enlarge the area of improved salmon angling waters. This has to be hailed with delight. The Tay syndicate have now a considerable reach of the nets which formerly belonged to local tacksmen. On the South Esk and Deveron permanent arrangements have already been effected there which will hold good for all time coming, and the Don proprietors are moving in a similar direction. On the Sluie water, which is in the market, and the Ballogie and Aboyne sections, new huts and bank and river improvements have been in active progress since the close of last angling season.

G. MACKAY.

A. BANK HOLIDAY OUTING.

MID all the joys and pleasures of Christmas, I could not, as I took a morning stroll in the warm and springlike weather of Sunday, unseasonable as it was to those hardy folk who delight to see ice 3in. or 4in. thick and a coating of snow covering the face of the ground, help saying to myself, "What a magnificent day this would have been for roach fishing!" Nor could I forget, and indeed oft-times have I felt half inclined to say ditto to the somewhat impious lament of the Scotch gillie anent fine "days of rest." This man was a strict Sabbatarian, but long years of observation had brought to him the discovery, which every angler is said to make sooner or later, that the best atmospheric conditions for sport more often than not obtain when one is forbidden to go a-fishing. The gillie, in fact, was apt to regard the seventh day as a necessary evil to be tolerated with as much patience and philosophy as possible. "Mon," he would murmur to himself when a propitious morning broke, "a' wudna wunder but what yon's anither gran' day for the feshing just suckit up by the Sawboth. Aye weel, it's the wull of the Almighty, but 'tis the third He's grabbit this spring already!"

Without endeavouring to prove statistically the truth of this declaration, I will only say that I did hope again and again that the fair wind and fine weather would hold, and that good sport would accrue to the many anglers, myself included, who wetted a line on Boxing Day.

It is needless to state that I was up on Monday ere the sun rose. I donned my long boots (which, by the way, I discovered still hanging to the rails of the cots of my bairnies two, having been improvised as receptacles for the good things Santa Claus is credited in the infantile mind with bestowing upon deserving childer) as a precaution against possible rain, and sallied forth.

After an uneventful and cheerless journey by rail I reached my destination—the banks of the famous Colne. It was only just daylight, and a slight shower of rain seemed to portend an uncomfortable trip. The wind, too, whistled ominously amongst the branches of the trees, indicating pretty clearly that long-corking, by which means the heaviest bags of fish are creeled on the stretch I had permission to visit, would be almost out of the question. To make matters worse, the wind blew in strong gusts right up the river. There was very little stream on, and in places it was so low that it was easy to walk from one side to the other without getting up to one's knees in water.

I had no great hope of doing much, although, as I knew nearly every inch of the fishery, I had little fear that I should obtain a wooden spoon as my reward. Moreover, I had come to fish, and fish I intended to, let it blow, rain, or even snow as much as it liked.

7 Selecting the calmest and most sheltered spot I knew of in the mile and a quarter of river, where, had the latter been at anything like its normal level, I could have counted upon getting amongst roach, dace, and perhaps a portly chub to top the basket, I began operations. This swim was, nevertheless, a curious one to tackle. It was close to the bank, and extended less than a couple of yards out, being 3ft. deep. There was just the suspicion of current, but the head wind neutralised the effect of it. There was a clear run down of 10yds., at the end of which the bottom had silted

up, causing the stream to make a detour at right angles towards the centre of the river, in the direction of a certain hole.

I felt almost convinced that if by long corking I could manage in any way to get my bait out to, or near, this hole I should find the roach at home if they were to be discovered at all. Two or three small knobs of ground-bait were deposited quietly close to the edge, and as I knew the depth to an inch, there was no necessity to use the plummet. For bait I tried crust, employing drawn gut and No. 11 Crystal hooks. I got as far away from the water as I could, and made the initial cast. The float sailed along a few yards very slowly, and then stopped. Thinking I was hung up, I proceeded to make things clear, but found I had hooked a fish. This I held for an instant, but lost it—if one can lose what one never possessed. I opined from this that the roach were biting very gingerly, and for another ten minutes I had not a touch. I "pelted" the float at short intervals with marbles of ground-bait. Then the peculiar stopping again occurred, but I was wide awake this time, and a 1½lb. roach fell a victim to his inquisitiveness to see what the brownie white cubes were like. Within the next hour I had four others of about a similar weight, when all of a sudden, try what I would, I could not get them to take either crust, gentles, paste, or "small reds." I accordingly decided upon prospecting, and journeyed to a deep eddy, out of which I have never yet failed to extract a chub or two. Being more exposed, there was quite a miniature sea on, so I baited with gentles to see if any of the loggerheads were within hail, knowing their preference for the "wrigglers" *vis-à-vis* to the sober crust. The float performed extraordinary gyrations on the top of the mimic waves. It was difficult to keep anything like a straight line on to the tell-tale, or to induce it to travel downstream as one could have wished. However, after saying all sorts of hard things about the wind, the float made an unexpected sky-rocket like movement towards the bank, denoting that a chub had attacked the lure. The fish was hooked, and its first rush led me to think I had got hold of a big one, but it only just turned the scale at 1lb. 12oz. when landed and placed upon the steelyard. However, a fish of this size was not to be despised, and I started afresh. For half an hour I worked the swim, but the result was purely negative. I made, therefore, yet another shift, putting up a long roach rod to reach a hole under the branches of some willows on the opposite shore; but I pretty soon had to discard the pole, for the pressure of the wind upon it was so great that I found it impossible to wield it with the slightest degree of comfort. I secured another chub and a small roach here, but neither was large enough to retain, and both were promptly returned. Other pitches I negotiated, but to no effect, until in sheer desperation I decided to return to my first love—the swim I began at in the morning—when the roach came on to feed at three o'clock, and by dint of hard work I took a dozen and a half fish, six only of which I kept, ranging from 1½lb. to a 1lb. each, together with the aforementioned chub. It was not a great catch certainly, but taking into account that there was a strong upstream wind blowing all day (a kind of prelude to the violent south-westerly gale which followed next day), that there was a great dearth of water in the river, and that what there was was as transparent as glass, my sport cannot, I think, be regarded as otherwise than fairly satisfactory.

H. A. ROLT.

THE LOWER AND MID-THAMES: WHERE AND HOW TO FISH IT.

(Continued from page 526.)

BY F. H. AMPHLETT.

BARBEL.

"The barbel is an evil fyashe to take, for he is so strongly enarmyd in the mouth that there may be no weake harnesses holde him."—JULIANA BERNERS.

Of all the coarse fish in the Thames the barbel affords the most exciting sport, and a large fish, when hooked, will give the angler considerable trouble and pleasure to land, especially if he be using fine tackle. Barbel are very numerous in the Thames, but it is necessary to be acquainted

with the weir pools and deep holes, where these fish congregate, in order to attain good sport. I have in the earlier chapters endeavoured to direct the angler to the best swims between Kew and Great Marlow, but to succeed in capturing barbel there ought to be a considerable amount of ground baiting beforehand, and the angler must be gifted with a fair share of patience. The latter quality is absolutely essential, because the Thames barbel appear only to feed by fits and starts, and although a well-known swim be carefully fished, the angler may not reap the reward until some days afterwards. When they are on the feed, however, the best of sport will be enjoyed, for there is no Thames fish, with perhaps the exception of trout, that are so full of fight. They are exceedingly strong, somewhat crafty, and, after being hooked, make desperate efforts to escape by running under banks or into large beds of weeds, and at times stubbornly keeping at the bottom of the river, which is termed "boreing." Barbel are game to the backbone, and consequently prized by numbers of Thames anglers, some of whom are sufficiently enthusiastic to devote their whole spare time to this branch of the gentle art. I have already given instances of barbel being hooked foul, and now quote an authority showing how this sometimes happens. "The Angler's Guide" (1825) says: "Barbel are frequently caught foul, that is, hooked in some part of the body instead of the mouth without their biting; for when they are swimming or floating about the ground bait, &c., their fins, body, or tail often strike against the lower part of the angler's line or hook, which moves the float like a bite; the angler, supposing it to be so, strikes, and generally hooks the fish. The chance of this way of taking barbel is increased by putting two hooks on the line, about 8in., 10in., or 12in. apart." The latter suggestion I would not recommend any angler to adopt, because from practical experience I have found that in fishing for roach, dace, barbel, or chub it is preferable to use only one hook. The best months for barbel fishing are August, September, and October, though they are caught at the commencement of the season. The average size of those taken from the Thames is from 3lb. to 6lb., though a 9lb. or 10lb. fish is occasionally landed. One angling authority states that a barbel weighing over 19lb. was caught at Shepperton in 1800, but one of this size is never taken now, probably because there are more anglers who fish for them, and the fish are caught before reaching that weight. Barbel, when once well hooked, seldom break away, because they are leather-mouthed fish, and are usually taken in the Thames on ledger tackle. It must be finely constructed, but strong. It may be scarcely necessary to describe a ledger line, but, as I am writing for the benefit of those but partly initiated, I may say that it consists of 1yd. of fine but stout gut, with a number seven round bend hook, and a bullet or flat lead, which is placed about 9in. below where the gut is joined to the line. In order to prevent this bullet from slipping further down the line, a little shot should be nipped on to the gut. Some professional Thames anglers dispense altogether with the length of gut, and join the line, which should be very fine, to the gut mounted on to the hook. They then use the ordinary sized bullet, but the hole in the centre of it is much larger, and is kept about 36in. above the hook by means of the match-trick, *i.e.*, making a slip-knot, passing half a wooden match through, then drawing the line tight. I am inclined to think this is the best way to ledger for barbel, as it allows the line to run more freely through the bullet when the fish first takes the bait. The running line ought to be of plaited silk, and 80yds. in length at least. If a large fish is hooked, he will probably run 70yds. of it out. When the fish pulls the line, which it will do on taking the bait, it must be struck sharply. Before commencing to fish, throw in plenty of ground-bait, which should consist of soaked greaves, bran, and clay when using greaves as bait. If fishing with a lob worm, a large quantity of worms chopped into pieces, mixed with bran and clay, should be used as ground-bait, and, where practicable, should be thrown in a night before. In fact, unless considerable pains be taken to effectually ground-bait a swim, the sport will probably be poor. Particular attention should be paid in putting

the worm on the hook, so that the skin may not be perforated by the barb. If the worm be previously dipped in bran it can be held better, and in using the round bend hook no difficulty should be experienced in properly threading it. Be careful that the point of the hook is not exposed, or the fish will detect it. I always take as much pains in baiting a hook as in "playing" a fish. When the worm is dead, discard it and use a fresh one, for it is absolute waste of time to endeavour to entice fish with one that is dead.

The poet Gay, alluding to worms, says:

Cleanse them from filth to give a tempting gloss,
Cherish the sullied reptile with damp moss,
Amid the verdant bed they twine, they toil,
And, from their bodies, wipe their native soil.

(To be continued.)

NOTICE OF REMOVAL.

MR. J. RICHARDSON (late of 111, Judd-street, King's Cross) wishes us to state that to-day, Saturday, Jan. 7, he has entered into possession of his new premises, 123, Euston-road.

REPORTS FROM RIVERS, LOCHS, &c.

River Reporters who want forms and envelopes should send a post card to the Manager of the FISHING GAZETTE, St. Dunstan's House, Fetter-lane, London.

ENGLISH AND WELSH REPORTS.

Lower Thames.—GENERAL REMARKS.—Rain and wind—miserable and disagreeable weather—has not only closed in the old year, but the new one has commenced under similar circumstances. There is an old saying when the New Year's Day falls on a Sunday the following twelve months always goes on well. I would therefore hope, amongst other things, our dear old Thames and its preservation societies will find at the end it has been a good year for them; and the oldest one, as the parent of all, with which I enjoyed so long a connection, has largely increased in its strength of financial support and encouragement. When I have referred to that lengthened period I have had no desire to make it understood I have the credit of having done all. There are many names who without their assistance and influence all would not have been achieved that has been done, and, although they have now gone to their final rest, their names will never be forgotten; and those who are still living and their hearts still in the work have secured to themselves a name which will ever be associated with the work of Thames preservation. I am writing this on Tuesday with, I hope, some little chances in the improvement of the weather, and the only letter I have received is from the veteran William Milbourne, who gives a very gloomy description of the river in his neighbourhood. I have a few lines from Mr. W. McBride, of Teddington, in explanation of the absence of reports from him last week. It appears he had been away with one of his respected clients to some private waters and doing a little there, and he had a happy time of it, and thoroughly enjoyed himself. When I was over at Twickenham this morning, I was told both by Mr. John Spong, of the Two Sawyers, and Mr. F. J. Ogden Smith, some good roach and bream had been taken by the anglers both in the Thames and in the Crane. Mr. Davis selected two of his best, weighing 1lb. 14oz. and 1lb. 10oz., which he has given to Mr. Ogden Smith for preservation, and for the same purpose three more are in his hands, the largest 1½lb. I am glad to find that Mr. Ogden Smith is doing a large business as a taxidermist, and all the fish entrusted to him have given the greatest satisfaction.—B.

—(Hampton Court).—William Milbourne reports: "Owing to the heavy rain it has quite spoiled the fishing in the Christmas holidays. The water here rose about 3ft., and was very thick, and is still rising. The weirs are all drawn, and there has not been any punts out. The bank anglers are getting the best of it, and have been catching some fine roach. The large roach which have been caught in Hampton Deep there is no doubt are those that were turned in the river from the Grand Junction Waterworks reservoirs. I have been fishing for the last fifty years, and I have never seen finer roach caught in the Thames before."—B.

—(Henley).—Jan. 5.—The river is showing signs of fining down this morning, and a strong stream is running. Should the rain keep off it may be right for bank anglers by Sunday, but am afraid the quantity of snow in the river will prevent the fish from feeding.—STANLEY MEAD.

—(Kingston).—The only report of angling in this district is that John Johnson has been getting some roach and bream.—B.

—(Lechlade, &c.).—Tempestuous weather has prevailed during the past week, and on Monday night it blew a perfect hurricane throughout the district, doing considerable damage. It has been a bad time for anglers, but here and there some fair sport is reported with pike and perch. A big pike is reported from the Hart's Weir waters. The Coln and Leach are very much swollen by the heavy rains, but the rivers are just about as they should be for the time of year, but the water is sadly discoloured from the heavy hill storms. Several restockings of trout waters are about taking place in these

streams, but there is a nice show of trout already for the coming season. This is notably the case where the ducks have been kept off the water for a season or two, as has been done at Fairford. Jack fishers have been busy on trout streams, and several have been cleared out.—PAN.

—(Richmond).—The report from the fishermen is their customers have been creeling some roach, dace, and bream, the roach running of a good size.—B.

—(Sunbury).—Messrs. T. and A. Stroud report they have not had a punt out, owing to the absence of anglers and the state of the river.—B.

—(Teddington).—The push of water has had the effect of bringing up a few lampreys to the weir. Mr. W. McBride says he has had no results worth reporting, but hopes next week, if the river is anything like, to have something to say of the success of his clients, and to show his portion of the Thames is well stocked with fish. One thing, he knows where they are, and can pilot his numerous clients amongst them.—B.

—(Twickenham).—Mr. Carter, fishing with C. Browne, has creeled 14lb. of roach (the largest 1½lb.) and six bream in one day. J. Draper, fishing with a client, in one of Mr. Spong's punts, in three days caught 20lb. of roach and dace and a few bream. Mr. Wright has taken thirteen bream, the largest 3½lb. Mr. F. J. Ogden Smith was out for a short time one morning, and creeled four or five nice bream. He also informs me that Mr. Carter has banded to him for preservation three of the largest roach from his reported take, the largest being 1½lb., as stated; and that Mr. Davis has also given him two fine roach for the same purpose, the fish weighing respectively 1lb. 14oz. and 1lb. 10oz.—B.

—(Windsor).—The river is still very thick, and I think is likely to remain so for the next week or ten days. Very few anglers have been out. Good roach should now be had by fishing all the quiet places under the boughs and eddies. Anglers should watch for the first clearing of the water, when good sport should be had with the jack.—CECIL HOWLETT.

Ancholme District.—The conditions for winter angling remain in a very favourable state, and sundry baskets of decent pike, roach, bream, and perch have been taken of late; but very few visitors put in an appearance now.—THOMAS FORD (Caistor).

Arun (Pulborough).—There is nothing to record for the 1st, owing to the flood. At the time of writing (Wednesday morning) the water is rapidly sinking, and, providing we have fine weather, bank fishing will be possible on the 8th inst.—W. G. HOLLMAN.

Bure (Wroxham).—After wild and stormy weather, gales, frost, and rain, we have again to-night (Jan. 1) relapsed into fog, south-east wind, and steady rain, rendering angling miserable and profitless. The roach and bream are off feed, although a few were taken this morning, one about 1lb. Pike fishing is fair, but I have heard of nothing sensational. Roach fishers should give Coltsball a trial; some decent sport was had there in the foulest weather lately, and favourable conditions should result in really excellent sport there. This morning the frost had rendered the river exceedingly clear, but it will now thicken somewhat. Prospects at present are not very good, except, perhaps, for pike fishing on Broad.—C. H. TAYLOR.

Exe and Canal (Exeter).—Unfortunately for the holiday anglers the weather was anything but propitious, and comparatively few cared to face the music. Among the plucky ones were Messrs. Gibbard, Roberts, Graf, and Theeuwissen, who accounted for several pike, but all of the small order. I hear of an angler on the Canal also securing nine fish at one outing. Following the deluge of rain which ushered in the new year the river is now in state, and will be out of ply for the next day or two.—RED PALMER.

Fen District (South Lincs. and Cambs.).—Since last writing the waters of this district suffered to a large extent by the downfalls, which really began on Christmas Day. It is only here and there we hear of sport worth mention. At Surfleet, on the Glen, a number came down for the holidays, and are stated to have done fairly well with roach, but later sport has fallen off. Pike fishing on the Forty-foot and the Welland has not been very remunerative.—LIMPET.

Idle District (North Notts).—Sport in the Idle district received a check last week from the rough weather. On one or two days several anglers returned from Scrooby and Mathersey without any fish. At several other points small success was reported. The weather is again mild, and, should the waters fine down, sport will be resumable towards the end of the week. A few heavy roach are reported from the lower lengths.—L.

Lea.—The river has undergone another flushing, and this (Thursday) morning prospects are good for week-end anglers. The river is in nice colour for the roach, of which there is an excellent stock, and favourable weather prevailing some nice baskets should be obtained with worm, white paste, and bread crust, the latter to be used where there is stream. The past week has been a very bad one for fish catching. In addition to heavy gales of wind, rain, snow, and sleet have all fallen in the Lea Valley. However, at some stations fair-sized roach and dace have been brought to bank, and the capture of perch and pike is also reported. At Cheshunt roach up to 1lb. have been landed, and some decent roach have been had at Ware and Hertford. Last week a local angler took 26lb. of jack in the Hertford district, one of the fish scaling 11lb. The tributary Stort has been flushed, and the thick water has since fined down. There was a good colour for roaching when I last heard from the river. Roach up to 1lb. 4oz. are notified from Bishops Stortford. Few anglers have been out lately.—IZAACK WALTON.

Lugg and Arrow (Leominster).—Both these noted grayling streams have been running very high and

muddy, and continue to run bank full owing to the very changeable weather we have had during the past week, when there has been falls of rain and snow, followed by frost at night and sunshine during part of the day, and there has been no angling done in either streams this week, or will be until the water goes down again. The present weather would not be so bad if the water was in order and good fish would be landed. The Pinsley is running high and coloured.—G.WYNNE.

Lugg, Arrow, and Pinsley (Kingsland).—Rivers quite three parts bank high of stained water. Weather very variable, including gales, fierce storms of rain, sleet, and snow, frost, and at times as mild as April. Fishing quite out of the question at present, and this (Wednesday) evening no prospect of amendment.—R. T. WILLIAMS.

Nene (Peterborough).—The vagaries of the weather in the course of a day or two put a very different complexion upon matters affecting angling pursuits, as evinced by the now swollen condition of our river, which in some parts of the district is running over its banks and submerging the adjacent land. Since my last report a grand catch of pike was made between Tansor and Oundle by Mr. Beckett, of Peterborough, he landing six fish, which weighed 42½lb., the largest turning the scale at 11½lb. Mr. Ream also caught several at Caistor, which weighed from 3lb. to 6lb. each.—E. A. S.

Onse (St. Ives, Hunts.).—River again cloudy for piking, excellent for roaching, and, if no more rain, will be good all round by Friday. On Thursday, Feb. 9, we fish our genial friends, the N.A.P.S., our usual annual match; and no doubt it will be as happy and enjoyable a day as those in the past have been, and may the best team win. Happy, healthy, and prosperous New Year to all jolly anglers and tight lines is the wish of—E. COLLINSON.

Severn, Vyrnwy, Tanat, and Cain (Llanymynech).—A great disappointment was in store for the numerous visitors who spent their holidays in this neighbourhood, and very little sport could be obtained by anglers owing to the very unfavourable weather. The heavy rain last week caused all these streams to be flooded to a greater extent than for several years past, and the stormy weather still continues, with cold winds and rain and sleet, so that the rivers are still much swollen and out of condition, and the little sport anglers are having is confined to the capture of a few pike and coarse fish in the Severn and Vyrnwy.—VYRNWY.

Sussex Rivers and Chichester Canal.—With adverse weather angling has not been a success, as all rivers are very high and thick. Pike fishing is out of the question, but roaching may be looked forward to by the 9th should rain hold off. Chichester Canal remains in good order, and several good pike and perch have been secured. Mr. Gilmore, of the Park Tavern, has taken four pike averaging 4lb.; and fish, varying from 3lb. to 4½lb., have been obtained from the lower reaches. A fine fish, computed at 14lb., may be seen feeding below Donnington, but up to the present has refused all lures. There are good perch in the lower reaches. A member of the Brighton Anglers' Association, fishing in the Donnington reach, secured a nice perch, weighing 2lb. 4oz. Local anglers have taken perch of 1lb. 14oz., 1lb. 8oz., and 1lb. during the week.—G. F. SALTER.

Teme (Ludlow).—The Teme in this part is now running high and coloured, and quite bank full, and there is a good volume of water going down at present. The weather has been changeable and miserable, and rain, snow, and sleet has been had, and it has been impossible to do any fishing. To-day (Wednesday) the water is clearing, but is not lowering, and by the beginning of the week, if the weather holds fine, a few fish may be taken with maggot and worm, but the weather is so changeable. At the end of last week, when the water was so high, the fish traps at Castle Mills were put up, and they found in it a fine pike, which, when taken out, scaled 13½lb. It was sent to a fishmonger to sell, but it failed to find a customer. Several pike have been taken in these traps, which shows there are some fine fish in the Castle Pound. Salmon have been making their way upstream in good numbers of late, the high water being a great assistance for them to get over the weirs. The Ony, Corvie, Clun, and Ledwyche are all running high and muddy, and out of order, and will be for some time.—S. LUDLOW.

Teme (Tenbury).—The Teme in this part has been visited with some very bad weather of late. Rain, sleet, and snow have been had, and the water is still running high and coloured. At the end of last week the water was higher than it has been for some time. It has now begun to go down and clear, but it will be some days before any kind of fishing will be able to be done. The weather is so changeable, frost one day, then rain and snow, followed by bright sunshine. Salmon have been going up the stream of late in good numbers.—WORCESTER.

Witham, &c. (Mid-Lincolnshire).—Fishing in the Lincolnshire waters of this district has been interfered with by wind, rain, and snow. Many who came down last week for the holidays were disappointed, and even this week things are not much better. The Witham is in semi-flood, and so also are its tributaries. A few roach are reported from odd places. From the Sincil Dyke, for instance, fair baskets were reported, and some also from the Bain. A few pike have been obtained from the lower waters, but nothing of any account. If water runs down things will be better for the week-end.—LUCI.

Yorkshire Rivers.—YORE, SWALE, WHARFE, NIDD, OUSE, &c.—These rivers have been in good order for fishing some days, but at the time of this despatch (Wednesday, Jan. 4) there is a lot of snow on the Yoredale, Swaledale, Wharfedale, and Niddersdale range of hills, and, with a rise in the temperature to-day, it is finding its way into the rivers. The wretched weather which prevailed at the end of last week, and at the commencement of the present,

prevented many anglers from getting to the water-side; but twenty-three members of the Stockton Angling Club faced rain and sleet, and had their annual New Year's competition in the river Swale, in the neighbourhood of Morton Bridge, on Monday, in spite of the adverse meteorological conditions and the presence of snow water. The match, which was conducted on the "go-as-you-please" principle, was very successful, and some fair baskets of chub, roach, and dace were caught with preserved wasp grub, maggots, and the little red worm. There are not so many grayling in the neighbourhood of Morton Bridge as there are in other parts of the river, and two or three of the members angling for this fish failed to catch any. The principal prize takers were Messrs. Isaac Dew, Featherstone, and Clayton, the largest fish caught being a chub of 1½ lb., but some larger fish have been taken here recently, Mr. Ingledew, of Stockton, basketing a chub of 3½ lb. We very seldom hear of the capture of eels with the rod and line at mid-winter, but the other day a Thornaby angler caught one weighing over 2 lb. Few grayling fishermen have been out in the Upper Yore, and Messrs. Blades, Miller, Collinson, and others who have been fishing have had bad sport, the unsettled weather being against them. For the same reason reports from the Wharfe, Nidd, Derwent, &c., are, with very few exceptions, bad; and as far as the Ouse is concerned, the best sport to my knowledge has been obtained by Mr. Wood, of York, who, on Saturday last, caught a lot of roach, &c. None of them, however, were large, but they make capital pike baits for—JOHN E. MILLER, Northern Anglers' Depot, 19, New Station-street, Leeds.

By TELEGRAM.—Heavy rain storm and high south-westerly wind have prevailed on the hills and moorlands during the last twenty-four hours, and all our rivers are running high with thick snow water. At Hawes (the Yore) Dr. Richardson and Mr. Moor had very nice sport with grayling on Saturday, Monday, and Tuesday, Mr. Moor getting a basket of twelve exceptionally fine fish. Owing to a large influx of thick water in the lake, pike fishing at Hornsea has not been so good as usual. On Monday, Mr. Schroeder, of York, with snap tackle, landed three pike, weighing 14 lb., returning other four fish, being under the standard length of 26 in. No gorge hooks or gaff is allowed. The fish are landed into the boat with large landing nets, and anything under 26 in. carefully returned to the water as quickly as possible. HORNSEA.—Mr. Wilkinson, of Oldham, fished the mere on Saturday, Monday, and Tuesday, but owing to the flooded state of the mere and thick water he only caught seven pike, five had to be returned. Two retained weighing 19½ lb.—J. E. MILLER, Northern Angler's Depot, 19, New Station-street, Leeds.

SCOTCH REPORTS.

North-East of Scotland.—By another week the first batch of Scotch salmon waters will be thrown open to the early spring angler. The Thurso, Naver, Loch Naver, and Brora open on the 10th and 12th inst., and the Tay and Loch Tay on the 15th inst. The weather has hitherto been favourable for fish running, but till the fly be put over the best judges can form but little opinion as to the season's prospects. The bulk of Scotch waters do not open until Feb. 11. Dee salmon waters are being rapidly picked up, and many old favourites are booked for their old quarters early in the season, and have made arrangements to be in at the opening, if the weather is at all suitable. Mrs. and Miss Pickering come to Kincardine Lodge, and Mrs. Wm. Farnell Watson to Woodend water.—G. M.

Tweed, Teviot, and other Border Rivers.—All the Border rivers during the past week have been in good volume, and to those who prefer to go bait fishing the streams were in good trim for such angling. As it is, however, not many now in the Kelso district care to go out trouting during the winter months, when the fish are out of season, and the more so that all the legitimate trout anglers there are members of the Kelso Angling Association, which imposes a rule on their members that they must not fish after Nov. 30 in any year, until Feb. 1 following the year gone by. Pity it is that all the Border angling associations were not of the same mind. Of course, where there is so much free water on the Tweed and Teviot in the Kelso district for trout fishing, you cannot expect every disciple of the rod and line (who are not members of the association) to hold aloof until the time appointed by the local association when it is time to begin trout fishing; at the same time, however, the all-the-year-round so-called anglers are slowly beginning to find out that it is for their own good to stop fishing until the early spring, when the fish are in good condition.—MAXWHEEL.

IRISH REPORTS.

Killarney.—Angling opens here on Jan. 17. Prospects are very favourable. Spawning is practically over, and waters are now in good order.—T. J. D.

Lough Currane, &c. (Waterville, co. Kerry).—Spawning is now nearly over in the Waterville district. The angling opens here on Feb. 1, and the prospects appear to be good.—T. J. D.

SEA FISHING.

The following table gives the nearest approximate tides for the use of sea anglers for the week ending Friday, Jan. 13. Spring tides.

	Sat.	Sun.	Mon.	Tues.	Wed.	Th.	Fri.
	a.m.	a.m.	a.m.	a.m.	a.m.	a.m.	a.m.
Scarborough	11.19	—	1 7	2.13	3.14	4. 6	4.56
	p.m.	p.m.	p.m.	p.m.	p.m.	p.m.	p.m.
	11.56	0.32	1.41	2.44	3.41	4.31	5.20
Yarmouth	3.45	4.52	6. 1	7. 9	8. 6	9. 0	9.53
	4.18	5.26	6.36	7.38	8.23	9.27	10.18
Lowestoft	4.13	5.29	6.46	7.56	8.55	9.52	10.42
	4.50	6. 8	7.22	8.27	9.22	10.17	11. 3
Aldeburgh	5. 2	6.18	7.35	8.45	9.44	10.37	11.27
	5.39	6.57	8.11	9.16	10.11	11. 2	11.52
Harwich	6.25	7.42	8.55	10. 4	11. 5	11.59	0.25
	7. 2	8.19	9.30	10.36	11.33	—	0.50
Southend, Sheer- ness, and Leigh	7.23	8.38	9.54	11. 3	11.59	0.25	1.17
	8. 0	9.16	10.30	11.32	—	0.51	1.42
Margate, Broad- stairs, & Ramsgate	6.19	7.34	8.51	10. 2	11. 1	11.52	0.16
	6.55	8.13	9.28	10.33	11.27	—	0.40
Deal and Dover...	5.39	6.50	8. 7	9.14	10.12	11. 8	—
	6.13	7.29	8.42	9.44	10.40	11.36	0. 3
Hastings	5.19	6.30	7.47	8.54	9.52	10.48	11.43
	5.53	7. 9	8.22	9.24	10.20	11.16	—
Eastbourne and Brighton.	5.47	6.58	8.15	9.22	10.20	11.16	—
	6.21	7.37	8.50	9.52	10.48	11.44	0.11
Newhaven	5.58	7.21	8.39	9.39	10.38	11.24	—
	6.38	8. 2	9.10	10. 7	10.58	11.48	0.12
Shoreham and Southwick	6. 4	7.15	8.32	9.39	10.37	11.33	0. 1
	6.38	7.54	9. 7	10. 9	11. 5	—	0.28
Portsmouth and Hayling Island	6.14	7.28	8.47	9.55	10.52	11.44	0.10
	6.50	8. 8	9.22	10.25	11.18	—	0.35
Plymouth	0. 4	1.18	2.36	3.49	4.52	5.49	6.42
	0.40	1.57	3.14	4.22	5.21	6.16	7. 6

STOP PRESS.

WEATHER REPORT.

By TELEGRAPH.—FRIDAY, JAN. 6, 9.40 A.M.

DEAL.—Smooth; S.E.
DOVER.—Smooth; S.E.
RAMSGATE.—Smooth; S.E.
MARGATE.—Smooth; S.E.
HASTINGS.—Smooth; S.E.

Deal (The Pier).—The first fish caught upon the pier this year was a plump little 6 lb. cod, taken by Mr. Chapman at 12.30 on Sunday morning. Mr. Lowe had hooked and landed one of 8 lb. on Saturday evening. Visiting anglers on Sunday comprised Messrs. Minchin, Gareau, Upton, Carter, A. B. Smyth, Jno. Smyth, and Jno. Astley. Most of these gentlemen realised capital sport, the best bag made being fifty-seven whiting, most of them of large size. The weather on Monday was not conducive to good fishing, and the major portion of the day's catch consisted of very large poutings. Mr. Chapman had a 4½ lb. cod, and Mr. Jefferson a heavy bag of pouting. Rev. R. Culley and Mr. Andrews put in an appearance on this day, but were not very successful. The pier patrons on Tuesday included Messrs. Tavenor, Camps, Russell, Zaehnsdorf, jun., Lever, and Chapman. The day's catch was not at all bad, though the whiting ran rather small. Mr. Tavenor had a 7 lb. cod; and Mr. Chapman two, of 5½ lb. and 4½ lb. respectively. The fishing deck was fairly crowded on Wednesday, the weather being bright and mild; but the fish did not feed well, and poor results were obtained. Mr. Williams had an 8 lb. cod, and Mr. Lancaster one of 6 lb.; but the total day's catch fell much below the average.—J. RICHARDSON (B.S.A.S.).

Deal.—The very stormy weather of late had nearly put a stop to boat angling, and made the water very thick. However, to-day (Wednesday) the weather delightful, and fine light air, westerly, water smooth, and local fishermen bringing in grand takes of cod, codling, and very fine whiting. One local fisherman landed as many as fifty cod and codling and some whiting; another fisherman landed thirty cod and codling and two score and a half of whiting. If weather keeps moderate, in all probability there will be sport.—EDWARD HANGER (Agent, B.S.A.S.).

Dingle.—Angling has not been resumed in the bay, owing to rough seas. The gales have passed away, after continuing for many days.

Plymouth.—We have had some very rough weather during the week, and the fishermen have had a poor time of it, and very little fish has been taken at any time. Some fine grey mullet have, however, been taken from the piers, and some very large blain in the pit near Drake's Island. The bass have not been so plentiful. We generally expect in this month the whiting to be in their prime, and they are very plentiful along the coast. They are not caught so much by the hook and line boats as they are by the trawlers, because the latter can get further out to sea. We usually get, in this month and in next, fair catches of ling. They are in good condition previous to their spawning, which they do early in the spring. The list of edible fish for January are as follows: Atherine (smelt), tub, piper, red gurnard, mackerel, dory, skate, sharp-nosed ray, Homelin ray, sprat, anchovy, eel, ling, cod, whiting,

haddock, pouting, coal fish, and all shell fish.—WILLIAM HEARDER (B.S.A.S.).

Valentia.—No anglers have been out since last report owing to a heavy ground swell.—T. J. D.

Waterville.—No sea angling doing at the Waterville side of the bay, the weather being still wild. In sheltered windings of the shore, however, fair sport is being had at various fish on the Ballinskelligs side.—T. J. D.

Angling Fixtures.

January 8.

Anchor and Hope: Match at Datchet.
Blackfriars: Outing to Bures.
Brothers Well Met: Match on East Coast.
Camden: Match at Bourne End.
Dibdin: Outing to Slough.
Drayton Park: Outing.
Boxton Brothers: Outing at Rye House.
Izaak Walton: Prize outing.
Original Alexandra: Match at St. Margaret's.
St. Alban's: Match on the Arun.
Wellington: Competition at Datchet.
White Hart: Match at Ware.

January 9.

Camden: Visit.
Piscatorial Society: Paper by Dr. Patterson.
Queen's Piscatorials: A.B.S. concert.
Wimbledon Piscatorials: Outing to Weybridge.

January 11.

Holloway: Reading by Mr. Stevens.
Izaak Walton: Open competition.

January 12.

Anglers' Benevolent Society (Windsor Competition): Distribution of prizes.

January 13.

Society of Caxtonian Anglers: Pike competition at Marlow.

Jan. 15.—Amicable Waltouians: Outing to Amberley.

„ 15.—Battersea Friendly: Match at Cookham.

„ 15.—Battersea Piscatorials: Match at Wraysbury.

„ 15.—Clapham Junction: Outing to Amberley.

„ 15.—Clapham Strollers: Match.

„ 15.—North-East Brothers: Outing.

„ 15.—Holloway: Reading by Mr. Stevens.

„ 15.—Prince of Wales: Outing Bourne End.

„ 16.—North-East Brothers: Concert.

„ 16.—Piscatorial Society: Annual meeting.

„ 16.—Prince of Wales: Visit.

„ 17.—North London: Visit.

„ 17.—Stockwell: Supper.

„ 23.—Crown and Buckland: Rivers Preservation concert.

„ 25.—West Green: Supper.

„ 30.—Piscatorial Society: Smoking concert.

Feb. 5.—Islington Brothers: Match at Cookham.

„ 7.—Mildmay: Annual dinner.

„ 9.—St. Ives (Hunts): Annual match.

„ 12.—Seymour Brothers: Match at Goring.

Reports from Clubs

We beg to remind Secretaries that their Reports must reach us not later than **SIX o'clock on Thursday Evening.** Address "Editor, FISHING GAZETTE, St. Dunstan's House, Fetter-Lane, London," marked "CLUB REPORT" outside envelope.

Anglers' Association.—The next finance committee meeting will take place on Monday evening, Jan. 9, at 7.30, and the general committee at 8.30.—R. GHURNEY.

Anglers' Benevolent Society.—The next committee meeting will take place on Friday evening, Jan. 13, at 8.30.—R. GHURNEY.

Anglers' Association, (WESTERN DISTRICT) Visiting List.—The next visit will take place on Jan. 16, at the Prince of Wales A.S., held at the Windsor Castle, Church-street, Edgware-road, when I hope to see a good muster of angling friends.—J. HARRIS.

Anglers' Benevolent Society.—The distribution of prizes won at Windsor on Nov. 27 takes place on Jan. 12, at 8.30 p.m. sharp, at the Queen's Arms, 1A, Chapel-street, one minute's walk from Edgware-road Metropolitan Railway Station. I must also remind all competitors who have prizes to take to show their privilege tickets; also to the unattached who have not sent me their correct names and addresses, number of ticket, and weight of their respective takes of fish, to do so at once, to save delay. Several have complied with my notice in previous issues of the *Fishing Gazette*, and several have not. After this notice it will not be my fault should there be any delay in the prizes which they have to take not being handed over. All outstanding cash for tickets not paid in by Monday will also cause delay if any of same have prizes to take.—BEN ABRAHAM.

Albion Brothers' Angling Society, Frampton Arms, Wells-street, Hackney.—On Jan. 1 members met with poor sport. Mr. C. Osborne weighed in roach, dace, and chub; and Mr. A. Carey, roach and dace. Mr. A. Smith had fish, but did not weigh in. Chairman for this month, Mr. Inkesole; salesman, Mr. J. Allwright. Will members come up next week, as there is an important question to bring forward as regards time of going away on Saturday.

"WHAT CANNOT BE CURED MUST BE ENDURED" need not be said to those who suffer from the effects of bad legs, scorbutic and scrofulous sores, as Holloway's Ointment and Pills are splendid specifics for these distressing afflictions. The earnest gratitude of thousands who have experienced the wonderful influence of these remedies, so that they have been raised from a position of prostrate helplessness to one of independence and comfort, is being constantly expressed, both personally and by letter. Their value is known throughout the world for every form of disease. In cases of indigestion, ague, fevers, and disorders of the stomach and bowels, the pills are an infallible remedy. For gout, rheumatism, neuralgia, &c., the Ointment is a blessing to thousands of poor sufferers.

Allason United Brothers' Angling Society, Dnke of Sussex, Uxbridge-street, Notting Hill Gate.—The usual weekly meeting took place on Jan. 4, Mr. E. Jackson in the chair. The report of our auditors was accepted, and our club is in a good position. The new year cards, 1898-99, are ready for issuing, and the secretary hopes every member will introduce a good lot of workers.—BEN ABRAHAMS.

Alma Angling Society, Coach and Horses, Portsmouth Place, Lincoln's Inn Fields.—On Jan. 1 several members were out, the following being successful: Messrs. Drew, jack, roach, and dace (7lb. 13oz.); Montgomery, roach; and Utting, roach.—J. CHAMBERS.

Amicable Waltonian Angling Society, The Fox and French Horn, Clerkenwell Green.—On Jan. 1 Messrs. Shurry, Munn, sen., Lambarth, and Hutchings had roach. The next outing will be to Amberley, on Jan. 15.—BEN ABRAHAMS.

Anchor and Hope Angling Society, Duke of Kent, Old Kent-road, S.E.—We fish our match for the January prizes at Datchet on Jan. 8, when I hope to see a good muster. Return from Datchet by the 5.5 p.m. train.—F. W. MARTIN.

Battersea Friendly Angling Society, Queen's Hotel, Queen's-road, Battersea, S.W.—Our next match will take place on Jan. 15, between the lock (cutting included) and Bourne End Railway Bridge; jack harred. Members to go down on the morning by 8.40 train from Paddington (saloon on). Mr. H. V. Wilson was elected a working member. Ten shillings was voted to Rivers Re-stocking Fund.—A. JENKINS.

Battersea Piscatorialists, Winstanley Arms, Winstanley-road, Clapham Junction, S.W.—Since my last report few of our members have been out, but returned with poor sport. We fish a match at Wraybury on the 15th for a series of prizes; to go by the 8.27 a.m. and return by the 5.10 p.m.; kits to be examined at the Green Man. Will members note that next week will be quarterly night, when the books ought to be cleared.—T. TRINGHAM.

Bermondsey Brothers' Angling Society, Woolpack, Bermondsey-street, S.E.—The members of the above will fish a competition for their January series of prizes on Jan. 15, at Henley-on-Thames, it being optional for members to leave London on Saturday night. Mr. J. Hobbs was the only member to weigh-in on the 1st, saving the club from a blank with 5lb. of roach.—ALF CONN.

Blackfriars Angling Society, The Imperial, Southwark-street, S.E.—Several members out on Jan. 1 with very poor results. Mr. G. Howard, roach and dace (largest dace, 12oz.); Mr. Kobell, jack. We have arranged to fish our January prize list at Bures, on Jan. 8; roving; to start by 9 a.m. Liverpool-street. I was rather surprised at not hearing or seeing any gentlemen in answer to my inquiries, through *Fishing Gazette*, concerning the tench taken at Hampton Court. If any brother angler knows that this fish was not caught by rod and line, why not come up and let the Blackfriars member defend himself?—J. WHEELHOUSE.

Bloomsbury Brothers' Angling Society, Rose and Crown, Broad-street, Bloomsbury.—On Jan. 1 Mr. C. Davis weighed-in roach, 3lb. 2oz. On Jan. 4 Mr. F. S. Pavett weighed-in roach. Wednesday next, Jan. 11, will be quarter night, when all members are requested to attend.—T. PATERNOSTER.

Brothers Well Met Angling Society, King Edward VI., King Edward-street, Liverpool-road, N.—On Jan. 1 Messrs. A. Field, 4lb. 13oz. of roach; H. Edale, roach, largest, 1lb. 7oz. On Jan. 8 we fish a match on the East Coast.—H. V. TAME.

Cambridge Heath Brothers' Angling Society, The Good Intent, Mowlem-street, Bishop's-road, Cambridge Heath.—Our Christmas prize distribution was a grand success, forty-four prizes being weighed out on Dec. 23. Some very good talent was present, and a most enjoyable evening spent. I wish to return thanks to Messrs. Radburn, J. Ince, G. Kimberley, G. Boddy, C. Drawbridge, and many others for their services. On Jan. 1, Messrs. R. Hubbard and C. Hazard with jack, and J. Baines with roach, started the new year well. I beg to remind members that last Tuesday, Jan. 3, was quarterly night, when there was a good attendance of members, and hope to see a full muster next week to discuss a prize outing.—P. LOFT.

Camden Angling Society, The Locomotive, James-street, High-street, Camden Town, N.W.—We have a match at Bourne End on Jan. 8 for jack (one rod only). We have our return visit on the C.D.V. List on Jan. 9, when brother anglers and friends will be welcome.—E. BOXALL.

Clapham Junction Angling Society, The Clarence, Winstanley-road, Clapham Junction, S.W.—Our next day's outing will take place on Jan. 15, at Wraybury, for six prizes; boundary from Old Bell Weir Lock to Albert Bridge (tow-path only); all to start by signal; train from Clapham Junction 8.27, return by the 8.55; all members to cease fishing by five o'clock. Any member losing the first train and coming by the second, will be eligible to fish in same on reporting himself to one of the committee.—G. T. JAMESON.

Clapham Strollers' Angling Society, Alexandra Hotel, Clapham Common, S.W.—Our next match takes place on Jan. 15. Will members please attend on Tuesday next to arrange place and conditions for the same.—T. PASMORE.

Clerkenwell and District United Visiting List—The next visit on the above will be to the Camden A.S. at their new quarters, The Locomotive, James-street, Camden Town, on Monday, Jan. 9. They are one of our best visiting clubs, and will be well supported.—F. CARTELL.

Clissold Angling Society, The Cricketers, North-wold-road, Stoke Newington, N.—On Jan. 8 a roving competition takes place, and I should like to see a good show up in the evening. On Tuesday next a special meeting, when all members are requested to attend punctual at 8.30.—T. FAULKNER.

Cobden Angling Society, Kensal-road, W.—On Dec. 26 the following weighed-in: Messrs. J. Barnfather, E. Baxter, T. Twyman, and A. Howland. A. Howland won the Boxing Day prize for the largest roach (weight, 1lb. 7½oz.). On Jan. 1 the following weighed-in: Messrs. E. Baxter, A. Howland, J. Barnfather, T. Twyman. I hope members will attend next Tuesday, as last Tuesday was quarterly night.—T. TWYMAN.

Collingwood Angling Society, The Lord Nelson, Nelson-square, Blackfriars-road, S.E.—The following weighed-in during the week: Messrs. Jarrett, Turner, Ball, and Parnwell, some nice roach and dace from the Thames; also Mr. Boyd, perch and roach. Mr. Green was elected auditor. Mr. Jarratt retains his office as chairman; Mr. Downs elected for the vice-chair. Members are requested to attend at the clubhouse on Wednesday next, so that they may be made clear on the books.—G. FORD.

Crown and Buckland Piscatorial Society, Middlesex Arms, 35, Clerkenwell-green, E.C.—On Jan. 1 H. Haines and W. Long showed roach. At our last meeting Mr. Alf France and Mr. F. France were elected working members. A general meeting will take place on Wednesday next, when I hope that all members will attend at nine o'clock sharp.—G. H. FRANKLIN.

Dalston Angling Society, Brownlow Arms, Brownlow-street, Dalston.—Since my last report there has been nothing doing. On Tuesday, Jan. 3, in consequence of so small an attendance there was no business done. Members are requested to attend on the 10th, to elect an auditor and decide where the prizes in hand shall be competed for.—S. MALBY.

Dibdin Angling Society, St. Martin's Tavern, Pratt-street, N.W.—At our annual general meeting there was a poor attendance. Time for outing on Jan. 8 was settled for nine o'clock train from Paddington for Slough, to fish Slough Canal. Mr. W. Elton was elected chairman; Mr. J. Edwards, secretary; and Messrs. A. Edwards and A. M. Ansell, jun., as the delegates to Anglers' Association. A hearty vote of thanks was accorded to retiring secretary and chairman, H. Brock and J. Edwards. Our host, Mr. Dewdney, after receiving nine months' *Gazette* money due to him, returned the same to the fund of the club. This piece of good fellowship was received amid acclamations. Next Monday we visit the Camden.—JOHNNY EDWARDS.

Drayton Park Piscatorialists, Stanley Arms, Landseer-road, Holloway-road, N.—Outing on the 8th.—GREG.

Enterprise Angling Society, City Arms, High Cross-road, Tottenham.—On Dec. 18 the following weighed-in: Messrs. Crump, Renshaw, Pheasey, Balam, Hoadley, and Wells. On Dec. 21 we distributed our Christmas prizes. Messrs. Crump, Wells, Pheasey, Renshaw, Hoadley, Horne, Balam, and Biggs were amongst the prize winners. Chairman and vice-chairman's healths were enthusiastically drunk. The rest of the evening was passed with harmony. On Jan. 1 the following weighed-in: Messrs. Crump, Pheasey, Horne; Mr. Crump coming in for the fortnightly, transferred from Christmas Day.

Firm and True Angling Society, Prince Regent, Beresford-street, Walworth.—On Jan. 1, considering the wretched weather, we had good sport, some very fine roach and dace being weighed-in. We take our return visit on the South L.U.V. List on Tuesday, Jan. 10, when I hope to see all old friends. Mr. George George, of the St. Thomas' Angling Society, has kindly consented to take the chair.—T. ROSSER.

Greenwich Angling Society, Morden Arms, Circus-street, Greenwich.—Our annual general meeting will take place on Wednesday, Jan. 12, and all members are particularly requested to attend. Election of officers and alterations of rules will necessitate a full attendance of members.—J. DRYDEN.

Harcourt Angling Society, Harcourt Arms, Harcourt-street, Marylebone.—Several of our members went out on Jan. 1, but did not have much sport, only a few roach being the result of the day.—A. E. PAYNE.

Hearts of Oak Angling Society, Ye Olde Crown, Brick-lane, Bethnal Green, E.—Messrs. Smith had a show of roach and bream; and Jeffries, roach. Will members please attend next Wednesday, as it will be quarterly night? Mr. Wood has been elected a working member.—C. SMITH.

Hatcham Brothers' Angling Society, Queen Victoria, Pomeroy-street, New Cross.—The balance-sheet of the Christmas prizes given by the following gentlemen were taken in the order as under: Sucking pig (gift of Mr. A. Mead), taken by Brother Thurston, from Selham, by a handsome jack; a goose (gift of our worthy chairman, Mr. Furnivall), taken by Brother Winter, also from Selham, with nice show of dace; lastly, 20lb. of beef, full weight and over (the kind gift of Mr. Levein, of the Central Association), taken by Brother Woodhouse, from the club's private water, with three roach, weighing over 2lb. Re Brother Shorey's benefit, the secretary begs to acknowledge receipt of additional contributions from the Ormonde A.S. (through Mr. Holbrow) and the Greenwich A.S., and also Mr. Bird, which formed a seasonable Christmas present. Wishing the editor and all angling friends a Happy New Year and tight lines.—W. TARRY.

Highbury Angling Society, Globe Hotel, Upper Tollington-road, N.—We had an important meeting on Wednesday, when a new rule (proposed by Mr. J. B. Close) was adopted. It was also decided that trout caught dapping with natural fly should not rank with trout caught on the artificial fly. The Rivers Re-stocking and Preservation Fund was again under consideration, and the

meeting saw no reason to depart from their last year's decision: "That though thoroughly agreeing with the object aimed at, have, after taking into consideration the apathy of the majority of London clubs, the greater number of which send nothing, decided not to subscribe to the fund again until the London angling clubs made a general effort towards enporting the same." The hon. treasurer announced that he had received the sum of £2 5s. for the netting Fund of the Anglers' Association. Some capital fish have lately been recorded: Messrs. Shaw, eleven roach, two dace, 9lb.; G. and J. Parsons, dace up to 8½oz.; G. West, two roach (selected), 1lb. 13½oz. and 1lb. 8½oz.; E. Wymer, ten roach, 12lb. 5½oz. (largest 1lb. 12oz. and 1lb. 10oz.), and a chub 3lb. 9½oz.; W. D. Hall, eighteen roach, 18lb. 3oz. (largest 1lb. 15½oz. and 1lb. 8½oz.); Burton, two roach from Ivel, 1lb. 3½oz. and 1lb. 2½oz. Sea fishing has also been practised, Mr. Salmon heading the list with a cod of 16lb.—E. W.

Holloway Angling Society, Holloway Station Hotel, 295, Holloway-road, N.—At our usual weekly meeting on Dec. 4 Messrs. Stevens and Clayton reported having been out during the holidays, the former on the upper reaches of the Thames and the latter in Bedfordshire, but sport was rather poor. Mr. Stevens had several good roach and perch. Mr. Caines will give a reading on Jan. 11 entitled "Pike Fishing Fancies."—A. CLAYTON.

Hoxton Brothers Angling Society, Spread Eagle, Kingsland-road, Shoreditch.—On Jan. 1 Messrs. F. Newton weighed-in roach; G. Nicholls, roach; J. Wiltshire, roach; and H. Bailey, jack. Members please note that we fish for special prizes at Rye House on Jan. 8; leave London by 9.8 train.—JOHNNY.

Islington Brothers' Angling Society, Myddleton Arms, Canonbury-road.—During the holidays the following weighed-in: Messrs. Searl and J. H. Herbert, roach. Others were out, but had poor sport. On Jan. 1 Mr. Burwash had roach from the Thames. We fish a roving match at Cookham on Feb. 5 for several prizes.—J. H. HERBERT.

Izaak Walton Angling Society, Old King John's Head, Mansfield-street, Kingsland-road.—We compete for three specials on Jan. 8 on any part of the Lea or Thames (private waters barred). There are also three specials to be fished for on Wednesday next, 11th inst., competitors being allowed to choose their own fishing waters (private waters barred).—H. B.

Lincoln Angling Society, Metropolitan, Winchester-street, Pentonville.—On Jan. 1 a few members were out: Mr. Johnson, a nice show of roach (5lb. 9oz.); Messrs. Bowley, White, and Cook also showing roach and dace. Mr. W. Watling and Mr. Baker weighed-in a few roach during the holidays. A special meeting is called for Wednesday next, Jan. 11, to arrange special prize outing. I hope to see a good muster on this occasion.—W. WATLING.

Liverpool Angling Association, Bee Hotel, Queen-square.—The rough, wet weather has quite put a stop to angling, as rivers are in flood; and really the winds have been strong enough to blow a fisherman into the water. Our quarterly meeting is Jan. 12, when all subscriptions are due in advance. We had a good meeting last week, Dec. 29, and several prizes were put down for the competition on 19th. We intend to do a lot of fishing in 1899.—RD. WOOLFALL.

Maldon and Heybridge Angling Society, White Lion, Fullbridge, Maldon, Essex.—Although the water has been of a good colour during the past few days, sport has not been really good. Mr. W. Wyatt and Mr. Jackson, pike fishing on Dec. 30, secured three fish scaling over 15lb. (the best fish weighed 8½lb.); Mr. Turner, of the Caledonians, had some good sport with roach in the Langford waters on Dec. 30, several scaling over 1lb. each. He also had some good roach on Dec. 3, seventeen fish scaling 14lb., two fish 1lb. 6oz. each, and four over 1lb. each. Mr. Ben Lees (of the Brunswick A.S.) has kindly given a silver plated cup to the M. and H. A.S. for competition amongst the members. The cup is to be fished for on four consecutive Saturdays, from 2 p.m. to 5 p.m., peg-down match, and for roach and dace only, the member taking the heaviest gross weight during the month wins the cup. There were several anglers here on Jan. 1, and sport was only moderate. The time of high water at Beeleigh for Jan. 8 is at 8.32 a.m., only suitable for those who come Saturday night. We have a good number of day tickets at 1s. each to fish the Langford waters, and anglers cannot do better for specimen roach than fish these waters.—F. KEEN.

Mildmay Angling Society, Clarendon Hotel, Mildmay Park, N.—The half-yearly meeting of this society was held on Tuesday last, Jan. 3, and, although the attendance was somewhat smaller than usual, the enthusiasm of those present fully atoned for the shortcomings of the absent ones. After the ordinary business had been disposed of the election of officers took place. Mr. J. A. Strachan was unanimously elected president. A very hearty vote of thanks was accorded Mr. Harold W. Lane (the retiring president) for the valuable assistance he has given the club during his year of office. The election of delegates, auditors, and the re-election of treasurer and secretary followed. Several prizes were offered during the evening for specimen fish, and it was suggested that the club should offer a challenge cup for competition. This matter was, however, left over for future discussion. Our annual dinner has been fixed for Tuesday, Feb. 7.—A. E. HENDON.

North-East Brothers' Angling Society, Star and Garter, Green-street.—Our distribution of Christmas prizes took place on Dec. 24. The following were winners in rotation: Messrs. E. Lamb, W. Smith, Richards, jun., Daycock, Barrett, C. Lamb, jun., W. Moore, T. Elam, Thorne, Auvache, Carter, Hart, and Richards, sen. Jan. 15 outing; Jan. 16, concert.—A. LEWIS.

North London Angling Society, Tap House, Holloway-road.—On Jan. 1 Mr. Pink was the only member to weigh-in, he having a decent show of roach and bream from the Lea. The next return visit on the Central List takes place at the above on Tuesday, Jan. 17, when I hope to see a good muster. A good evening's entertainment will be provided.—H. STRECH.

Original Alexandra Angling Society, The Lamb, Three Colts-lane, opposite Bethnal Green Junction.—On Jan. 8 we fish for the prizes left on hand in the Lea. Boundary from St. Margaret's Bridge to Hardmead Lock. Fish to be shown at the Railway Hotel at 5.30.—E. BROCKETT.

Phoenix Angling Society, The Tavistock, Stibbington-street, N.W.—On Jan. 1 Mr. Austin a show of roach from the Thames. Mr. Hart's jack prize has been won by Mr. E. C. Sherlock.—R. C.

Prince of Wales' Angling Society, Windsor Castle, Church-street, Edgware-road.—Sport during the holidays has only been moderate, Mr. Haynes and Mr. Robins being to the fore. Our quarterly night, on the 2nd, was not quite so well attended as expected, owing no doubt to the inclemency of the weather. We take a return visit on the A.A. list on Jan. 16; we also fish for a series of prizes, given by our host, at Bourne End, on Jan. 15.—W. B.

Queen's Piscatorials, Queen's Arms, 1A, Chapel-street, Edgware-road, N.W.—On Jan. 1 the following weighed-in: Messrs. C. Brett, G. Reeve, W. Shepherd, C. Strayton, J. Gillson, and J. Winsby. At our weekly meeting on the 3rd inst. we were at last able to transact a little business, W. Shepherd being re-elected sub-secretary, E. Maltou presiding for another quarter in the chair, and Keene and Brett being delegates as before.—GEO. KEENE.

Royal George Angling Society, Queen's Arms Hotel, Bateman-street, W.—On Jan. 1 only one member returned with fish, viz., Mr. Bardöt, who, not only showed a nice tray of fish, but had the satisfaction of saving the club from a blank. Last meeting night we were well attended.—J. GIBBONS.

St. Alban's Angling Society, Rising Sun, Prince's-road, Kennington Cross.—We fish a match on Jan. 8 at Fulbore. Members can leave by first or second train; all to return by 5.55 train. We have no fish to report on Jan. 1, although several were out. Quarterly night Jan. 11.—H. ALLAN.

St. John's Angling Society, The Empress, St. John-street-road, Clerkenwell.—We had a grand show of roach, dace, and perch on Jan. 1, taken by Messrs. Heath, Musgrave, J. Johnson, Hardy, and Podger. Other members were out, but drew blanks. The conditions of the January match can be seen at the clubhouse.—F. THORLING.

Seymour Brothers' Angling Society, King and Queen, 1, Foley-street, Fitzroy-square, W.—On Jan. 1 the following weighed-in: Messrs. W. North, roach, 2lb. 15oz.; one tench, 2lb. 10oz.; and S. King, roach and dace, 2lb. Our next outing will be to Goring, on Feb. 12. One rod only; bank only.—W. ALDIS.

Stepney Angling Society, Bee Hive, Rhodeswell-road, Stepney.—On Jan. 1 the following weighed-in: Messrs. G. Chamberlain, a nice show of roach and perch; L. Ehern, roach; J. Shum, roach; and A. Shum, roach and dace.—C. TATNALL.

Stockwell Angling Society, Old Queen's Head, Stockwell, S.W.—Since my last report a few of our members have been out, with poor results, owing to the condition of the river. The date of our supper has been fixed for Jan. 17, at 9 p.m. Tickets 2s. each, to be obtained at the clubhouse and of—THOS. LUCAS.

Stratford Angling Society, Dorset Arms, Leyton-road, Stratford New Town, E.—Since my last report the following members have weighed-in fish: Messrs. F. Bates, a brace of jack; J. Race, roach; T. Sandilands, roach; and J. Grande, a good show of dace and roach.—G. F. WEAVER.

Sundial Angling Society, Plough and Harrow, King-street, Hammersmith, W.—During the past week several members have been out, but only one weighed-in, Mr. Holt, with roach. Mr. C. Bice had a nice show of roach, but did not weigh-in.—C. E. LOCK.

Walham Green and Chelsea Angling Society, Black Bull, Fulham-road, S.W.—Although Wednesday last was quarterly night, we were poorly attended. Mr. J. Brixey was re-elected chairman, and Mr. Baker assistant secretary. On Jan. 1 Mr. J. Brixey weighed-in perch, largest 1lb. 8oz.—C. WAKE.

Wellington Angling Society, Prince George, Hillingdon-street, S.E.—We fish for three prizes on Jan. 8, at Datchet, from the bridge to the lock, both sides of the cutting. Fish to be shown at the bridge at four o'clock p.m. Messrs. Jenkins, Gordon, Papworth, and Willett weighed-in during the week.—F. WESTOBY.

West Green Angling Society, Black Boy Hotel, West Green-road.—We have a tupper supper at headquarters on Wednesday, Jan. 25, at 8.30 p.m.; tickets 1s. 6d. All members are requested to attend. Mr. Anderson weighed-in two jack (largest 4lb.), three perch (largest 1lb. 6oz.), ten roach and dace (largest 13oz.); Mr. Teare, one jack, 2lb. 11oz.; Mr. Quartly, one jack, 1lb. 11½oz.—A. G. HILL.

White Hart Angling Society, The Volunteer, Obesnut-road, Tottenham, N.—On Dec. 21 we distributed our Christmas prizes, the following being the winners, in rotation: Messrs. H. Walton, T. Dunford, W. Butler, D. Knight, W. Bragg, Siefried, A. Langton, S. Claridge, W. Bastock. The same day I had 3½lb. of roach, and on Dec. 28 I had roach and bream. On Jan. 1 D. Knight, jack; H. Walton, bream. We fish a pegged-down match at Ware on Jan. 8—boundary from the Brickfield Cottages to the Engine House—for Mr. Croxson's prize; all fish.

Wimbledon Piscatorials, 28, Alexandra-road, Wimbledon.—At Tuesday's meeting the following reports were received: Mr. C. Floris, a pike of 8lb. from the Thames; Mr. J. Fumage, chub and roach from the Thames; Mr. H. Golding, perch from club water; and Mr. H. A. Rolt, chub and roach from the Colne. An outing takes place on the 8th inst. to Weybridge. Train, prizes, and conditions as usual. The match on the day after Boxing Day was an absolute blank, no competitor getting a single fish.—HON. SEC.

Tottings by the Way.

A PAPER entitled "Flat Fish" will be read before the members and friends of the Piscatorial Society, at the Holborn Restaurant, on Monday evening, Jan. 9, by Dr. C. S. Patterson. Chair taken punctually at 8.30. I hear that the genial doctor will lecture before the members of the Camera Club on Thursday evening, Jan. 12, on "The Photography of Sea Angling."

A BROTHER Greshamite (Mr. E. J. Chambers) writes: "Chertsey fishing is looking up a bit. Fishing from the bank (Thames) on Saturday last my best pike weighed 6lb. 12oz. On Jan. 1 my best pike weighed 9lb. 12oz. Hackett knows of many good fish here. I accepted his advice where to go on the above occasions."

To the already long list of attractions arranged for the holidays at the Royal Aquarium, the addition will be made of a very talented Spanish singer and dancer. With the exception that the performances will commence at 10.30 instead of 10 a.m., and the world's great show at 2.10 and 7.10 p.m. daily, the Christmas programme will continue in its entirety. Great preparations are being made for the seventh annual yachting exhibition, which will open on the 1st prox.

OUR F. G. ALBUM OF ANGLERS.

No. 31 (New Series).



MR. A. E. HOBBS

Is the hon. secretary of the Henley and District Fisheries Preservation Society, and is doing excellent work on behalf of the Thames in that section of the river. He is a hard worker, being full of energy, and is very courteous to all anglers whom he meets when pursuing his sport. He is an angler of no mean qualities, having taken over seventy-three Thames trout, a Thames pike of 11½lb., and a very large number of specimen barbel. His best day's take was between 80lb. and 90lb. He took over the duties of the hon. secretary of the aforesaid association from Mr. C. H. Cook, and has regularly protected perch spawn in the close season, and has placed large quantities of fish in the Henley reaches. He is the neatest angler on record for method in keeping rods and tackle, of which he has a large supply, and in which he takes great pride. He has just been appointed by his association as a delegate to the Thames Re-stocking Association. The above photograph has been kindly lent to us by the editor of the *Thames Angling News*.

THE January (or New Year's) number of the "Thames Angling News" is to hand, and right worthily does it maintain its prestige. It contains an article from the pen of Mr. Charles Hussey, entitled "Angling in the Salt Water Reaches of the Thames," and he knows what he is talking about, and writing about. The veteran W. H. Brougham (the author of the "Massacre of the Infants"), discourses volubly and knowingly on the "Early Days of Thames Preservation." "Red Palmer" tells in a few words "how we stand" with regard to "Thames Impurity and Salmon." In fact, the T.A.N. is a very interesting little brochure.

THE following is (sculled—I mean dragged—from the same source (I fancy I can hear the editor say "What sauce!"). No matter. "J. O. E. sends me the following pars., which he terms 'New Year's Greetings.' He says: 'I am preparing my net; I mean my bass-net. Although I have been married very nearly three years, I hope shortly to be rewarded for patience, which every true fisherman should have. You may wonder what this has to do with fishing. Well, some time ago a man made an appointment with a friend for a day's fishing, and to start early. The friend was late, so his companion started without him. When he turned up he explained that he could not come sooner as his wife had presented him with a fine baby boy, 8½lb. Laugh! he said; that's nothing, hardly the weight of the bait I am fishing with. There were big jack in those parts.' Then he says, 'Much has been said about angling. How often have I seen fishers—bank fishers, I mean—with boxes, &c., as much as they could carry! Then do I remember the old words:

'Arm'd cap-d-pic with baskets, bags and rods,
The angler early to the river plods;
At night his looks the woful truth announce—
Of luggage half a ton, the fish—an ounce.'

THE new year of *Scribner's Magazine* opens in the January number with several features of great distinction. The place of honour is given to Governor Roosevelt, who will contribute not only his continued story of "The Rough Riders," but other articles on the caval preparations, the strategy and other important subjects growing out of the war with Spain. The frontispiece of the number is a drawing from life, by Charles Dana Gibson, of Col. Roosevelt, and it is a most satisfactory interpretation of the salient qualities in the face of the new Governor of New York. The first chapter of "The Rough Riders" is entitled "Raising the Regiment," and from the very start it reveals those qualities of vigorous description that have become associated with Col. Roosevelt as an author and speaker. It has been said that he knew almost every man in his regiment, and this article is filled with the Colonel's anecdotes of notable men from east and west who composed the most picturesque body of fighting men of modern times. The illustrations, which are to be a feature of this serial, have been chosen by the Colonel himself from many hundreds of photographs. The completed narrative will be the most striking book of the year, written by a man holding one of the most exalted positions in the government of his country.

AN angler who was fishing on the Dover promenade pier recently, had an extraordinary "catch." Having obtained a bite he noticed unusual resistance, and had some difficulty in hauling his line up. When he did so he found, that in addition to having a small whiting on his hook, he had fished up the iron vane of a lighthouse which was lost several years ago when the pier was collided with by a large sailing ship, and the lighthouse knocked overboard. After taking the bait the fish, in its struggles, must have entangled the line round the vane, thus enabling it to be hauled up. Now, did this "angler" really fish in rain?

THE following letter has been received from our old friend "Ichabod" (late of the T.A.P.S.). Writing from Cardiff, he says: "Dear 'Drag,'—I am delighted to read in the *Fishing Gazette* the splendid gift of large trout to the Thames (dear old river) by Mr. Corrie to Mr. R. B. Marston, and more so as they were marked, and let us hope, each carefully weighed and recorded. I have very many times wondered what became of our late friend James Forbes' trout, which I marked and put into the Thames at Chertsey Weir. There were over 100 of them, but only one has since been heard of; that was caught at Bell Weir, it having travelled from below Chertsey Weir to Bell Weir in fifty-eight hours. What price this for Shepperton Weir next April? We have been busy here spawning trout for our hatchery, and have a magnificent lot of ova laid down. It was taken by your humble servant from the best fish in the Llanishen Reservoir, the water having been run off for the purpose of cleansing the bottom.

"I ONLY wish you had been with us to have seen the netting. Speculation ran high as to the weight of the largest trout. I need not remind you of the old adage, 'The heaviest fish is always lost,' for so it proved. This time it had broken lines, traces, cast, rods, &c. The weight was supposed to be anything from 10lb. to 16lb., and this by those who had hooked and lost it. A 'Kitchen' of cast, traces, &c., was supposed to adorn his upper lip. The water getting lower and lower, excitement was at concert pitch when the first net was swept round. Six to four was the ruling price, i.e., he went 10lb., and even money he went over 15lb. Alas, for our numerous brothers who had hooked him! for, after letting the whole of the water off, the largest trout weighed 4½lb.—a long, male fish, 'tis true, and might, if in his best condition, have weighed 6lb. If anyone wants a fight, ask any member the weight of the trout he lost at Lisvane Reservoir, when the fat will be in the fire, for they do not even try to make an excuse. Moral: 'Do not guess the weight of the fish which breaks you up.' Wishing you tight lines and a prosperous New Year."

LIZZY: "Please, sir, will you open the gate for me?" Short-sighted Old Gent.: "Why, my little girl, you can open it for yourself!" Lizzy: "Oh, sir, please do open it." Short-sighted Old Gent.: "Very well. There! Now, tell me why you couldn't open it for yourself?" Lizzy: "Please, sir, 'cause the paint's wet!"

DRAUGHT.

PISCATORIAL SOCIETY.

ANGLING news was somewhat at a discount on Monday evening, the gales and storms of the past week having militated against sport both in sea and river. There was, however, a goodly company present, Mr. R. Clay taking the chair, and one and all were gratified at being able to shake hands with Mr. E. Foreman, the esteemed hon. treasurer of the society, and to express the very great pleasure it gave them to see him amongst them again after his long bout of illness. Mr. Harden, who had been on the best grayling water in England; Mr. C. H. Bywaters, at Newbury; and Mr. F. G. Bridgman, at Yarmouth, had done nothing at all. Mr. J. W. Zaehnsdorf had stopped at Deal for some ten days, but had only fished four hours altogether, which will show what sea fishing generally had been like. The chairman had visited the Waveney, but his creel was nearly empty. Mr. A. R. Matthews, however, had taken roach and perch; and Mr. Horace H. Brown, five jack in fifteen minutes—quick work that—spinning with a Wagtail. Mr. Frank Ward and Mr. W. G. Fletcher, who had been to Newbury, brought up a bag of pike, chub, roach, and dace, which graced the table. Mr. Ward's catch was a pike of 7lb. 14oz. and a 2½lb. chub; and Mr. Fletcher's share of the spoil, a chub of the same size and several good roach and a fine dace. Mr. Ward mentioned that the old Nottingham winch he had exhibited at a previous meeting had been offered to the society by a relative of his, an announcement which was heard with gratification, and the donor was thanked for his kindness in presenting the relic. Mr. Neville Davis had had fair sport at Deal, having taken some very large whiting up to 2½lb. 8oz. Mr. E. J. Walker gave some interesting particulars of his fishing on the Avon, when he made the big bag of fine fish shown at the last gathering of the society. Everyone hoped that this popular gentleman would have carried off the handsome piece of plate, subscribed for privately by some of the members; and, indeed, until the very last moment Mr. Walker's success seemed absolutely assured. But "there's many a slip," &c.; and Dr. Head, who alone had to be reckoned with, won right on the post, and becomes the proud possessor for a year of the coveted trophy. Mr. Walker, although he was naturally disappointed at the manner in which Dame Fortune had frowned upon him, warmly, and like a true sportsman, congratulated his opponent on the energy, perseverance, and skill which had brought about his victory. Mr. E. Foreman was glad to find such a feeling pervading the minds of the members, and although he was against prize giving by the society itself, everyone, himself included, favoured such competitions as that under notice, inducing, as they did, members to go out fishing, and promoting also a healthy spirit of rivalry and emulation between the best anglers. Mr. Foreman, amid laughter, added that if he had been in the doctor's place, he would have allowed Mr. Walker to carry off the prize, for the latter would most assuredly have been the very first to have offered a still bigger piece of plate for someone else to capture! Mr. Walker afterwards mentioned that worm fishing was now no longer allowed on the Hampshire Avon. Next Monday Dr. Chas. S. Patterson will read before the members a paper on "Flat Fish," in lieu of the one previously announced, entitled "Perch and Pike." The chair will be taken at 8.30 p.m.

M. G. E. DE C.

BRITISH SEA ANGLERS' SOCIETY.

THE usual weekly meeting of this society was held on Wednesday, Jan. 4, at 8 p.m., Mr. F. W. Norman in the chair. Mr. Minchin reported fair sport with whiting from Deal, and further drew attention to the capture off Walmer of a 52lb. cod on a long line, which is nearly a record for the district. Mr. Graham stated that the pier at Southend is temporarily repaired. Resuming the discussion on wire lines, Mr. Tinker brought up as a visitor, Mr. Ormiston, the manufacturer of the phosphor bronze wire lines, who gave some most interesting particulars regarding the forms of wire lines that it is possible to make or have made. Mr. Lane drew attention to an interesting article in *Cassell's Magazine* on the uses of fish skins. Mr. Edwards stated that for lacing engine belts the skin of the conger was a splendid material. Dr. Brunton gave his angling experiences at Deal in a S.E. fresh breeze, taking 108 whiting and nine cod. He complained of the cold, which he found it impossible to keep out in spite of "guernsey, jersey, and eark," besides other garments. An interesting discussion took place on shore marks and the importance of having local knowledge. Mr. Minchin spoke strongly on the unfairness of giving away marks that had been gained from local fishermen, as it is the fisherman's living, and such knowledge is handed down from father to son, and is jealously guarded from other fishermen. The usual vote of thanks to the chair closed the meeting.

CHARLES S. PATTERSON (Hon. Sec.).

GRESHAM ANGLING SOCIETY.

WE had a very good attendance at the first meeting of the society this year, when Mr. C. Bentley occupied the chair. Mr. Close reported cod, whiting, and pout from Deal; Mr. Chastaney, from Yarmouth, codling; Mr. Connellan, from Deal, two score whiting, ray, and several codling; Mr. Maul, cod, of 7½lb. and 6½lb., and two and a half score of whiting from Deal; Dr. Brunton, large quantity of whiting, and several cod from 9lb. downwards. Several members had been out, but could not get afloat owing to the rough weather. Various matters of interest were discussed. Mr. Gibson reported whiting pout and dabs from Deal. I wish every member of the Gresham a very happy and prosperous New Year. A vote of thanks to the chair and the usual toasts concluded a very busy evening.

ALEX. WRIGHT.

SUTTON'S ANGLING ASSOCIATION.

THE nineteenth general meeting and prize distribution of the above society was held in the reading room at Messrs. Sutton's on Dec. 23. Mr. M. H. F. Sutton presiding. The chief item on the credit side of the balance-sheet, as rendered by the hon. secretary and treasurer, Mr. R. Bowsher, was a handsome subscription of ten guineas from the firm, which, together with that of the president, Mr. Martin Hope Sutton, and a special prize donation by Mr. A. W. Sutton, constituted more than half of the receipts. The debit side was chiefly occupied with disbursements for a most comprehensive series of prizes, amounting in all to £18, in which figured a score of anglers out of the seventy members forming the association. It is hardly necessary to report the fact that a balance-sheet of this pleasing nature was passed without demur, or that the president and vice-presidents, whose liberality ensures such a satisfactory result, were unanimously and with acclamation re-elected. The committee, with the substitution of Mr. W. W. Albury for a retiring member, as also the hon. secretary and treasurer, were again reinstated. Mr. Sutton distributed the prizes, consisting of fishing tackle and furniture of every description; hag and baskets, creels and cruet, watches, time-pieces and teapot, jewellery and cutlery, reel and landing net. Ultimately the assembly dispersed after a most hearty vote of thanks to Mr. Sutton for his able chairmanship, and to the Messrs. Sutton generally for their substantial support of and undiminished interest in the association, tendered through Messrs. Farmer and Kinchin. Mr. Sutton cordially responding and assuring the meeting of the firm's unabated interest in all matters pertaining to sport.

Amongst the prize-winners were Messrs. S. Warrilow, W. R. Smith, G. Critcher, D. Cooper, W. H. Stacey, J. Sadler, W. H. Chalk, E. Tufnail, F. J. Plumer, W. W. Albury, O. Cooper, C. A. M. Morris, H. Belcher, H. Church, H. Swain, senr., W. T. Bartholomew, F. W. Carter, and E. H. Leaver.

THE FAMOUS TERRAPIN.

WITH the chill November blast comes the terrapin, that savory, delicate thing of the mud, noted for its age and its price. Nov. 1 is the appointed time for placing this peculiar aquatic product on the menus of the ultra-fashionable hotels and cafés. The terrapin never ruins its constitution by over-eating or rapid growth. It takes about seven years, in a congenial environment, to attain the standard size of 7in. It has never been known to kick on account of short rations. It is never put out of countenance over the quality of its diet. It is very grateful for a supply of crabs or shrimp, but if these are not forthcoming it is never too proud to root for a living.

To enjoy a terrapin, it is first necessary to catch it, or buy it, which is much more convenient if you are afraid of getting wet feet. Then the cooking is a very delicate, artistic operation. Many who have successfully cooked corned beef and cabbage have been known to fail when they tackled a terrapin. A terrapin has gall, and if that is tampered with you might as well serve up cod with quinine sauce. A sensitive liver is also a characteristic of the beast, and the cook will do well not to monkey with that organ.

There is a well-defined race distinction among the terrapin family. No self-respecting denizen of the Chesapeake Bay tribe will associate at table with what are called the Carolinas or Mississippis. As in many other things, money makes the distinction. The Chesapeake Bay terrapin bring from 45 dols. to 75 dols. a dozen, while the other class bring from 10 dols. to 15 dols. a dozen. There is a colour distinction, also, with the preference in favour of the black. The Chesapeake aristocrat is called the black diamond, and the others, of a lighter colour, are considered by epicures as the "white trash."

Recently a man on the east shore of Maryland had about 2000 dols. worth of terrapin in a pound, which he tended carefully and fed regularly; but one night the entire herd was stolen, and he has no means of identifying his property.—*American F. G.*

FIGHT WITH A DEVILFISH.

CAPT. CONRAD, the local diver, has recently returned from a voyage to Central American waters. During the month of August the fruit ship *Oteri* went ashore on the coast of Ruatan, in the tropical sea. Other divers tried to float the ship and failed. He was engaged, and started for the dangerous coast. There was a choppy, mean sea running all the time, which made work difficult. The vessel had gone ashore head on. The stern was in deep water, and just aft of midships the coral reef showed itself. At that point she was hard aground, with a hole stove in her. The keel was broken in three places, and the ship was really in a bad way. However, he went to work, put the patches over the holes, and began the pumping. The vessel was soon pumped out enough to almost float her. It was evident that the effort would be successful. One evening the ship began to leak again with renewed energy. The leak came from a point about midships and near the keel, just under the bilge. It was a bright summer afternoon, about four o'clock, and he realised that the hole would have to be stopped at once. He called his assistants, and they anchored the diver's boat with the apparatus. Everything was got ready for the work, and it was evident that it would be a task of hours.

As he reached the surface of the water his attention was attracted to the beautiful colouring of the coral and the thousands of fish swimming round among the reefs. Tropical waters usually give a weird and beautiful light to the surroundings, for these waters are so blue and clear. That day the picture seemed exceptionally enchanting,

and the diver gave himself up to its enjoyment and thoughts of things which happen away down in the blue sea, out of sight of the world.

Slowly he approached the ship, thoroughly pre-occupied, and he was getting down under the bilge near the point where the work was necessary, when a long, dark arm shot across his face glass. He had been in tropical waters before, and knew the sign. He realised he had the fearful devilfish to fight—the real octopus, which is feared by all divers, and given a wide territory whenever met. The attack was so sudden, and the sight so vivid, that the diver lost his courage for a moment, and gave the danger signal. He was entirely unarmed, and was pulled to the boat as rapidly as possible.

When once on the small boat he removed the big brass helmet for air. He was as white as a sheet and perfectly exhausted. His attendants crowded round to know the cause of this sudden flight.

When restored to his usual strength, for Capt. Conrad is a man of magnificent physical endurance, he quietly told of the submarine enemy.

He thought over the situation. The ship was leaking badly, and could not be allowed to remain overnight without assistance and careful attention. The work had to be done, and done at once. He called for a heavy harpoon, which was on board the boat, and cut the handle, making the weapon about 3ft. in length. Armed with this, he went down into the sea again.

This time he had but one object in view, a fight. The fight was necessary to continue the work. He was very careful. He did not pay much attention to the varied and exquisite colouring of the coral and fish, and the way the wonder-stricken tribe watched his every movement. He was looking for a foe, and one of the most dangerous the sea divers know. Slowly he approached the ship and the spot where the octopus was hidden under the bilge of the vessel. It was still there, and was also watching him carefully. As he approached the animal moved from under the vessel, gathering itself for the attack.

There were but 4ft. or 5ft. between the coral reef and the vessel at this point, and Capt. Conrad settled himself for the battle. It was not long in coming. The snake-like creature moved forward, and reached out with one of its long arms, only to be met by a vigorous blow from the harpoon. The sea creature was quick and avoided the blow, and touched the diver on the hip, but lost the arm at once, one cut severing it clean.

Then the fight began in earnest. One or two blows were given with but slight effect, but fortunately the harpoon was driven deep into a vital spot. When injured, these creatures discharge a dye which colours the water perfectly black. When hit this time immediately the water became inky, and having his vision cut off, Capt. Conrad rushed for safety. He managed to get beyond reach with but little difficulty, and again gave the danger signal.

For a long time he remained on board the tender boat, and the colouring discharged by the octopus came to the surface. Within a few minutes it had cleared away, and again Capt. Conrad went down to resume the battle. The devilfish was dead, however, but remained close under the hull of the vessel, just at the point where work was necessary. The harpoon was driven deep into the body, but the animal weighed more than the diver could move. A rope was attached to the harpoon, but those on the boat could not pull the fish away.

Capt. Conrad, while speaking of his remarkable adventure, stated that the octopus was about 3ft. broad, and its body was twice that length, while its arms extended some 8ft. or 10ft. When there was no longer danger from the octopus he resumed his work, and lay on the back of the animal when driving home the rivets over the hole in the hull. The work was completed that evening, and next morning the body of the animal was gone. That was the first and last experience he ever had of the kind, and he sincerely hopes there will be no more.—*New Orleans Picayune.*

Notes from the North.

THE New Year season has considerable interest to the angler north of the border. It brings him within touch of another salmon angling season, and points the way to new triumphs. In another fortnight the early spring angler will be again at it on the Tay, Loch Tay, and some other highland streams which open among the first in the north.

The appeal made on behalf of the widow and family of Constable King, deliberately shot the other week by the Nethy Bridge poacher, McCallum, is being met with a hearty response. The Inverness County Commissioners are also moving in the matter, and there is the chance of a fairly large sum being collected all round.

Mrs. Wm. Farnell Watson has retained the Woodend water, rented for so many years by her late husband, and is expected down early in the spring to fish it. She has secured the services of John Mortimer as her gillie, and John has been busy during the close season putting things to rights.

If the present spell of open weather continues fish will be found well up into the middle and upper reaches by Feb. 11, when the season opens all round.

The Ness never freezes. It is a deep running stream, and angling can at all times be attempted on its waters at least. Not so the Dee, Don, Spey, and kindred shallow rivers. A night's hard frost or so closes them up, and

then the angler has to stand by till a thaw comes. It is seldom that the rivers are so closed that no angling can be got, and often in a stiff storm a cast can be got towards afternoon.

As a rule, very large flies are requisitioned at the opening of the season, but, of course, much depends upon the temperature. Three-inch irons are, however, about as big as there is any need for, although last season it was a common order to ask tackle makers for the biggest possible; and Mr. Garden, Aberdeen, had some irons specially made for more than one customer. The pity of it was that there was so little need for them, big or little, and it is to be hoped that the new year just begun will bring more luck with it.

Lord Semple, Craigievar, has just made his annual distribution of game to the guards and drivers on his section of the line, per Mr. Taylor, Lumphanan. This happy custom was inaugurated some years ago by the Marquis of Huntly, and now, from the Duke of Fife downwards, all the Deeside sportsmen remember their rail officials.

We often say a word for the gillie at this time. He feels the pinch more just now than at any other time, and a little gift will go a long way when there is nothing else coming in.

Many gillies are paid off at the end of the season, others are kept on at half-pay, and given some odd job to attend to. There is always plenty of work on a fishery, and the system of keeping the man on the ground all the year round is a good one, and ought to be encouraged. It tends to interest the men in their work, and, although they may not herd salmon like grouse, yet there are lots of ways of improving a fishery in the close season.

SPECIAL SCOTCH.

Provincial Notes

FROM BIRMINGHAM AND DISTRICT.

The *soirée* in connection with the Birmingham Anglers' Benevolent Society was brought to a successful issue on New Year's eve at the Camden-street Board Schools. A splendid entertainment was provided, and every satisfaction was given to those who honoured the affair with their patronage. The large school-room, which was handsomely decorated for the occasion, presented quite an animated appearance when the dancing was at its height, as near upon 400 ladies and gentlemen were to be seen joining in the giddy waltz. The anglers did not turn up in such numbers as were expected, but the outside public made up for the deficiency. The dancing commenced at eight o'clock and was carried on until twelve. The infants' school was set apart for the concert, when Messrs. McKay, Vale, Lines, and Workman, together with the three Sisters Ryder, contributed to amuse those who were unable to participate in the dancing. The whole of the committee, under the direction of Mr. J. Rahone, acted as stewards, and did their utmost to make the *soirée* a success, which, I am glad to say, it was. This is the first venture of the society in this direction, and I have reasons to believe that another ball will be held between now and next March. In past years it has been the custom to hold a concert at one of the halls in the city. These concerts were a great benefit to the society, but it will no doubt be found that more money will be made out of the ball room than the concert hall. Comments have been made in several of our local papers about the Vine Unity Society giving up their Trent water at Armitage on the grounds that it has been unproductive of sport, a number of the best anglers in the club have paid

numerous visits to the water, but sport on the whole has been of such a character that the weight of fish taken during the last nine months has not been as many pounds. This, together with the fact that no Sunday trains run to Armitage, and that the cost of the water amounted to about £12 per annum, shows that the club have done wisely in abandoning the water. This club is on the look out for fresh water, and are not particular as to price so long that it will provide sport for the members. Some few anglers went out during the holidays, and in one or two instances were rewarded by taking a few decent fish. The most lucky person was Mr. W. Osborn, who succeeded in capturing a nice pike at Stourport, in the Severn. The fish was in good condition, and weighed 17½ lb. It is being set up by a local taxidermist. The heavy rains that we have had of late have made the Trent, Avon, Severn, and other small rivers in the Midlands unfishable. The water in low-lying districts is out on the fields, and it will be some time before they will be fishable. Under the circumstances, the canals and pools will be the only waters fishable. Subscriptions are coming in for the Coles' testimonial fund, which will remain open for some time yet so as to enable the clubs to get the consent of the members to forward donations. This will be far better than leaving it to just a few of the members to subscribe, as donations taken from the funds of societies places all the members on terms of equality. A general meeting of the Birmingham Angling Association will be held at the headquarters on Thursday, Jan. 12, for the purpose of electing the working committee for 1899. An auditor will also be elected from the general body of delegates, and at the first meeting of the new committee they will also appoint one from their body.

FROM THE FEN DISTRICT (LINCOLNSHIRE).

The Fen waters have recovered rapidly from last week's rainfall, and angling has again been resumed. The weather, however, is very capricious. At the time of writing (Wednesday) the air was exceedingly mild and balmy, more characteristic of spring than of winter; but two days before that frost and snow were the prevailing elements. Visitors continue to patronise the district, several of whom have lately disported themselves on the Glen, where, in the Surfleet district, some nice baskets of roach have been captured. Worms and paste have proved the best baits, and some rods have accounted for as much as 12 lb. and 14 lb. Local fishermen have principally wielded the trolling rod. On the Market Deeping lengths of the Welland capital sport has been had amongst the pike; and the Forty-foot reaches, north and south of Donington Bridge, have also yielded well. The best sport on the Witham is mentioned from the Bardney and Tattershall districts, where individual rods have accounted for as many as five brace of fish in a single day.

FROM HULL AND DISTRICT.

The atmospheric conditions during the Christmas holidays in this district were so very unsuitable to the angler that only the most enthusiastic fishermen ventured out to face the elements, and the river Hull and its affluent streams being in such a flooded condition owing to the heavy rains, very few fish were met with by those who did traverse the streams, although I hear of a fair catch of roach on Boxing Day from the tidal waters at Hull Bridge, and a few decent sized pike from the Market Weighton Canal in the Newport district. But although our local anglers have not been able to follow their favourite pastime during the day owing to the inclemency of the weather, yet they have been provided with plenty of entertainment in the evening to sooth their sorrows with, for annual spreads, presentations, and smoking concerts have been of almost nightly occurrence at the various anglers' rendezvous in the city, some of the affairs being of a most enthusiastic kind, one of which was the annual gathering of the Alexandra Angling Association, which took place at the Sportsman's Hotel, in East Hull,

on Boxing Night. Mr. Patrick J. Robinson occupied the chair, being supported in the vice-chair by Mr. W. H. Barker, the president of the Hull Amalgamated Anglers' Association; the large club-room was tastefully decorated with the usual angler's paraphernalia, and not the least attraction of the evening was the exhibit of a nice catch of roach caught by Mr. W. H. Barker that day from the neighbourhood of Hull Bridge, and some fair sized pike from Newport, caught by Messrs. H. Hart and J. Siddons. During the evening Mr. H. Wharram was the recipient of a silver cup (given by Mr. Robinson) and also the society's gold medal for most points during the past season. The society's silver challenge cup was also presented to Mr. F. Scarborough. Special prizes were also awarded to Messrs. J. Ackland, B. Clarke, J. Skelton, and W. Tuxworth. The members of the County Angling Society dined together the other evening at the Ordnance Arms, in Drypool, Mr. J. Helm presiding, when the aggregate and other prizes were awarded; Mr. J. Coates being presented with the club's gold medal for most points in the club matches, the second prize falling to Mr. H. W. Woollock. On Monday evening next the members of the Tigris Angling Society have a spread at their headquarters in High-street. The Derringham A.S. have removed their headquarters from the Polar Bear Hotel to the Botanic Hotel, Spring Bank; and the Waltonian Angling Society have also removed to the Station Hotel, at Stepney. At the annual meeting of the Osborne A.S., Mr. Otto Matthews was re-elected president; Mr. A. Bell, treasurer; and Mr. E. Conrad Naewiger to the secretaryship; and the annual prizes were presented, Mr. Robert Goodin being the winner of the club's gold medal for most points during the past season. Prizes were also presented to the winners at the recent match at Hull Bridge, Mr. J. Bartlett taking the first with 2 lb. 3½ oz.; Mr. J. Haysam, second, with 1 lb. 12½ oz.; and Mr. J. Anderson, third, with little short of 1 lb. A splendid tea service was also presented to the secretary, Mr. Nsewiger. The Izaak Walton A.S. also held their annual meeting at the Elephant and Castle, on the Holderness-road, when the secretary's balance-sheet showed the society to be in a flourishing condition, with a nice balance in hand to commence the season with. Mr. W. Ellison was elected to the presidential chair; to be assisted in the vice by Mr. J. Waldron; Mr. J. Dales, treasurer; and Mr. Charles H. Haldenby, secretary. The George and Dragon A.S. will hold their annual dinner at headquarters on the 16th inst.

FROM THE LAKE DISTRICT.

With the advent of the New Year inquiries naturally crop up amongst anglers as to the nature of the spawning season, the condition and number of fish in the rivers, and prospects for the forthcoming season. This year it will be somewhat difficult to arrive at a fair estimate of the number of fish that have been on the spawning beds. Since the beginning of the close time rivers have been mostly high, and frequently in heavy flood. This condition of things, while affording protection to the fish from poachers and other enemies, is also apt to result in damage to the redds, many of which are utterly ruined during flood time in rapid streams. So far as can be gathered, however, there does not seem much ground for complaint. Many rivers held a good head of large fish, and these were enabled to reach higher lengths of ground than in drier seasons, owing to the heavy rainfall in autumn; and such as have already accomplished their mission found no obstacle in dropping back again to the deeper water.

FROM LANCASHIRE.

The annual report of the Bolton Anglers' Association is printed and circulated, and forms, as usual, a most interesting pamphlet, and clearly demonstrates the efficiency of its executive. It is regrettable that the membership has fallen off a little, but this is accounted for in the severe and prolonged labour troubles in that

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town, and doubtless in 1899 the old total will be reached and probably exceeded; as it is they have nearly 900. Space forbids anything like a detailed notice of the general report, and some dozen tables and balance-sheets. Altogether they have close on a score of fishing resorts, upon which there has been no stint in stocking, &c. and favoured by a private hatchery, in which some 100,000 ova (various) are to be treated, great results are to be expected. The lists of fish winning the association prizes are particularly interesting, some of the weights in classes are very close, and point to a keen contest. The Phoenix Angling Society, Oldham, is going strong; up to now the roll-call has reached forty, and still they come. It is proposed to set aside a special prize for the largest specimen caught in home fishing. It is pleasing to note that Liverpool are waking up, and aspiring to a local general association. Tired of being governed by others, they think they can govern themselves. Certainly they can, and should never have tried any other jurisdiction. Manchester, Bolton, and other centres, e.g., Wigan, Staleybridge and district, and several smaller ones have long since seen the wisdom of such a step. Why go to Birmingham or any other place for your privileges? Liverpool has wealth, influence, and brains. Use all, and get what you want. Some interesting news is promised from Liverpool about sea fishing in that district, and when it arrives it shall appear in these notes.

FROM MANCHESTER.

Arrangements are now complete for the lantern lecture on the 11th, at the headquarters of the Buckland Angling Society, Queen Adelaide Hotel, Chancery Lane, Ardwick, by Mr. F. Bibby. Eight o'clock is the time, and a good muster, please. The slides to be used depict scenes in Ireland visited by the lecturer and his friends during various fishing excursions; the very last in 1898 was to Ballintra and district. How many angling hosts can boast of fifty-five years residence in the same house; yet this is what Host Johnson can do, and may he see many more. The *Fishing Gazette* will be represented some time in the evening, and sample the October brew. The Kingfishers hold their annual business meeting on the 10th at headquarters; the agenda includes report, balance-sheet, election of officers, &c., and various other but private items. The Moss Side Socials, at their last meeting, had a rather delicate bit of business on hand, viz., balloting for three candidates to fill a similar number of vacancies, the applicants being much in excess of the vacancies. The following, strange to say all juniors, were declared elected: J. H. Hall, jun., J. Reavy, jun., and H. H. Jenkins, jun. But after this date no one under the age of twenty-one years will be eligible. The annual meeting is to be held on the 9th to discuss of the usual agenda, report, balance-sheet, and election of officers. Mr. W. C. Hawkins is declared winner of special prize for heaviest fish from club waters. A good report is to hand from the Ardwick Angling Society. They have wound up a good year and started well for a good year in 1899. They have elected officers, &c., as follows: President, Mr. Lattimer; vice-presidents, Messrs. S. Wells and J. Ibbotson; chairman, Mr. J. Mitchell; vice-chairman, Mr. R. Burgess; treasurer, Mr. A. Turner; secretary, Mr. J. Newton; delegate, Mr. F. Heaton; committee, Messrs. J. Hall, F. Heaton, J. Brysant, J. Herd, and R. Smallshaw. The Duke of Cambridge A.S. have just concluded a good season and started strong for another, and elected officers as follows: President, Mr. W. Hulley; treasurer, Mr. E. Kenny; secretary and delegate, Mr. H. Berry; committee, Messrs. J. Mellor, J. Hall, and D. Haynes. This society is one of our oldest, and contains some veteran fishermen.

FROM NORFOLK.

Sport during the past week has been unusually bad for this time of year. The weather has been splendid, but it has tempted very few anglers to go out, and those who have been have done next to nothing. One angler got two dozen small pike on a piece of private water in one day, but not one of the fish was large enough to kill. Others have had a few small fish only. The whole of the waters in the district are in good condition, and why sport is not better is a mystery.

FROM NOTTINGHAM.

Angling pursuits have been a comparative blank since the despatch of my last report. Gales have raged, and the Trent has undergone a rapid succession of changes, all more or less adverse to the taking of fish. On Wednesday the river was bank full, and indications pointed to further meteorological disturbances. During the day roach fishermen patronised the Wilford and Clifton lengths, which are handy for the city, and those using the cockspur worm and plain bread paste succeeded in capturing a fair quantity of fish. Roach, needless to remark, are now in grand condition, and fight hard when hooked. Nothing has been attempted at Shardlow, and scarcely a member has been out at Kelham, Staythorpe, and Averham. In the closing days of the pike season at King's Mills some good fish were run and landed, amongst others, by Messrs. Froggatt, Danby, Ashton, and Couby. The recurring floods must have driven plenty of fish into the various backwaters, and as soon as the waters fine down sport ought really to be the best of the season. Those getting first turn will secure the heaviest baskets. News at the clubs is extremely quiet, and quietness will reign pending a decided change in the condition of the river.

FROM SHEFFIELD.

The anglers of Sheffield, in common with others, have been terribly disappointed during the holidays because of the wretched weather which has prevailed, and which has prevented them from having a few days' sport. At Christmas the weather was bad enough in all conscience, but, being a little philosophical, fishermen consoled them-

selves with the thought that it would probably be better for the New Year. The New Year did, indeed, bring about a change, but if anything it was for the worse, and, consequently, the number of fishermen who went out to try their luck was very much smaller than would have been the case had the weather been more propitious. The Trent has been running exceedingly high; in fact, practically at flood height. Before the waters rose pike afforded a good deal of sport in the neighbourhood of Kelham, anglers finding live bait very efficacious. The Boxing Day match of the Notts Anglers' Protective Society at King's Mills was rendered unsuccessful on account of the strong winds. Roach anglers have not fared very well during the last few days in the Trent, and only here and there have a few fish been caught, Dunham Bridge having provided a moderate quantity of fish, which have fallen victims to maggots. The heavy rains have been rather welcome in the Witham, which was too full of vegetation to allow of the best sport. The heavy rushes of water have cleared away a lot of this, and made matters better. Several Sheffielders have done very well in the Glen, at Surfleet, where nice conditioned roach have been caught with maggots and worms. In the Boston district the drains have been kept at a low state in order to cope with the floods, and the result has been that fishermen have occasionally had a few days' sport amongst roach. The Christmas rains spoilt the sport in the Wye and Derwent, and as the weather proved worse during the last weekend very little sport has been obtained owing to the height of the waters, the river being bank full, and not until the end of this week or the beginning of next will there be much fly fishing obtainable. Coarse fish anglers have secured a few fish in the ponds and canals.

FROM WORCESTER AND DISTRICT.

A lot of rain has fallen in this district during the last few days. The water in the rivers was falling fast three days ago, but is now rising rapidly, and is higher than it has been for two or three years, the Severn in parts has overflowed its bank and flooded the meadows, therefore all fishing is off for some time. The Montgomery and Shropshire members of the Severn Fishery Board have for a long time been grumbling that so few salmon reach their portion of the river, and in turn have suggested alterations of the weirs, extension of the close time, &c., to enable the fish to get up the river. This season we had a beautiful water in October, and again in November, which enabled the spawning fish to pass the weirs without any difficulty, and just at the proper time, and now, with the big water we have, a lot of clean run fish have passed over the weirs, some of them very large, and if they don't get salmon in the upper reaches of the Severn this year why they may take it for a verity that they never will again. Lampern fishing this season so far has been a failure; eighteen baskets were taken up out of the river a few mornings ago by one fisherman, and there was but one solitary fish in the whole of the baskets. I am sorry to hear of the taking of a great quantity of trout from private water at Belbroughton, in this county, sufficient, I was told, to fill a pot hamper. Of these, thirteen fine, large fish were brought by a lady to Hampton Lovett, by Droitwich, who did not know there was any harm in taking them. The fish were slaughtered by a party of men, who had the privilege of shooting in the neighbourhood, on the Thursday after Christmas, and who, I presume, call themselves sportsmen. I do not give their names, as I believe they will shortly figure in the police-court; but if they are not more sportsmanlike among the fur and feathers than they are among the finny tribe, it is to be hoped they will not be allowed to set a foot on any land, and in this case, I hope, will have to pay a severe penalty for their misdeeds. The annual meeting of the Worcester and District Angling Association was held at the Bull's Head Inn, High-street, Worcester, on Friday evening last, Mr. L. F. Higgs (vice-president) in the chair. A number of delegates from the thirteen affiliated clubs were present. The secretary (Mr. R. Wingfield) gave his report, touching on the prosperity of the various clubs and their excellent management. Not a single member had been reported for fishing in the close season or the misuse of his railway travelling privileges. The past season, he stated, was the worst fishing season on record in this district. The smoking concerts set afloat by the association had been very successful, and from the various clubs he had collected £14 11s. 2d in aid of the wife and small children of E. Gummery, a brother angler, who died on his fishing basket on Teme side some short time ago. He presented the balance-sheet for the past season, which was considered very satisfactory, Mr. W. Bridges, the auditor, testifying to its accuracy, and it was submitted to the meeting and duly passed. Mr. Martin Perkes, the much respected president, sent in his resignation, which was accepted with regret. Mr. L. F. Higgs, the worthy vice-president, was elected to succeed him; Mr. W. Bridges, vice-president; Mr. T. Prosser, treasurer; and Mr. R. Wingfield, secretary. The matter of the testimonial to Mr. T. Coles, the unpleasantness resulting from the quarterly issue of G.W.R. travelling cards by the Provincial Angling Association, were duly considered, the rules of the association were revised and alterations made in some of them, and the machinery put in motion for the coming season. A lot of business was transacted, and the meeting terminated with the usual votes of thanks.

TO SPORTSMEN.—Burberrys, of 20, Haymarket, London, are now offering, at half price, their 1898 model and stock sporting garments, in gabardine, combination, and rain-proofed tweed; shooting coats, 26s. 3d. and 31s. 6d.; breeches, 15s. and 21s.; Burberry capes and long overcoats, 31s. 6d.; farmers' overcoats, 15s.; Scotch stockings, 2s. 9d. Sent on approval on receipt of cheque covering.

FROM YORK AND DISTRICT.

The close of the week showed neither good results nor bright prospects for anglers on account of the state of the rivers, many of which were flooded, and all more or less discoloured. Nor has the outlook improved to any appreciable extent with the New Year. If the streams ran down to an ordinary level and resume their natural colour, grayling anglers may yet have enjoyable sport before the close of the month, when the season on most Yorkshire waters ends. Grayling anglers had fair sport on the Rye, Nidd, Swale, and Ure just before the rains, but little has been done during the holidays. Visitors who visited favourite haunts along the banks of the Derwent returned with very moderate baskets, mostly of pike and roach. The Ouse and Foss have yielded but indifferent pastime to York coarse fishermen lately, owing to the rapid current and the muddy water. None of the reports to hand on the 31st ult. disclosed doings of any consequence in the district.

Correspondence

[We do not hold ourselves responsible for the opinions expressed by our Correspondents.]

INDIAN SILKWORMS.

DEAR MR. MARSTON,—I wrote to some friends of mine in Bangalore and in Assam, which are two of the great bead centres of the silkworm industry, regarding the class of silkworm for gut. I am afraid that too little is known out here about the manufacture of gut from the worm for anyone, except an expert, to be able to say whether our worms out here would produce a good strand or not. The worms themselves are fine in appearance, and produce good silk, and I see no reason why they should not produce good gut also. Since hearing from them, I wrote to the Assam about it, but have not heard. Another friend, who goes to Cashmere every year, has promised to make inquiries, there, and, from what he says, I fancy that is the most promising spot to turn to.

Silkworm culture is very largely carried out up there, and they have most beautiful groves of mulberry trees all along the river banks. So much so, that the mulberry is almost the deadliest bait that can be used for fishing up there, both for *Schizothorax esocinus* and also for the *Orienus richardsonii*, the two best river fish up there, both called trout, the latter better known perhaps as the Kumaon trout. These fish rise freely to a fly; but as the natives don't often use fly, they are more often than not taken with a mulberry. Two friends of mine lately killed between 700 and 800 in about eighteen fishing days, taken chiefly on a March Brown and a large Claret Spinner. I hope to go there myself some day.

I ran for more than half an hour and eventually lost, about three months back, while out for bahmin, a fish which, when he leapt out of the water, looked to be about 7ft. long, and estimated by Mr. Jardine, the Presidency Rest, who was with me, to be between 70lb. and 80lb. in weight. Probably a tunny or large seer. Hard luck, was it not? I will send you another article soon on the Andaman Islands. Kind regards.—Yours sincerely,

F. O. EADSDEN.

FORMALIN AS A BAIT PRESERVATIVE.

DEAR SIR,—Referring to Mr. F. Napier Sutton's interesting letter in your last issue, I fear that gentleman is sighing for the unattainable when he suggests that it might be possible to discover some means by which the tissues of fish preserved in formalin could be kept soft and pliable, as the preservative action of formalin depends on its chemical power of tanning animal tissues into what is practically leather. If an ordinary photographic plate coated with gelatine be taken, and one half of it be immersed in formalin, diluted with six or seven times its bulk of water, for five minutes, and then the plate be immersed in boiling water, it will be found that while the portion of the gelatine on which the formalin has not acted is instantly dissolved, the portion which has been treated with it is absolutely insoluble, even with prolonged immersion, and is, as I said before, practically leather. Formalin acts in this way, more or less, on all animal tissues, alive or dead; hence the danger in its use, which I and others have more than once pointed out in these columns. I would suggest to your correspondent that he should try sprats pickled in dry salt, or, better still, perhaps, a mixture of salt and powdered boracic acid. They will keep good for some weeks at least preserved in this manner, and while the sprats are more pliable than those pickled in formalin, a rinse in water will remove most of the preservative agent. The fish should be quite dry, and packed in layers with an intervening layer of salt.

It is not quite correct, by the way, to speak of a solution of formalin. Formalin is itself a forty per cent. aqueous solution of formic aldehyde, and has been in use for years for various purposes. Whatever interested parties would have us believe, it is no more a proprietary article than methylated spirit or sulphuric acid.—Yours faithfully,

CHARLES HUSSEY.

CARTER'S TROUT AND SALMON CASTS.

SIR,—I have used Carter's trout casts at 6s. per dozen for over twenty years, and have always found them first rate. On May 17, 1895, I hooked a salmon 12lb. in Glen Lake, co. Donegal, when trout fishing, with one of Carter's finest undrawn casts, at 2.45 p.m., and, having no gaff or net large enough, did not kill him till 5.30 p.m., which was a pretty good test of the gut. I have used Carter's 4s. salmon casts for the last ten years, and never wish to use better ones.—Yours truly,

D. J. W. EDWARDS.

Co. Donegal.

THE IMPROVED NORWEGIAN HOOK.

DEAR SIR,—We beg to forward specimens of our improved "Norwegian" hook, in which the shank and eye are altered so as to remove all risks of pricking one's fingers. This is, as you so kindly suggested, a decided improvement.

The temper and rust proof qualities are the same as in those we submitted to you some time since.—We are, dear Sir, yours faithfully, OGDEN AND SCOTFORD.

19, Leicester-square, W.C., Dec. 28, 1898.

[This is now one of the best eyed hooks we have ever seen. We should advise Messrs. O. and S. to get some Limerick-shape salmon hooks, and also sea hooks made with the same eye, as it is very strong and smooth.—ED.]

"REGULATION OF FRESH-WATER FISHERIES."

DEAR SIR,—In the letter under this heading in your issue of Dec. 24 reference is given to the statute of 1 Eliz. c. 17, which was "an Act for the preservation of spawn and fry of fish." That Act, passed in 1558, was by no means the earliest Act for the regulation of fresh-water fisheries. There were, in fact, at least twelve earlier Acts, the first of which, passed in the thirteenth year of the reign of Edward I. (1285), imposed "a penalty for taking of salmon at certain times of the year." All these Acts, with many subsequent ones, were repealed (those passed prior to the Act of Elizabeth entirely, and the remainder in part) by the Salmon Fisheries Act 1861.

Perhaps this explanation may prevent some of your readers assuming that the Act of Elizabeth was the earliest Act dealing with this subject, although the writer of the letter I refer to did not state that it was.—Yours, &c.,

LEX.

METAL SEA LINES AND PULLEY END RING.

DEAR SIR,—As the matter of twisted or plaited copper and phosphor bronze lines for sea fishing is at present attracting interest, we have pleasure to enclose you a few samples. No. 1 is plaited phosphor bronze, composed of nineteen strands, breaking strain, 40lb. It is very soft and pliable, and has no more liability to kink, if so much, than an ordinary dressed silk line. This line is sold at 1½d. per yard in all lengths up to 100yds. to order. Nos. 2 and 3 are composed of eight strands, each of copper wire twisted, the breaking strain being about 10lb. This is a much less expensive article, the price being 1s. 3d. per score. The plaited we have tried, and we think a good many others have also tried and approved of, so that it will, we feel sure, take its place among sea lines. The twisted is now on its trial, and, although it may not be so good as the other, it will answer the purpose well where very heavy leads are not required.

To Dr. Patterson, Mr. Parker, and other members of the B.S.A.S. belongs the credit of introducing these lines, our share of it being simply to test and introduce them to the market. We enclose you one of the newest forms of our registered "Hope" oscillating pulley and ring. It is very light and effective, and can be supplied either to our rods or separately at usual price.

We would add that it is advisable, after using these lines, to wash them in fresh water, dry, and then rub with fat of some kind. Pulley end rings and joints should also be kept well oiled.—Faithfully yours,

HARDY BROTHERS.

London and North British Works, Alnwick.

[There is, of course, nothing new in the use of plaited or twisted wire of all kinds for fishing lines both for fresh and salt water. Fourteen or fifteen years ago we fished with excellent plaited and twisted wire. The samples Messrs. Hardy send us are very nicely made, and we much prefer them to gimp for pike fishing. If Messrs. Hardy can stain them a dark colour it would be an improvement. We have found some of the many forms in which copper and other wire is done up for holding pictures very useful for fishing purposes. The pulley end ring sent by Messrs. Hardy is one of the strongest and best we have seen.—ED.]

HUCHEN (DANUBE SALMON) FISHING IN BAVARIA.

DEAR SIR,—Mr. Theodor Schwann informs me that he recently, in four days, caught 256lb. weight of these fish (the two largest 35lb. and 29lb.) from the river Iller, near Munich. They are fished for with live bait, as we do here for pike. There are no boats, so the four miles of fishing, over rough ground, requires an agile light weight, which my friend, Theodor Schwann, has the gratification of possessing. He has kindly invited me, but age and weight prevent me. Part of the river is canalised, which means that the tow-path has destroyed the bushes and usual haunts of these fish. They are very much like salmon in appearance. The smaller fish take a rough-made fly, the larger spinning or live bait. Mr. Theodor Schwann sent me a specimen in 1893, which weighed 22lb. It has been used at the expense of the Piscatorial Society, and now adorns the wall of our club-room at the Holborn Restaurant. This specimen is well worth a visit, to view its silvery salmon like appearance.

They are only met with in the Danube and tributaries, which flow into the Black Sea. The Rhine, which is near, on the contrary, discharges into the German Ocean, is noted for *Salmo salar*. I caught one of 16½lb. at Schaffhausen once, and pike-perch from the Elbe. These latter fish also abound in the Danube.—Yours truly,

T. R. SACHS, F.P.S.

THE GOLDEN DUN AND "FLIGHT'S FANCY."

DEAR SIR,—"Observer," in your last impression, refers to Wm. Shipley as being the first to give the name and dressing of this fly. He certainly did include it in his book (or rather Fitz-Gibbon, who afterwards wrote under

the *nom de plume* of "Ephemera," did it for him); but as for having first dressed it, it has been an established fact for sixty odd years hereabouts that "Billy" never invented anything. "Billy's" book, for instance, is about ten pages out of every twelve quotations!

"Ephemera" was new at the work; in fact, it was the first attempt he had made at angling literature, he having been a schoolmaster at Nottingham until he earned his first £50 note by putting together Shipley's book! Shipley was the mentor, and he proved to be a bad one so far as that first work was concerned. The work was published by subscription, but a part of the first and only edition is still to be had, and we can supply this at 2s. 6d. per copy. The original published price was, I believe, 10s. 6d. The author of "The Scientific Angler" (which work, by the way, was originally published at 6s., and is now worth 10s. 6d. per copy of the original edition), the late David Foster, had a squabble with Mr. Shipley about this very fly, and it ended in our sire challenging Mr. S. to a fishing match, "he, the said David Foster, engaging to kill three fish to the said Wm. Shipley's one!" This challenge appeared in the *Derbyshire Advertiser*, but it was not accepted. As a matter of fact, Shipley never did claim the thing as his own creation; he merely had "put it in," with other matters, without any sort of acknowledgment—hence the squabble.

The dressing has been known as ours simply because it was the first Dun our predecessor ever made on his then new plan of dressing a Dun, viz., with hackle put on under the wings, which latter were split by the silk being passed between them, which were thus made split and upright. We never, however, put our name on the fly, but our customers have done so for us, and it has been known as Foster's Golden Dun, as we said in our last letter, for the best part of a century, and it is surely rather late in the day to attempt to reverse this verdict, especially when the writer, who rushes in with this one solitary aim, fails to find courage to put his name to the foot of his letter.

Our object in combating Mr. Flight's claim to the fly was not because we laid claim to it; anyone will see that who will refer to the "Scientific Angler" in the last edition, viz., the seventh, in which the matter is dealt with in a way which has created such a storm in a teapot! We therein laid down no claim to the dressing, but we naturally objected to anyone else doing so after, as we have said, having had the credit of the invention for so long a stretch of time. The thing is everybody's, and, therefore, nobody's. No one person in particular, therefore, has a right to claim it and put his own surname upon it, since it is an old standard general fly and no proprietary article, and there is the whole matter in a nutshell. Apologising for again troubling you,—I am, Sir, yours obediently,

Ashbourne. W. H. FOSTER.

[Mr. Foster in his previous letter said "about sixty years," which is not the same as "the best part of a century." "Flight's Fancy," as already pointed out, is not the same dressing as the Golden Dun.—ED.]

SIZES OF THAMES TROUT.

DEAR SIR,—With reference to the above matter I have read the remarks in your paper in favour of reducing the takable size of Thames trout from 16in. to 12in. with surprise and regret. Personally, I should rather see the standard slightly increased, as it always seems a pity to take a fish so small even as 16in., when in a year or two it would be so much a grander capture and give so much more sport; also, I may say, that baby trout, fished for at a certain place at the proper time with minnows, gentles, or worms, are no trouble to catch, and what sport is there in it?

We have gone to an immense amount of trouble and expense putting in trout 8in. to 12in. long up and down the river, and if they are to be caught directly they are in—well, at the least, it's a waste of money. On the other hand, putting in smaller trout does not give good results, as they cannot look after themselves against their many enemies. I do sincerely trust that we may look for and expect every assistance to protect the trout in the Thames, and to further the good work of preservation that we have always strived to do.—I am, dear Sir, yours truly,

J. B. G. HOLLOWAY
(Member and Auditor Henley-on-Thames
Fisheries Preservation Association).

SIR,—Allow me to thank you for your footnote to my letter, published last week. As undeniably the correct thing to do before carrying the suggestion to the proper authorities for consideration is to thoroughly study the pros and cons of the matter, may I ask you to give publicity to the following notes on your footnote? No distinction being made on p. 505 between the Upper and Lower Thames, it was only reasonable to conclude that the Thames as a whole was referred to.

Perhaps my experience is unique, but it is a fact that appeals made for funds solely for purchase of, and preservation of, coarse fish have met with no greater response than general appeals, including trout as well as coarse fish. Prior to 1893, when the fishery bye-laws were altered, 12in. or 11lb. trout were retainable, and there was no real protest against the adoption of the 16in. standard.

If large trout—and by this I mean 8in. to 12in. stock fish—are no more secure from the depredations of pike than small trout, then I must admit that money has been misspent, and the theory that a large trout is better able to take care of itself than a small one is incorrect; but, whereas perch, chub, and barm, as well as pike, are capable of devouring, and do devour, small trout, the three former fish are distinctly "out of it" if larger stock fish are used. The matter of "time" to catch trout over 16in. in length is given considerable stress; but those who are anxious to catch even 12in. trout legiti-

mately will find that "time" is by no means the sure and only road to success.—Yours obediently,
A. EDWARD HOBBS (Hon. Sec. H.F.P.A.).

ANGLERS' ASSOCIATION NETTING AND RE-STOCKING FUND.

DEAR SIR,—I beg to acknowledge receipt since last report of the undermentioned sums with thanks:

	£	s.	d.
B. Williams, Esq., Cambridge Heath Brothers	1	1	0
East London Piscatorialists	...	...	12
Stratford Angling Society	...	...	5
St. John's Angling Society	...	...	16
	2	10	0

Yours faithfully, ALEX. WRIGHT (Hon. Treasurer).

THE HARDEN DRY-FLY ROD.

DEAR SIR,—Replying to Mr. Chamberlain's letter in your issue of last week, we may explain that the registering apparatus lately designed by us is not intended to establish data for correct balances, but simply to register the peculiarities of any particular rod which gives satisfactory results, in order that it may be reproduced exactly. Therefore it is unnecessary for him to await any further development in this direction.

If by some process of calculation lines could be laid down on which to build a perfect dry-fly rod, then there would be no further need for manufacturers to make so many different balances. At present we make no less than four typical rods for this work which are absolutely different in action, and yet all are approved by different people, the greatest difference being twenty vibrations per minute.

No doubt any really good performer could make decent work with any of these, just as a really clever shot can shoot decently with any gun, whatever its length and bend of stock may be. On the other hand, there are men who can neither shoot nor fish well, and never will.

The "Harden" rod might not suit Mr. Chamberlain even if made in greenheart, in a quality to suit his requirements.

He seems to us to be in the position of a man desiring knowledge and yet refusing to accept it. We have offered to examine his rods and report on them for him free of any charge, and we much regret he does not accept it. Why, it is difficult for us to see if he is really desirous of the information he pretends to seek.—Yours faithfully,
HARDY BROTHERS.

London and North British Works, Alnwick.

PIKE FISHING IN THE WINTER MONTHS.

DEAR SIR,—A great deal has been written, and rightly and most usefully, concerning the chances of sport or otherwise being dependent on that most fickle of creatures our English weather when fishing for salmon, trout, and other fish not described as "coarse" fish. But I think that more results as to success or not, when angling for pike, especially in the winter months, according to the weather, would be of general interest to anglers. Certainly the writer would be very grateful if any of your readers would give him their opinions as to how the weather in our winter affects pike fishing.

There are, I believe, some well known general rules, such as a rough day is good for spinning, a calm, still, frosty day for using a paternoster, &c.; but more detailed particulars would be, I think, of great use. For instance, should the weather be considered as an important factor or not? Does extreme cold affect some waters more than others? And are the chances equally applicable to, say, a river like the Thames or Itchen (which holds large pike) as to a piece of non-running water such as a large reservoir or canal?

I was out fishing in Berkshire on the day of the last great gale! It certainly was not a day one would have chosen to fish on, and we were literally driven from the water by the tremendous force of the wind and the drenching rain. Besides which, branches of trees were coming down in a manner which might have been highly exciting, but did not add to the enjoyment (?) of our fishing. In spite of this, the fish were on the feed, and we caught one nice one of 5lb., and lost two double the size, it being impossible almost to keep a proper tight line when striking, in the short time (about two hours) we were out. I have since fished the same water most carefully, in fairly quiet weather, and have never, as yet, succeeded in again running the fish we previously lost. If any experienced pike anglers would kindly give their opinions on this subject, and you will kindly allow their insertion in the *Fishing Gazette*, I shall be very grateful.—Yours truly,
W. H. C.
Newbury, Berks.

THE Society of Caxtonian Anglers will hold a pike competition on Friday, Jan. 13, at Marlow. Competitors are to assemble at the Fisherman's Retreat, near the church, Marlow, at ten o'clock, returning not later than six o'clock. The usual rule as to examination of punts will be observed, and no member will be allowed to compete unless his subscription for the current year be paid. It has been arranged that competitors draw lots for punts and fishermen, so the hon. sec., Mr. W. H. Cate, will be obliged to hear as early as possible of the intention of those wishing to compete, so that the required number of fishermen may be in attendance. Several members have arranged to go down to Marlow on the previous Thursday evening. Those who would care to join them, and will let the secretary know in good time, will have beds ordered for them.

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NOTICE.

THE FISHING GAZETTE is published every Saturday, and can be obtained at Messrs. W. H. Smith and Son's Railway Bookstalls and of the principal Newsagents and Fishing Tackle Dealers in London and the Provinces.

Communications relating to the Literary Department, Fishing Tackle for Notice, Books for Review, &c., should be addressed to R. B. MARSTON, Editor of the FISHING GAZETTE, St. Dunstan's House, Fetter-lane, London.

Correspondents are requested to write on one side of the paper only, and give their real names and addresses, not necessarily as signatures to their letters, but as a guarantee of good faith. Unless this rule be adhered to no notice will be taken of such communications.

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The GAZETTE can be had by sending Postal Order or Stamps to Messrs. Sampson Low, Marston and Co., Limited, the Proprietors, St. Dunstan's House, Fetter-lane, London, to whom all money payments should be made.

For One Year, post free to any part of Great Britain and Ireland	10s. 6d.
" Six Months ditto	5s. 4d.
" Three Months ditto	2s. 8d.
To America and the Continent, annual subscription, including postage	12s. 6d.

Scale of Charges for Advertisements.

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Telegraphic Address—"RIVSAM, London."
TELEPHONE, No. 83 Holborn.

The

Fishing Gazette

WITH WHICH IS INCORPORATED

ANGLING AND CLUB GOSSIP.

SATURDAY, JANUARY 14TH, 1899.

OPENING OF THE SCOTCH SALMON ANGLING SEASON.

SALMON angling opened in the North of Scotland during the present week. The Sutherlandshire streams, some five in number, including the Thurso, Borgeie, Naver, and two others of smaller note, threw off their legal fetters once more; and the song of the reel commenced again on Wednesday and Thursday last, when, in fine open weather and good round waters, the first blood was drawn. What success has met the first essays of these far north anglers has not, as we pen this, yet reached our ears; but, judging from past experiences, and comparing the odds *pro* and *con*, the chances are that really good sport will be got should sufficient rods be forward to fully cover the various waters on the opening days. The Tay and its majestic arteries follow on Monday, and all these may be classed together as forming the first group of early salmon rivers available to the salmon angler. The Tay district is down for the 15th inst.; but as that date falls on a Sunday, it will be dawn on the 16th before angling is legally available in the Perthshire valleys. The prospects all point to a good opening at least, whatever like the rest of the season may be. The rivers have been running high for

months, and have got a good scour out, so that the waters will be clear of *débris* and the bottoms of the pools and lies sweetened by the successive floods. A slight snowstorm, succeeded by frost, has been experienced in the uplands; and this is all the more favourable as it will bring the pools down to their normal level, and permit of more waters being fished. The only danger of protracted frost is the formation of flotsam overnight, which makes it always an hour or so later before a cast can be had with safety to the top-piece. Flotsam, or "grue," as the Highland gillie calls it, accounts for many a broken top.

From all accounts from rivers along the east and north coasts of Scotland, fresh fish have been running inland since the middle of December; and the appearances on the coast, from observations by experienced salmon fishermen accustomed to read the signs of the times, confirm the impression that fresh spring fish are forward in bulk, and will be found well into the streams where angling has commenced, and well into the upper reaches where the opening days are correspondingly later on.

On the whole, therefore, everything now depends on the continued favourable auspices of the weather, and should no great storm check the progress of events, not only may a good opening be anticipated on the streams where angling has just commenced, or is about to commence, but also on the Dee, Spey, Ness, and bulk of Scotch waters which open on the 11th proximo, or later on.

The fish got on the Tay, Loch Tay, and main tributaries, bar the Earn, are usually of heavy calibre. They not unfrequently scale over 25lb., and from 18lb. to 20lb. are common enough weights on this magnificent salmon river basin and loch. Those on the Earn and kindred streams, however, are lighter fish, and resemble the seven, eight, and ten or twelve-pounders got on the Dee, Spey, and Beaully. The Ness and Thurso group of streams yield mostly heavy fish, resembling the Tay fish rather than the lighter beauties of the Dee and Spey. The fact is that these heavier fish are really winter fish yet travelling to the spawning grounds, which, of course, is the ultimate aim of all migrating fish, while the lighter weights are the true spring beauties, and generally considered last year's grilse.

The difference between an early and a late river is determined by the early or late appearance of spring fish in its waters. The Dee and Spey are early rivers compared with the Ythan, although the latter stream literally lies between the former two. The temperature of the water no doubt determines the time of ascent of the fish. Where the waters are warmed in a long, shallow basin there is an earlier run of salmon than where the stream runs deep and sluggish over a cold bottom, even though their sources may all spring from the same mountain range. And in like manner there is an earlier clearance of spent fish in the river with the higher temperature compared with those having a lower register.

The kelt must always be reckoned with more or less during the early spring months, and on the lower and middle parts of the river more so than on the upper parts.

In a season like the present the kelt pest is likely to be reduced to its minimum. The spawning season was a very early one with the far inland fish, and these have been falling back to the sea ever since the close season commenced. True the spawning operations on the lower and middle waters were considerably interrupted by floods during November, and these may result in a superabundance of baggots or partially spent fish which have been separated from their mates, or otherwise hindered in the work of parturition.

Thus, although many more baggots may naturally be met with than in a normal year, the chances are that "kelt sport" will be practically conspicuous by its absence. Instead of one clean fish to half a dozen or so kelts, it is more than probable that the reverse will happily be the order of the day.

Sea trout reaches are also sharing in the same favourable auspices which presently deign to countenance the early salmon reaches. What favours the one favours the other; and although the spring run of sea trout is but a small and short lived one at the best, even on such streams

as the Ythan and Ugie, the Findhorn and the Beaully; the run is all the more prolific and certain in clear waters with a normal temperature than in streams of snow broth.

The early spring angler has many difficulties to face and many hardships to endure; but with a conscious assurance that the conditions hitherto have been all in his favour, and that a certain amount of sport awaits his efforts, as far as the result of human observation and knowledge can go, he may hopefully look forward to an enjoyable time of it should the present weather conditions hold good.

The case would be otherwise had the winter set in with the early severity it threatened in the early days of November. No doubt it would have been better for the season later on. But "sufficient for the day is the evil thereof," and the early spring angler has only to think of himself, his sport, and his personal comfort. There has practically been no protracted winter weather in the north of Scotland as yet. The temperature has been above the normal, and on one occasion at Heathcot Hydropathic Fishery, Deeside, the record maximum December reading of observations carried on during the past thirty-five years was broken when the thermometer stood at 105 in the sun, the former record being 102.

The indications are all in favour of a genial spring, and although some curling stones and brooms have been out in the higher glens about Braemar and such altitudes, the ice as yet has been thin and the game short lived.

Whatever they may be later on, the prospects for the present of the opening of the Scotch salmon and sea trout angling season are of the most auspicious, with scarcely a cloud to darken the horizon.

G. M.

SOFT CRABS.

In the *Fishing Gazette*, Nov. 12, 1898, "Nemo" tells of using soft crabs for bait, and I am tempted to say a few words on this subject, telling what we use on this side of the pool. We have several species of crabs, but not your big one, although on our Pacific coast we have the *Cancer magister*, measuring 2ft. across. Our favourite eastern crab is the blue crab, which grows to be about 7in. across, and is one of the swimming crabs. In the hard state, when boiled, it is superior to the big European, or to the Californian, crab. It prefers muddy, weedy bays, and would be an addition to the European fauna.

While this crab comes to our markets in great numbers, and retails for a shilling for one or two dozen, it is as a soft crab that it is expensive. Then they retail for 2s. or 4s. per dozen, according to size and supply. Fried soft crabs are to be had in every hotel, restaurant, and even on the market-stands cold. They must be freshly shed, so that the skin can be eaten. The stomach, or sand-bag, and the gills are the only parts rejected. I write these particulars because I have heard that fried soft crabs are a luxury unknown in England. The blue crab in the soft state is in season from June to October. When the waters get cold we have a small "rock crab"—a crawler, with stumpy claws, which is soft in winter, but is not plentiful.

Our salt-water anglers seldom use soft crabs for bait; they prefer them a day or two before their shells are cast, and then they are "shedder crabs," and are selected by tapping the shell with the finger and noting the sound. "Nemo" tells of a man who threw away a lot without waiting to "see if they would peel." We think "shedders" the best, and so does "Nemo," who tells how to use them.

I have no knowledge of European crabs further than a boiled one, about a foot wide, which I ate in a London restaurant, but found it tough. The experiment was a success; all experiments are, no matter how they turn out—my curiosity was satisfied. Your correspondent says: "The green crab is a nuisance when in good health and spirits, but a useful scavenger." He does not say in what manner he is a nuisance; perhaps he steals bait, but that is part of his duty. No doubt the green crab is edible if large enough to bother with. All the crabs on my visiting list are, and I would boil and try it if opportunity offered.

If "Nemo" or any other of your readers wish to know how to prepare a soft crab for the frying pan I will tell them, and if soft crabs are an un-

known luxury in England, as I have been told, then I will be proud of introducing them into that land famous for good living, but which has no terrapin, canvas-back duck, nor frogs of real edible size. When the crab—our crab—sheds, and is fried, there is a delicate sub-acid flavour and a tenderness unknown at any other time.

FRED MATHER.

FISHERMAN OF THE DOVE (YORKS.).

JOSEPH DUCK, farmer, was born in Farndale, a valley situated a few miles north of Kirbymoor-side, through which the river Dove flows for many miles. He used to speak of Farndale in his younger days, when it consisted of a few farm-houses and large strays of open moor. "Joe," as he was called, early took to fishing, making his own rod and flies, and became quite an expert in the noble art. Fly fishing was his favourite pursuit, and proud was he when called upon to furnish trout for the numerous sportsmen when occupying the shooting-boxes in this and the neighbouring valleys. On one occasion the writer met him in old age, watching a party of fishermen who had driven over twenty miles for a day's recreation in this now well wooded and cultivated valley. On this occasion a few hours sufficed for procuring two well-filled panniers of trout. His son William succeeded his father, and I can speak, from comparing baskets (when meeting him accidentally on the Dove), of his similar success in the gentle art. His grandson, Joe, now over thirty years of age, is a noted minnow fisher, who also looks like keeping up the record as to age. The present rules and small restrictions have tended to reduce the number of these Dale fishermen, who still keep in memory their 1lb. 9oz., 2lb., and 3lb. trout captured. On one occasion Duck, assisted by his son William, were both employed in landing a fish of over 4lb., which, on being prepared for cooking, contained another fully 6in. in length. Such was the love of sport that when over ninety years old, Joe was found in a recumbent position, still tempting these cute customers, by dishing with short line (not being able to throw a long one); a child, however, stood a distance apart, watching lest he fell into the river. The present Mayor of Scarborough and many other young sportsmen were initiated by him into the principles of the gentle art. Old Joe was fond of shooting, being the only one in the dale to possess a game licence (costing then £4 a year). He also became huntsman, and in one season nineteen and a half brace of foxes were killed, but he regretted being unable to make it twenty. It was recorded in a local newspaper that at one time hares were so numerous that his hounds had to be employed to thin their number, during a fine day's hunting no less than 100 being killed. Eventually a broken thigh, caused from a fall, led to the death of "Old Joe," who otherwise might have lived a few more years. His landlord, the Earl of Feversham, took a great interest in "Joe," and kindly sent a wreath to be laid on the coffin at his funeral in Farndale, where he died on Dec. 15, 1890, aged 102 years.

Tickets are now issued by the Earl of Feversham for these streams at a nominal charge of one shilling a week. J. C. FRANK.

A FISHING TOUR IN SWEDEN.

FOR many years my chief desire had been to pay a visit to some of our northern rivers for fishing, and last year a couple of friends of mine and I made up our mind to go for a trip up along the Luleå waters. Everything was all right, the journey planned, maps procured, the waters and falls well studied, fishing tackle prepared, plates for our cameras packed, &c., but in the last moment my two fellow travellers broke their promise, having got "lawful excuse," as they called it. And there I was alone with my longing for these new unknown waters and grand scenery. All seemed to come to nothing, as going alone, no doubt, offered but poor pleasure compared with going with some jolly fellows of the same mind. For a fortnight I was in a miserable state of mind, cursing such terms as "lawful excuse," and was prepared to stop at home like a good boy, when all of a sudden I received a letter from my old

friend Professor L., in Stockholm, a keen sportsman and an excellent fisherman, asking me to join him on a similar trip as I was about to do. I did not keep him waiting long for my answer, and after some few messages by telephone, everything was settled. Some few days after we find ourselves on board one of the steamers plying between Stockholm and Luleå, and after three days' pleasant voyage we land in the harbour of Luleå. We came just in the nick of the time to catch the train for Murjeck Railway Station,

as the horse station is situated a couple of miles from the railway station.

At Storbacken, Koskats, and Jockmock you can get pretty good food, but for the other part of the journey you must arrange for your own provisions, as the only food you can get from the people living further up along the Luleå water is bread and butter and milk. Another way from Luleå to Storbacken is to go by steamer up the river. It is a splendid passage, with lots of beautiful views, but it takes more time than



A REST ON THE BANK.



AT THE KAJTUN FALLS.

where we had to leave the rail and drive by road about thirty-six miles to Jockmock, crossing the Luleå river by ferry at Storbacken, a pretty good little inn, where we exchanged horses, and then passing Koskats, another little inn, where we also got fresh horses. Before leaving Luleå, wire or send a post-card to "Skjutsanstalten i Murjeck" to meet you at the railway station with carriage and horses. This will save you some time,

the other one by rail and road. If you can read a bit of Swedish, buy a copy of "Svenska Turistföreningen's resehandbok II.," where you will find this latter way fully described, and which little book will give you some good information for the whole journey.

Well, after a rather rattling and shaking drive in one of these most uncomfortable carriages in which you have to drive in this part of the

country, we arrived at last at Jockmock, a little village, where we made acquaintance with the doctor of the place and his wife. They invited us to a little picnic to the grand waterfall, Kajtum, close to the village. The water looked rather fishy, but we were told it was not much use to try fishing, as the timber sailing down in masses had spoilt the fishing. Meanwhile Kajtum and the fall above Akatsch were grand sights. Here I exposed a plate of our company taking *caffé* and *punah* along the river, but could

the bank to next lake, and there take another boat, and so on. "On a bright summer morning we pursued our way, as happy as a robin when he trills his lay," and had our first rowing on the lake Varkijaure. Now and then a ripple from a rising fish was to be seen on the calm surface. In the distance we heard the murmur of a waterfall, where we arrived after an hour's rowing. The streams and eddies looked rather inviting, but it was at noon, and we had an almost roasting sun, so we did not make any fishing attempts. We



PARKIJAU FALLS (LOWER PART.)



ON THE SAGGAT.

not get in the chief fall owing to the sunlight not being in a favourable direction.

Next day we left Jockmock and our agreeable acquaintances and set out for about sixty-five miles' rowing up the waters for Kvikjock. From Jockmock the Luleå water does not form a river, but rather a series of smaller and larger lakes, with falls between them. The falls are not passable with boat, and you have to walk along

went ashore, and walked up to the next lake, had another boat, and arrived in the evening at the grand fall at the Parkijaur. Here we had made up our mind to try fishing in earnest. The waters were said to contain lots of beautiful trout—big lake trout—grayling, and coregonus. The very first evening we rigged up our rods and went on. It was agreed the Professor should try trolling from a boat in the lake just above the

falls, a place where, as a rule, you will meet with the biggest fish, at least, this time of the year. We were now in the end of July. I myself had to try my luck from the bank, in the rapids and eddies. My first cast was a couple of medium sized lake flies, and after some throws I got a bite. It was a grayling, and then another grayling, and so on. I exchanged my fly for a light spoon—outside silver, inside gold—and got a pretty good trout and some more grayling. But that big trout, always in my visions, I did not hook. Sometimes I had a look at the Professor on the lake, and he seemed to be very busy. When he came ashore he had a nice basket—a couple of lake trout (respectively 6lb. and 7lb.), a dozen large grayling (averaging 1½lb.), and one coregonus. All these fish he got on a 2in. Devon Spinner. This was the first time I saw a coregonus taken on a Devon. I never heard they would take any bait in the shape of a fish. With small flies, however, they offer sometimes very good sport. Particularly in Finland fly fishing for coregonus is often practised. The middle of June is the best time, and you throw your flies in that yellowish white foam just below a perpendicular fall. There they congregate, and readily take the fly.

The following days, or, rather, nights, we landed lots of fish, mostly grayling, but also many a fine trout, as a rule from 5lb. to 8lb. in weight. We got only one grand fish, that took down my 15lb. steelyard to the bottom. Probably it weighed 16lb. or 17lb. The people living here told us that much bigger trout were taken by trolling (from 20lb. to 25lb.) about the end of August. This is also my experience *vis-à-vis* the big lake trout. You seldom find them near, or in, the rivers before that time. I suppose that about the end of August they commence feeling the approach of the spawning season, and gradually go up or down in the rivers. Then you will have a chance of finding them in shallow waters, among the rocks and in the eddies, where they will take the fly, or any suitable bait, some weeks before they commence spawning. It was a pity we could not stay till the end of August, to see whether it proved true. Now we could do nothing but trolling up in the lake if we expected to catch a big trout. If you are satisfied, however, with fish up to 2lb., you have the best opportunity you can wish both in the streams and on the flats between the streams, using your single-handed 11ft. trout rod and ordinary trout flies. The fish seemed to prefer dark flies: March Brown (male fly), Dark Coachman, August Brown, and similar. A little fly, with dark claret worsted body, gold ribbed, Coch-y-bondhu hackle, and brown mallard wing did well. As for hackle flies I used Orange and Partridge (very good), Coch-y-bondhu or Marlow Buzz, and Zulu dressed in Palmer style and silver twisted. The Zulu was the best fly for grayling. Almost all my grayling when fly fishing were got on the Zulu, although I had some other standard grayling flies on the same cast, such as Red Tag and Fern Fly. It was marvellous how fond they were of that little black fly. Sometimes I had three Zulus on, and very often hooked two or three grayling at one time. In our southern rivers the Red Tag is the fly "par preference" for grayling. The flies were not dressed on small hooks. A No. 4 eyed sneck Pennell hook seemed to be a good medium size. You have to wade out among the stones, and, with your little single-handed rod, throw your flies up or across the current. On the edge of the main current you will find the best fish.

(To be continued.)

THE AMENITIES OF ANGLING, AND FISHING AS A FINE ART.

I WILL begin my subject with this truism, that "Courteousness should always be observed amongst anglers." It is seldom that I have met with anything but civility, and in many instances with kindnesses, from true lovers of the sport. My first acquaintance with the late Francis Francis and George Selwyn Marriott was (on different occasions) made at a river's side. They, as I had not the fly trout were taking, generously spared me a few of theirs, of which, by the bye, they had not many left. A true fisherman never hurries along a river in advance of a companion, "skimming"

the water, thus disturbing and "putting down" the fish, but he angles fairly, carefully, and quietly, taking the river by sections in turn and turn with his friends, and when moving to another place keeps some distance away from the river bank, so as to give others every chance of having sport. When the fishing has ended, a true angler shows no greed for the best and largest fish, but is content with a fair division, or with those he captured himself. In one instance, on a recent occasion, my experience was otherwise. The fish captured were perch, of which some of the largest, including two 3½lb. and 3½lb. each, were caught by myself. My companion offered to separate and pack the fish while I was assorting and packing the tackle. My fine specimens he exchanged for much smaller ones, and conveyed them to his home. I never recovered them, for he had them "set up" in a glass case as his own captures. A true angler will observe, as a very strict rule, that when he is introduced to private water he is not to solicit that fishing for himself, on the sly, and without his friend's knowledge. Such conduct is unsportsmanlike and reprehensible. I regret to say that thus I have thrice been treated by people I introduced to private fisheries; but they were not anglers in the true meaning of the word. The whisky flask, tobacco pouch, and sandwich case should be always at the service of a brother fisherman, who may have forgotten to bring either with him; and the veteran, who possibly is a past master in the art of angling, should be ever willing to give instruction to beginners, and impart information to any others who may be making their first visit to strange water, and thus help them to obtain sport.

Looking at the text of my subject, it seems to me that the deduction to be arrived at by the words fishing "as an art" is that it means practical skill guided by rules and methods in accomplishing certain things, and, as a matter of fact, the angler reducing his observations and experiences to everyday practice. Having thus, and perhaps imperfectly, sketched that which, to my idea, forms the basis of an art, I will try to show how that word may be applied to the recreation beloved by most of my readers by dealing with a few branches of the angling art from a practical standpoint, but adding thereto certain thoughts and some experiences of my own.

I need hardly dwell on the antiquity of angling. Those of my readers who have found solace in the "sweet friendship of books" know that the Egyptians were catchers of fish, and to a certain extent were skilful in the use of the angle; also that Homer, Pliny, and Oppian each added his quota to the history of the craft, bearing witness that they knew of certain "fools," who were content to sit at one end of a pole, and dangle a thread and hook with a worm at the other.

Shakespeare tells us how that Cleopatra, addressing her royal lover, Antony, said, "Give me mine angle—we'll to the river: there, my music playing far off, I will betray tawny-finned fishes"; and, "as I draw them up, I'll think them everyone an Antony, and say, 'Ah, ah, you're caught.'" The "dusky jade" howled Antony as clean as a whistle, and fairly captured him. This was her mode of fishing, and from her point of view I venture to think that her performance was part of the art of angling. I can conceive nothing more delicately artistic than the outfit of a really skilful fly fisher. His rod, with its perfect balance, its power, its spring, and capacity of "give and take," delicate as the wrist of a high-born woman, which at will can become rigid as a thin bar of steel, giving way and breaking by brute force alone. Look at the perfect make of his plaited silk running line, and his reel with just so much tension on the "check" as will prevent the line overlapping with the rush of a game and determined trout. Examine his taper gut cast, the end or point strand of it fine as hair from his lady's tresses; and his artificial flies, the "cream" of perfection; and if by the use of artificial imitations of any of the great variety of insect life used as lures by the angler, he has with a few feathers deceived the wary, keen-sighted trout, and made it believe that the imitation is a natural fly, and he prevails on it to seize the imitation, then I maintain that artificial fly fishing is beyond comparison the most elegant and skilful of all branches of the angler's art, and is *par excellence* the science of angling. Let

us for a moment consider the trout spinner, whether of the Thames, Kennet, Avon, or any other river, as he stands behind the buttress of a weir, or shelters himself as much as is possible behind the paddles of the rymers. Below him thunders an avalanche, a torrent of glistening, ever changing, foam flecked water. The surface of the weir pool is one dancing mass of tumbling waves, save where the eddies seem subtly to glide back towards the weir head in oily, black streams of trembling water.

Here lies a grand *furio*; and just imagine, if you please, under such circumstances, the fierce rapture of a run. With one upward dash, swift as that of a bolt from the clouds hanging purplish-blue overhead, and shadowing the water, the great trout has seized your tiny bleak, and firmly fixed it in his jaws. His first move will be to dash under the sill of the weir, and, once under, recollect the victory is not yours. You must hold on like grim death, withal the touch of an angel. If you defeat his little game, he flies upwards, and leaps out of the water, and then if he does not break you by falling over the line, he goes down the pool at the pace of an express engine. Do not forget that the angler all this time has a couple of feet only, in the breadth of the weir beam, between himself and eternity. He has to kill that grandly game fish with a torrent roaring and boiling beneath him. So that, I take it, is part and parcel of the art of angling. It is strange, but none the less true, that eight or nine out of every dozen of the anglers of London, and probably other large populations, are wedded to the pursuit of roach fishing. Every Lea "roachist" has a long 18ft. rod in its jean case, and with this is tied up the handle of his landing net. With his rod over his shoulder, and slung from the butt, but resting on his broad back, is the well-known square basket or box seat, without which the true roach fisher never sets out. I may tell those of my readers who possibly have never seen roach fishermen on the Lea, something about the manner in which they set to work. In the first place the rod, which (as I have already said) is 18ft. in length, is built of the very best white Carolina or West India cane, as free as is possible from burrs and knots, the canes being specially picked for the manufacture.

Stiffness, with pliability throughout their entire length, is one great thing that is always looked for; and yet they have an immense amount of give and take in the very fine, though short, top joint and the immediate connecting joint. They taper beautifully from the butt to the slender top of split cane or lance wood; are light as possible in the hand, with no superfluous weight attached in the shape of rings or heavy metal fittings, and are altogether perfect weapons, suited for a very perfect branch of the art of angling. A trout rod should be a trout rod, and nothing else; a pike rod, a pike rod; and a roach rod should be equally distinct.

Observe the "roachist's" delicate line of single hair, possibly pulled from a bay stallion's tail; take notice of his float, so exquisitely shotted that the mere drag of a floating leaf, or the clinging touch of a bit of weed, instantly pulls it under; the shot placed in perfect symmetrical order; while his fine wire hook is not much thicker than an eyelash plucked from his mistress's azure orbs, or eke of jetty hue.

How has this result been obtained? Because thinking minds have applied themselves so closely to this special branch of angling, that roach fishing has become an absolute art in itself. As to the question of baits for roach fishing, they are few in number and very simple, and without touching upon the merits of pearl barley, wheat, wasp grubs, &c., I may say that one of the best is the inside crust of a loaf, cut into very small cubes to fit the hook; or a paste made of stale crumb of bread just moistened, and well worked up in the palm of a cleanly hand.

Gentles are capital bait during winter, or the tail of a lobworm in either summer or winter, when floods have caused a rise in the streams, and probably coloured the waters. In ground-baits the roach fisherman seldom uses anything but a stiff paste made of bread and bran. He soaks his bread overnight, and next morning squeezes the surplus water away, and then adds a quantity of bran, working it up in his hands until he gets a paste tough as putty, and with this he baits his swim with pieces about as large

as a good sized walnut. A practice uncommonly good at those times when roach are exceedingly shy, and will scarcely feed to the hook-bait under any condition, is this: If using gentles or paste on the hook, take a little of this tough ground-bait and nip it on to the two shots which are usually put on the hair or gut about 5in. above the hook. When the float is thrown gently upstream the extra weight causes it to sink, but the angler lifts it carefully along until it reaches the spot or place where the roach are supposed to be, and the whole way it comes down the stream this little bit of bread and bran keeps flaking off in small particles, which are wonderfully attractive to the roach. Both practice and experience prove that the fish will then feed better than they have been doing previously, when only the bait itself had been floated time after time down the swim. This is not only a "wrinkle" worth acquiring, but is, I conceive, pertaining to the art of angling, and the man who discovered or invented the use of the little bit of bread and bran over the hook-bait, was not only a philosopher and an artist, but a benefactor to his fellows of such an extraordinary calibre, that he was deserving of a tomb in Westminster Abbey.

ALFRED JARDINE.

SOME TIPS BY A VETERAN CLEAR-WATER WORM FISHERMAN.

(Continued from page 460.)

ASHTON SMITH, the great fox hunter, used to hold that any fool could ride. It took a horse-man to know how to fall! And in illustration of his meaning (it is some thirty-five years since I read his book) he averred that in his county (Leicestershire, I feel almost sure, and with the "Quorn") there was not a fence of any size in any of the four sides of a field in the district that he had not had "a fall" at. This seems tall talk, but a reference to his work would soon settle the point; and if I lie, 'tis not with my good will.

Now, I would not like to make out a parallel case in fishing. Indeed, it would not be possible. But just as most huntsmen try to clear their fences well, and regard "a spill" as a thing to be avoided, so do most clear-water worm fishermen regard what are called unorthodox methods with distrust. I have already alluded to the class of men who would never put a shot on the line, be the wind ever so high, or the stream ever so rapid or deep, or both, and who lose accordingly on the occasions when a shot is indicated. But there are circumstances which favour the introduction of so-called unorthodox methods. I can recall the head of a stream on the Deveron, not far below Turriff Bridge, where, in low water, the whole volume of the river ran between rocks, and was deep and strong, with a deep eddy on the further side. I used to fish it up first in the orthodox fashion, but generally did little or nothing when I came up to the neck, which was narrow.

I used to lie as low as possible, and not disturb the water needlessly on the way up.

When I came to the top, or nearly so, and the place was apparently fished out, I then sat down on the gravel bed, with my waders and legs in the water, and gave the place a short rest, eating my sandwich, or taking a nip out of my flask. Then, putting on one, or even two, shot, I prepared for action, as I impaled a bright worm on the "Stewart" tackle.

I fished the eddy at my own side first. Then I tackled the centre current, and then the deep eddy at the further side, and I generally added three or four really good-sized trout to my basket, which would never have even seen the worm if I had confined myself to orthodox methods. I fished near the bottom, where the large predatory trout lay. I maintain that it is folly to pass such places over, or to fish them without a sinker.

Once on the same fine river, when the streams were fished to death by the orthodox worm fishermen, I was sauntering up the river rather listlessly, and I do not know what instinct tempted me to do so, but I tried a place which ninety-nine out of a hundred clear-water worm fishermen would have pronounced useless. Above was a smooth, deep pool, and it emptied itself into the next pool so gently that there was no "stickle"—no stream with a gravel bed, but a kind of smooth surfaced glide, running over some sunken rocks and stones, with a good deal of weed, and all of

uniform depth, just deep enough for wading, and with eddies and "swirly hits," caused by the resistance of these large submerged stones.

I waded on very carefully, and fished up every yard of water with a fine cast and one small shot. Note: I could see almost every stone. It was experimental, very. All the same, I got quite a fine lot of trout out of that place, another instance that "the gangin' fit's aye gettin'," i.e., the going foot is always getting (something), even if it be only some new experience.

Poor old "Black Willie" used to say on the Tay, when he was anxious for me to get a run, "Oh dear, sir, try another flee, there's naethin' beats a trial!" And I would recommend all young and intelligent anglers to try at times unlikely places and methods called unorthodox, and to remember that "there's naethin' beats a trial."

At other times (and here a shotted line is especially contra-indicated, and must not be thought of) there is occasionally some very pretty fishing to be had in smooth parts, notably weirs and "cauld pools," with just a gentle current, if that. In tributary streams sometimes a cauld pool will afford capital sport to the advanced worm fisherman, but not unless the trout are moving about near the surface looking for flies, and finding one now and again. There is no prettier fishing with the clear-water worm than this, but it only comes off occasionally: only when it does come off, it leaves a memory behind it full of delight, for it is difficult fishing, yet pretty sport. Take any tributary of the Tweed, such as Manor Water, Gala Water, Leader Water: or the Kale, or, better still, the Jed, that most charming but overfished stream, both tributaries of the Teviot.

It is getting on in the season, say, July 20, and the trout in the rapid streams are shy from over-fishing. The fisherman has arrived at the bottom of a certain cauld pool or weir, with a cliff at the further side overhung with trees. A gentle summer zephyr is passing upwards, creating a series of tiny wrinkles on the surface. The sun is shining, but is tempered by a few dark clouds, which occasionally obscure it.

A slight hoil in the centre of the river and one near the further side indicates that the breeze has shaken a few flies from off the branches which overhang the pool.

The angler smiles, and his heart is glad within him. He may not bring back a huge basketful of trout, but every trout he takes will be worth a Jew's ransom, for nothing but skill can command success under such circumstances.

To a 3yd. cast of fine drawn gut is attached a Stewart tackle, No. 2 hook, and a tiny moss worm, beautifully pink, or, even better, a blue-headed worm, with its pink tail in the pink of condition, is duly impaled (no shot), and the fisherman, armed with his fly rod, say, one of Mr. Forrest's, 11ft. in length (from that to 11½ft.), is ready.

It is absolutely essential, first, that he do not show himself, and that the sun is not at his back. If he is young and active he can kneel, or even crawl, if he sees a good trout rising at his own side; but when he begins to enter the water, under no circumstances must he wade rapidly, for a wave sent across the pool will "put down" every rising trout. This cannot be too much impressed on the tyro. It is all very well in a full water in early spring when trout are famished.

At last he is within reach of a rising trout. The line flies out perfectly straight, and the small worm lands close to, and a little behind, the fish, whose pale form he can just perceive above him. At times this cast behind the trout is deadly. He turns, and before he has time to make a careful inspection, he has taken it in his mouth. The point of the rod does the rest, and in no time number one is secured. Another trout is seen rising close to the sandstone cliff, on the further side, but a tree interferes with the freedom of the cast. The knowing angler wades gently up and across till he is within easy casting distance. Then, grasping his gut line a little above the Stewart tackle, and holding his rod almost on a plane with the river (line and rod of about equal lengths), he makes his rod bend like a bow, and then, releasing the tension sharply, the line skims sideways over the surface, and very neatly sails under the overhanging bough. Of course, this is no place for the duffer, and it is no wonder that the trout has

that worm like a flash; for even in rivers open to the public such spots are but seldom fished. Reason why! He is a good trout, 1½lb., and gives a good bit of sport, and in due course is placed in the creel. And so the day goes on. He who deems worm fishing to be beneath his dignity should have one such experience, and I think he would be a convert.

Early in the season it is useless, for trout have not yet taken to feeding on the worm, and if you cast a worm at a trout rising at the fly on an April day you are seldom rewarded. The artificial fly then will kill far more trout.

In my own opinion, this particular form of clear-water worm fishing (in a low hright water in July, and more so in August) demands a higher amount of skill than does fly fishing upstream with three flies in the early spring months, and infinitely more than what Mr. Harvie-Brown describes so aptly as "Flailing downstream." Doesn't Mr. Brown give them "sauce"—Harvie sauce forhye—these "failers!" I thank him for expressing my feelings, and though I occasionally am obliged to cast downstream more or less, I know exactly what he means to convey. I am not a slave to any one's teaching, and always try to adapt myself to circumstances.

I may just add that it is not always necessary to place the worm (in a still pool) behind a trout; indeed, it is very difficult to do; but I have found that if the first throw is just in front of a trout's nose when he is thinking of seeing a fly, he very often turns tail and bolts downstream. His reasons I have yet to discover. The sudden though trifling splash, as the worm alights (splash is not the word—it is too severe), or the fact that "the unusual" has alarmed the timid—as is often the case with hipeds—or that Mr. Trout does not like his dinner almost dropped into his mouth, but prefers to seek it; the result is the same—he bolts! Whereas, if thrown on either side to begin with, or near his tail, if he won't turn round you can try a throw in front, but I hold it is safer not to commence with this throw.

Of course every hovering trout should be tried, whether rising at the fly or no. I remember one old friend describing such a day, and I am sure he will never forget it. It is a rare event to find rising trout in a pool keen on the worm, but when it comes off it is a thing to be remembered.

E. M. TOD.

(To be continued.)

THE LOWER AND MID-THAMES: WHERE AND HOW TO FISH IT.

(Continued from page 7.)

By F. H. AMPHLETT.

BARBEL.

"JOHN BICKERDYKE" gives some very good instructions on the manner in which loch worms should be scoured. He says: "A good-sized earthenware pot should be two-thirds filled with damp moss, sphagnum is the best, and the worms put on the top of the moss. They quickly work through to the bottom. The moss should be kept damp, and changed every two or three days, and dead worms removed. In changing the moss it is not necessary to pick out all the worms. The plan is to turn out the old moss and worms on the ground, half fill the pot with fresh moss, and put the old moss and worms on the top. The live worms work down into the fresh moss, and the old moss containing the dead worms can be easily removed. The pot should be kept in a dull place. A little milk poured over the moss is supposed to hasten the scouring process. In three days the worms are generally ready for use. Need I say, that the cleanest and most lively ones, especially those without knots in them, should be placed on the hook, and the coarser ones thrown in for ground bait." Barbel can be taken by using float tackle, but this method is seldom adopted on the Thames, though they are often caught when roach fishing. In "roving" for harbel, the angler, having found what appears to him as a suitable swim, throws in some ground bait, and after taking two or three fish, moves to another likely spot. Mr. J. J. Manley, speaking of the pleasures of barbel fishing, says: "The nervous excitement of the most pleasurable kind which the barbel angler

experiences is better felt than described, as it transcends that elicited by the bobbing of a float at the nibbling of a fish, and may even be compared to that produced by the splashing rise of a salmon or lusty trout at your fly, if it does not actually exceed it. Indeed, it is a piscatorial sensation, partly mental and partly bodily, which penetrates *ad ima medulla*, and as the Devonshire folks say, makes one 'cream' from top to toe."

CHUB.

"A fish of quicker sight than the chub does not swim in English waters."—CHOLMONDELEY PENNELL.

With the exception of trout, no fish that swims in the Thames gives the angler greater hopes or causes him more disappointment than the chub. It is essentially a shy and wary fish, but nevertheless a voracious hiter when he sees no danger ahead. Walton says he is "the fearfulest of fishes," by which, of course, he means the most timid; and he will sink down towards the bottom of the river "if even a hird flies over him and makes the least shadow on the water." In semi-clear water, or even if the flood is rolling thickly down, he will seize any toothsome morsel which comes in his way. But if the stream be perfectly clear, the sun warm, and the chub in a lazy mood, then it requires the utmost skill to catch him. Watch a school of chub basking in the sunshine on a summer's afternoon under some favoured hush, from which occasionally a fat caterpillar drops into the water. The splash caused by its falling perhaps induces the largest fish to turn and suck in the insect. But these fish have learnt a certain amount of wisdom, and if the "gentle art" is tried upon them, the probabilities will be that the school of fish will disperse. Even the shadow of a rod will send them into the depths, and an hour may elapse before they return again to the surface. Vibrations on the bank are also fatal to sport, and it therefore behoves the angler when in search of chub to be very cautious how he approaches the water he intends to fish. If he is fortunate enough to take two or three fish from one swim he should be satisfied, and move to another, as the water becomes disturbed, and the other fish consequently take fright. Roving for chub is very profitable, and the best places to fish are under the houghs, overhanging banks, or some quiet eddy. If float fishing, the Nottingham style—fine and far off—should be adopted, and the baits in the warmer months should consist of either a bit of cheese, tail of loch worm, a ball of paste, or a prawn. A winter bait of pith and brains is irresistible, and the following rules, suggested by T. F. Salter, the author of "The Angler's Guide," should be useful: "Take some pith of the hackbone of an ox, and cut it into small pieces, nearly the size of a cherry, to bait the hook. The hulloke's brains are to be chewed, and spit out of your mouth into the water, as ground-bait to entice the chub. Plumb the depth, and fish close to the bottom; you may kill some at mid-water or a little lower, but more at the bottom. This method is practised during the winter, when chub retire to deep, still holes, where you must angle for them, and fear not taking very heavy fish, for at this season chub are immoderately fond of the above bait. Note.—Chewing and spitting out the brains into the water for ground-bait is called 'blowing' of brains; but as many anglers feel great objection or antipathy to the chewing of raw brains, when that is the case they should prepare them as follows: Take as many hullokes', cows', or calfs', or sheeps' brains as will nearly fill a quart pan, cut them into small pieces with scissors (and if you pound them in a mortar afterwards it will be better); now mix the brains carefully with bran and some house sand, and cast it into the water in small quantities; repeat it occasionally whilst you are angling." If cheese is used for bait, the parings should be thrown in first, and be followed by the float carrying the bait. In fishing near the houghs, which is, as a rule, the best place to catch chub, no rypeck or weight should be used to secure the boat or punt. If there is anyone accompanying the angler, he should catch hold of a twig or bough, otherwise the boat should be fastened by the painter, taking care that none of the branches are snapped off. This method ensures a certain amount of quietude, and is consequently not likely to startle the fish. The angler then throws in his ground bait, and commences to fish. Let the float swim close to the hushes, and allow the

line to run easily through the rings of the rod in order to prevent any dragging or jerking of the float. After the latter has travelled as far, say, as 25yds. (in clear water), gently wind up the line, and repeat the operation, if not successful after seven or eight efforts pass on to another likely swim. It is a very good plan to engage a boat, and then prevail upon some passing launch to tow you upstream. All the boughs can then be fished on the return journey in the manner just described. In the months of July and August fly fishing for chub is successful if one can make a long cast well in under the boughs, or over the shallows. The best flies are the Marlow Buzz, large Red or black Palmers, or the Coachman, and if tipped with a gentle, often induces the fish to take the bait. It requires a certain amount of knowledge as to the whereabouts of the fish before making a cast. A large bunch of gentles (for chub are fond of a large bait), if thrown as a fly, will often succeed during the warm weather when all other efforts fail, but never stand in the boat whilst making the cast. Another method of catching chub is by using dead frogs as bait. They should be cast as in jack fishing, and the bait should be worked after the "draw and sink fashion." Crayfish tail is also an especially fascinating bait. Immediately after a chub is hooked care must be taken to prevent it from rushing among the weeds, as there is no fish more likely to attempt to escape by getting the line hitched into some obstacle than the chub.

(To be continued.)

THE ENGLISH EMERSONS.*

It is something indeed to say of a family that in all its branches, and in all its history, it has never yet included a single member who has dishonoured the name. But that is the proud boast of Mr. Emerson in his preface to this genealogical history of his kith and kin. "Sacrificing everything for freedom to worship God in their own way, they have ever maintained that independence of mind, chivalrous honour and courage which first started them in a small vessel across the great, stormy, and comparatively unknown Atlantic Ocean, in 1638, to settle in the wilds amongst blood-thirsty, cunning, and brave savages." The author modestly estimates that the book can be of value only to the members of the family and the few antiquaries who care for such things, but in one particular at least it is of the deepest interest to literary men both in England and America. This is the detailed history of the discovery of the English connections of Ralf Waldo Emerson, now poet and essayist. It took three years of hard and unrelenting work to trace the connection, and at last, after passing every English county, and Scotland and Ireland, "through a coarse-meshed strainer, as it were," the goal was found at Bishop Stortford, whence the family connections migrated. Pictures are given of the town, of the church, and of property held by Thomas and his father before his emigration to Ipswich, Massachusetts; as well as a short pedigree of the family, and a suggestion as to the origin of the Virginian Emersons. This is all new material, and not contained in Professor B. K. Emerson's "Emersons in America." Bishop Stortford, then, is the home of the Ipswich Emersons, and Dr. Emerson presumes that it will in future be added to the list of shrines which American visitors to this country never miss. The first chapter of the book will also appeal to many other families besides the Emersons proper, the etymology of such names as the Emerys, Empsons, Emsons, Emetsons, Emotsons, Embertons, Emertons, Amorys, Emays, Ems, Eminsons, and Amysons being discussed. The appendix of authorities, too, is valuable, and will prove, with its references to thousands of other names than that of Merson, of endless interest to antiquaries and geologists. Not the least interesting feature of the work is the fully illustrated biographical sketch of the writer's career. One important point remains to be added. All the copies of the book are

* The English Emersons: a Genealogical Historical Sketch of the Family from the earliest Times to the end of the Seventeenth Century, including various modern Pedigrees, with an Appendix of Authorities. By P. H. Emerson, M.B., B.A. (Cantab), distinguished in literature and art, a keen sportsman, and old contributor to the F. G.

numbered and signed, and the edition is strictly limited. If any surplus remain at the end of the present year, the author announces his intention of withdrawing them from the market, the moral of which is that would-be buyers must not wait "for a fall."

This very nicely got up and illustrated work is published by Mr. David Nutt. We hope to refer to it again, and possibly give an illustration from Dr. Emerson's life on the Broads.

MR. WHITTY'S ILLUSTRATED PRICE LIST.

WE have received a copy of the new price list of Mr. Henry Whitty, of 15, Bassett-street, Liverpool. Mr. Whitty is the successor of Edmondson's well-known fishing tackle business, established in 1819, and we are a little surprised to find that he has not got among his flies the "Edmondson," which figures as a prime favourite in so many angling books as a good killer, especially in Wales. If Mr. Whitty has not the dressing, we shall be happy to give it to him.

Mr. Whitty's list is well and fully illustrated, and we notice that he is making a special feature of split cane rods, with and without steel centres, and has a capital assortment of rods and tackle for every description of angling. At the end of the price list he gives a diary for booking weights of fish taken.

It may interest some of our amateur and professional rod-makers to know that Mr. Whitty imports East India canes and various kinds of seasoned timber for rod-making.

THE FLY DRESSER'S LIBRARY.

(Continued from page 5.)

BY VAL CONSON.

IN 1806 came "The Driffield Angler," by Alex. Mackintosh, "with full directions for baits, and the manner of making artificial flies for every month in the season, &c." He has a list of thirty-five artificial flies, and gives a brief description of how to dress them, which is now somewhat obsolete.

In 1808 Thomas Fredk. Salter produced his "Hints to Anglers," which, under the name of the "Angler's Guide," ran through some eleven editions, of which two bear no date. The last dated edition is the result published in 1841. He says in the 1830 edition: "The artificial flies sold at the fishing tackleshops are principally made from the directions given by Bowler, of Shrewsbury, and perhaps have been but little improved during the last century"; but he quotes with approval Capt. Williamson's "Angler's Vade Mecum" and Bainbridge's "Flyfisher's Guide." He gives "concise directions for making an artificial fly," which, however, run to fourteen or fifteen pages. His list of flies only comprises a dozen, and he rather neglects the Ephemeræ.

The same year (1808) produced Capt. T. Williamson's "The Complete Angler's Vade Mecum," a work of some originality. Other editions appeared in 1822 and 1825. Only a small section of its 300 pages is devoted to fly dressing. The list of flies he gives is small, and among the patterns are some not precisely novel. They are divided into classes, and careful directions for making are given.

T. F. Salter is not to be confounded with R. Salter, who, in 1811, published "The Modern Angler, being a practical treatise on the art of fishing, &c.," in a series of letters to a friend. He gives dressings of twenty-nine patterns, and recommends that they should be dressed on No. 9 or 10 hooks for rapid streams, but for slow, deep streams on No. 5 or 6.

George Cole Bainbridge, to whom reference has already been made, published in 1816 a work entitled "The Flyfisher's Guide, illustrated by coloured plates, representing upwards of forty of the most useful flies, accurately copied from nature," and it is remarkable as containing the first attempt at illustrating the natural flies in colours. As was only to be expected, the plates are not all that is claimed for them on the title page, being somewhat to seek both in drawing and colouring. But still, they mark a distinct advance in the literature of the subject. The first edition is highly valued, and always com-

mands a good price in the market. The instructions for fly dressing are brief, but they are illustrated by a plate, which, though it cannot be called a success either of draughtsmanship or colouring, was no doubt of material assistance to the tyro.

Wm. Carroll followed hard in 1818 with "The Angler's Vade Mecum, containing a descriptive account of the Water flies, &c. The whole represented by twelve coloured plates." This work contains no less than 195 flies, most comically drawn, having a most curious resemblance to the tubby, straight-bodied flies built nowadays for dry-fly fishermen, so that one could almost imagine that the artificial had been the model from which the artist had evolved his presentment of the natural. The length and the helplessness of the legs attributed to the insects depicted are very comical. He says naively: "The advantage of a work like this must be obvious, not only in forming a selection, but in dressing the flies. From the difficulty there must be in trusting to the memory for their various tints, every attention has been paid in that respect, as the flies were painted from when in the full perfection of their colours. There are twelve plates, etched and coloured by hand in order to bring them the nearer to the natural tints. Various names are given to the water flies in different parts of the country. I have therefore taken the method of numbering them as I took them off the water." But the descriptions of the flies show much better observation than the dressings would lead one to suppose. There is an immense variety of Midgees given.

About dressing these flies nothing is said by this author. He merely gives a brief catalogue of the feathers required for the art, and leaves the matter there.

"The Angler," a poem by Thomas Pike Lathy, in ten cantos, with "Rules to make Artificial Flies," is probably not a very serious contribution to the literature of the art. It appeared in 1819.

Sir Humphrey Davy's work, "Salmonia," contains some references to fly making, and a brief dissertation on the fly dresser's entomology as then understood; but it contains little to bring it within the catalogue of fly dresser's books. He identifies the Dun Cut as the Yellow Fly. He mentions, in addition, the Red Alder (Welshman's Button), White and Brown Moths, Willow Fly, Cowdung ("chiefly for grayling"), Grannom, Blue Dun, July Yellow Dun, Brown Fly (March Brown), and the Red Spinner.

The Rev. Jas. Rennie produced "The Alphabet of Scientific Angling for the Use of Beginners" in 1833. It gives dressings of some twenty-one flies, and names a number of others, without either describing them or their dressings. Other editions followed in 1836 and 1849.

In 1835 came Thomas Tod Stoddart's "Angler's Companion to the Rivers and Lochs of Scotland." He devotes a chapter to fly dressing, and another to flies. But his treatment of the mechanics of dressing, like that of nearly all writers, though intelligible enough to the initiated, would never enable a beginner to dispense with other help. He takes so much for granted instead of assuming that his reader knows nothing, and he only describes one process. He is one of the very few writers who gives a life-like illustration of a really good cock's hackle, but he neglects the hen hackle, which, for the wet fly dresser, is really more important.

The next work is perhaps the most important in the whole history of the literature of the subject, "The Fly Fisher's Entomology," by Alfred Ronalds. With it modern fly-dressing literature may be said to begin. It contains a brief description of each of the natural insects, and of its artificial imitation, with a coloured representation of both. If it cannot be affirmed of the plates of natural flies that they are scientifically accurate, they are at least quite the best pictures of the natural insect that have ever been produced, and are sufficiently accurate for all practical purposes. The book holds its own to this day. A second edition, with an additional plate, appeared in 1839. Other editions followed in 1844, 1849, 1856 (revised, with additions by "Piscator"), 1862 (for which new plates were prepared), and 1877. This is a book which no fly fisher should be without. It is not difficult to obtain a copy, but the first edition fetches some 25s. The fly dress-

ing instructions are by no means exhaustive, being limited to one method of dressing a winged fly and one of making a double hooked Palmer. They are eked out with a plate of illustrations less creditable to the artist than those of the flies.

Ronalds haunted the Dove and the Blythe. In 1838 we have another work from the same neighbourhood, the "True Treatise on the Art of Fly Fishing, Trolling, &c.," as practised on the Dove and "on the principal streams of the Midland Counties, applicable to every trout and grayling river in the empire," by Wm. Shipley; edited by Edward Fitzgibbon, Esq. From the preface it will be seen that the work is written by Mr. Edward Fitzgibbon (who afterwards wrote as "Ephemera") from the notes of Wm. Shipley's father (then eight years dead), with the assistance of Wm. Shipley. It contains an elaborate series of rules for dressing different kinds of flies, with comparisons with the methods of Best, Cotton, and Bainbridge. There is also a long list of patterns from January to September, the March patterns being recommended for October, and the February patterns for November; while for December the author invites the angler to give the river a rest. The patterns are by no means stereotyped, and are well worth attention. The book is a good one, and it is somewhat strange that no subsequent edition was ever issued.

This was a prolific period in angling literature. In 1839 the "British Angler's Manual" came from the pen of Mr. T. C. Hofland, the godfather of Hofland's Fancy. It is a beautifully illustrated book with a list of some forty-six artificial flies, of which the author of "Recollections of Fly-fishing for Salmon, Trout and Grayling" says, "I found about fourteen good for general use. The others might now and then kill a fish. So would any fly." There are no instructions in the mechanics of fly making.

A second edition appeared in 1841, and a third, revised and enlarged by E. Jesse, in 1848. The third appears the most popular edition. It contains some perfunctory instructions in fly dressing, which are attributed to Capt. Richardson, probably a periodical writer.

The year 1839 saw also the publication of Capt. Clarke's "Angler's Desideratum." This book is a little one of some forty-eight pages, being quaintly arranged. There are directions for dressing winged flies, illustrated with some rather comical but highly instructive cuts. This list of flies is

short—five in number. The author seems to have been accustomed to fishing with seven flies at a time, but he recommends, for bright weather, a single fly dropped into the ring of the rise. His "rapid stream tackle" is ingenious, and, according to his account, most successful.

In 1840 Messrs. Blackwoods published, in Edinburgh, John Younger's work "On River Angling for Salmon and Trout," of which I have been unable to see a copy. John Younger was a shoemaker at Kelso, a famous local angler and fly-dresser. Reminiscences of him occur in Henderson's "My Life as an Angler."

In 1840 came Blaine's "Encyclopædia of Rural Sports," including angling. It contains a considerable list of flies, with an attempt at entomological classification. In 1858 a new edition, revised and corrected by the industrious "Ephemera," was given to the world, and yet another in 1870.

In 1841 Theophilus South (Edward Chitty) brought out "The Flyfisher's Text Book." It was reissued in 1845, with additional woodcuts and twelve engravings, as "The Illustrated Flyfisher's Text Book." It is charmingly illustrated with steel engravings, but it does not carry the fly dresser forward at all.

In 1842 Wm. Blacker published his "Art of Angling; and Complete System of Fly Making and Dyeing of Colours. Illustrated with plates showing the different processes of the fly before it is finished; giving the angler a perfect knowledge of everything requisite to complete him in his noble art."

At the end of the same year (1848) the author reissued the book as "Blacker's Catechism of Fly Making, Angling, and Dyeing," which is curious, but of no great practical value.

In 1855 the author republished his work as "Blacker's Art of Fly Making, &c.," revised and re-written. "The work," says "The Bibliotheca Piscatoria," "is a strange medley of practical usefulness and rhapsodical extravagance. The instructions for fly making are peculiarly precise and clear." This is a sound judgment. The earlier editions are said to have specimens of the flies wafered to the page, but I have never seen these editions. The 1855 edition illustrates detached bodies lying under the hook, both on winged and hackled patterns. The illustrations are elaborate, and of some value.

From 1842 there was a short lull in the production of new books; but in 1846 "Palmer

Hackle" (R. Blakey) published "Hints on Angling," with a short but excellent list of patterns, which includes the Coachman. His description of fly dressing and his list of flies are (omitting Hofland's Fancy) identical with Hofland's, who owns to having taken them from Capt. Richardson.

There was a second edition, improved and extended, in 1848; a third, with further corrections, in 1853; and a fourth in 1865.

In 1846 appeared the second edition of G. P. R. Pulman's "Vade Mecum of Fly-fishing for Trout." The first edition, published in 1841, contained no instructions for fly dressing. The second edition, re-written and greatly enlarged, contains some excellent instructions for dressing flies, and the letterpress is aided by some clumsy but useful woodcuts. The work also contains a good representative list of patterns. It is not a bad book for a beginner to teach himself upon. A third edition appeared in 1851.

(To be continued.)

BLACK GNATS VERSUS BEETLES.

MAY has often been called the fly fisher's month because of the splendid takes of trout that can sometimes be made in that month when fishing with fly. Yet, even in this month, there are occasions which are a great source of vexation and annoyance to the fly fisher. He arrives at the waterside and finds his favourite stream running at a splendid level, the atmosphere pure and clear, and the trout making the water appear to boil, so fast and thick are they rising. They appear to be on the feed in earnest, as, indeed, they are—coming up and sucking in some tiny morsel or other, and making a swirl on the surface every time they do so. This raises the angler's hopes to a degree which no one but a fly fisher can imagine. He gets his rod and tackle ready in nervous haste, and prepares for the coming fray. After wetting his cast line he carefully sends a fly or flies over the nearest rising fish, and no answering twitch at his line repays him for the trouble. He then tries another, and then others, all with the same result. His hopes now begin to fall, and inwardly he blames the fly dresser, the tackle, the weather, the water, the trout, and everything else, and thinks that it is time he discovered what the matter is. Perhaps he changes his cast of flies and tries all his old reliables or fail-me-nevers, and gets a fingerling or salmon fry for his trouble. He is not satisfied with this, and sits down to ruminate. By and bye he will look at the water, and then—he thinks he has got at the root of the trouble now; he perceives that the surface of the water is almost black with tiny midges and gnats. Out comes his tackle book again, and he triumphantly extracts therefrom a tiny Black Gnat with scale wings and almost true to Nature, and really a masterpiece in the art of fly dressing. He carefully fastens this to a cast of gut nearly as fine as gossamer, and then launches it forth on its errand of destruction. He now begins to get a few trout, generally losing the best fish through the very small hooks breaking out of their hold, and thinks all the while that the Black Gnat is the fisherman's curse indeed. It certainly is, or at least some of its species, on account of the wonderful power it possesses of making any honest and self-respecting angler so far forget himself as to make a few cursory remarks regarding these little pests. They find out all the exposed parts of the person, and begin to settle down upon them, and make themselves felt very soon, even although the angler smears himself over with Antimoustique, or any other like preparation. The above mixture certainly helps a great deal at this season of the year, and later on too, but when folks are fishing they cannot be continually rubbing themselves over with preparations which dry off quickly, and likewise one cannot smoke and fish comfortably at the same time. The Black Gnat is certainly a curse in the above respect, but some others have gone so far as to state that while the Black Gnat is thick upon the water the trout will not take the artificial insect. That may be all right at certain times, and I have no doubt that there are such times, although I have never experienced them yet. But how is it that trout will take the same fly later on or earlier and yet refuse it when it is presented along with



GOT A BITE!

the fly it is intended to represent? Anglers can always get fish when trout are feeding on any other fly, provided that they are furnished with a good imitation of the insect that the trout are feeding upon at the time. I think that there has been some slight misunderstanding as to what the trout generally feed upon at this time of the year, and that, instead of taking the Black Gnat as they appear to be doing, they are often really feeding upon very small beetles, which are to be found on the banks of any stream by turning over stones. I dissected a number of trout taken on different days, about May and June, from the river Ayr, and emptied the contents of their stomachs into clear glass vessels, and examined them. I found that they had been feeding principally upon small black beetles, and that their stomachs were distended with the same. True, I did find a great quantity of small black midges and a few fresh-water shrimps and remains of creepers, but the principal item of diet was beetles. These beetles must come upon the water, by some cause or other, in great quantities, judging from the amount of them I have found in the stomach of an individual trout. The only imitation that came near the beetle, when I found this out, was a fly dressed with a black ostrich herl body, full near the tail, and wound round at the head with a turn or two of black hackle. This came near what was wanted, and did pretty well; but I thought that it could be improved upon, and set to work to make one which would do better. I noticed that the most of the beetles I got in the trout were about the same size, namely, about $\frac{1}{16}$ in. long, although there were different species of them. I chose a convenient size of hook, for I consider that the size of any insect or lure should be copied as carefully as the shape and colour. After selecting a proper hook I commenced to bind on the gut, beginning near the bend, and whipping along towards the end of the shank, and then cut a slip from the black feather of a crow, and laid it along the whipping with the points of the fibres in the same direction as the shank of the hook. I then pinched the fibres together at the bend, and warped the thread over them, going towards the bend, and took three peacock herls and wound them tightly over the place where the fibres were tied in, so as to form a bulky looking foundation for the body of the beetle. Rolling a few turns of the waxed silk over the herls after the fashion of a trellis or net to keep them in their place, I made a hitch fastening, and cut off the spare ends of the herls, and bent the fibres of the crow's feather towards the head, and fastened them down over the herls so as to form the glossy black wing cases or shards. After this, and a short distance up the shank of the hook from where the herls were fastened in, I gave a turn or two of a glossy black cock's hackle, and then brushed the crow's feather over with varnish, and likewise the head of the beetle. It was finished, and made a passable imitation of the little beetles which may be seen swarming among the sand and gravel on some river banks on any bright sunny day. My first attempt at making an artificial beetle was far from perfect, yet I was so far convinced of its efficacy the very first day I tried it that I resolved to make more. I became a little more proficient in the art of making them, and gave one or two away to a few angling friends, who tried them and were delighted with the results. I have great reason to believe that it is owing to their resemblance to beetles that such flies as the Coch-y-bondhu, Zulu, Alexandra, Black Spider, and Black Palmer are so deadly at certain times. These so-called flies, when wet and sodden, look more like a small beetle than a fly. However, it ought to be a well-known fact by this time that beetles form a considerable item in the diet of the trout and other fish. The well-known Coch-y-bondhu is a fly which has proved itself a killer when other patterns of flies were of no good whatever; and it, I believe, is the only attempt that has been made to copy the small beetles found on our rivers. There is another little insect of a brownish colour, and shaped like a beetle, which is to be found under stones in the water, and may frequently be seen whirling about and performing strange gyrations on the surface in the summer months. I think that this little creature has been called the whirligig beetle, from its peculiar motions. I do not remember finding any of these

in the stomachs of trout, but I have no doubt that they will feed on them at times. Nevertheless, I would never think of going to fish for trout or grayling at certain seasons without a small black beetle on my cast, and, although May and June are the principal months in which the trout generally feed on these insects, I have found that they will take them during the remainder of the season. Indeed, one day in October, when fishing the river Ayr, I had splendid sport among the grayling, and it was the small black beetle that they were taking. I had three flies on my cast on that occasion, or, rather, two flies and a beetle. I got twenty grayling and eight trout that day, and of these twenty-one took the beetle, five Wickham's Fancy, and two Red Spinner. On another occasion, in May, I got thirteen good trout in a mill lade off the same river in an evening's fishing. Eleven of these took the beetle, and the other two took the Black Gnat. This last lot furnished capital sport, as they were, without exception, between $\frac{1}{16}$ lb. and $\frac{1}{8}$ lb. each, and all were in the pink of condition. On another occasion, when fishing Loch Doon, I used a larger beetle than the ordinary size, along with the recognised killing patterns for this loch, and I am sure fully three-fourths of my total catch were taken on the beetle. This occurred in the month of June. The above three experiences are only selected from a number of like occurrences, and I give them to show that anglers might have better sport, if provided with beetles, than they usually get at certain times. When trout are rising at beetles they come up in a very deliberate and business-like manner, and do not at all seem to be in a



ACTUAL SIZE OF BEETLES AND STEWART TACKLE.

hurry and splutter, as they sometimes are when feeding on flies. The reason of this may be that the beetles must lie heavier and deeper in the water than flies, and sometimes I am inclined to think that they are frequently drowned, and float along under the surface, so that this may account for the tiny dimple made on the surface of the water when trout are feeding on such food. By this article I do not want to condemn the use of the Black Gnat. It is a most useful and deadly little fly at times, but when the trout will not take the artificial gnat then try the beetle, and if made and used properly I can safely guarantee good sport, as at the time of year when these two insects come on the water in numbers all the trout are prowling about or feeding near the surface. At this time of the year I usually fish with three flies if the water is coloured, and if clear I diminish the number to two. The gut should be of the finest. Rather risk a breakage or two and use fine tackle and get fish, than use coarse tackle and only get small fry and no fish worth keeping. No one can expect to get good fish in clear water unless they use the finest material procurable—that is to say, in waters where trout are often fished over. A good plan is to arrange the cast of flies as follows: Fix a beetle at the tail of the cast, then a Black Gnat as first dropper, and leave the place for the third dropper blank, so that you can fix on your favourite fly or any other insect which may be on the water at the time, and to which the trout may occasionally turn for a change. Then cast up the stream and recover your line, as the flies float down to you, either by raising the point of your rod, or, better still, by drawing the

line through the rings with your left hand, and placing the coils in the hand that holds the rod. Be very careful not to drag your flies any faster than the stream, if you can help it, and make your casts as straight as possible, and you will secure far more fish than if you allow the line to fall in slovenly wrinkles on the water. When fishing a rapid run of water this method is not so suitable as others, on account of the frequent casting it entails; but once acquired I believe the angler will come to like it better than any other; at least, that is my experience, though there are sometimes differences of opinion as to what the best method is. There are certainly no hard and fast rules in fishing, and the fisher has sometimes to make methods for himself. But when fishing a smooth, gentle run or still water, I would advise the fisher to use one fly or beetle only, certainly not more than two, unless the water is dirty. Make a trial cast behind the fish rising, and then lay your fly down as near to him as possible, and it is ten chances to one that you get him if you go about it properly. In closing, I would like to impress one thing upon the fisher—do not run away with the idea that trout are feeding on flies because they are rising to the surface. There are other tiny beings, such as beetles, caterpillars or grubs, ants, and spiders, which will float on the surface or near it almost as well as flies; and there are times at which trout will devote the whole of their attention in securing such gentry as these.

BLACKBEETLE.

THE NAVY LEAGUE MAP OF THE WORLD (Published under the auspices of the Navy League).—This capital map illustrates British naval history, and is dedicated to the children of the British Empire. The size, 72 in. by 63 in., gives ample scope for the work to be boldly treated so as to be effective even in a very large room. The map shows distinctly: The British Empire boldly coloured in red, naval stations named and outlined in red, wealth and social condition of the British Empire, European navies and commerce, facts relative to British territory, principal British trade routes and steamship lines, strength of principal European navies, distances between various important ports, list of 112 naval engagements, from the Spanish Armada, 1588, to Alexandria, 1882; price, on cloth, stained rollers and varnished, £1 1s. The publishers are Messrs. W. and A. K. Johnston. We hope the Navy League map will be a great success.

CREWE FREE ANGLERS.

THE above society held their annual dinner at the Star Hotel on Saturday evening last, when about 100 members and friends sat down to a substantial repast provided by host Maddocks. After dinner the remainder of the evening was spent in a convivial manner. Mr. W. Smith (the chairman), in the absence of Mr. E. S. Woolf (president), presided, and amongst those present were the secretary and chairman of the Crewe No. 1 Angling Society (Mr. R. Cole and Mr. E. Evans), and the secretary and chairman of the Izaak Walton Angling Society (Mr. S. Maxon and Mr. W. Wood). Letters apologising for unavoidable absence had been received from the following gentlemen: Messrs. Wilmot Eardley, J.P., Wallace Lumb, J.P., T. Marriott, W. Needs (Minshull Vernon), J. Walker (Marbury Hall), J. Edwards (Marbury), C. H. Kynaston (Wem), G. Mottram (Nantwich), and others. After the usual loyal toasts had been duly honoured, the chairman, in the course of an interesting address, alluded to the good feeling which existed between the various angling societies in the town, and he hoped this was a state of affairs which would exist at all times. He also addressed some congratulatory remarks to the prize winners; and, coming to the balance-sheet, stated that the receipts of the year amounted to £59 8s. 8d., while the expenditure was £51 6s. 10d., which left a balance in hand of £8 2s. 10d. He regarded that as entirely satisfactory, and expressed a hope that the society would still continue to prosper. The following toasts were also honoured: "The President," "The Society," "Visitors," "Host and Hostess," "Kindred Societies." Mr. R. Cole responded to "Kindred Societies" in a very appropriate speech, with good advice to young members, and the benefits received by the bracing air at the riverside after being closely confined in the works of the great railway centre at Crewe. The following are the prize winners for the year 1898: T. Bates took the champion prize presented by the society for the best perch (a copper kettle), also Mr. Manley's sealed competition, available from June 15 till Dec. 24, known only to the donor, which fell to the best perch. W. Conquest, first and third for roach, second for dace, also a special prize for the best basket of fish taken from canal. T. W. Bateman, first for pike, also special prize for 10s. for pike. H. Sinclair first and second for chub, first for dace, second for perch, also winner of special prize for the best basket of fish taken from anywhere (this

basket of fish was taken from the river Severn at Welshpool, in his catch were four chub, which weighed 12½lb., the largest going 4lb. 1½oz., second 3lb. 10½oz., which he has had set up. Miles Bettley, first, for trout, and third for dace. J. Coleman, first and third with bream and gudgeon, second for rudd, and third for trout, also winner of special prize for bream and gudgeon. Other prize winners were: T. Farrington, J. Baker, G. Emerson, R. Ankers, W. Joinson, G. Brookes, T. Carron, and E. Davies. The musical programme was of a varied and entertaining nature, and amongst those who contributed to its success were Messrs. W. Townley, F. Dingley, G. Hoole, W. Jones, R. Cole, E. Evans, T. Nowell, T. Evans, G. Capel (violinist), C. Clowes (oboe), E. Palmes (mandolin), and B. Bailey (pianist). The arrangements for the gathering were carried out by the secretary (Mr. H. W. Price) and committee, and a very pleasant evening was spent, and all joined in singing the National Anthem. G. CAPEL.

REPORTS FROM RIVERS, LOCHS, &c.

River Reporters who want forms and envelopes should send a post card to the Manager of the FISHING GAZETTE, St. Dunstan's House, Fetter-lane, London.

Time of High Water in the Thames.

To find the time of high water in the Thames at any of the following places, to the time of high water at London Bridge given below.

30 min. for Chelsea.	55 min. for Kew.
40 " " Putney.	75 " " Richmond.
45 " " Hammer-smith.	80 " " Twickenham.
50 " " Barnes.	85 " " Teddington.

EXAMPLES.—If it is high water at 2 o'clock at London Bridge, it will be high water at Teddington at 2.25, or 55 minutes later.

N.B.—A strong wind up-stream accelerates the tide very much, and one down-stream retards it.

TIME OF HIGH WATER AT LONDON BRIDGE.

	Morning.	Evening.
Saturday, Jan. 14	3.25	3.47
Sunday, " 15	4.10	4.31
Monday, " 16	4.56	5.18
Tuesday, " 17	5.39	6. 0
Wednesday, " 18	6.21	6.43
Thursday, " 19	7. 6	7.30
Friday, " 20	7.58	8.29

HIGH WATER AT AMBERLEY AND PULBOROUGH.

	Morning.	Evening.
Saturday, Jan. 14	4. 3	4.27
Sunday, " 15	4.50	5.13
Monday, " 16	5.36	5.58

These times show high water at Houghton Bridge, Amberley. Pulborough will be 2h. 40m. later.

ENGLISH AND WELSH REPORTS.

Lower Thames.—GENERAL REMARKS.—The death of His Grace the Duke of Northumberland removes from the T.A.P.S. one who was at the head of its list of vice-patrons, and this will give me the opportunity of explaining how the society became possessed both of its patron and the list of vice-patron. It was indebted to Sir Edward Birkbeck, Bart., the pioneer of the Great International Fisheries Exhibition of 1883, and I believe about the year 1881, for securing H.R.H. the Prince of Wales, K.G., as patron, and the Duke of Northumberland, the Duke of Buccleuch, the Duke of Roxburgh, the Earl of Ducie, Lord Lorraine, Lord George Hamilton, and Sir W. Hart Dyke as vice-patrons. The society has not received much in the way of pecuniary help from them, but the late Duke of Buccleuch was not only a donor, but, with the Duke of Roxburgh, two of its oldest annual subscribers. The Earl of Ducie has been a donor, and also Lord George Hamilton, the latter having been an annual subscriber, and presiding at one of the annual banquets at the Star and Garter, Richmond Hill. An effort was made to get the Prince of Wales to preside at the jubilee dinner of the society, and the following letter was sent to the secretary (Mr. W. H. Brongham) from Sir D. M. Probyn in reply: "I have received your letter of the 10th ult., and the memorial contained in it from the members of the Thames Angling Preservation Society praying that the Prince of Wales should consent to preside at the jubilee dinner of the Society. Having laid the memorial before the Prince, I am directed to ask you to have the goodness to convey to the society His Royal Highness's great regret at being unable, owing to his many engagements, to accede to their request. At the same time, His Royal Highness desires me to assure the members that he still continues to take great interest in the society, and wishes it all success." Some few years back I wrote to the Duke of Northumberland for permission to fish in the private waters at Lyon House, and in reply His Grace stated that he was not giving any permission to fish there, but owing to the work I had done for the Thames he would make an exception, and granted me the desired privilege, and I remember, with my friend and neighbour the late Mr. John Graham, we got some fine pike. It was to the late Duke of Buccleuch I had the unlimited permission to fish at Ditton Park with friends, and many a happy day have I spent there with Mr. Alfred Nutball, Mr. R. B. Marston, Mr. S. W. Searle, Mr. M. H. Blamey, Mr. J. Elsdon, Mr. Alfred Jardine, Mr. T. R. Sachs, and many others.—B.

—(Datchet).—At time of writing, water rising down all right for jack and chub, but the heavy rain to-day will upset calculations. I have been doing a bit of roach fishing up river; have had some fine fish. On Jan. 5 I had six fish over 1lb. each, and one 1½lb.; on Jan. 6, four fish over 1lb. and one 1½lb., a good few other respectable fish.—G. LUMSDEN.

—(Hampton Court).—William Milbourne writes on Tuesday: "Owing to the state of the water there has not been anything done, and scarcely any one has been

out. One of the private boats in Hampton Deep had a take of three dozen of fine roach, one of the fish weighing 1lb. 10oz. The river, with two or three fine days, would be in good condition, but they are shutting in all the weirs."—B.

Thames (Henley).—Jan. 11.—The water, which was just getting in good condition and sport improving, is again thickening, owing to the heavy rain of the last two days. I should say it would only be fit for roach fishing by the end of the week, when bank anglers should have the best of it. Patrons of J. James and G. Arlett have been taking roach and perch, and some jack up to 7lb.; and local anglers have had several up to 5lb., and some heavy bags of roach, the best roach scaling 1½lb. Jan. 12.—Heavy rain has fallen during the night, a strong stream is running, and the river rising slightly, but at present it is not a bad colour for roach fishing.—STANLEY MEAD.

—(Kingston).—John Johnson during the week has been getting some fine roach up to 1lb. each, and a few bream.—B.

—(Richmond).—The principal sport for anglers has been with the dace and bream, and some fair results have been made.—B.

—(Sunbury).—Messrs. T. and A. Strond report they have not done anything this last week, but with an improving water they are prepared to give their clients some good sport, as there are plenty of fish.—B.

—(Teddington).—W. McBride says: "The water is getting in fine order, and by Saturday it ought to be in splendid condition. Have been out one day with a customer, who landed eight bream; and another day, with Mr. Loftus, in two hours, four jack, the largest 5½lb. The boat anglers have been getting a few bream and roach. I have caught about fifty lampreys this week after the flood water."—B.

—(Twickenham).—The Brentford Piscatorialists have had a competition, and punts engaged from Richmond, Twickenham, and Teddington, with no very great results, several of the punts not having creeled a single fish, and the first prize was secured by Mr. Pike with 12lb. weight of bream. The successful angler was formerly a member of the Acton Piscatorial Society, who I had the pleasure of meeting at its annual dinners. That society, I am glad to learn, is getting to its old strength again, and holds a competition for two days at Twickenham at the end of this week, for which Mr. Spong, of the Two Sawyers' Hotel, is under orders. The water when I was there on Tuesday appeared to be in nice condition, and amongst the reports I received there, Mr. F. J. Ogden Smith told me of a fine perch of 1½lb. being taken by Mr. Riches out of the Deep, in addition to some nice bream. Mr. Ogden Smith, fishing one day, landed a bream of 3lb., a few perch, and three dozen of roach and dace; and C. Browne had a take one day of nine dozen of roach and dace. The reports from the Two Sawyers were: John Spong, in two days, 25lb. of roach and dace and a few bream (the largest roach, 1lb. 2½oz.; and the angler was Mr. T. W. Gomm); R. Spong, one day, 10lb. of roach and dace; J. Draper, in two days, 22lb. of roach and dace; and H. Spiers, in one day, 17lb. An attempt is being made to form an angling club at Twickenham, with every prospect of a good start, and there are some good anglers there who are well able to bring it to a successful issue. I heard of "Otter" Hone, of Staines, being at Twickenham on Monday evening, and with no satisfactory reports of Staines fishing, and he had been principally higher up the river with an old member of the Richmond Piscatorial Society.—B.

—(Windsor).—The river is still very thick, and likely to remain so for some days. Mr. H. A. Manning braved the tempestuous weather on the 10th, and succeeded in creeling four jack in about two hours; Mr. Colville also had a brace, about 9lb. Mr. Paice has been baiting some swims with lob, with the result that he has had some good perch, and roach up to 1½lb. I was out with a friend, attended by James Bunce, at some private water on the 9th, and landed ten jack and one perch weighing 35lb. I often have anglers call on me and ask if I can recommend them a good fisherman to take them out. "This is not always an easy matter at a few minutes' notice, but I shall be glad to assist your readers at any time by sending them a wire informing them of the state of the water, or to engage the services of a fisherman for them should they require one, if they drop me a line."—CECIL HOWLETT.

Ancholme District.—A few anglers have been out during the fine weather which prevails now coarse fishing about Brigg and Brandy Wath. They have had good average takes, consisting of pike, eels, roach, bream, and perch. The spawning season has not been a very good one for trout, owing to the excessive lowness of springs. These conditions have been very favourable for herons, which make sad havoc amongst the fish.—THOMAS FORBES.

Arun (Pulborough).—The river on the 8th inst. was full and thick, owing to recent floods. The St. Alban's Club fished a match here, and so far as I could ascertain, only two members took fish, viz.: Mr. H. Allan (the secretary), one bream and one roach; Mr. Leighton, two small roach. Mr. Wilson (Battersea Friendly) took 15lb. roach, largest about 2lb.; Mr. Saafield (Silver Trout), a bream of 4½lb. and 3lb. roach; Mr. Dent (same club), 3lb. roach. At the time of writing (Tuesday night) the river is in fair order.

LATER (Thursday, noon).—Owing to almost incessant rain since Tuesday night the river is very full and thick, and there is every probability there will be another flood or the 15th.—W. G. HOLLMAN.

Devonshire Streams.—The weather continues most unpropitious for anglers, with heavy rains and hail showers. All the streams are in heavy flood, and the recent sport with pike has been but trifling, fish running somewhat small.—DEVONIAN.

Exe and Canal (Exeter).—Weather still wet and wild. To-day (Wednesday) the river is running high and coloured, and will not fish for a couple of days to come at least. Prior to the flood a few fair sized pike were secured, the best brace I have heard of being a 12lb. lot, which fell to the rod of Mr. Smyth. Mr. Calladine has tried the perch once or twice, scoring a few moderate ones of ½lb. each.—RED PALMER.

Fen District (South Lincs. and Cambs.).—Sport on the Cambridgeshire side is not so good as prior to the Christmas holidays. At Surfleet, on the Glen, roach fishing is falling off, and so it is also about Wisbech; but pike fishing here has improved. Fish up to 12lb. have been obtained from the Middle Level Drain. Roach fishing is very fair about March. From the Welland good pike fishing is now reported from Market Deeping. Some good pike have also been obtained from the middle lengths of the Forty-foot.—LIMPET.

Idle District (North Notts.).—Some very fair sport is returned from the district about Retford. The Stockwith Canal is now yielding better sport than the river, though that is nothing to complain of. The other day an angler got over 20lb. of roach from the canal, just outside the town. Many fish scaling 1lb. each. Others on the same water have done similarly. It is rumoured in this district that the Sheffield Anglers' Association have leased a portion of this canal, and, if this is so, Sheffield anglers are to be congratulated on having secured some really good fishing within a few miles of home. Roach, dace, chub, and grayling have all come from the river within the last few days.—L.

Lark (Lackford and Flempton).—The recent rains have done much to improve the river, which has been in poor condition for some time past. Water now clearing, and in good order for roach and dace fishing. Several of the latter were taken last Thursday (Jan. 6), weighing 7oz., at Cherry Tree Lock, with worm, by Mr. Skinner and friend. Also a few pike have been killed, spinning with sprat, by Mr. H. Palmer.—A. E. KEMP.

Lea.—The stormy, unsettled weather has again interfered with angling operations in this river, and there is little to report in the way of captures as a result. One fine catch of roach (20lb.) has to be recorded, but the district is not given. It was made by Mr. H. Short. At Angel Road some roach have been landed, also at Cheshunt and Rye House. At Enfield Lock a few nice jack have been secured, one landed by Mr. Leadbeater scaling 6lb. The Hoxton Brothers fished at Rye House early in the week, but I hear they met with very poor sport. The Stort has varied in condition, and little has been done with the roach. If we get much more wet weather the two rivers will again be running very thick.—ISAAC WALTON.

Little Ouse (Brandon).—The river is in good condition for pike fishing. Mr. T. J. Church, of Catford, caught on Monday, Jan. 9, 64lb. weight of pike, eleven fish in all, and there is every prospect of more good bags being made. Boats and bait can be had on applying to—I. ROLPH, Ram Hotel, Brandon.

Lugg and Arrow (Leominster).—Both these streams have been running bank full and muddy, owing to the heavy falls of rain last week. Rain has been had this week, but it has not altered the state of the water, and it is now going down and clearing nicely. The weather has been very cold, and nasty fogs have prevailed, which have been against anglers going out. Sport has been at a standstill; but with some frost sport should be good with worm and maggot and paste.—GWYNNE.

Nene (Peterborough).—The swollen state of the river has put everything out of condition during the past week, and at present there are no indications of any improvement. It will be a period of waiting, at all events for some days, as this (Wednesday) evening, at the time of writing, we are having a drenching downpour of rain accompanied by a high wind, which renders anything out of doors far from pleasant.—E. A. S.

North Staffordshire Rivers.—In consequence of the changeable character of the weather recently the rivers have been very unsettled, and but occasional fishing has been possible. In point of sport, piking has paid best, and some good fish have been captured—up to 12lb. weight. The Sow has been the chief source of these, though a few have been taken in other waters. Grayling fishing has been stopped by the heavy waters, but frost would enable us to try again with swimming the cockspur for them.—F. W. DALE.

Old Welsh Harp (Hendon).—The following fish have been recorded during the last fortnight: Messrs. Bashford and Windover, four jack, 19lb.; Roit, one, 9½lb.; Horzog, one, 10½lb.; A. Plumton, one perch, 2lb.; Stormer, two jack, 8½lb.; Cox, four, 17lb.; Shilty, three, 14lb.; Cramp, one, 5½lb.; Vincent, two, 9lb.; Aldridge, three, 11lb.; Cooper, seven, 36lb.; Adams, two, 9lb.; Palmer, three, 12½lb.; Evan Hillick, three, 19lb.; Palmer, three, 12½lb.; Adams, 37lb.; Fayer, two, 7lb.; Nabby, two, 10lb.; Bashford and Windover, three, 30lb.

Ouse (Great Paxton, St. Neot's).—Water in perfect condition for jack fishing. Some good fish have been taken in the neighbourhood. Good bags ought to be made now as the weeds are gone. Roach are feeding well at gentles for bait.—W. DUCKER.

Ouse (St. Neot's, Hunts.).—The water, which has been very thick of late, is returning to a nice colour again.—W. N.

Severn Vyrnwy, Tanat, and Cain (Llanymynech).—Owing to these rivers having been in a more or less swollen state during the past week anglers have had but little sport, and that principally with pike, chub, perch, and other coarse fish. The Severn is still very much above its ordinary level, and only a few pike taken from it for some days past. The Vyrnwy has afforded better sport, as in addition to pike a few coarse fish have also been captured. The Tanat is not much above its

proper height, but only a very few grayling have been had from it this week. The weather is very wild and stormy at present, with much rain and stormy south-west winds, so that another large flood is only too probable.—**YERNWY.**

Stour (Bures, Suffolk).—The water has been in good order for both roach and pike fishing during the past week, but both classes of fish have been feeding wonderfully shy, and small catches have been the order of the day. A few good roach up to 1lb. 4oz. each have been taken, but I have heard of no heavy bags being made. A large number of small jack have also been taken, but I have not seen any over 5lb. each. Should the weather become more settled some good bags ought now to be made.—**W. T. BAINBRIDGE.**

Sussex Rivers and Chichester Canal.—The weather has been treacherous during the week. Our rivers are lying down nicely. Visitors to the Ouse have had fair sport among the roach in the tidal water below Barcombe. Several fish of over 1lb. have been taken with worm. Mr. Worcester hooked a big pike, but did not succeed in landing it. A brace of 4lb. fish and one of 4lb. were taken with live snap in the Fletching water. A few bream and roach are notified from the Cuckmere. All waters should be in good trim by the 14th; rain holding off. A visitor to the Rother on Monday secured a nice pike of 5lb. and a perch of 2lb.; then had a smash up with a big fish, losing top joint and some yards of tackle. Chichester Canal is high and in good condition. Pike have fed well in all reaches. Two brace, averaging 3½lb. each, were taken below lock on Monday. Perch are feeding. Fish of 1½lb., 1lb. 2oz., and several smaller have been killed with worm; but the best fish of the week was a fine perch of 2lb. 15oz., taken by a member of the Brighton Angler's Association, who was also accredited last week with the record. A few bream up to 1½lb. and roach up to ¾lb. have been secured, principally with paste.—**GEORGE F. SALTER.**

Teme (Ludlow).—The Teme in this part is still running high, and there is a stain on it, owing to the continued heavy falls of rain had at the end of last week. The weather has been very uncertain, and frosts, rain, fogs, and sunshine have followed one another in close order, which has been against anglers going out. But the water is now going down, and if we get no more rain it should be in fair order for fishing by next week. A few anglers have tried bottom fishing with worms, maggots, and paste, and have secured a few coarse fish. Fly fishing has been at a standstill; but the fish move between eleven and one o'clock on the fords, and with fine weather sport will be good with grayling. Pike have been moving fairly well, and sport should be had with live bait. Salmon have been seen going over the weirs on their way upstream. The Ony, Corve, Clun, and Ledwyche are all running high and coloured, but are clearing, and little sport will be had for some time.—**S. LUDLOW.**

Teme (Tenbury).—In this district the water is still running high and muddy, and not in order for fishing. The weather has been very changeable, and heavy falls of rain have been had, but it has not changed the colour of the water, and during the last few days the water has been clearing nicely, and if it continues will be in fair order for worm, maggot, and paste by the end of the week, but will be rather high. If we get fine weather sport should be had next week.—**WORCESTER.**

Witham, &c. (Mid-Lincolnshire).—Anglers have been busiest about Bardney. The banks there are lined often with Lincoln experts, and both from the river and Sincil Dyke some capital bags of roach have been made, many running to 1lb. each, and one nearly 2lb. Some good roach have also been obtained from Stixwold. The drains about Boston have been improved by finching from the Witham through Anton Gout's Lock. Fishing there should improve. The flush on the Bain is also said to have removed the flannel weed. On the latter roach up to 1½lb. have come to hand. Pike fishing on the lower lengths is prosperous, and fishes 10lb., 12lb., and 14½lb. are among the best reported.—**LUCI.**

Yorkshire Rivers.—Very few anglers have been seen on the banks of the Yore, Swale, Nidd, Derwent, Wharfe, Rye, Aire, or Ouse during the past week, thick fogs and consequently miserable weather acting as a deterrent rather than an inducement to even keen piscators to visit any of the favourite resorts for either pike, grayling, or roach fishing, consequently I have little to report; the best dish of grayling I have seen caught in the Upper Yore was one shown to me by Dr. Murphey, of Bolton, on Monday last, caught in the Yore at Danby. He was very proud of the dish, and, indeed, the ten exceptionally fine grayling, nine of them caught with the brandling worm in a thick fog and a high water, were worth seeing, and if there had been light enough for a photographer to have taken them we should have had a picture worth having! The Rev. Father Murphey and other anglers have been out during the week, but with only indifferent success. To-day we have had a glint of sunshine, but only of a very transient character; and the sharp white frost of the morning gave way to snow, sleet, and fog. While the sunshine did last, I and Collinson had fair sport in the neighbourhood of Jervaulx, killing some ten grayling and half a dozen dace in an hour, but the wretched weather soon drove us home again. Of anglers visiting the Wharfe none have had better sport than Mr. Pickersgill, of Leeds, who had eleven good grayling, caught at Collingham, on Friday last, and his son, seven nice fish, the water being very high. Sport higher up the river does not call for any special comment; and anglers visiting the Swale, Derwent, Nidd, and other rivers have only met with moderate sport. To-day more snow has fallen on the hills, and showers of snow and sleet in the valleys. It is this unsettled weather that makes

angling so very uncertain at present.—**JOHN E. MILLER,** Northern Angler's Depot, 19, New Station-street, Leeds.

By TELEGRAM.—J. Blades, the well-known Wensleydale professional angler, writes me that in spite of big waters and snow broth he has had good sport with the grayling in the Hawes Association waters, he killing from six to eight fish in a couple of hours daily; and Mr. Moore, schoolmaster of Hardrow, has made several very heavy baskets. The high waters have been against pike fishing, and little has been done anywhere; but at Hornsea on Monday, Mr. Selke, of Newcastle, landed five fish, weighing 23lb.; and on Tuesday the same number of fish, weighing 34½lb., the largest fish weighing 10lb. The weather to-day is very wild and wet, and it must moderate considerably before we can expect good sport. There is a lot more snow on the hills this morning.—**J. E. MILLER,** Northern Angler's Depot, 19, New Station-street, Leeds.

SCOTCH REPORTS.

Tweed, Teviot, and other Border Rivers.—We have had one or more floods since my last notes, and many anglers have been out during the past ten days, and a few baskets of trout have been killed by these all-the-year-round fishers. The takes, however, have not been heavy, the baskets weighing from 2½lb. to 4lb., while one exceptional basket of 4½lb. was killed on the Eden, three and a half miles from Kelso. On the Teviot some small takes of about 2lb. to 3½lb. have also been killed by the same description of anglers as those above mentioned. The fish killed by these so-called piscators were of a very poor class, being thin, and most unseasonable for the table. One angler on the Tweed had a sea trout of 3½lb., in very good condition; while another had seven grayling, weighing 3lb.; and on the Teviot one gentleman had to-day (Wednesday) five grayling and four trout, one of the former fish weighing 1lb. 1oz. The season is most open for the time of year, and if we only had some genial weather, which we can now scarcely expect, trout would begin to improve in condition, as they would get better feeding; but by the time that the legal trout fishing begins (according to the Kelso Angling Association Rules, Feb. 14) they should be in fairly good condition providing the weather is favourable, and this is all that can in the meantime be said of it. I have had information from one of the Tweed Commissioners' superintendents to-day to the effect that there have been a good many fish in the river since the close time began, and that there was also a great number of spawning salmon seen on the various breeding redds, many of these being of large size; while at the same time there has been an absence of sea trout, or, as some call them, bull trout, these latter fish being a scourge to the river, as they devour the spawn of the salmon as soon as possible after it is laid down by the gravid fish.—**MAXWHEEL.**

IRISH REPORTS.

Irish Notes.—We are now within measurable distance of the opening of the season of 1899, as on the 1st prox.—seventeen days hence—angling will commence on the Boyne, Bnsh, Moy, Suir, Shannon, Lee, Bandon, &c. So far as the weather is concerned the outlook is very good, but there is plenty of time yet for frost and snow. The season in contemplation will be a poor one, indeed, if it do not better than the past one. On Saturday last a meeting of the committee of the conference of Irish Fisheries Conservators met in Dublin, under the presidency of the Earl of Mayo. Some nineteen resolutions were drawn up for submission to the conference on the 21st inst. The resolutions deal exhaustively with the decay of the fisheries and schemes for their improvement. They will finally be submitted to Earl Cadogan.—**J. A. B.**

Shannon and Lough Derg (Killaloe).—Judging from present appearances, I incline to think that the river will be in perfect trim by the opening day of the coming angling season, Feb. 1. For nearly three months we have had nothing but almost constant downpours of rain, so that I am in hopes that the spring floods will not be so heavy this time as they were in 1897 and 1898, to the great disappointment of salmon fishers, because many of the best reaches were rendered unfishable owing to the swollen state of the river. Of course I will keep my English angling friends acquainted, through your columns, with the prospects of sport during the early spring, when the heavy cavalry, otherwise the big freshly-run salmon, will be giving "at homes" under and above the weir wall, in the Mill Pool, and adown the upper and lower meadows, the Castle, and Bon-a-voy beats. In consequence of wet and stormy weather the big pike have been enjoying a respite on Lough Derg for some weeks, as none of us could venture out on that magnificent expanse of water.—**S. J. HURLEY.**

Waterville (co. Kerry).—Spring salmon are coming up very slowly, though the weather and other conditions have been favourable. A dozen salmon only were had at the weir on Waterville river during the first four days of the season. The heaviest fish weighed 17lb., and the average weight was about 12lb. They were all in fine condition. Only a few late fish remain on the spawning beds in the different rivers, and spawning may be considered at an end.—**T. J. D.**

The Monthly Delegate Meeting of the Anglers' Association will take place on Monday evening next, Jan. 16, at Foresters' Hall, Clerkenwell.

TO SPORTSMEN.—Burberrys, of 30, Haymarket, London, are now offering, at half price, their 1898 model and stock sporting garments, in gabardine, combination, and rain-proof tweed; shooting coats, 26s. 3d. and 31s. 6d.; breeches, 15s. and 21s.; Burberry capes and long overcoats, 31s. 6d.; farmers' overcoats, 16s.; Scotch stockings, 2s. 9d. Sent on approval on receipt of cheque covering.

SEA FISHING.

THE following table gives the nearest approximate tides for the use of sea anglers for the week ending Friday, Jan. 20. Tides decrease daily.

	Sat.	Sun.	Mon.	Tues.	Wed.	Th.	Fri.
	a.m.	a.m.	a.m.	a.m.	a.m.	a.m.	a.m.
Scarborough	5.42	6.27	7.13	7.59	8.46	9.35	10.36
	p.m.	p.m.	p.m.	p.m.	p.m.	p.m.	p.m.
	4.4	6.50	7.36	8.22	9.10	10.3	11.13
Yarmouth	3.45	4.52	6.1	7.9	8.6	9.0	9.53
	4.18	5.26	6.36	7.88	8.33	9.27	10.18
Lowestoft	11.26	—	0.35	1.19	2.1	2.44	3.34
	11.49	0.12	0.57	1.40	2.22	3.8	4.6
Aldeburgh	—	0.38	1.24	2.8	2.50	3.33	4.23
	0.15	1.1	1.46	2.29	3.11	3.57	4.54
Hazwich	1.14	2.3	2.49	3.32	4.11	4.53	5.44
	1.39	2.26	3.11	3.82	4.81	5.17	6.17
Southend, Sheer- ness, and Leigh	2.6	2.49	3.33	4.17	5.1	5.46	6.41
	2.28	3.11	3.55	4.39	5.23	6.12	7.14
Margate, Broad- stairs, & Ramsgate	1.4	1.51	2.37	3.20	4.3	4.45	5.39
	1.28	2.14	2.59	3.41	4.25	5.12	6.10
Deal and Dover...	0.28	1.17	2.4	2.49	3.31	4.14	5.3
	0.53	1.41	2.27	3.10	3.52	4.37	5.34
Hastings	0.8	0.57	1.44	2.29	3.11	3.54	4.43
	0.33	1.21	2.7	2.50	3.32	4.17	5.14
Eastbourne and Brighton.	0.36	1.25	2.12	2.57	3.39	4.22	5.11
	1.1	1.49	2.35	3.18	4.0	4.45	5.42
Newhaven	0.35	1.18	2.2	2.45	3.26	4.14	5.16
	0.58	1.40	2.24	3.5	3.48	4.43	5.53
Shoreham and Southwick	0.53	1.42	2.29	3.14	3.56	4.39	5.28
	1.18	2.6	2.52	3.35	4.17	5.2	5.59
Portsmouth and Hayling Island	1.1	1.49	2.34	3.14	3.54	4.37	5.33
	1.26	2.12	2.54	3.34	4.15	5.3	6.9
Plymouth	7.29	8.12	8.55	9.33	10.12	10.56	11.56
	7.50	8.34	9.14	9.52	10.33	11.24	—

Brighton.—A boat angler caught about six score whiting about a week ago, since which we have had stormy weather and high winds from the S.E. and S.W., and at time of writing (Jan. 11) the sea is very rough and the weather unsettled.—**H.**

Castletown.—No anglers have been out since last report, owing to strong winds and a generally rough sea. The fish usually taken at this time are reported to be numerous on the inshore courses.—**T. J. D.**

Darbyne.—Anglers during the past few days have had good sport at whiting and pollack in the direction of Coomaconclane. A large shoal of mullet approached close inshore last week, and seventy-five were had by a trammel net.—**T. J. D.**

Deal (The Pier).—The visitors on Jan. 8 included Mr. and Mrs. Igglesden, Mr. Gareau, and Mr. Inskip, and during the earlier part of the day each experienced good sport, but the later hours of the morning and the afternoon yielded scarcely anything. Forty-five boats were afloat, and everyone brought ashore a heavy catch. Mr. H. Edwards and Dr. Patterson had seven score seventeen whiting and fifteen cod; Messrs. Zaehnsdorf, Gordon, and Wood, fourteen score of whiting and four cod; and Dr. Brunton and Mr. Blyth, nine score whiting and one cod. Monday's pier anglers were Messrs. Gilbertson, Gareau, Humphreys, Walters, and G. Wood, but the morning's catch proved few and small, and the afternoon yielded nothing. One local boatman had a grand catch of whiting and several cod, one of the latter scaling over 20lb. The pier was poorly patronised on Tuesday, and the day's results were also poor; but to-day (Wednesday) a splendid lot of whiting, codling, and dabs were caught, many of the whiting ranging between 2lb. and 3lb. The mildness of the morning brought out no less than twenty-three anglers of both sexes, and one and all were highly successful, the heaviest take being made by Mr. Gilbertson. Good sport may be expected during the continuance of the present spring tides.—**J. RICHARDSON** (B.S.A.S.).

Deal.—Thursday, 5th January, light air, westerly; water smooth and in good condition; and a large quantity of cod, codling, and fine whiting, landed by the local fishermen along the beach, in fact, I believe it is the red-letter day this season; I don't remember ever seeing such a sight at this time of the year before. One buyer sent by luggage train for market over 1 ton cod, codling, and fine whiting. 6th, wind, S.E.; fine, water smooth and very clear, and very poor sport obtained, save a few boats which landed fair takes the latter part of the day, and several anglers came down. 7th, sport only medium, as the weather was unsettled and only a few boats out. Mr. Edwards, with Larkins boatman, took seven score whiting and two cod; and others doing fairly well. 8th, wind S.W., fine, and warm; water smooth, and a large number of anglers out; Messrs. Taylor, Tautz, Symonds, and others out in B.S. Angler, and took twelve score whiting, eight cod, the best 9lb., one conger, 6lb.; Messrs Edwards and Dr. Patterson took fifteen cod and seven score whiting; and Master Taylor, with his father, hooked, played, and landed a cod of 8lb.; Mr. Mallet and friend, twelve score whiting and two nice codling; Messrs. Glassingtons, Leeks, Perks, and Andrews, twelve score whiting and seven codling; while a great many other anglers scored up well. 9th, wind, S.S.W., with fine clear sky, and warm; sport fair. Messrs. Hall, the Rev. Brackenbury, and another gentleman landed about seven score whiting (one weighing 4lb.), one cod of 8lb., and two smaller ones.

Reports from Clubs

We beg to remind Secretaries that their Reports must reach us not later than **SIX o'clock on Thursday Evening**. Address "Editor, FISHING GAZETTE, St. Dunstan's House, Fetter-Lane, London," marked "CLUB REPORT" outside envelope.

Anglers' Association.—The monthly delegate meeting will take place on Monday evening next, Jan. 16, at 8.30.—R. GHURNEY.

Anglers' Association, (WESTERN DISTRICT) Visiting List.—The next visit will take place on Monday, Jan. 16, at the Prince of Wales' Angling Society, Windsor Castle, Church-street, Edgware-road; two minutes' walk from Edgware-road station (Metropolitan).—J. HARRIS.

Allason United Brothers' Angling Society, Duke of Sussex, Uxbridge-street, Notting Hill Gate.—On Jan. 11 Mr. E. Jackson was chairman. Several members had fish: G. Barker over 6lb. of roach; George Prouten, dace; Ben Dare and H. Slack, roach and dace. We fish a jack sweepstakes competition in A.A. waters, Langley, Vetch's pound; one rod only; members can take own baits. Entrance fee 1s. Takes place on Jan. 29. Full particulars next week.—BEN ABRAHAMS.

Alma Angling Society. Coach and Horses, Portsmouth Place, Lincoln's Inn Fields.—On Jan. 8 the following weighed-in: Messrs. Drew, chub, roach, and perch, 4lb. 12oz.; Hopping, roach and dace, 2lb. 11oz.; Utting, Black, Montgomery, and Dyer, roach and dace. On Jan. 24 the members sit down to a leg of mutton supper, provided by our worthy host at 2s. per head. Any friend wishing to join us will be made welcome.—J. CHAMBERS.

Alma Piscatorials, 261, Seven Sisters-road, N.—The first outing of the season will take place on Saturday, Jan. 21. Members requiring punts, swims baited, or live bait provided should notify the fact, not later than the 18th inst., to Mr. Cartwright, who has kindly arranged and who will be in charge of this outing.—W. KOMLOSY.

Amicable Waltonian Angling Society, The Fox and French Horn, Clerkenwell Green.—On Jan. 8 the following members had good shows of fish: Messrs. Lamharth, roach and dace; Millin, a fine show of roach and dace; Hutchingson, roach; Payne, roach; Nunn, sen., roach and dace; and Brelsforth, roach and dace. The next outing of the above takes place on Jan. 15, at Amherley, for six prizes.—G. MERRY.

Anchor and Hope Angling Society, Duke of Kent, Old Kent-road, S.E.—On Jan. 8 we competed at Datchet for the January series of prizes, the following being successful: Mr. H. Mallett, sen., 3lb. 4oz.; Mr. J. Farmer, 3lb. 3oz.; Mr. W. J. Wade, 2lb. 2oz.; several others having fish. On Jan. 6 Mr. B. C. Booth weighed in dace, 1lb. 13oz., one dace weighing 1lb. 2oz., which is being preserved by Mr. J. Jones. A lecture by Mr. T. Crumplen (our president), entitled "Fishing in the Eastern Counties," illustrated by oxy-hydrogen views, will be given at the society's spacious room on Jan. 30, to be followed by a smoking concert. This being our first concert under our new landlord, we shall be pleased to see all friends rally round us on this occasion.—F. W. MARTIN.

Battersea Friendly Angling Society, Queen's Hotel, Queen's-road, Battersea, S.W.—On Jan. 8 Mr. W. Thomas weighed in roach; Mr. J. Hudson, a fine take of bream and roach, five of the latter scaling 5½lb. (heaviest 1lb. 12oz.) Absent members are informed of match at Cookham on Jan. 15. Trains: Paddington, 8.40; and in conjunction, Vauxhall, 7.40; Queen's-road, 7.43; Battersea, 7.46.—A. JENKINS.

Battersea Piscatorials, Winstanley Arms, Winstanley-road, Clapham Junction, S.W.—Since my last report the club was saved from a blank by Mr. T. Tringham, who weighed in some nice bream and roach. We fish a match at Wraybury on the 15th; to go by the 8.27 a.m. and return by the 5.10 p.m. Our visit on the S.L.U.V. List takes place on the 30th, when I should like to see the clubs in force.—T. TRINGHAM.

Bermudey Brothers' Angling Society, Woolpack, Bermudey-street, S.E.—The members of the above will fish a competition for their January series of prizes on the 15th, in the river Arnn, not in the Thames, as stated last week. Members to be allowed to book to either Pulborough or Amherley, and not to start until the morning. The following members weighed in on the 8th: Messrs. J. Hobb, 17½lb.; J. Smith, 15lb.; and J. Martin, 14lb. of roach. On the 11th Mr. G. H. Shepherd weighed in a fine show of roach and chub from the Thames (35½lb.).—ALEX. CONN.

Blackfriars Angling Society, The Imperial, Southwark-street, S.E.—Our January series of prizes was fished for at Bures on Jan. 8, Mr. J. Foster being first; Messrs. Kobelt, J. Wheelhouse, Whiley, and Howard being the other successful competitors, but with small takes. In reference to my inquiries as to tench unfairly taken by our member, Mr. W. Farmer, it has turned out just as our society expected; but still, we, the members of the Blackfriars, bears no animosity to those gentlemen that gave us what they had heard about said fish. We, the committee of the Blackfriars, are done with the affair, and don't want to hear any more about it.—J. WHEELHOUSE.

Bloomsbury Brothers' Angling Society, Rose and Crown, Broad-street, Bloomsbury.—On Jan. 8 Mr. H. Davis weighed in roach and dace, 2lb. 7oz. (one roach weighing 1lb. 4oz.); Messrs. T. Davis and J. Taylor, roach and dace; Mr. C. Davis, roach. Wednesday next, Jan. 18, will be limit night, when all subscriptions must be paid without fail.—T. PATERNOSTER.

Brompton Angling Society, D'Oyley Arms, Marlborough-road, S.W.—Members are requested to attend in force on Wednesday next to settle final details of match for supper kindly offered by Mr. Cowper, which it is proposed to fish on Jan. 29.—C. A.

Brothers Well Met Angling Society, King Edward VI., King Edward-street, Liverpool-road, N.—Our outing on Jan. 8 to the east coast was somewhat a failure, only about 14lb. of fish being taken. On the same day, Mr. H. Bodsen weighed in two jack and 8lb. of roach from our water at Bures; also Mr. E. Gardner, roach. On the 22nd we fish for a series of prizes at Bures.—HY. TAME.

Burlington Piscatorial Society, Burlington Hotel, Burlington-road, Westbourne Park, W.—A meeting will take place on Wednesday, Jan. 18, at 9 o'clock. Kindly attend this meeting to settle what prizes for the outing to Langley on Jan. 29.—P. LAVINGTON.

Camden Angling Society, The Locomotive, James-street, High-street, Camden Town, N.W.—We had a successful visit on the C.D.V.L. last Monday, sixteen clubs being represented. Mr. Mysteria gave us a clever ventriloquial entertainment. We have a roving match at Henley on Jan. 22.—E. BOXALL.

Campbell United Angling Society, Sir Colin Campbell, High-road, Kilburn.—The following weighed in on Jan. 8: Mr. J. Bowry, roach and dace; Mr. J. Tanner, roach and dace. Our next match takes place at Henley on Jan. 22. Usual conditions: signal to be given at the Anchor.—A. C. QUICK.

Castle Fields Angling Society (Shrewsbury).—The annual general meeting of the above society was held at headquarters, the Dog and Pheasant, on Thursday, Dec. 22, and as a result of the audit of the year's accounts a dividend of 13s. 2½d. was paid to eligible members, carrying forward a substantial balance. The necessary officers were duly appointed, the chairman, vice-chairman, and treasurer being re-elected. The annual supper took place on Jan. 5, when a capital spread was provided by the host and hostess (Mr. and Mrs. Tipton), to which ample justice was done, and a very pleasant evening was spent, all those present having thoroughly enjoyed themselves.—D. T. JENKINS.

Clapham Junction Angling Society, The Clarence, Winstanley-road, Clapham Junction, S.W.—On the 8th the following weighed in fish: Messrs. A. Bowater, H. Rinnegar, H. Moore, J. Thorne; the latter member had among his take one roach over 1lb. Members are requested not to forget our match on Jan. 15, at Wraybury; train from Clapham Junction, 8.27; return from Wraybury at 8.55.—G. T. JAMESON.

Clapham Strollers' Angling Society, Alexandra Hotel, Clapham Common, S.W.—On Jan. 8 several of our members were out, Messrs. Wallace, Sandle, Lowrence having fish. We fish our next competition at Windsor on Jan. 15 for three prizes; all fish to weigh.—T. PASMORE.

Clerkenwell and District United Visiting List.—A successful visit on the above was paid to the Camden A.S. on Monday evening. Mr. Bob Marshall in the chair, faced by Mr. Fitter. The following seventeen societies were well represented, viz.: Great Northern Brothers, Lincoln, St. John's, Enstonian, Bloomsbury Brothers, Alma, North London, Camden, Phoenix, Royal George, Central Club, Queen's Piscatorials, Prince of Wales, Dibdin, Social Brothers, Brompton, and Original Clerkenwell. The next visit will be to the Phoenix on Monday, Jan. 23. The quarterly general meeting will be on Thursday, Jan. 19, at the Middlesex Arms. To meet at 9.15 p.m.—F. CASTELL.

Clissold Angling Society, The Cricketers, Northwold-road, Stoke Newington, N.—On Jan. 8 several were out and all our prizes were taken as follows: Osment, one; Cokhold, two; Thompson, three; also Messrs. Eastwood, Hunt, and Jordan were prize-winners. On Tuesday we had general meeting, and arranged in a very satisfactory manner the late netting appeal. Members please note Rule 10.—T. FAULKNER.

Crown and Buckland Piscatorial Society, Middlesex Arms, 35, Clerkenwell-green, E.C.—On Jan. 8 the following weighed in: Mr. Long, roach; A. Anderson, roach and perch; H. Haines, roach; and W. Leadbeater, a nice shaped jack of 6lb. We have arranged to fish for our remaining prizes during February. Date and locality to be fixed at our next meeting, which will be quarterly meeting night, when all members are requested to clear the books. On Jan. 23 we have a smoking concert on behalf of the Rivers Preservation Fund. Ladies invited.—G. H. FRANKLIN.

Dalston Angling Society, Brownlow Arms, Brownlow-street, Dalston.—On Jan. 10 there was a very good attendance, when it was decided that the prizes in hand should be competed for on Jan. 29. Full particulars to be obtained at the clubhouse. Members are requested to attend on Tuesday, the 17th, to hear the balance-sheet read.—S. MALBY.

Dibdin Angling Society, St. Martin's Tavern, Pratt-street, N.W.—The outing on Jan. 8 was a grand success. The successful competitors were: Messrs. D. Ansell, jack; J. Edwards, jack; W. Elton, roach and bream; H. Brock, hybrid. Usual meeting on Wednesday. Mr. A. Coulman proposed as a new member. Balance-sheet for half-year read and passed.—JOHNNY EDWARDS.

Drayton Park Piscatorials, Stanley Arms, Landseer-road, Holloway-road, N.—Outing successful.—GREG.

Eagle Angling Society, Red Lion, Tottenham.—On Jan. 2 Mr. T. F. Barlow had a show of jack. On 4th, Messrs. J. Dyer and T. F. Barlow, about 10lb. roach, dace, and chub. On 8th, Mr. W. S. Price, roach and dace. On 10th, Messrs. W. Denton, G. Baynton, and T. F. Barlow, four dozen dace.—W. S. PRICE.

Elgin Angling Society, Blenheim Arms, Blenheim-crescent, Notting Hill, W.—Several members were out on

Angling Fixtures.

January 15.

Amicable Waltonians: Outing to Amberley.
Battersea Friendly: Match at Cookham.
Battersea Piscatorials: Match at Wraybury.
Bermudey Brothers: Match on the Arnn.
Clapham Junction: Outing to Wraybury.
Clapham Strollers: Match.
Earlsfield: Outing to Shepperton.
Holloway: Reading by Mr. Stevens.
Jubilee: Match at Bourne End.
North-East Brothers: Outing to Burnt Mill.
Original Clerkenwell: Match at Roydon.
Stockwell: Outing to Teddington.

January 16.

Anglers' Association: Delegate meeting.
North-East Brothers: Concert.
Piscatorial Society: Annual meeting.
Prince of Wales: Visit.

January 17.

Gresham: Paper by Mr. J. Tayler.
North London: Visit.
Stockwell: Snapper.

January 21.

Alma Piscatorials: Outing to Reading.

Jan. 22.—Brothers Well Met: Outing to Bures.

" 22.—Camden: Match at Henley.

" 22.—Campbell United: Match at Henley.

" 22.—Elgin: Match at Surly Hall.

" 22.—Lincoln: Outing to Bourne End.

" 22.—Mildmay: Outing to Pangbourne.

" 22.—Prince of Wales: Match at Bourne End.

" 22.—Royal Oak: Roving match.

" 22.—Ye Olde Clapham Rovers: Outing to Sunbury.

" 23.—Crown and Buckland: Rivers Preservation concert.

" 23.—Phoenix: Visit.

" 24.—Alma: Supper.

" 25.—West Green: Supper.

" 29.—Brompton: Supper.

" 29.—Burlington Piscatorial Society: Outing to Langley.

" 29.—Dalston: Outing.

" 30.—Anchor and Hope: Reading by Mr. T. Crumplen.

" 30.—Battersea Piscatorials: Visit.

" 30.—Piscatorial Society: Smoking concert.

" 31.—Islington Brothers: Visit.

Feb. 2.—Hatcham Brothers: Concert.

" 2.—West London: Supper.

" 5.—Islington Brothers: Match at Cookham.

" 5.—Walham Green: Outing.

" 7.—Mildmay: Annual dinner.

" 9.—St. Ives (Hunts): Annual match.

" 12.—Seymour Brothers: Match at Goring.

AMERICAN BOOKS.—A catalogue of American books in various departments of literature can be had of Sampson Low, Marston & Co., Limited, St. Dunstan's House, Fetter Lane, London.

ORIENTAL BOOKS.—Formerly issued by W. H. Allen and Co., now published by Sampson Low, Marston and Co., Limited, St. Dunstan's House, Fetter Lane, London, Publishers to the India Office.—A CATALOGUE of these Text Books, Class Books, Histories, and Indian Government Publications can be had on application.

Jan. 8, some of them having good shows of fish. Mr. Wilson and Mr. Bridge had the best. We fish a match on Jan. 22 for a number of prizes (roving), from Windsor Bridge to Surly Hall; all members to go by the 9 o'clock train from Westbourne Park.—G. KINE.

Enterprise Angling Society, City Arms, High Cross-road, Tottenham.—The following members weighed-in on Jan. 8: Messrs. Pheasey, roach, dace, and perch, 5lb.; Wells, roach, dace, and perch, 5lb. 10oz.; Balam, roach, 3lb. 14oz.; Mr. Pheasey being the fortunate winner of the fortnightly prize.—W. LEFEVRE.

Firm and True Angling Society, Prince Regent, Beresford-street, Walworth.—On Jan. 8 several members weighed-in nice shows of roach and dace. On Tuesday night we held our return visit on the S.L.U.V. List, when twelve clubs were represented. We were represented with plenty of very good talent during the evening. The chair was occupied by Mr. G. H. Field, president of the S.L.U.V. List; Mr. George George, of the St. Thomas' A.S., and Mr. T. A. Veasey, our worthy host, occupied the vice-chair. I wish to thank those gentlemen and the whole of the artists for their kindness in coming to help us make this a great night for the opening of the new year.—T. ROSSER.

Forest Piscatorial Society, Rose and Crown, Hoestreet, Walthamstow.—Messrs. G. Beaumont and W. Davies weighed-in roach.—H. TISLEY.

Forest Gate Piscatorials, Forest Gate Hotel, Godwin-road, Forest Gate.—Since my last report the following members have weighed-in: Messrs. Creeke and Head, roach; Mr. J. T. Inman, jack; Mr. Willett, jack, 11lb. On the 1st inst. we fished for the two remaining prizes of Christmas competition, which resulted in Mr. Creeke taking first, with roach and bream, and Mr. Head second, roach.—H. F. C.

Good Intent Angling Society, The Crown, Church-street, Shoreditch.—Mr. Thompson and Maybury brought in roach on Jan. 8. Mr. Jones had jack on the 10th. The members voted £1 ls. to the Netting Fund, also £1 ls. to the Preservation and Stocking Fund. I hope all societies will do likewise.—R. MURPHY.

Harcourt Angling Society, Harcourt Arms, Harcourt-street, Marylebone.—We had a very nice show of fish on Jan. 8, chiefly roach—there was one jack amongst them—the finest show of roach we have had during the season.—A. E. PAYNE.

Hatcham Brothers' Angling Society, Queen Victoria, Pomeroy-street, New Cross.—On Jan. 8 a record show of jack graced our tables. Mr. A. Mead came first with five jack, scaling 24lb. (largest 10½lb.), now being preserved; second, Mr. H. Bird, two jack, 11lb. (largest 6lb. 10oz.); and Mr. E. Furnival, with jack, 6lb. Mr. Furnival had also a good show of perch (largest over 1lb.), all taken from the club's private water. Mr. J. Winter had two roach from Pulborough, one over 1lb. A series of concerts are about to be arranged, the first of which will take place on Thursday, Feb. 2. Further particulars of which will be given in the *Fishing Gazette*.—W. TARRY.

Hearts of Oak Angling Society, Ye Olde Crown, Brick-lane, Bethnal Green, E.—Mr. Smith and Mr. Jeffries had a show of roach. Mr. Robinson was elected treasurer of this club co-jointly with Mr. Russell.—C. SMITH.

Holloway Angling Society, Holloway Station Hotel, 295, Holloway-road, N.—At our usual weekly meeting, Mr. Caines delivered his reading on "Pike Fishing," which was much enjoyed. The next reading will be given by Mr. Steinhart on "Trout Fishing." Messrs. G. Johnson and A. Stevens, out on Friday at Hertfordshire, had several jack. Mr. Clayton, on Jan. 8, had a fine show of roach, several over 1lb. Mr. Caines, out on Wednesday, reports Colne very thick, and prospects of sport poor.—A. CLAYTON.

Hoxton Brothers Angling Society, Spread Eagle, Kingsland-road, Shoreditch.—On Jan. 8 the members

competed for special prizes at Rye House; all were taken, but with only small weights. The following weighed-in: Messrs. J. Wiltshire, J. Huntley, A. McGuinness, W. Smith, W. Bishop, E. Harris; also Messrs. F. Newton and H. Bailey weighed-in roach for monthly prizes.—JOHNNY.

Islington Brothers' Angling Society, Myddleton Arms, Canonbury-road.—On Jan. 8 the following weighed-in: Messrs. Holder, roach; Howard, roach; J. H. Herbert, roach; Hecakford, roach; Burwash, dace; and Boys, dace. We met on Tuesday last, when it was settled to have our return visit on No. 2 Eastern District List on Tuesday, Jan. 31.—J. H. HERBERT.

Isaac Walton Angling Society, Old King John's Head, Mansfield-street, Kingsland-road.—The members competed for three special prizes on Jan. 8, Messrs. G. Nunn, C. Hayward, and R. Hill being the winners. The three "specials" offered for competition on Wednesday last were not taken. Mr. C. A. Hayward weighed-in roach, and Mr. G. Rogers jack, on Jan. 8.—H. B.

Jubilee Angling Society, Prince Arthur, Golborne-road, North Kensington.—Since my last report we have had two nice shows of roach weighed-in from the Thames by Messrs. Bence and Gilder. We fish a match on Jan. 15 from Cookham Bridge to Bourne End Railway Bridge; all fish to weigh; two rods; take your own live baits; first train down from Westbourne Park, or any subsequent train.—G. BENCE.

Lady of the Lake Angling Association, Swakeley Hotel, Shepherd's Bush, W.—In consequence of the lamented death of our secretary, Mr. A. B. Mason, the competition arranged for the 15th inst. is postponed until further notice.—W. J. JONES.

Lincoln Angling Society, Metropolitan, Winchester-street, Pentonville.—On Jan. 8 the following weighed-in close on 40lb. of roach and dace: Messrs. Utton, Biggs, Johnson, R. Watling, Manly, W. Watling, Bowley, Bowdrey, and Cook. On Wednesday Mr. Johnson and Mr. Baker weighed-in some roach and dace. We have an outing to Bourne End on Jan. 22 for seven prizes; usual conditions.—W. WATLING.

Liverpool Angling Association, Bee Hotel, Queen-square.—We had a fair attendance at our last meeting, and the members were in a business vein, and cleared everything off the board. Four members had been fishing in the Dee, and reported good sport amongst roach and dace, but the pike fishers had a blank. We are, in conjunction with the West Derby Club, taking the necessary steps to form a centre of the Northern Anglers' Association here, and a meeting is proposed by Mr. Redford at the Bee Hotel on Saturday afternoon next, to consider and decide the matter. We hope the new Central Club will come in, as this would materially strengthen the combination.—RD. WOOLFALL.

Liverpool East End Angling Association, Court House Hotel, Commutation Row.—The annual meeting of the above-named association, which has been an adjourned one for three meetings, owing to the great amount of work, was finally concluded on Monday last. During the meeting it has been decided to raise the amount of specimen prizes from 5s. first and 2s. 6d. second to 10s. and 5s. respectively. Also that specimens will only be eligible from free waters; that is to say, where each and every member can fish either by permission or by payment not exceeding 1s. per day, two members' names being sufficient to certify the weight of the fish. Fixtne cards will be printed, showing the dates and places where the matches will be fished during this season, both for week-day and Sunday matches. A hearty vote of thanks was accorded the officers of the society for the satisfactory manner in which they have managed the affairs of the association during the past twelve months. The election of officers to serve during the season of 1899 resulted as follows: President, Mr. Macmudron; chairman, Mr. G. F. Chantler; vice-chairman, Mr. G. Attwood; treasurer, Mr. Syl. Walker; secretary, James Reynolds; assistant-secretary,

Mr. J. Sharpe; auditors, Messrs. E. Bate and J. W. Wright; committee, Messrs. Isaac Smith, J. A. Porter, A. Laidlaw, T. C. Leger, J. Gilmore, J. Wishart, J. E. Pritchard, and J. Gardner. The annual dinner, which will take place this month, has not yet been put in form, but it is likely to be in a day or so. Tight lines and good luck to all the members.—JAMES REYNOLDS.

Maldon and Heybridge Angling Society, White Lion, Fullbridge, Maldon, Essex.—Since my last report some very good roach have been taken from the Langford, backwater by Mr. J. Freeman, T. Springett, S. Vince, Ben Bevers. The remaining Christmas prizes were fished off on Saturday last, the first prize being secured by T. Springett, followed by S. Vince, B. Bevers, R. White, H. Hutchinson. Ben Lees, of the Brunswick A.S., secured some very good roach on the 8th inst.—two fish over 1½lb. each and a bream 2lb. 12oz. The time of high water at Beleigh on the 15th will be at 3.12 p.m. This will allow for most of the afternoon in the tidal waters. The competition for the cup given by Mr. Ben Lees will be commenced on Saturday next, Jan. 14, at 2 p.m., and fish up till dark; all fish to be weighed-in at 7 p.m. each Saturday. The prize offered by Mr. C. Evans, of the Cambridge Heath A.S., will also be included in the competition commencing next Saturday, and will be continued on Jan. 21, Jan. 28, Feb. 4. The member taking the heaviest gross weight of roach and dace will receive the cup, and the other prizes will follow on.—F. KEEN.

Mildmay Angling Society, Clarendon Hotel, Mildmay Park, N.—The fourteenth annual dinner of this society will be held on Feb. 7, at 7.30 p.m. Tickets are now ready, and I shall be glad to hear from members as soon as possible as to how many they will require. Our next outing is to Pangbourne on the 21st and 22nd inst. Details to be arranged next Tuesday.—A. E. HENNON.

North-East Brothers' Angling Society, Star and Garter, Green-street.—On Jan. 8 W. Richards, sen., weighed-in roach. On Jan. 15, match at Burnt Mill; train, 7.20, Globe-road, or 8 o'clock Liverpool-street, Monday, Jan. 23, smoking concert.—A. LEWIS.

North London Angling Society, Tap House, Holloway-road.—On Jan. 8 Messrs. Pink and Black weighed-in roach from the Lea; Hayes and Adams, roach and dace from the Thames. The next return visit on the Central List takes place at the above on Tuesday, Jan. 17. Secretaries not receiving invitations kindly accept this as such, and oblige. Members are requested to attend next week to settle date of next outing.—H. STRETCH.

Original Alexandra Angling Society, The Lamb, Three Colts-lane, opposite Bethnal Green Junction.—On Jan. 1 we had a fair show of fish—Messrs. W. Madgett, 9lb. jack; S. Orrow, 6lb. 10oz. roach; S. Dulieu, 3lb. 8oz. jack; R. Brockett, roach; J. Franks winning the last prize on our list with perch. Tuesday, 3rd, was our general meeting night. The balance-sheet was read and received, showing that we are in a good financial position.—E. BROCKETT.

Original Clerkenwell Piscatorial Society, Sutton Arms, Great Sutton-street, Goswell-road.—On Jan. 8 Messrs. Hill had a nice show of club (largest 3lb.), also a barbel 4½lb.; Atchison, roach; Widmer, roach and dace; Webster, jack. We have a match at Roydon on Jan. 15.—A. HILL.

Park Angling Society, Park Hotel, Park-lane, Tottenham.—Several members were out on Jan. 8: Messrs. Thompson, Pemberton, Coldwell, Stracy, Carter, Hopton, jun., Reitz, Hopton, sen., and Vyell, sport being bad, and only two weighed-in. Members are requested to attend on Tuesday next to settle date for the concert.—W. S.

Phoenix Angling Society, The Tavistock, Stibington-street, N.W.—On Jan. 8 Mr. Austin had 17lb. of good roach from the Thames; Mr. Carr, bream. The next return visit on the Clerkenwell and District List will be to us on Jan. 23.—R. C.

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Tottings by the Way.

THE lecture on "Flat Fish" by Dr. Patterson, on Monday last, was most interesting and instructive. The Piscatorial salon was adorned by several large drawings of the various species (dabs, flounders, soles, plaice, turbot, &c.), and I really believe I could now distinguish a dab from a flounder. Mr. Hussey sent a nice basket of dabs to "Drag" Manion, and I was able to pronounce an opinion. "Them," says I, "is dabs."

I THINK it is in "Jackson's Upright Copybooks" that the line occurs, "A place for everything and everything in its place." We all know what a place is within the meaning of the Act; but it is seldom that a place is "spotted" in such a peculiar place as that which transpired at the Marylebone Police Court recently. The *Daily News* heads it "A Novel Chest Protector." A man who had served his master for seven years has now lost his place for that he did wilfully pilfer a plaice, valued at 4s. 3d., from the slab of Mr. Snell, fishmonger. Detective Andrews "saw the prisoner come from a yard at the rear of the shop, and noticing that he looked 'bulky,' questioned him. He professed to have nothing about him, but when searched the plaice was found flat across his chest under his clothes!" 40s. or twenty-one days for using a chest protector.

MR. J. RICHARDSON, of 123, Enston-road, has received for preservation a nice plump little 10lb. pike, taken while fishing off an island near Pangbourne. The captor (Mr. Sturgeon) is pretty well known amongst London anglers; but why, oh! why, does he go out without his landing-net? All the same, Mr. S., there is a little skill requisite to land even a 10-pounder without a net; the next time you go out you will take it, and perhaps get nothing.

A TERRIFIC gale, accompanied by torrents of rain, raged over London on Thursday. The wind wrought havoc amongst the chimney pots, and the rain has not improved the rivers, which, although a little fuller, will certainly be the wrong colour for week-end fishing.

A LESSON from the United States may possibly be taken as regards the increasing of the supply of fish. Amongst other instances, it is stated in the *American Field* that, "At the weirs, Lake Winnebago, N.H., the employes of the State Fish Commission are now busy netting monstrous trout and landlocked salmon for the purposes of propagation. The females are stripped of their eggs and the males of the milt, which is placed with the eggs in the hatcheries to fertilise them. The fish are returned to the water unhurt after having been utilised. The same process is in operation at Sunapee, Winnisquam, Newfound, Connecticut, and a dozen or more smaller lakes in the State. Millions of eggs will be secured, and will be hatched the coming spring, furnishing fry to replenish the waters of the State."

Also a short time ago "The United States Fish Commission's" No. 1 delivered at Farmington, Me., from the Green Lake Hatchery, a batch of 11,000 fingerling landlocked salmon, which were liberated in lakes and ponds in the vicinity of Farmington. Mr. J. A. Linscott, of the Franklin County (Me.) Fish and Game Club, recently received from the new hatchery at Winthrop 5000 salmon fry, which he liberated in Clearwater and Varnum ponds, near Farmington. Several thousands of fry from the State hatchery were liberated a few days ago in Gull Pond, in the Rangeley region, by Mr. Eugene Soule, of Rangeley."

AND again, "The United States Hatchery at Green Lake, Me., has furnished 25,000 young landlocked salmon upon the application of Mr. W. E. Berry, of Winthrop, in that State, for the purpose of stocking the lakes in the vicinity of Winthrop. Some 14,000 of the lot—fine, lively fish about 6in. in length—were delivered recently at Winthrop, where teams were in waiting to carry them to the lakes in which they were liberated. The anglers in that section are anticipating fine sport with these same fish after the lapse of two or three years, as this salmon grows rapidly."

"THE only specimen, it is said, of the polypterous or 'bichir' ever brought to America is now in the biological laboratory of the Columbia University, New York. It is a curious fish found on the African Coast, and was brought to America by Nathan P. Harrington, fellow in zoology, and Dr. Hunt, who, last summer, made up the Columbia zoological expedition to the Delta of the Nile. Their main object was to secure the eggs of the prolepterus, one of the three surviving kinds of lunged fish, for embryological study. In this they were unsuccessful, as, though specimens were found, they were unfortunately without eggs. The prolepterus, which looks something like an eel, is in the habit of diving into the mud and building a sort of cocoon for itself, within which it keeps during the dry season."

"Of all the methods of taking fish," says the *American Field*, "that which it is claimed is used by John S. Conaway, of Dillsboro, Ind., is the most singular. Fishes of ordinary size he catches and lands with his hands, but to the larger ones he attaches a rope and thus lugs them out. He claims he can land catfish of 75lb. weight, and that he has caught for years hundreds of

West Ham Brothers' Angling Society. Coach and Horses, The Grove, Stratford.—Since my last report the following members have weighed in fish: Mr. John Newton, roach; Mr. James Newton, roach; Mr. Weller, jun., jack; Mr. A. Kettner, jack; Mr. J. Noden, jack.

West London Angling Society. Dartmouth Castle, Hammersmith.—W. Cox, jun., weighed in for the cup on Jan. 8 (4lb. 9oz.), as also did E. Coomes (3lb. 14oz.). C. J. Carter had three specimen roach and some bream on the 1st inst., and also a fine show of dace on the 8th. Our next supper is fixed for Feb. 2. Our member, Mr. E. Street, has recently purchased Taylor's Restaurant in Richmond, and will be pleased to make his angling friends welcome.—J. J. HUNTER.

Westminster Angling Society. The Telegraph, Regency-street, S.W.—On Jan. 8 Mr. Eccarius made a good show with three specimen bream (largest, 4lb. 12oz.), two perch, and a tray full of roach. A special meeting will be held next Wednesday to arrange January match.

Ye Olde Clapham Rovers' Angling Club. The Windmill, Clapham Park-road.—Our prize outing on the 2nd, only one prize being taken, by T. Gloster, with roach and dace. A few of our members were out on the 9th, when N. Linden and Frank Taylor weighed in perch and roach. We had a large attendance on Tuesday, and got through some good business, appointing Messrs. Dean and Wyatt as auditors. We have a prize outing at Sunbury on Jan. 22; three prizes. Will all members please go in for this competition?—N. LINDEN.

AN OLD FLY-BOOK

MR. HENRY BRIGHOUSE, of Ormskirk, some years ago sent us an old fly-book. On one of the leaves is written: "Charles Jones, his book, June 26, 1792." Charles Jones evidently made his own flies, for the book contained odds and ends of fly dressing material—hackles, feathers, fur, silks, &c.; also gut and horsehair, the latter quite good, although more than 100 years old. In one of the pockets was this permit to fish:

"Mr. Jones, the bearer, has lease from Mr. Dicconson for a day or two's angling at Wrightinton and Scarisbrick. May the 26, 1800.

"THOS. TOMLINSON."

In another pocket was this receipt for taking fish:

Six pennyworth of polypody of the oke and wormwood. Rub your hands with wormwood wheel first to fish with.

2 pennyworth of oil spikenord;

2 do. pen. of oil of crane;

2 do. pen. of asp oil;

4 do. pen. of oil anell seed;

2 do. pen. of oil rhodium.

Put it in a botel and keep it milk warm for ten days.

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WEATHER REPORT.

By TELEGRAPH.—FRIDAY, JAN. 13, 10.40 A.M.

DEAL.—W. by W.; moderate; smooth.

DOVER.—W.; moderate.

MARGATE.—W.; smooth.

HASTINGS.—W.; rough.

SOUTHERN.—Friday Morning.—Violent westerly gale, but moderating. Fishing prospects good.—HUSSEY.

MR. J. W. HARRIS presided on Thursday night at the distribution of prizes won in the Windsor competition. The Queen's Arms had quite 200 (recipients and onlookers), when more than eighty prizes were awarded. "Ben" says visitors came from all parts—High Wycombe, Staines, Tottenham, Sunbury, Eton, Windsor, &c.; and he wishes here publicly to thank all those who have assisted in augmenting the funds of the A.B.S. Mr. J. Gibson (an amateur) lent his unique collection for the evening—plaster casts of barbel, roach, tench, carp, gold and silver fish, &c.—and needless to say, they were much admired. A committee meeting is announced for Thursday evening next, Jan. 19.

A ROACH competition in connection with the Kingston Piscatorial Society will be held in the Thames on Jan. 15 and 16. Only one rod allowed. Prizes will be awarded for the two heaviest fish. No professional fisherman to assist. Members may fish on one day only, and must intimate which to the hon. secretary, in writing, prior to the commencement of the competition. Weigh-in at the Sun Hotel between 8 and 9 p.m. each day.

ANGLING visitors to the pretty neighbourhood of Llanymynech occasionally find out to their sorrow how very rapidly the river Vyrnwy overflows its banks after heavy rain, especially when the rain is accompanied by a strong gale of wind from the south-west. Many anglers have arrived there overnight in expectation of good sport on the morrow, but next morning have been astonished to find the river, which on their arrival was only slightly swollen, had in that short space of time risen to about a mile in width. It, however, subsides nearly as quickly, and anglers have not long to wait for it to get again into condition. These sudden floods during the night have to be guarded against by the farmers, and a short time ago one of these—a fresh arrival—lost several valuable cattle, which were drowned and carried away before the morning. The village itself, although near to the river, stands on an elevation, and is not in the least affected by these sudden inundations.

Prince Albert Angling Society. Prince Albert Hotel, Woodfield-road, Harrow-road, W.—On Jan. 8 the following weighed in: Messrs. W. Fayers, a good show of roach (largest 1lb. 7½oz.); Derry, roach and dace; Grimwood, roach; and P. Britten, roach. Members are requested to attend on Thursday next, to arrange for next outing.—W. B. F.

Prince of Wales' Angling Society. Windsor Castle, Church-street, Edgware-road.—There was a capital show of roach and dace placed on the trays on Jan. 8 by Messrs. Robins, Wheeler, Haynes, Clist, and Whitford. Our return visit takes place on Monday next, when I shall be pleased to see old faces. Secretaries not receiving a post-card will they kindly accept this as an invitation. Members do not forget the match at Bourne End on the 22nd.—W. B.

Queen's Piscatorials. Queen's Arms, 1A, Chapel-street, Edgware-road, N.W.—On the 8th inst. the following weighed in: W. Shepherd, J. Winsby, and C. Brett. The concert in aid of the A.B. Fund, on the 9th, was not the success that might have been anticipated, considering the cause. Still, the talent was very good, and those who did attend enjoyed themselves.—GEO. KEENE.

Royal George Angling Society. Queen's Arms Hotel, Bateman-street, W.—On Jan. 8 the following members returned with fish, viz.: Messrs. Davis and Bardot. The former gentleman showed an excellent tray of roach from the Upper Thames. Will members please attend next meeting night, to discuss the desirability of an outing?—J. GIBBONS.

Royal Oak Angling Society. Coborn Arms, Coborn-road, Bow.—On Jan. 8 the following had fish: Mr. G. Williams, roach; F. Pignatelli, perch. On Jan. 22 we fish a match (go where the members like on the morning) for six prizes; gross weight of all fish.—F. PIGNATELLI.

Seymour Brothers' Angling Society. King and Queen, 1, Foley-street, Fitzroy-square, W.—On Jan. 8 the following weighed in, viz.: Messrs. W. North, roach and bream, 15lb. 7oz.; G. Campbell, roach, 13lb. 13oz.; C. Smith, sen., roach, 5lb. 4oz.; B. Smith, roach, 5lb. 14oz.; S. King, roach, 1lb. 3oz.; and W. Aldis, jack, 6lb. 15oz. Our next outing will take place on Feb. 12, to Goring.—W. ALDIS.

Silver Trout Angling Society. Bedford Head, Maiden-lane.—On Jan. 8 Mr. Fletcher weighed in roach; Mr. R. Smith also had a nice show of roach, 7½lb., the largest just on 1lb.—PELICAN.

South London United Anglers' Visiting List.—A return visit on the above list took place on Tuesday last at the Firm and Trine A.S., Prince Regent, Beresford-street, Walworth, when twelve clubs were well represented. The next visit goes to the Battersea Piscatorials, Winstanley Arms, Winstanley-road, Clapham Junction; date next week.—ALF. PAINTER.

Stockwell Angling Society. Old Queen's Head, Stockwell, S.W.—Mr. F. Parton saved us from a blank last week with roach from the Thames. At our last meeting we made another new member, Mr. Parton, sen. An arrangement has been made for an outing on Jan. 15, at Teddington; 9.10 train from Vauxhall.—THOS. LUCAS.

Stratford Angling Society. Dorset Arms, Leyton-road, Stratford New Town, E.—We had a good show of fish on the 8th inst., contributed by the following members: Messrs. J. Grande, roach and dace; T. Sandilands, roach; F. Bates, roach; and F. Humphres, roach. Other members were out, but arrived home too late.—G. F. WEAVER.

Sundall Angling Society. Plough and Harrow, King-street, Hammersmith, W.—During the past week several of our members have been out, Mr. Parker having 13lb. 5½oz. of roach and jack (largest roach, 15½oz.; largest jack, 4lb. 11½oz.); Mr. Holt, roach and dace, 2lb. 3½oz.; Mr. Burnham, one jack, 4lb. 11oz. Members are requested to attend meeting next Tuesday, to arrange for an outing and other important business. The balance-sheet for the half-year was read, showing the club to be in a sound position.—C. E. LOCK.

United Brothers' Angling Society. Druid's Head Tavern, Deptford.—Several members were out on Jan. 8, but returned with blanks. The members will fish a match on the Lea on Jan. 22 for several money prizes and given prizes.—H. TYLER.

Victoria Brothers' Angling Society. Princess Victoria, Robert-street, Hampstead-road, N.W.—On Jan. 8 Messrs. J. Toothill, roach; W. Toothill, roach and perch; and F. Griffith, roach (a splendid show). Owing to resignation of Mr. Hooper, the post of secretary is filled by W. H. Bonfiller; J. Toothill, chairman.—W. H. B.

Waggoners' Angling Society. White Lion, Albert Embankment.—Since my last report we have had some fine shows of fish on our trays, contributed by the following members: Messrs. Clegg, G. Clayton, Allan, W. Powell, C. Pitts. On Jan. 8 Mr. Allan, roach and dace; Mr. Clegg, roach. I wish to remind members that the arrangements take place on Tuesday next for our next match. Members wishing to compete must bring themselves within limits.—H. C.

Walham Green and Chelsea Angling Society. Black Bull, Fulham-road, S.W.—Our meeting of the 11th was well attended. A new member was added to our roll. On Jan. 8 three members weighed in: Mr. Alder, a fine chub; Mr. Dungey, the heaviest roach of the season, 1lb. 13½oz.; Mr. Brixey, a brace of jack. I hope members will not forget our outing on Feb. 5. Mr. Sntehall is still unable to attend to his duties.—W. BATCHELOR.

Wellington Angling Society. Prince George, Hillingdon-street, S.E.—The result of our January competition at Datchett was Mr. Papworth first, with chub and dace; Mr. F. Westoby second, with dace and gudgeon; Mr. J. Westoby third, with dace. Members will please muster in force next Tuesday, as we have a lot of business to do before the close of the season.—F. WESTOBY.

them. Also that he has caught with his hands 500lb. of fish in one day. He feels carefully under stones and hauls out the fishes, sometimes going into water 10ft. deep, and when the fishes are not too large catching several before coming to the surface. He claims he has caught large numbers of snapping turtles by hand, by being very careful in his movements."

"B. F. MEEK," says the *American F. G.*, "known to fishermen throughout the United States and England as the inventor and manufacturer of the Frankfort reel, still works in his shop in Louisville, though more than eighty years of age."

"THE sea cucumber, one of the curious jelly bodies that inhabit the ocean, can practically efface itself when in danger by squeezing the water out of its body and forcing itself into a narrow crack so as not to be visible to the naked eye."

"SOME curious statistics have been lately worked out by a well-known scientific man as to the amount of salt held in solution by the oceans of the world. He reckons that 90,000,000,000,000 tons of salt exist in the water. These figures, of course, convey no impression, but it would be enough to cover all the land of the earth with a solid layer of salt 1000ft. thick."

An important paper by Mr. Walter Garstang, M.A., F.Z.S., the naturalist in charge of the Fishery Investigations of the Marine Biological Association, appears in the last number of the journal of that association, issued in November. It occupies sixty pages, and deals most exhaustively with the racial differences of *Scomber scomber*. The American form of this fish differs very considerably from those found in European waters; but, though constituting distinct varieties or races, there is no reason to doubt their specific identity. The establishment of geographical or local races of mackerel settle several disputed points concerning the migration of this fish. It is proved that the mackerel does not make long migrations, as once thought. Neither does it cross the Atlantic. There seems to be little doubt that the varieties found in the Irish seas do not wander in winter far from their summer haunts. The North Sea fish of this species appear to winter in the English Channel, returning northward in spring.

The individual who went fishing and went to sleep instead and caught a wild duck is well known to readers of the *F. G.* Well, a *Scraps* artist has discovered a companion for him. Poddles went rabbit shooting, but got no sport. "How they will laugh at me at home," he dolefully reflected. For consolation he called in at the Blue Pig, had a big drink, and got fuddled. In a dazed condition he was struck by what he considered a very happy thought. "Why not buy some game and say he shot it himself?" Dabbs, the fishmonger's shop, is handy. Done! "See the conquering hero comes"—with three whiting suspended from the barrels of his breechloader.

A CORRESPONDENT writes: "Fish, who not only need sleep like other creatures, but yawn when drowsy, and exhibit quite recognisable signs of somnolence, sometimes seek a quiet chamber to slumber in. This is obvious to any one who will watch the behaviour of certain rock-haunting species at a good aquarium. The lump suckers, conger eels, and rockfish will retire into a cave in the grotto provided for them, and there go fast asleep; though as their eyes are open their 'exposition of sleep' is only proved by the absence of movement, and neglect of any food which comes in their reach, and pike are easily snared when asleep."

"THE famous Roman bath," says the *Daily Mail*, "situated in the very midst of the city of Bath, and half enclosed from the outer air, is stocked with Chinese carp (the English gold and silver fish). Recently it was discovered that the fish which ornament the silent pool were diminishing, and the robber was found to be a kingfisher. Apparently he found the fish very tasty, for quite fifty have been carried away, and as the only means of stopping the robberies the bird was shot by an attendant. There are no local precedents for a kingfisher invading the busy haunts of man."

The following is sent by Mr. E. Tod (of Brighton), and it appeared in the *Brighton Standard*. "This morning my wife and I went out for a couple of hours' fishing in the boat *Little Willie*. We fished a spot about half a mile due south of the pier, where I was fortunate enough to hook, and, after a good twenty minutes' tussle, to land a fine codling (or should I say codfish) weighing 22lb. The fish measured 45in. from the tip of snout to tail. I was using an ordinary jack rod with fine tackle, and the bait I used was a piece of sprat. This was, strangely enough, the extent of our catch. The catch was weighed in the fishmonger's shop at the bottom of Preston-street, Mr. Ingarfield's, and the measurements were taken by Mrs. Montague, with whom I am spending a short visit. Should you think this of sufficient interest to those of your readers who are fond of fishing, I would be very pleased if you would kindly insert the same in your up-to-date newspaper.—J. A. H. SPOFFORTH."

THE Earlsfield Angling Society have arranged another outing for Jan. 15, from Chertsey Weir to Shepperton Weir; all fish to weigh.

THE newspaper man is popularly supposed "to know everything," and to be able to answer off hand the most abstruse questions on any subject from cookery to cock-fighting, but I confess a question which comes to hand this week is one too many for me. "Dear Drag," writes a correspondent, "why is the speed of a ship measured in knots?" I can only reply, "My dear sir, I do not know, but I suppose it is something to do with the tied." See?

HERE is another sample of what I have to put up with. A friend, whom I have hitherto considered fairly sane, writes: "When is a fish like a door? When it's a char." I am sure I have every reader's sympathy when I raise the corner of the curtain and show them a few of the trials which are bringing premature "balditude" upon me.

I do not know whether "other people's" barometers have gone wrong; at any rate, mine has got into such a mendacious condition that it could give even a gas meter a long start and a beating at bare-faced ntruths. It goes up, and we have a gale and much rain; it tumbles down as quickly as a pantomime policeman on a buttered slide, and forthwith we have a lovely day. I have given it notice that I provide it with board and lodging to tell me what the weather is going to be to-morrow when I want to go a-fishing. I can give a vague guess at what the day before yesterday's weather was without assistance, and that unless in future it tells "the truth, the whole truth, and nothing but the truth" (as head of the family, I can do all the lying that is necessary in my establishment myself), I shall sell it and buy a new one with part of the money.

OUR F. G. ALBUM OF ANGLERS.

No. 32 (New Series).



THE LATE MR. JOSEPH DUCK.
(See page 16.)

LORD BEACONSFIELD once called Southend "the Riviera of England." The other day when business took me there, Lord Beaconsfield's remark was fully justified, the weather was superb, and a large number of visitors were on the front listening to the newly-established town band. I wore the Queen's uniform for a good many years, so I fancy myself somewhat of a connoisseur in bands, and I am pleased to say the way in which they played would do credit to any regiment in the service.

Palmas qui meruit ferat. The excellence of this band is due in a very large measure, if not entirely, to the indefatigable exertions of Bandmaster Stevens. That he is not quite a beginner at the game is evidenced by his wearing the Afghan medals, and, above all, by that little bronze star, with its rainbow ribbon, rare even in the army, which tells all the world that friend Stevens was one of the handful of heroes who accompanied General Roberts on his never-to-be-forgotten march from Cabul to Candahar. A good fisherman is my friend, but, as he pathetically remarked, "You know, Dragnet, I have my hands so full now that even fishing has to take a back seat." I can quite believe it. The band fills a long felt want in the town, and it should receive the best of support from visitors and residents alike.

I HAVE recently come across a very old catalogue of Black Letter Ballads, temp. Elizabeth, and many of them are on most interesting subjects. No. XXIII. is entitled "The true description of the marvellous strange Fishes, which was taken on Thursday was sennight, the 16 day of June, this present month in the yeare of our Lord God 1568." Imprinted at London in Fleetstreet, beneath the

conduit, at the Signe of Saint John Evangelist, by Thomas Colwell. This is the identical ballad "of a fish" referred to by Autolycus as forming an item in his multifarious pack (see "Winter's Tale," Act IV., Scene 3). Autolycus was evidently an adept at fishing tales, but, of course, a little latitude must be allowed him in his anxiety to sell his wares.

AND then, of course, there is poetical licence to be taken into account; but there were, no doubt, wonderful fishes in those days, as Stow, the chronicler (to whom poetical licence cannot be allowed), says in his "Annales": "On the 11 of October (1568) were taken in Suffolk, at Downam bridge, neere unto Ipswich, eightene monstrous fishes, some of them containing eight and twentie foote in length, the other 24 or 21 foote in length at the least."

PERHAPS some do not know what 'poetical licence' is. I will tell them.

"Poetical licence means should he want it he Does what he likes with fact, grammar, and quantity."

MR. H. TISLEY sends the following: "Many anglers will hear with regret of the disappearance of a (to them) familiar figure in the person of J. Garne, who has for many years past been connected with the Higham Hill Fishery, who died on Monday afternoon last, after a painful illness of several months duration."

ANOTHER relic of ancient London—the old house, No. 17, Fleet-street, now in the occupation of Mr. John Carter, the hairdresser—will disappear in a few days. It is known as the old Palace of Henry VIII., and was built by command of Cardinal Wolsey. Workmen have begun pulling down the house. It is to be rebuilt by Mr. Carter, who proposes to turn the place into one of the finest saloons in London. The most interesting room in the house is on the first floor. It is gorgeously decorated, and contains some very valuable specimens of antique carving. In this room Henry VIII. and Wolsey met on several occasions, and there is still the chair in which the cardinal sat.

A SMOKING concert in aid of the Rivers' Preservation Fund (a most worthy object) will be given by the members and friends of the Crown and Buckland Piscatorial Society, on Monday evening, Jan. 23, commencing at eight sharp. Ladies are specially invited to be present.

"WILLIE JONES," said Mr. Grimface, the schoolmaster, sternly, "I am very much afraid from your behaviour you wish me to chastise you. Do you remember the old precept beginning, 'Spare the rod?' " "Yessir," said Willie. "Spare the rod and lose the fish."

ONE of the London daily newspapers is fast gaining notoriety for the frequency of its misprints, and appears to be possessed of a printer's devil of more than ordinary industry and ingenuity in the bad cause. His latest specimen is describing the effects of an explosion of gas at Coombe, in which "Three young people were knocked down, and all of them were very badly burnt about the servant's hall, which, like the other rooms, had the flesh torn off her face, and her eyes have been so badly injured that it is feared she may be rendered totally blind." It must indeed have been a very serious explosion to confuse things in this most extraordinary manner.

THE following oddities among many others reached a Vienna editorial office in 1898 (says the *Daily Telegraph's* Vienna correspondent): "The post-mortem examination showed that the unfortunate girl was a teacher's daughter."—"When the housemaid entered the bedroom at the usual hour she found her master already a corpse. Soon afterwards he withdrew altogether from the political arena."—"The gas-lamps, which at this time were not yet lighted, made the streets appear still darker."—"Death trod with rough hand this tender blossom."—"Upon the grave stood a cross rusted by the tooth of Time."—"The laurel wreath upon the head of Mr. Reimers has hit the right nail on the head."—"The new political current failed to take root in this district."—"The happy moment is not always seized to grasp the wheel of Time by the forelock."

"NEAR the child lay an old man standing by the edge of the grave."—"In this question the steps of the Government go hand in hand with the manufacturers."—"The hinges on which this affair turns are too transparent."—"When the doctor arrived he found the platform covered with blood—the passenger had been bruised on the forehead."—"Grüenthal was born at Schladen in 1853, and up to this time had been unknown to the police."—"Amid tears and sobs the coffin was lowered. The priest had opened an umbrella."—"The hall divided itself into two parties."—"Cupid's arrow flew from one end of the hall to the other, and lodged in the heart of a visitor, the butcher's apprentice, lodging at Emanuel Schwarz, No. 20, Johanna-street."—"So he hurried away, the cowardly murderer, with Cain's mark upon his brow, pursued by the Eumenides and two police constables."—"It is a unique specimen, of which an example is to be seen at the exhibition."

ONE of the leading officers with Kitchener in his Sudan campaign was Major Edward Stuart Wortley, who commanded the Arab irregular forces. He has written for the *January Scribner's* a stirring account of the operations carried out on the east bank of the Nile. DRAGNET.

PISCATORIAL SOCIETY.

ON Monday evening Dr. Chas. S. Patterson delivered a lecture to a large gathering of members (Mr. E. McFee presiding) on "Flat Fish." It is needless to say that the doctor gave an exhaustive and clear relation of the formation, development, life history, and peculiarities of the best known flat fish, telling his hearers at the same time the principal food on which they thrived, the best baits with which to catch them, and other interesting particulars too numerous to refer to in a *resumé* of a paper filled every line of it with matter demanding careful and attentive study. The flat fish dealt with were the most popular examples contained in the two great groups, viz., those with jaws equal and those with jaws unequal—those which have the eyes on the right side, and those which have them on the left side of the head. The fish referred to in the first category included the halibut, long rough dab, turbot, brill, Eckstrom's topknot, the sail fluke, and megrim, which are all distinct from the second group comprising the sole, flounder, dab, and plaice, which latter class was also fully dealt with. The peculiar construction of the jaw was explained, both technically and in a manner likewise easily understood by the non-scientific portion of the audience, by means of diagrams which the lecturer exhibited. The differences and similarities between the various forms were pointed out. The halibut, Dr. Patterson mentioned, was taken at great depths by long lines. It was not common on the south coast, but numerous in the north and off the Irish coast. It was most voracious, attacking almost anything that presented itself to it. As food it was excellent, and the species ran up to 100lb. and over in weight. The long rough dab was like a small turbot, but was distinguished from it by having fewer rays in the back fin. The turbot ("the pheasant of the water") was of a tabby shape. The position of the eye varied with the age of the fish. It grew at the rate of 1lb. per annum. The best bait for it was lamprey, which was extensively used by English and Dutch fishermen. It was highly esteemed as food, and the average weight was from 4lb. to 8lb., but specimens of tremendous weights—44lb. and above—had been recorded. The brill resembled the turbot in every other particular except that the front of the back fin was not sloped down as in the latter, but stuck up like a cockscomb. This also was good eating. The sail fluke, at certain seasons, rose to the surface of the water, curled up its tail, and got blown ashore. It was peculiar for its large eyes. In the second group of flat fish, those with unequal jaws, were flounders and plaice, in which they frequently found both right and left-sided specimens. Indeed, the doctor himself one day caught a brace of flounders of the same weight exactly in the same water, one being right and the other left-eyed. The flounder was the best known of all the flounder-plaice group, and it was interesting to know that a movement was now on foot to arrest inshore trawling during the summer months for the reason that the young flounders, plaice, and dabs sought the bottom about the middle of May, and remained in their territorial waters until August on the sand. The trawls sweeping through the water destroyed the young stock fish, which were really going to form the food of millions in years to come. If this trawling was stopped during the months referred to, the tiny fish would migrate at the end of August, grow, and become takable fish. It was mentioned that twenty tons of these mites were condemned last August at Billingsgate Market, the average length being not more than 2in. The flounder would take almost any bait, including even a dry fly, for Mr. Harden had actually caught one while fly fishing for trout! The doctor warned his hearers that flounders taken at the mouth of the Thames, if not cleaned as soon as they were killed, would be positively dangerous to eat. In weight, flounders did not exceed 4lb. The largest plaice came now from the Icelandic coast, and were mainly taken by trawling. Mr. Chas. Hussey had seen specimens of 13lb. at Farringdon Market, while a 14-pounder had been shown at Billingsgate. The dab and sole were next dealt with, instructions being given how to tell the true sole from the lemon sole. Dr. Patterson decried the eating of "slips." People consumed these immature soles, and to save their conscience called them slips. He would make it illegal to kill soles under 8in. or 9in. long. Soles were, of course, mainly captured trawling, but good specimens had been taken on very small hooks on the south coast by long lines. Allusion was made to the introduction of soles into Scotch waters as showing how sea fish even could be acclimatised. The variegated sole and the solonette had a word said about them, and in conclusion the doctor urged that if everyone would go into the study of fish as a plaything or for amusement, it would help them to add to the pleasure of their sport. An interesting discussion followed, after which a cordial vote of thanks was passed to Dr. Patterson for his able and valuable paper. The annual meeting of the society will take place on Monday next, the 16th inst., at 8 p.m. Amongst other important business to be transacted is the question of the acquisition of further trout and coarse fishing.

M. G. E. DE C.

BRITISH SEA ANGLERS' SOCIETY.

MR. BRIDGMAN chairman. Mr. C. Handley reported poor sport at Southend. Mr. Wood reported excellent sport at Deal, having during a fortnight, on Jan. 4, four score whiting, several 1½lb., one 2lb., four cod, best 7½lb. Thursday, Jan. 5, a good quantity of whiting, nurse dogs, and dabs; with Major Gordon, Mr. Zaehnsdorf, and Cook (boatman), fourteen score whiting, three cod (about 6lb. and 7½lb.), a dab of 1½lb., and one nurse dog. Mr. Mallett, twelve score of whiting and three codling, largest about 5lb. Mr. Davis and brother, seven and a half score whiting and two cod, 7lb. and 8lb. Mr. Edwards reported four good days, the best fifteen score whiting and seven

cod, of good size. Mr. Moore, fishing with Mr. Humphreys, took nine score whiting, four nurse dogs, and five codling, largest 5lb. Mr. Bridgman gave some useful information as to the preservation of lugworms and mussels. Mr. Edwards mentioned a letter in the *Angler* on the same subject. Mr. Parker gave his opinions on the preservation of bait. Mr. Clarke showed a sample of wire line, which he stated to be very flexible, rustless, and strong. An interesting discussion followed on the advantages of large pulleys, particularly for wire lines, and on the different effects of dressing lines according to their construction. The usual vote of thanks to the chairman closed the meeting.

H. J. MOORE (pro. Sec.).

GRESHAM ANGLING SOCIETY.

AT our usual weekly meeting, on Jan. 10, Dr. Brunton occupied the chair. The auditor for 1898 accounts was duly appointed—a well known C.A. Five gentlemen were nominated for membership, which bids well for the coming season. Mr. Davies reported that he had, in company with Messrs. Close and Marshall, visited the society's waters at Chesham. The springs were running, and a good head of fish seen. The arrangements for looking after and preserving our trout are in good hands. Many trout have already been secured from the ditches and transferred to our own waters. We hope, in the next two or three months, to place several thousand trout ova in the waters, from which they will no doubt benefit. Mr. Hatton reported roach from Kelvedon on several occasions lately. The waters there are in splendid condition just now. Mr. Eldred reported fish from Kelvedon. Mr. H. Short had a good take of roach from the Lea this week; weight, over 20lb. Dr. Brunton, from Deal, with a friend, cod, six dog fish, and nine and a half score of whiting, in two and a half hours' fishing. Mr. James Tayler ("Red Palmer") will read a paper next Tuesday before the members, entitled "Rain and Rivers." I hope to see a good attendance, as every member well knows the character of the papers read previously by him. I should also be pleased to see any visitors, who are always welcomed at any of our meetings. The programme for the forthcoming year is now being prepared, and I should be glad of suggestions for the improvement of same from any member. The programme will include maps of our waters at Kelvedon and Chesham, which are being very carefully prepared by Mr. J. Lund, one of our members. The usual toasts and hearty vote of thanks to the chair concluded the proceedings. ALEX. WRIGHT, Hon. Sec.

WARRINGTON ANGLERS' ASSOCIATION.

THE annual meeting was held on Thursday evening last, at the Roebuck Hotel. There was a crowded attendance, Mr. J. Lyon Whittle presiding. The secretary reported as follows: "We may congratulate ourselves on our continued prosperity, and last year we enrolled eighty-nine new members. With reference to the river Gowey the weed cutting was repeated in the spring, but as regards the fishing results during the past year, we can only say that, with the exception of one or two brief flashes of favourable sport having been had, the results have been practically blank. As regards our Lymm water, discouraging accounts were reported at the beginning of the season, but with the latter portion of the year better things have prevailed, and catches made up to 11lb. The Old Quay Canal at Walton Arches continues in good condition. The further stocking will be continued as opportunity offers, and it is hoped that all members will render what assistance they can in this direction. It is expected that the Canal will be opened for general angling after the spawning time this year. The angling contests of the past season were fairly successful. We should like to see a large number of the members taking part in them, thereby showing their appreciation of the efforts of the committee in arranging these competitions. In future contests, every member must provide himself with the means of keeping all undersized fish alive (to be returned to the water after weighing). The conditions for free fishing in the Shropshire Union Canal has been maintained by the payment of the fees by the Provincial Anglers' Association. There has been established during the last quarter what is termed the Warrington Anglers' Supplementary Fund, the objects of which are to effect a complete federation of all anglers in the district. A juvenile branch has also been established. The income has been £105 6s. 7½d., and the expenditure, £95 9s. 5d. Mr. E. M. Grosfield was re-elected president, Mr. Peter Knight as secretary, Mr. F. J. Emson as assistant secretary, Mr. Alf. Taylor as secretary of the Benevolent Fund, and Mr. A. Cook as treasurer. The committee elected were as follows: Messrs. J. Lyon Whittle, James Bancroft, J. G. Bailey, Charles Mather, Henry Kent, Alfred Taylor, Thomas Boscow, Thomas Nixon, James Reynolds, John Mawson, James Mayhall, W. H. Proud, Ed. Gilbert, and Joseph Podmore.

FRED. J. EMSON.

NEW PISCATORIAL PATENTS.

THE following particulars are compiled by Messrs. Hughes and Young, Patent Agents, 55 and 56, Chancery-lane, London, W.C.

26,772. Alexander Melville Clark, Chancery-lane, London. Improvements in fishing reels.

27,217. Samuel Alcock, Standard Works, Redditch. Improved fish hook.

27,313. John Thomas Chippindale, Clifton-terrace, Otley, Yorkshire, relates to improvements in instruments used by anglers.

27,565. Thomas Evans, Colmore-row, Birmingham, relates to a new or improved fishing-rod holder or rest.

Notes from the North.

THE angling season opened in the far north under more favourable auspices than has been experienced for many years back, last year excepted. It is often weeks after the advent of the season before a line can be got out for frost and snow, and only some four seasons ago no less than five trains were embedded in snowdrifts on the Highland and Great North systems at this very time. May the most be made of present favourable opportunities.

The Aberdeen Town Council Sewage Committee have been asked for and granted the necessary guarantee that their operations to purify the Dee of pollution will not in any way interfere with the hatchery now being erected by the Fishery Board for Scotland at Nigg.

An heir was born to the Elchies estates the other day. As this is one of the best sporting and angling properties on Speyside, we may confidently hail the birth of another rodsman, and hope that in the future laird, as in the present, the angling interests of the Spey will occupy a chief place in his attention to estate management.

A huge bonfire welcomed the advent of the little stranger to the fireside of Mr. J. W. Grant, of Wester-Elchies. Mrs. Grant is a daughter of Lord Justice Smith, of the Supreme Court.

A sharp snowstorm was experienced over the middle range of the Grampians last week. Cnrlers were out in force in Braemar and Strathdon. The harder the weather the better just now, as the rivers and streams have been running mountains too high for weeks back.

Caskielean House, Donside, was totally destroyed by fire on Saturday morning, and the Hon. Mrs. Pirie and children had to flee from the burning building. Mr. Vernon Pirie, M.P., and family were in residence at the time, and the hon. member did all one mortal man could do, but it was of no avail. Mr. Pirie is a keen sportsman, as well as an energetic and enthusiastic M.P. His loss is about £300, chiefly in private effects. He was able to save the most of his effects, including some valuable guns, fishing tackle, and salmon rods. He only rented the house.

News was received in Dundee last week of the death of Mr. J. M. Keiller, of Mooven, Deeside. He died on board his yacht on a cruise to the West Indies for his health. His palatial residence on Craigendaroch, overlooking his famous stretch of the Dee, was only completed at great cost a year or so ago. He was next neighbour to the Queen on the north side of the Dee and an ardent and enthusiastic angler.

An old claim of some thirty years standing for foreshore rights on the estuary of the Dee was settled the other day, when the money lodged in court by the Harbour Board was uplifted.

On the occasion of the marriage of Miss Leith Hay, niece of Colonel Leith Hay, of Leith Hall, to Capt. M'Alpine, R.N., the servants on the Leith Hall estate were entertained to dinner yesterday by Colonel Leith Hay and Mr. Leith Hay. The function took place at four o'clock in the afternoon at the Home Farm, the dairy of which was converted for the nonce into a dining hall.

Mr. D. Smith, Feughside Inn, Banchory, has the letting of the famous Upper Blackhall Dee water for the months of May, June, and July, and is open to treat for any or all of these months. SPECIAL SCOTCH.

Provincial Notes

FROM BIRMINGHAM AND DISTRICT.

The last meeting of the old committee of the Birmingham Association was held on Thursday evening, Jan. 5, at the headquarters. Mr. T. Coles presided, and Mr. J. A. Dance occupied the vice-chair. The president, in opening the meeting, spoke of the harmony that had existed during the past twelve months of the committee, and hoped that the same good feeling would exist with the new committee. The progress of the association had been marked by a great increase of members, and the financial position was all that could be desired. He concluded his remarks by wishing all a prosperous New Year. There were two applications for affiliation. The first taken was that of the Invincible Society, which hold their club in Holloway Head. Opposition was raised by the St. Thomas's Club, and as the accommodation at the house was not suitable for a club the application was refused. Messrs. Coles and Hughes gave in a report of their visit to the Handsworth A.B.S. Society. This club is in connection with the Boulton-road adult schools. The report was of a flattering description, as several gentlemen of local standing were the promoters of the society. The club had thirty fully-paid members on their book, who intended to rent water for their private use. The club was admitted. The third application was that of the Hope and Anchor Society, held at the Hope and Anchor, New Canal-street. Messrs. Coles and Hopwood, as the appointed visitors, gave in their report. This club consisted of about fifty fully-paid

aggregate in the matches during the past season; also a silver teapot for the heaviest bream; Mr. R. H. Barlow being the recipient of the society's gold medal for most points during 1898. The annual dinner will be held at headquarters on the 25th instant. Much regret was felt by the delegates attending at the first council meeting this year of the Hull Amalgamated Anglers' Association owing to the resignation of the president, Mr. W. H. Barker, through pressure of business, who has so ably conducted the business of the association with untiring efforts during the past four years.

FROM LANCASHIRE.

The Central Anglers' Association lately organised in Liverpool is shaping well for soon becoming one of the most useful and successful societies in this city. The present headquarters are convenient, and no doubt will be permanent. Already suitable waters have been secured, and more are being negotiated for. The new society at Failsworth, known as the Anglers' Rest A.S., is progressing, the roll call amounting to forty-five, and more on nomination. Mr. F. Wilkinson, Oldham, has joined the gallant band who are devoting a lot of attention to Hornsea Mere, and although rather late on the scene, and somewhat after the best season, he has already grassed some fine fish. The County Palatine Angling Association, on the 9th received another fine lot of fish for their waters at Irlam and Cadishead. They consisted principally of roach, but included were a lot of large tench and bream some lbs. in weight. The Openshaw, Bradford and Clayton Angling Society are noted for an important meeting on the 18th at headquarters, an urgent, which has been sent out for a full muster; new members are rolling in. Stocking is rather a strong item this week; amongst others actively engaged, and in addition to the County Palatine Angling Association already noted, are the Kingfishers, Moss Side Socials, Buckland, and Levenshulme Angling Societies, and the Worsley Canal Fishery.

FROM MANCHESTER.

The Kingfisher Angling Society, Salford, held their annual dinner and business meeting at headquarters, Mr. Rouse's Temperance Hotel, on Tuesday evening last, 10th. A most excellent spread was done full justice to, after which the treasurer, Mr. B. J. Pickering, presented the balance sheet, which being of a very satisfactory character met with the ready approval of the meeting. The executive for the ensuing year is as follows (all re-elected): President, Mr. Greenhalgh; vice-president, Mr. Constable; secretary, Mr. Prescott; treasurer, Mr. Pickering; librarian, Mr. Prescott, jun.; committee, Messrs. Greenhalgh, Constable, and Pickers; auditor, Mr. Hodgkinson. The business being disposed of, a most enjoyable evening was spent, vocal and instrumental music being rendered by the members. News is to hand of "The Good Intent Angling Society," a club recently started, with present headquarters situate at 455, Rochdale-road, Manchester. The roll call already contains the names of several energetic piscators, and judging by the name given the society by its founders, there is some good work before them in the near future. The annual meeting of the Moss Side Socials was held on the 9th. The results of the past year are satisfactory in every way. The following is the new executive: Hon. president, Dr. Obapman; hon. vice-presidents, Councillor Sargeantson and Mr. A. Barnett; chairman, Mr. Harkness; vice-chairman, Mr. E. Tate; treasurer, Mr. Lattimer; secretary, Mr. Leigh; assistant-secretary, Mr. W. C. Hawkins; crnators, Messrs. J. Hammond, T. Cain, W. Ferguson, H. F. Jenkins; committee, Messrs. E. Roberts, J. Lund, W. Taylor, J. Bartley, G. Thornton, and J. Reavey; auditors, Messrs. A. Ormrod and J. Fisher; delegates, Messrs. W. A. Leigh and J. Birch. Last Tuesday 300 grand fish, averaging 1lb., were turned into their private waters, and there are 700 more to come.

FROM NOTTINGHAM.

The Trent has been falling and improving in colour, and, compared with the previous week, a larger number of anglers have visited the various reaches of the river. Sport has not, however, been over good. At Sbardlow, on the 5th, Mr. W. Gregory, of the Wellington Society, caught a brace of pike; and on Monday two or three fish were killed by Mr. F. Baker, of the same body. On Tuesday eight members and friends were out, and, although the morning turned out wet, the sun subsequently broke through, and an enjoyable afternoon was spent. Seven fish were run and landed. Mr. Harry Spray (hon. sec.) took two, Mr. T. Large had two, and Mr. F. J. Lindley secured three—all with the live bait. Coarse fishing has claimed few votaries at Sbardlow for weeks, but the period is fast arriving when the big roach, with which certain parts of the water abound, will doubtless be tempted to take the worm—the cockspur. A substantial bag of fine chub has been made at Holme Pierrepont, and there has been more doing amongst roach and small bream at Wilford, Clifton, and Beeston Bend. Pike have come from Kelham, and on Tuesday an encouraging haul was made at Stoke Bardolph. Hundreds of lamprey eels have been caught in the nets near the Rectory at Colwick. This season the fish have been most abundant, but they do not fetch the price of a few years ago. Then they were sent to the east coast, there to be used as bait for capturing cod.

FROM SHEFFIELD.

The past week has witnessed an improvement in the conditions for angling, but still the weather has not been of a most suitable description for outdoor pursuits, there having been too many heavy rainstorms to render the lot of the angler very comfortable. With such heavy falls of rain the natural consequence has been that most of the rivers have been running bank high, therefore rendering fishing nearly impossible. The Fen district has, how-

ever, been extensively patronised, visitors to the Witham turning up in large numbers. At Bardney some capital sport amongst roach has been obtained by the Lincoln anglers, of whom there has been a good many out. Special attention has been paid to the Sincil Dyke, and with worms as bait some very satisfactory takes of roach have been recorded, fish averaging in many cases 1lb. each, whilst a few heavier ones have also been caught. The middle reaches of the Witham have lately attracted more anglers to them, and during the past week or so there has not been much to complain about with regard to roach fishing, worms and yellow paste having proved very alluring baits. The heavy rains have considerably improved the condition of the drains in the Boston district, and the heavy flush of water has also brought about a much needed improvement in the Bain, the flannel weed having been swept away in large quantities from the bottom of the river, thus rendering conditions much better for bottom anglers. Roach have been taken in large numbers, whilst pike anglers have had a much better time than previously. The Wisbech district has also been the happy hunting ground of several Sheffield anglers, roach anglers faring the best, pike anglers doing very little. Very little fishing has been done in the Trent, but when the waters have run down more, anglers are looking forward to a good time amongst the roach. The Chesterfield and Stockwith Canal has yielded some first-class roach. Very little grayling fishing has been had in either the Derwent or the Wye, in consequence of the heavy rains and the attendant rise of the waters.

FROM WORCESTER AND DISTRICT.

Rain, rain, abundance of rain! The earth soddened, and the rivers on the rise again. To-day a great quantity of high coloured water is rolling down the Severn, and I fear it will be some time before either stream will be in fishing condition again. Committee meetings to arrange for coming season, for annual dinners, and the distribution of railway travelling cards is all that is being done among the various clubs, and all hoping for a spell of seasonable weather.

FROM YORK AND DISTRICT.

Mr. W. H. Asford, fishery officer to the North-Eastern Sea Fisheries Committee, will report to that body, on the occasion of the annual meeting in York on the 18th inst., that during the past quarter, through the whole of the district, there has been a considerable increase in the quantities of fish landed, and a corresponding increase in the value thereof. The total quantity of fish landed at the different stations, according to the returns of the Fisheries Department of the Board of Trade, for the district during September, October, and November reached the enormous total of 1,173,293cwt., of the aggregate value (including whelks, deep sea crabs, mussels, oysters, shrimps, and prawns) of £729,161; against 1,000,066cwt., of the value of £674,403, for the corresponding months of 1897. Several of the coast ports and fishing stations have shown increased landings of considerable value, and the fishermen, when the weather has allowed, have at these places landed better takes than have been reported for a long period. Grimsby and Hull, comparatively, show enormous returns, which may be attributed to the very great increase of tonnage put afloat during the year in steam trawlers, with all the latest and improved facilities for the capture of sea fish. During the quarter the usual bitter complaints were made as to the encroachments of steam trawlers, both by the fishermen and the coastguard. In the same period three persons were proceeded against for breaches of the Fisheries Act, 1877, for having in their possession and exposing for sale castor crabs. Local anglers are looking forward with pleasure to the 21st inst., when Capt. Key, a veteran angler, purposes to entertain at one of the hostelries the members of the York and District Amalgamation, of which he is president. Tables are to be laid for 180, and the company will, it is anticipated, include Mr. J. G. Butcher, Q.C., M.P., Lord Charles Beresford's colleague in the representation of the city. Angling generally in the vicinity of York and in the surrounding district, owing mainly to the flooded and discoloured state of the rivers, has not been productive of more than ordinary sport, and this, too, on a very moderate scale.

Correspondence

[We do not hold ourselves responsible for the opinions expressed by our Correspondents.]

"SALMON AND SEA TROUT."

DEAR SIR,—With reference to the illustrations on page 44 of the above work, which I presume are intended to serve as guides to anyone desirous of trying Sir Herbert Maxwell's fishermen's knots, I should like to point out that the left hand knot in fig. 13 is simply ridiculous, and puts one in mind of those ring puzzles. As this double knot appeared to be quite different from what I was accustomed to, I tried to tie it, using the right hand of illustration as a guide, and repeating same with the other end, and the result, if I may venture to criticise, was an extremely clumsy knot. Perhaps some kind reader would kindly illustrate the double fisherman's knot.—Yours truly,
Edinburgh.

[We cannot understand "Bohemian's" difficulty with the illustrations. The left hand knot in fig. 13 is not quite so clear as the right hand, but with the latter as a guide you cannot go wrong. As Sir Herbert Maxwell points out, it is not quite so neat as the single knot, but it is certainly, in our opinion, not extremely clumsy.—Ed.]

ANGLERS' ASSOCIATION NETTING AND RE-STOCKING FUND.

DEAR SIR,—Since my last report I beg to acknowledge receipt of the following amounts:

	£	s.	d.
Waltonian Angling Society	...	...	0 10 0
Good Intent	...	...	1 1 0
Highbury Angling Society	...	...	2 5 0
Yours faithfully,	ALEX. WRIGHT.		

GUT AND THINGS.

SIR,—Death has been here with me, or I should have written sooner. Even now one cannot write very clearly, for the darkness and sorrow flee not quite away with the morning.

I am much pleased to see that the gut question has been taken up, but I sincerely hope the discussion will not be disfigured with any wretched personalities, and that the real point at issue will not be lost sight of or obscured.

Perhaps you will kindly permit me to reiterate this briefly and as lucidly as I can within the limits. In regard to "good" or "bad" gut, there are, I fancy, a few points on which we are all agreed, and which admit of no question. Undrawn gut, for instance, is, other things being equal, better than drawn, because of its firmer and much more durable surface; thick gut is stronger than thin, and therefore, from the point of view of strength being the desideratum, may fairly be called the better, though without prejudice, as the lawyers say. Long strands, too, have their merits over short ones, I suppose; at least, they give fewer knots on the gut collar. Perfectly round gut is obviously superior to that which is flat, or otherwise blemished by attenuations; there may even be something in the straining, while, last of all, gut may be so badly treated by exposure to light, or other prejudicial influences, between its leaving the maker's hands and reaching those of the angler, that it may be good for nothing at all. Now, all this is perfectly plain and simple to the man in the street, and so far we all understand why some gut is and must be dearer than others. Undrawn gut, round gut, thick gut, and so on, are, under certain conditions, the better and more desirable, and as the supply of such is limited, competition arises, and hence big prices confront us, and in some cases quite overwhelm us. But, so far, we know what we are asked to pay the big price for, and if there were no wiseacres and pedants like that friend of mine on whose best corn I dropped that stone weight, I do not think the crucial question at issue would ever have arisen. But he and others like him maintain that over and above all this there is a certain special excellence in the body of the gut fabric itself which helps to swell the price of salmon casts, just as one brand of champagne differs in body from another, or the luscious garden plum from the wild sloe, and I find this conviction is rather widely entertained among anglers. There seems, in fact, to be an impression that certain silkworms are specially bred and reared to produce this *magnum opus* of the trade. They are not only pedigree worms to begin with, but are fed with nectar and myrabolams like Dingdong's sheep during infancy; are lulled into final unconsciousness on golden conches with soft music and lullabies; and are finally "guttled" by bigly-paid experts, lest any of the precious cut matter should be lost or improperly banded. Of course if this were so, no one would feel the slightest wonder at the high price of this specially-bred gut; but the truth is all gut is the same to begin with, just as all oxygen is, and, except where disintegration has set in, the difference between any two strands of gut is simply and solely mechanical, and nothing else under any circumstances whatsoever; and sweeping generalisation like this is, I know, always dangerous, so I shall qualify it as far as I can, though the utmost qualification amounts to very little I fancy. In the very best gut making a few worms will prove over-ripe, and a few under-ripe, but this is a mere trifle. The great body of the gut is sound, and though in the form of countless strands or fibres, which vary in length, stoutness, and even strict outline, is really, if we care so to describe it, one homogeneous mass of substance just as a school-boy's armful of snowballs is. Strictly speaking, therefore, the honest way to sell gut is by the pound, like butter; and were it not that a certain number, and a considerable number too, of salmon anglers will have the very longest and strongest going, it would be so sold; but, as it is, so many men want salmon casts that can haul out a sunken gunboat, and have but few knots on it into the bargain, that competition has driven the very limited supply of this sort of article up to half a sovereign or so each. I do not say this is too dear. Nothing which men desire, perhaps, is too dear if they only pay the lowest price at which it can be procured, and I have not the slightest quarrel with those firms which can only give me their strongest cast at a figure which I certainly consider enormous and prohibitive. What I do demur to is the contention sometimes made that expensive gut, such as this, has any other merit or excellence whatever, except that which is purely mechanical, over that which I buy at 6s. the dozen; and such, sir, is my conviction at present on this point of excellence in gut, and if it is erroneous I shall be very grateful to anyone who will set me right. If, however, I am right, one small question, and perhaps one only, remains to be asked: How is it men to whom money is at all a consideration give 7s. or 8s., or even more, for a casting line? You may say if they want it they can't get it cheaper, but what I want to get at is why do they want it? Some fifteen years ago I returned from India after a sojourn there of several years, and the moment my first annual holidays came around I started to do a little salmon fishing. It was my first experience of the like, and, let me also say, it was glorious. It was in the lovely Erne, near Belleek, but I only had a fortnight of it, nor, indeed, have I been able to manage more than that length at it each year since.

But the first morning I killed four nice grilse inside of an hour and a half, and before my holidays were over had about eighteen fish, and so went back to work in a whirl of delight. But, also, I have never worked since, nor could. Life for me theuenceforth meant killing salmon or thinking about killing them. Next year I went again, but only got one 19-pounder, my best fish on the Erne. But I pushed into the Donegal wilds, and had a few nice little fish before I left. Next followed a few nice Shannon fish, but I never succeeded in turning the corner of 20lb. And so year by year I have done a little, only a very little I admit, as becomes a poor man, and even this last year I managed to bank three small fish, and now the reader will probably ask, what does all this lead to? Well, simply this. I never gave more than 1s. for a salmon cast in my life, and have never been broken once. Of course no salmon cast is sold for 1s., but you must take the thing just as I put it. Call it what you like, but that was the price of it. My 19lb. fish I killed at Roscar. He was a savage brute, yet sulky on occasion, and it took me over half an hour to gaff him. I got him on a shrimp (I love to tell the truth). The 9ft. casting line I got him on cost me exactly 6d. at the stores, and I fished it the following season, too. But, perhaps, no man to whom money is an object ever bought a "fancy" casting line.

I must apologise for the dreadful length of this letter, and shall try to amend in future. I wanted, too, to say something about caddis, but it must wait.—Yours, &c.,

MONA.

[It is necessary to be clear what fly is meant by "May Fly," as the Stone Fly is at times so called. Its larva lives in a case or caddis. But the fly generally understood when "May Fly" is mentioned, one of the Ephemeroidea, has no covering of the kind in its larval state.—Ed.]

BAIT PRESERVATIVE.

SIR,—I see by Mr. Hussey's letter that even the introduction of formalin has not quite settled the preserved bait question. Long ago there were many suggestions in the *Fishing Gazette*, but none seemed to answer thoroughly.

Amongst them was that of glycerine, which, as I remember, was said to be excellent as regards the brightness of the preserved bait, but to render them soft and pulpy.

It occurs to me that this could be got over by the addition of a small quantity of tannin (tannic acid). Of course, this would literally tan the gelatine in the skin, and the firmness could be regulated by the quantity used.

I would make the experiment myself, and then write to you, but I am sorry to say my fishing days are over, through old age and bronchitis.

Perhaps five grains to the ounce would do to begin with, which could be increased if not sufficient. If any reader should try, and succeed, I daresay he would write you telling the quantity which answers best.—Yours truly,

W. P. H.

MATERIAL FOR FLY WINGS.

DEAR SIR,—I would like your opinion on the inclosed sample of material which I am using for wings of trout flies. They have been tried by several influential fishermen in the Lake District, who speak very highly of them. I am having some prepared by Messrs. Alcock for the coming season, and will send you some to try.—I remain, yours truly,

TRANSPARENT.

Barrow-in-Furness.

[Probably our correspondent is not aware that artificial flies have often been made with wings of transparent, thin, tough material like that he sends, but that they do not seem to take with anglers or with fish so well as natural feather wings. Still, the material he sends is more likely to succeed than some of the materials that have been tried. It is soft, pliable, and tough, and of the "blue" (i.e., blue-black) tint common in so many water and land flies.—Ed.]

REGULATION OF FRESH-WATER FISHERIES.

DEAR SIR,—If your correspondent "Lex" will turn to the *Fishing Gazette* for Dec. 3, he will find there an extract of the Act of Edward I., to which he refers.

The Act of Elizabeth was more general in its scope, and referred to other fish as well as salmon, while the earlier Acts seem to have been for salmon only.—Yours truly,

HENRY TISLEY.

BAIT FOR AMERICAN WHITEFISH.

DEAR SIR,—On several occasions through the columns of the *Fishing Gazette* I have received valuable information for which I am grateful. I would, with your leave, ask any of your readers who may understand the Canadian North-West Prairie waters if they know of any bait to catch the whitefish, as it is called there. It has a soft mouth, and something like a rudd in appearance, but with white fins. No earthworms are to be found in the locality in the summer months. One can see them rising to the flies in the evening.

Also, do any of your readers know of a good plan to cure pike-bass, and pickerel for winter use, caught about August or September, these fish being abundant in the (Y) Appelle Valley lakes?

I shall be very pleased if you can find space for the above in one of your future issues, and oblige—Yours truly,

EMIGRANT.

[We understand that the whitefish of the American lakes are very rarely taken with bait of any kind. We doubt if "Emigrant" will do much good, but if they take flies why not try flies? In Goode's "American Fishes" it is said that the whitefish (*Coregoni*) are "none of them of special interest to the angler."—Ed.]

INFORMATION ABOUT RAINBOW TROUT WANTED.

MY DEAR MARSTON,—I have not had time to read all the recent correspondence in the papers about rainbow trout, and would be grateful if you could tell me the names of any unfenced English waters where the rainbow has made a home.

I have a large number of rainbows in stock, and if I could fairly recommend them for stocking any waters but ponds, lakes, and reservoirs (and these securely fenced at outlets) I would be delighted.

I am encouraged to suppose that somewhere in this country rainbows have proved suitable to our rivers, because I learn that there is a scheme on foot to stock the Thames with rainbows.

Twelve months ago several thousand rainbows—6in. fish—were permitted to escape from one of my ponds into the adjoining river, and since then not a single rainbow trout has been seen between here and Southampton.

These fish were allowed to find their own way out of the pond into the river (the Itchen), and for a few days some would return (by some way as they had escaped) at feeding time, but very soon all disappeared. Thus you will understand the rainbows escaped into the river under the most favourable circumstances. They were not carted about by rail and road, neither did they experience a change of water. Yet, where are they now? Somewhere off the Isle of Wight, I expect.

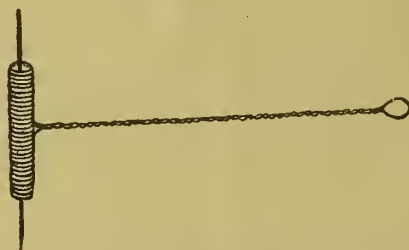
Inside fences I do not hesitate to recommend rainbows as the best breed of trout to stock with, and will be very glad if you can encourage me to believe that they are suitable to English rivers.—Yours very sincerely,

G. VALENTINE CORRIE.

[We have no satisfactory evidence of rainbow trout having become established in any rivers into which they have been introduced in the United Kingdom. We should be glad to have satisfactory evidence of their success in such streams.—Ed.]

A FRENCH SEA FISHING BOOM.

DEAR MARSTON,—I send you herewith samples of French white wire booms for sea fishing, which I think simpler and more effective than the combinations of brass swivels and a—generally pendent—brass boom, which I saw at Deal lately, where I used these, and they were admired by some of the pier fishermen, standing out so very straight from the line or trace, to which they are easily affixed. They can be quickly and cheaply made by any worker in wire. The small light ones answer admirably for whiting and ponting fishing in clear water; the



larger and stouter for thick water and for boat fishing. I do not see that either swivels, or revolving booms, are at all necessary for sea paternosters, and can vouch for it that the slightest bite is felt when using these booms (*clipots* is the French name) properly.

Wishing you and all readers of the *Fishing Gazette* plenty of "tight lines" through 1899—Yours very faithfully,

CHAS. A. PAYTON.

Calais, Jan. 4, 1899.

[We are much obliged to Mr. Payton, and give an illustration of the capital French boom which he kindly sends.—Ed.]

EDMUND TAYLOR, FISHING TACKLE MAKER, OF LANCASTER.

DEAR MR. MARSTON,—The *Lancaster Guardian*, to whom I sent a cutting from *F. G.* of Dec. 31, has reprinted Betty Howell's rhymed fishing tackle advertisement, and adds: "Very little is known of Edmund Taylor. He was living in Lancaster in 1789, when he had the freedom of the borough presented to him. Nothing more is known of him till his death, which took place on Jan. 18, 1816, aged seventy-two years. His daughter, within a month of his death, issued the poetical advertisement given above. She married on Sept. 2, 1816, for her second husband, John Wilkinson, warehouseman, who also lent out burial palls. In the advertisement the 'warehouse' is described as 'behind St. Ann's.' The shop was in the first two houses on the east side of St. Ann's Place." "St. Ann's" is a Church.—Yours faithfully,

THOS. HARRISON.

DESTRUCTION OF TROUT AT HIGH WYCOMBE.

DEAR SIR,—Mr. Thurlow's letter recalls to my mind the pleasure I had in making his acquaintance some twenty years ago, when I visited High Wycombe in quest of trout fishing. Perhaps Mr. Thurlow (who was then secretary to the H. W. Angling Association) may recollect taking me on to a mill stream, which was a nursery for the fish, and, asking me for my rod (to show me what the trout were like), fishing deftly with the fly under some trees, landed in a few minutes a splendid 4lb. fish, which he also allowed me to take home with me. Later on, in the year 1881, there was a large quantity of these beautiful Wycombe trout killed by bleach, through the bursting of a dam, and Mr. Thurlow sent me a photograph of them, which I had framed, and which has ever since decorated

my home, forming a noble picture, but a sad record of destruction.

I see by Mr. Thurlow's letter that a misfortune similar to that of 1881 has again befallen the association water, and that a large number of fine trout are again sacrificed; but it is consoling to learn that these magnificent Wycombe trout are not all destroyed. Assuring him of my sympathy, and hoping to meet him again on the shining river.—Yours faithfully,

JAMES CALLAGHAN.

WIRE FISHING LINES.

DEAR SIR,—With regard to your remarks respecting wire lines in last week's *Fishing Gazette*, permit me to observe that wire traces were introduced about fourteen years ago, and were found to be too stiff.

No one appears to have tried the wire of which they were made as a substitute for hemp or silk running lines until about two and a half years ago, when I showed them first to Mr. Handley and then to Dr. Patterson.

I first tried fine ginger beer wire (iron wire tinned), then phosphor bronze, single and plaited. Phosphor bronze is scarcely acted on by sea water, and is less liable to kink than the tinned iron.

Single wires require some amount of practice to keep them from kinking, plaited wire lines completely get over this difficulty.

Flax and silk lines are not much heavier than sea water, while phosphor bronze is about eight and a half times as heavy. No wonder they sink so readily. The smooth surface of the wire offers very little friction to the tide, consequently by using wire running lines it is now possible to fish as comfortably in the sea as to paternoster for jack in the Thames. But it is necessary, in order to obtain the full advantage of wire lines, to have sheaves to guide the line from the winch, and at the top of the rod of at least the size of a sixpence—a shilling is rather better.—Yours truly,

A. W. PARKER.

[We do not know that they were used as reel lines before Mr. Parker so used them, but we do know that the so-called rust-proof wire, in 8 and 16-plait, was made by a London house at our suggestion many years ago, and noticed in the *Fishing Gazette* at the time, and we have often used them since in place of gimp.—Ed.]

WIRE SEA LINES.

DEAR SIR,—There is, as you say, nothing at all new in wire sea lines. They have been tried over and over again, and if you refer to some of our earliest numbers of the *Fishing Gazette*, you will find several letters and articles on their use.

You generally find, about every ten or fifteen years, some old invention that has been tried and discarded is rediscovered. If there had been at all any virtue or benefit in using plaited, twisted, or even single wire for sea lines, we should have adopted it years ago, when we thoroughly tested it. A superfine flax line is strong enough and fine enough for anything.

I enclose you a sample of our No. 25, and I should like you to try the strength of it with your hands; it will bear a steady pull of nearly 50lb., and is very nearly as fine as a wire line.

One of your correspondents was bold enough to say that he believed that before long all sea lines would be made of wire, because it was a well-known fact that they were using all wire rigging for vessels instead of hemp. This is amusing, and may suit the ears of landmen. It is the shrinkage in wet and the stretching in dry weather that makes the use of wire preferable for ship's rigging.

A flax line properly made is undoubtedly the best for sea fishing, but there are a common lot in the market which are made of inferior stuff that are coarse and stout. Therefore I do not wonder at fishermen trying to get something fine, as it makes such a difference when fishing in a tideway.

HEADER AND SON.

Plymouth.

[The line Mr. Header sends is of the same make as those used by American anglers for tarpon, tuna, blue-fish, and other powerful and large sea fish, and certainly we should prefer it to any wire reel line. It makes a splendid back line for salmon fishing, and costs less than a halfpenny a yard.—Ed.]

VASELINE AND KIDNEY FAT AS DRESSING FOR LINES.

SIR,—In your issue of the 31st ultimo, Mr. Amphlett gives directions for dressing a line with a mixture of vaseline and kidney fat, quoting from the late J. P. Wheeldon.

Would Mr. Amphlett kindly say, for the benefit of his brother anglers, whether he has tried the dressing himself; and, if so, give the relative proportions of vaseline and fat, which appear to have been left out in the article?—Yours truly,

JOSEPH HAINES.

THE seventh annual yachting exhibition, which will be held at the Royal Aquarium from Feb. 1 to March 2, promises to be one of the most successful of the series. Intending exhibitors should make early application for space, as allotments are proceeding quickly. The continuation of the holiday programme—brimful of sensations and with mirth provoking "turns"—is announced to take place daily and all next week.

A HOUSE BUILT UPON THE SAND cannot have a permanent foundation; and the same may be said of every undertaking in life. Success to have a permanent effect, must be built upon something solid, or it will crumble into ashes when seemingly within our grasp. The foundation of anything of value must be carefully laid, or it will soon become useless. This remark is particularly applicable in reference to our health, for it is not firmly established through the blood being pure and the stomach in regular order, we are liable at any time to be fatally attacked by disease. Holloway's Pills and Ointment lay a foundation of good health which will be permanent and strong as a rock.

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NOTICE.

THE FISHING GAZETTE is published every Saturday, and can be obtained at Messrs. W. H. Smith and Son's Railway Bookstalls and of the principal Newspapers and Fishing Tackle Dealers in London and the Provinces.

Communications relating to the Literary Department, Fishing Tackle for Notice, Books for Review, &c., should be addressed to E. B. MARSTON, Editor of the FISHING GAZETTE, St. Dunstan's House, Fetter-lane, London.

Correspondents are requested to write on one side of the paper only, and give their real names and addresses, not necessarily as signatures to their letters, but as a guarantee of good faith. Unless this rule be adhered to no notice will be taken of such communications.

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The GAZETTE can be had by sending Postal Order or Stamps to Messrs. Sampson Low, Marston and Co., Limited, the Proprietors, St. Dunstan's House, Fetter-lane, London, to whom all money payments should be made.

For One Year, post free to any part of Great Britain and Ireland	10s. 6d.
.. Six Months ditto	5s. 4d.
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To America and the Continent, annual subscription, including postage	12s. 6d.

Scale of Charges for Advertisements.

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TELEPHONE, No. 83 Holborn.

The

Fishing Gazette

WITH WHICH IS INCORPORATED

ANGLING AND CLUB GOSSIP.

SATURDAY, JANUARY 21st, 1899.

DR. JOHNSON AND ANGLING,
AND WALTON.

WHEN people who are not anglers wish to be facetious about angling, they are pretty certain to quote Dr. Johnson as the author of the definition of angling as "a worm at one end of a line and a fool at the other."

As I have often pointed out in the *Fishing Gazette* and elsewhere, Doctor Johnson never said anything of the kind; he was a great admirer of Izaak Walton. In my little book, "Walton and some Earlier Writers on Angling," I say:

"It is interesting and significant of Walton's worth as a writer that the literary giant of the next century, Johnson, should have advised the publication of a new edition of 'The Compleat Angler,' when that work had been out of print for nearly a century, and also that he should have contemplated writing a Life of Walton."

Moses Browne, in the Preface to his edition of Walton's "Angler," says he undertook it "at the invitation of a very ingenious and learned friend (Mr. Samuel Johnson), who mentioned to me, I remember, in that conversation his design to write the Life of Walton. I wish he had performed it." So do we all. Boswell tells us

that Johnson "talked of 'Isaac Walton's Lives,' which was one of his most favourite books. 'Dr. Donne's Life,' he said, was the most perfect of them."

Since writing thus in 1894 I have seen a presentation copy of Walton's "Angler" from Dr. Johnson to a Col. Astle, in which the doctor had written the words: "A mighty pretty book, a mighty pretty book."

A good many years ago I published in the *Fishing Gazette* the name of the French author of the definition of angling, and to finally settle the question as regards Dr. Johnson, I asked Dr. G. Birkbeck Hill, the greatest living authority on Johnson's writings, if he had ever come across the definition in them, and he kindly replied as follows:

"DEAR SIR,—There is no evidence, I feel sure, for the attribution to Johnson of the definition of 'that which has a fly at one end of a line and a fool at the other.' It is mere chance to whom a witticism gets assigned. On Spurgeon, Sydney Smith, Johnson, or Swift good sayings are fathered at random—many sayings that can be traced back to the Romans or Greeks."

"Walton's 'Compleat Angler' is found in a list of books recommended by Johnson to be studied by a young man, Rev. W. Astle; see my Boswell, Vol. IV., p. 311, or any edition of Boswell under date of June 19, 1784. I am much interested by the inscription in his handwriting in the copy of 'The Angler' presented to Col. Astle."

"Does Moses Browne, in his edition of 'The Angler,' say that Johnson advised him to undertake the editing? This is a new fact to me, and I should be glad to have the authority."

"You will find that Johnson, in his dictionary, often quotes Walton's 'Angler,' see under Brandling, Bream, Chub, Dew-worm, Gentle, Grayling, Minnow, Perch, &c. —I am, yours very truly, "G. BIRKBECK HILL."

It was certainly interesting to find that in asking Dr. Birkbeck Hill a question I should have been able to give him a new fact about Dr. Johnson.

R. B. MARSTON.

CHARLES LAMB AND THE "COMPLETE ANGLER."

From another batch of the hitherto unpublished letters of Charles Lamb we make the following extract, which shows what an admirer of old Izaak's immortal book the gentle Elia was:

"The 'Compleat Angler' is the only treatise written in dialogues that is worth a halfpenny. Many elegant dialogues have been written (such as Bishop Berkeley's 'Minute Philosopher'), but in all of them the interlocutors are merely abstract arguments personified; not living dramatic characters, as in Walton, where *every thing* is alive, and the fishes are absolutely characterised, and birds and animals are as interesting as men and women."

FLIGHT'S FANCY AND THE OLIVE DUN.

I HAVE looked at one or two books in connection with the question of the origin of the dressing of the fly known as Flight's Fancy, and I venture to submit that the following evidence explodes once and for all the claim of Messrs. Foster, of Ashbourne, that their father, the late David Foster, was the original patentee.

Now, what is Flight's Fancy? It is a dressing of the Pale Yellow Dun, which often does so much execution when the Green Drake is on, and it is described by Mr. F. M. Halford and Mr. H. S. Hall thus:

Wings.—Palest starling.

Body.—Very pale yellow floss silk ribbed with fine flat gold.

Hackle and Whisk.—Pale buff Cochin cock hackle, or pale honey dun for a variety.

Hook, 0, 00, or 000.

The special features of this fly are three, and occur in the body, namely:

(1) *Colour*.—Very pale yellow.

(2) *Material*.—Floss silk.

(3) *Rib*.—Fine flat gold.

I now take from the third edition of the "Scientific Angler," by the late David Foster, the description of the Golden Dun, on which Messrs. Foster base their father's title to be deemed the original sole inventor. It occurs among the dressing of the Olive Duns, and is worded as follows:

"In June shade (Golden Dun) to be tied or dressed with deep yellow silk, neatly ribbed with fine gold wire; wings from a young starling's longer fiberia quill; legs a palish dun hackle flecked with yellow."

In this dressing the body is wholly different from Flight's Fancy, namely, in

(1) *Colour*.—Deep yellow instead of very pale yellow.

(2) *Material*.—Silk, not floss.

(3) *Rib*.—Wire, not flat gold.

It may be asked how do I know that the silk is not floss. Well, first I call in aid Mr. D. Foster himself.

The description of the Golden Dun goes on thus: "The Common Yellow Dun is the same dressing minus the gold tassel, the waxed tying silk being used for the formation of the body." There is no tassel in the Golden Dun—but no matter. So it comes to this, that Messrs. Foster are claiming Flight's Fancy for their father because he added a gold wire rib to the Common Yellow Dun.

It may, perhaps, be said that Mr. David Foster's description is loosely worded, and that he meant floss silk for the body. Well, he didn't. Messrs. Foster tell us that their father quarrelled with the authors of "Shipley and Fitzgibbon on Fly Fishing" for annexing and publishing his patterns of the Golden Dun. We may, therefore, assume that what Shipley and Fitzgibbon published was his dressing. Let us see.

This is their description—p. 170 of the 1838 edition:

Golden Dun.—Body, deep straw-coloured silk ribbed with gold twist; legs, a honey dun hackle; wings, the palest feather of a young starling.

Here, again, by the way, we have the deep colour in the body, and the rib is gold twist, round instead of flat. But how do we know that the silk is *not* floss? Well, the authors say so—p. 148: "The silk with which the fly is dressed is often sufficient to form the body of a slender fly. We shall often, therefore, use the expression 'body to be of such and such coloured silk,' which means nothing more than that the fly is to be dressed with silk of the colour indicated."

Messrs. Shipley and Fitzgibbon wrote for Derbyshire wasters.

That floss silk was known in those days and in that country for fly dressing purposes is amply demonstrated by the fact that the first edition of "Ronalds' Flyfishers' Entomology," published in 1836, contains no less than sixteen patterns out of forty-seven in which floss silk is the body material. As is well known, Ronalds fished the rivers of that part of the country.

Therefore the claim that Mr. David Foster is the originator of Flight's Fancy fails.—Q.E.D.

The late Mr. George Currell, of Winchester, had a number of patterns of the olives, from the darkest to the palest, the note of them being that the body was floss and that the hackle had a red or ginger tone, and that there was either a gold rib or a gold tag. They were not modern patterns, and probably coincided in date with the coming into use of floss silk for dressing bodies.

Flight's Fancy was in this series; it was one of the light ones; the darkest had hen black-bird wings, deep olive green floss body, and deep red hackle stained olive; the lightest running to palest starling, cream coloured floss, and yellow dun hackle.

The Olive Dun is *the* fly of the Itchen; there is scarcely a day in the year when it is not to be seen at one hour or another, and in one shade or another on the water. It is, therefore, only natural that when floss silk came into use it should be applied to the dressing of Olive Duns of all shades in the headquarters of the Olive Dun.

The name of Flight has been honourably known in Winchester for generations, and as I understand the present representative of the name does not claim the pattern, it is to some preceding generation that we must look for origination of the title.

It would thus appear that Messrs. Foster's protest, besides being ill-founded, is very much belated, and I trust that they will see fit to remove from their next edition their not too tasteful references to the individual named Flight.

In writing at this length on such a subject, I may perhaps be said to be "breaking a fly upon the wheel." Personally, I attach little value to dressings and the titles to the invention of dressings. They have their uses for those who are not fly dressers, and to a certain extent for those who are. The latter, however, should not be fettered

by the restrictions of stereotyped pattern, but should have such a knowledge of and mastery over their material as to be able to imitate the natural insect without reference to books or records of patterns. I have written rather in the interests of truth and good manners, which are not conspicuously well served in the outburst which was the occasion of the editorial note which led to the recent correspondence in these columns on this subject.

G. E. M. SKUES.

BOXING DAY AMONG THE ROACH.

If the roach fisher could have selected his own weather, he could hardly have improved on Dec. 26, 1898.

A soft, calm morning, with a gentle air from south-west, after a little fine rain. What could be better? Certainly the water was low and clear, but with fine tackle this condition is not fatal to success. A punctual train (for even on the southern lines and on Bank holidays such things are known) brought us to our station by about 10, and within an hour our porcupines (I mean the floats, not the animals) were sailing down the shallow swim, from which we had lately taken many a dozen lusty roach.

All seemed propitious, for the morning had cleared, and no rain at present threatened, but not a touch could we get in our old swim. Shifting a few yards off I found a shoal, and secured three good fish, but not a nibble more. My companion, thinking, with justice, that the touch of frost a few days ago might have sent the roach into their winter quarters, tried a deep hole by a sluice, and here he at once got some good fish—better than mine. After an hour or two and some lunch I shifted to his swim, and though the fish were very shy we made up a fair bag of a dozen or two, nearly all good fish. My best were taken with cubes cut from the inside crust of a loaf, but my companion had nearly the same number using paste alone.

Our attempts at the pike were in vain, though this section of the Darenth holds, I fear, only too many; and some of them had showed themselves unmistakably on previous occasions, when we had been roaching for an hour at a time with great success, counting our spoil by the dozen, some of the fish running 1lb. or more.

I fancy our sport then had been owing partly to the rains, for the water was a little discoloured in most cases; and I think that if any roacher can spare a day now for the Darenth, after all this wet, he may do well.

Leave must, of course, be obtained; but for roach only this is not very difficult. I am speaking of the Lower Darenth.

On the trout fisheries higher up the owners are reluctant to grant permits, though in some sections roach are found of large size.

With regard to tackle, fine gut seemed to do quite as well as hair. We gave a fair trial to each; but I advise each angler to make the experiment for himself. It is noteworthy that the fish do not always feed best on the bottom. In the deep holes a bait swimming a foot or more short is often taken when not a touch can be had in the usual way.

J. PAUL TAYLOR.

A FISHING TOUR IN SWEDEN.

(Continued from page 17.)

As for trolling and spinning baits, a Devon minnow from one to two and a half inches, with golden belly and brown back, is very good. But as the grayling very often also take that bait, it gives one much trouble, and somewhat spoils the sport, taking off all these small fish when prepared for bigger fish. On shallow water when you have to put out a long line, the Devon is too heavy for trolling, and then a light transparent soleskin bait with patent combination swivel on the ball bearing principle is better and handier. I tried several kinds of baits, and a very handy killing bait was the bleak tail, of which I had lots preserved in salt. For those I used the ordinary parr tail tackle with a treble at the end. Trout and grayling were mad on it. I also had a bottle of bleak preserved in a weak solution of formalin. Of the formalin that you buy from the chemist, which is the saturated watery solution of 40 per cent. formic aldehyde, you take, for instance, a

small wineglass to fifty glasses of water (same glass), and there you have a good solution for preserving baits. Formalin seems to be the best known preservative for baits. It keeps the fish in natural brilliancy, but makes them rather stiff. In consequence thereof, you have to put the baits first into a flat-bottomed square vessel for some hours, and let them remain there in the above solution until growing sufficiently stiff when straight. Then put them head down in a bottle with same solution,

Björkholmen also, a place near the falls next above the Parkijaur Falls.

Njavvi is comparatively a rather comfortable little place for some days' stay. The people seem to be well-to-do people, and can offer you a snug chamber and good food. The first afternoon here I gave the grayling a try with fly, and my little Zulu brought to my basket almost 15lb. of fish, but none exceptionally big. Although I was told it was useless trying for big trout here, the next day I rigged up my spinning rod,



QUICKJOCK.



ROTATS.

whereby they will keep their straightness, which is much desirable when using them on the spinners.

Well, after some rather successful fishing days at Parkijaur, we continued our journey, passing the lakes Parkijaur, Skalka, and Tjomåtesjaure, and arrived at Njavvi, much mentioned for its excellent grayling fishing. If you have plenty of time you will find good fishing waters at

and baited with bleak tails, to see whether some old cunning trout in these lonely regions could be circumvented. But I got, however, nothing but grayling, except a couple of 1½lb. trout. During my whole fishing career I never saw the grayling taking baits so eagerly as here. Some English author on grayling fishing says the grayling very seldom take the minnow, and that is also my experience. But the Njavvi Falls and streams make

a splendid exception. Here the grayling took not only small bleak tails, but also my formalin bleak on an ordinary spinning tackle. And what splendid grayling they were, seldom weighing under 1lb., but many 2lb. and 2½lb., and 3lb. to 3½lb. My catch to-day weighed 38lb. Not a bad result if you were on the look out for grayling with fly and your little single-handed rod. But now I handled a weapon able to kill a 20lb. salmon, and under such circumstances, in my opinion, it was nothing but disappointment.

a flag line about 30yds. long. By means of that screw ring and the line I anchored myself here and there, gradually going down as far as the line would allow me. By that way you are able to proceed more carefully, and not depending on an awkward and careless boatman.

On the third morning we left Njavvi, and set out on the Lake Saggat, at the other end of which the little village Qvickjock is situated. After some minutes' rowing on Saggat, a most beautiful view over the snow mountains opens to

a week in the summer. Up to here travelling has been comparatively comfortable. If you are going further up along the rivers that flow out at Qvickjock you have to walk and put the luggage on the back of some men. At Qvickjock you will always find one or another willing to follow you even as far as the boundary, if you should be prepared to go home over Norway, then passing Sulitelma for Bodo, and therefrom by steamer for Trondjem, Christiania, or Bergen, and Hull. From Qvickjock you can make fishing excursions in several directions. Two rivers fall out here into the Saggat, viz., Kamajokk and Tarrejokk. The first seems to be little good for fishing, the water being like milk, as it comes from mountains with eternal ice, under which the ground consists of apatit, some sort of clay soil. As a rule, the rivers from such mountains get a milky appearance. So we took our way along the other river, Tarrejokk, with its bright, transparent water.

On leaving Qvickjock we had two Lapps and two other men to carry our luggage. After about two hours' walk we came to a nice little fall, by name Rotats. The banks were very rocky, and the water, in some places very deep, of a peculiar blue transparent colour. Some of the rocks were undercut and kettle-shaped. Here we made a halt for fishing. At the first peep over the rocks I saw a couple of fine trout lying near the bottom, probably 5 or 6-pounders; but as soon as they get sight of us they disappeared among the rocks. A little farther down I saw another big trout. I hid myself behind a rock, and sent over him an Orange and Partridge; but when my fly touched the water he looked disturbed, and moved slowly away. No doubt it is not worth while trying fishing in such clear rivers before getting dark. Only some few small, careless trout we were able to kill at our halt here. Now, as for baits in rivers like this one, it seems to me very hard to properly present the fly or the spinning baits to the fish. The water is deep and boiling. Here give me a worm, and I am sure it will prove to be a more effective bait; at least, that is my experience as it concerns our southern rivers of same features. Many a trout of 7lb. and 8lb. I have killed with worm when other baits have been useless.

Well, soon we were on the move again, and arrived, after half an hour's walk, at Njuonjes. Njuonjes is the last house on the Swedish side where you will find men living. Further on, as far as the boundary, is nothing but wilderness, where you will only find two small huts that the Swedish Touring Club has built, so that you are not obliged to sleep in the open air if you are going over to Sulitelma. It takes about three days to Sulitelma from Njuonjes.

Next day I went up to the first hut, and on the two following photos I have marked where the hut is situated. It lies in a beautiful little place at the Lake Tarra. In the Tarra there is nothing but char. Grayling and trout do not go so high up. Lots of char you can catch here both with fly and spinning baits. What they liked best was a little hog-backed silver spoon, about 1½in long. With that spoon I killed a great many 3 and 4-pounders, but when fly fishing I only got small ones. This little hut is an excellent spot both for a fishing and shooting stay, as there are plenty of "ripor"—a sort of grouse—in the neighbourhood, and the fishing and shooting is free to anybody. Here I enjoyed some agreeable sporting days in the most favourable weather. The sun was rather hot at daytime, but as soon as it touched the horizon it turned cold very quickly, and the night was cold, although we were in the month of July.

Some other year I hope to have a chance of revisiting those beautiful regions that ever shall be green in my memory. G. HYDÉN.

THE DISTILLERY PROBLEM.

THE pollution of our salmon rivers by distillery and other refuse has been a favourable theme of comment ever since distilleries began to multiply and salmon fishings to rise in demand. But, although the evil was patent to all immediately interested, public attention was not so emphatically directed to the needs of the grievance as it ought to have been till the famous Spey case brought it directly under the notice of the "man in the street"; and now there are hopes that



THE RIVER TARREJOKK AND THE LAKE TARRA.



THE HUT AT THE LAKE TARRA.

As a rule there are not many comfortable or suitable places where you can wade or fish from the bank. The best way is to get a boat and a good boatman to take you down the streams, throwing your fly to the right and left. But very often it is almost impossible to get an intelligent and careful boatman. In such cases I enjoyed much better going alone in the boat, having a screw ring fastened to the stern of the boat, and

your eyes. If you should be favoured with a bright day, and never been up in the highlands, the view is most imposing. I never enjoyed rowing better. The sun was beaming, and we were lying comfortably on reindeer hides in the bottom of our boats, smoking our pipes and enjoying the fine sights all round. In the evening we arrived at Qvickjock. Qvickjock has its own post-office, and the post is running twice

something practical and to the point will be done before long in tackling this most interesting though difficult problem.

What is everybody's business is nobody's business, and till the riparian proprietors on Speyside saw that it was their business to protect their valuable property in the rapidly diminishing numbers of salmon ascending their famous stream, and took drastic steps to bring home to the distillers the injury their industry was doing to their sport and profit nothing came of it. Remonstrances, threats, and complaints *ad libitum* were hurled at the offending parties, yet all to no purpose. The cry of the "poor old Spey" went up from the throats of disappointed anglers, and re-echoed throughout the land; yet nothing effective was done, and very little attempted to check the growing evil. Distillers pointed out, and justly enough, that they alone were not to blame. There were the thousand and one other causes, they said, which were killing off the salmon and trout supply, as well as their "burnt ale," and these ought to be dealt with too. But two blacks never make a white, and so the Spey pollution case came into court, and by the narrowest shave went nigh against the "whisky refuse," and shook to the very foundations the thin platform upon which the distilleries stood in regard to pollution from all such works.

The judge wisely decided that sufficient time had not yet elapsed to test the methods, proved to be at least up to date, if not the best that science had yet devised, and so the case thus stands. It was neither a victory nor a defeat for the one side or the other, but it taught the "trade" a lesson. The problem was not sheaved. It was, as it were, remitted back to them to see what more could be accomplished before crippling or shutting down altogether a valuable and highly remunerative industry, which was making headway by leaps and bounds for the commercial benefit of the country in general and the otherwise needy north of Scotland in particular. Since then the distillers have not allowed the grass to grow beneath their feet. They know their business too well, and, like business men with a considerable stake at issue, they have done the best and most sensible thing they could do under the circumstances.

Knowing that their only chance of dealing with the difficult and technical problem of the innocuous disposal of their distilleries' effluent thus forced upon their attention in a practical and effective manner, was to call in the aid of the scientific world, they, or a combination of them, in September last offered the handsome premium of £2000 to the person who will devise and hand over to them such a scheme for treating the bye-products of distilleries as will effectually purify them. Certain conditions are attached to the awarding of the premium, which, of course, are necessary to ensure the end in view being properly fulfilled, and to safeguard the rights of the combination in return for their money.

But although this is proof of the distiller's anxiety to meet the necessities of the case as now presented to him, he has not been indifferent in the past, and probably thousands of pounds have been spent during the past dozen years or so by private firms and others in experimenting on their own account, in the hope of solving the problem. And not a few are still working away at it under able and skilled advice, in the hope of perfecting schemes in which they have unbounded faith and great hopes for the future. May they continue them, for in the multitude of counsellors there is wisdom, and a solution, come when it may, or how it may, cannot come a day too soon.

The premium of £2000 offered by the Elgin combination was not long out before it began to bear fruit. The ink was hardly dry on the prospectus before busy brains were at work, and schemes were either in the air, or being formulated, and even rapidly submitted to the combination "respectfully commanding their attention." Brother Jonathan was early in the swim from across the Atlantic, and for all we know he may yet be an easy first. However, the time of lodging proposals does not expire till April, and, although some authoritative and well-known men have taken up the subject, and are now working away at it, no doubt by that time others will be in the field with schemes of their own, worked out to a practical issue.

Many of the schemes for dealing with the "Distillery Pollution Problem" may be effective enough, but impracticable—too costly, or otherwise abortive. They have been so in the past, for their name is legion; and, likely enough, the temptation of a big reward, with a sure fortune to follow in its trail, will attract every sort of hair-brained idea it may be possible to imagine to its alluring folds.

It is not my intention to adjudicate on any scheme already made public, nor offer gratuitous criticism, which might be the least offensive to the parties concerned. Rather would I encourage all and every suggestion, however much I might be inclined to help on the weeding-out process of the likely from the unlikely. But in this there is no need, as whatever scheme is sent in to the official of the Elgin combination, will be placed before a higher tribunal than what my humble, however earnest, opinion can ever aspire to be, and will receive "due consideration," in the true sense of the term, on its own merits. For "the money shall not be paid unless the combination shall be satisfied by practical tests—and that for one year," that it treats all bye products after a satisfactory manner.

Mr. C. A. Stephenson (Edinburgh), an expert of considerable experience, has suggested a mechanical method of treatment of the effluent by carrying it up to the top of a high tower, and dispersing it as spray. This has already been alluded to in the *F. G.* of Oct. 22 last, when Mr. Anderson's pamphlet was issued dealing with his scheme. In addition to others, I might give a passing notice to that of two names which have just come under my notice. Mr. James Hendrick, of the Agricultural Laboratory, Marischal College, Aberdeen, has been following out the quest on chemical lines. He has been experimenting on an extensive scale, and, being within easy reach of the area of the pollution and its cause, has been successful in discovering a process which it is expected will not only cure the pollution, but yield valuable bye-products from the polluting liquid, one of which is a manure comparable in value to bones. Of course, in this, as in all other schemes, expectations will require to be made good by results on an extensive scale before it can be finally pronounced on. It may be said, however, of Mr. Hendrick's scheme, that distillers who are "in the know" are very jubilant over it, and freely recognise that it is the only feasible solution of the question which has up till now been presented to them.

Another northern chemist of world wide repute on the subject of pollution, and river pollution in particular, has also a scheme "in the steep." Mr. Thomas Jamieson, city analyst for Aberdeen, and who has a life-long experience at his back to commend him, has also worked out an economical process of dealing with distillery effluent, and his suggestions will also come up for review in due time, and no doubt command the respect the opinions of such an authority deserve.

But distillery effluent will not be the only problem dealt with. It is the most urgent in the public eye in the meantime. Yet whatever scheme is found to deal effectually with "burnt ale" will no doubt be adopted and applied to all kinds of mill refuse and village sewage. By modifications of the methods adopted, no doubt all such matters, teeming with death to salmon spawn in particular, and destruction to fish life in general, will be treated after a similar fashion. That mill owners, local authorities, and county committees will at once rise to the occasion, and when a feasible and practical solution of the pollution problem is arrived at, and proved satisfactory to a certain extent at least, they will at once adopt it as being worthy of a trial.

G. M.

MESSRS. ANDERSONS' SALE.

As will be seen from our advertisement columns, Messrs. Andersons' annual stock-taking sale of waterproofs of all kinds, including many bargains in fishing stockings, &c., begins on Jan. 25, and lasts for a fortnight.

Our readers should make a note of this, as it is a *bona fide* sale of good goods at a discount of from 30 to 50 per cent., or half price in many cases.

The address is 37, Queen Victoria-street, London, E.C.

ADVANTAGES OF COMBINING WET AND DRY-FLY FISHING.

It may be well to look at both systems as applied to our numerous club waters and some of the larger rivers in Scotland. It must, however, be born in mind, that no hard and fast line, as we say, will attain the greatest success as applied to fly fishing. Forty years' experience and practice has not produced the feeling of having exhausted the subject, or that anyone is always a match for these 'cute customers. It is not, however, a matter of time or practice, for some fishermen are "born, not made." Exceptions appear now and then where a great state of proficiency is attained in three or four years, and also to the general rule of having "too many strings to your bow," for in this case the more the better, if properly used. The reading of the numerous articles in your valuable paper from time to time is a great treat and of much benefit, besides being the next best to actual fishing. Another combination, viz., minnow fishing, has proved of great advantage in enabling fly fishers to determine by the look of the water the holds of the fish and their manner of obtaining food, &c. It should be the aim of all parties to fish only the smallest portion of each stream or pool where the largest fish have taken possession, or the part, for the time being, which the matter of sun, wind, shelter, or depth makes most favourable. Only last winter, in November, a catch of eight brace of grayling was taken by adopting a similar movement of the wrist to the style a stranger was adopting while fishing gentles, but keeping the flies about 3in. under water moving in a peculiar manner.

The same style of fishing does not always apply to both trout and grayling, and both fish have their peculiar charms. Our district of Ryedale, in Yorkshire, happens to possess numerous clubs and free portions of fishing, more varied than almost any similar extent of district, the noted "Costa," along with the Seven, Rye, Dove, and Hodge, contributing their portion. There is also the great advantage in some portions of these rivers of having nothing whatever but trout in several of their upper beats. As to the pleasures of fishing, these are too numerous to be entered into in detail in this article. One person informed me the fact of losing no tackle went a long way with him; to some the outing is the object; most, however, prefer, at any rate, the taking of a few fish home. Two outings are given on the same club water during similar windy days (for position of the wind has much to do with it), so give the usual rules, viz.:

When the wind is in the north,
Never a fisherman need go forth.
When the wind is in the east,
'Tis neither good for man nor beast.
When the wind is in the south,
It blows the fly into the fish's mouth.
When the wind is in the west,
Then the fishing is the best.

On the first occasion (which was before the magic oil bottle had been invented) the execution was done by a mode of stiffening the dropper and making it skip similar to a natural fly. By using a longer dropper, with a loop about 1in. in length, and one larger point fly added (placed the right distance apart), fish could then be tempted from the deeps or clearest water that would rise to no other style. This outing, for instance, gave over eight brace, while the same flies used by another party in a different manner resulted in no fish. On another occasion the same flies fished by two equally good fishermen on a neighbouring stream resulted in seven brace of grayling being landed out of one pool (by the skipping dropper), while the other flies used with more delicate gut on another (without the same movement) were of no avail. Both got fish, however, in the streams.

On another visit matters were very different. Some considerable time was spent to no effect, and parties who had repeatedly fished this same club water were giving it up in despair. It was found out by accidentally standing still and allowing the line to sink at will that the fish would take the fly near the bottom. It seemed unsportsmanlike allowing the flies to sink deep, but resulted in over five brace of beautiful grayling.

Grayling are peculiar fish, and require a good deal of tempting at times, but there is no reason to come home with an empty basket if many

different modes of tackling them are resorted to, some of which will succeed even in the brightest summer weather.

We have most of us heard of the "Child not being hungry for simply bread and butter," and these fish will at times persistently continue rising until a particular fly is presented, and be caught at last. One of our noted fishermen believes that any fish can be tired out, and made to rise. After all, the main point is being able to present a fly on the water so naturally that fish "go for it," and do not look out for line. Numerous instances could be given where even good hands failed, by omitting some little minor accomplishment—and both wet and dry fishers will not succeed unless they master the little intricacies connected with each branch. Only this season a proficient south country fisherman failed by not condescending to use dry fly or give any jerk or wrist action to the line. Dipped Hackle flies, fished dry, move in a very mysterious manner whenever a varying current occurs, and trout can often be tempted by this style of fishing.

There are many occasions when the use of both systems tempts large fish, which could not otherwise be obtained. On fishing the Pickering Association Club water this summer, using dipped flies, fished dry, a youth remarked that a large trout was rising under a willow bush, and that it had broken his cast on his last outing. All efforts were of no avail until sinking and striking the fly under water was tried, which secured this fine specimen. Fish know the difference between a supposed dead fly floating and one rising again steadily of its own accord (as if in life), which effect the dipping gives it, irrespective of the wrist action. Again, in casting a floating fly over rising grayling it is often remarked, "This time the fly floats splendidly," and, strange to say, secures the fish notwithstanding the many previous castings.

To encourage beginners a case is mentioned of three ladies tackling grayling with no result, until their flies were anointed from the magic bottle, when each had the pleasure of landing a fish within a very few yards, and many other instances could also be given in favour of its use. As to which are the best flies, a good deal depends on the district, and actual experience is the best. Lastly, a few weeks ago, during the dry season, the record of a day's fishing was broken on a club water in less than half a day, which could not have been accomplished without the bottle.

Time and space will not allow further explanation, so must candidly admit that dipping the upright winged flies acts like magic in many cases, especially in bright sunlight, when fishing clear streams. This requires delicate handling, for the least pull sends the flies under water, and the great secret is to have them always floating and well under control.

J. C. FRANK.

LAKE VYRNWY.

LAKE VYRNWY is one of the sights of Wales, and, unlike many other noted spots, it is well out of the beaten track. The lake lies about nine miles to the west of Llanfyllin Railway Station, in Montgomeryshire, and it has been formed by the erection of an enormous dam across the basin of the river Vyrnwy. It is from this reservoir that Liverpool draws its supply of water. The length of the lake is nearly five miles, and it has an average width of half a mile. When the lake is full the water has an area of 1121 acres, and it weighs 58,000,000 tons. Its greatest depth is 28yds. Round the lake there is a beautiful drive of twelve miles.

On the north side of the lake there is an erection which suggests a castle on the Rhine. This is the Straining Tower, and it is here that the water leaves the lake on its long journey of sixty-eight miles. The Straining Tower contains three screens of very fine copper-wire gauze, through which the water passes into three pipes (one for each strainer), which lead to a circular culvert, made of concrete. This culvert is half a mile in length, and conveys the water to the Hirnant Tunnel (two and a quarter miles long). At the Hirnant end of the tunnel the water is received into a chamber from which it is conveyed to the Parc Ucha' Reservoir (six miles) through a cast-iron pipe. The aqueduct does not run on uninter-

ruptedly from the lake to Liverpool. It is divided into six parts, thus:

From the lake to Parc Ucha' Reservoir	... 9 miles
" Parc Ucha' to Oswestry Reservoir	... 8 "
" Oswestry to Malpas Reservoir	... 18 "
" Malpas to Cotebrook Reservoir	... 11 "
" Cotebrook to Norton Reservoir	... 10 "
" Norton to Prescot Reservoir	... 9 "

Total length to Prescot, near Liverpool ... 63 "

It took 1500 men ten years to build the dam, and it contains 510,000 tons of masonry. More than one-third of the stones weigh over 4 tons each, and there are several stones weighing over 10 tons. The dam is surmounted by a roadway, 10ft. above the overflow level. During the construction of the dam ten of the workmen met with fatal accidents, and nearly forty died from natural causes. The first stone was laid on July 14, 1881, by the Right Honourable Edward James, third Earl of Powis, and the work was completed in ten years, the cost of the undertaking being well over £2,000,000 sterling.

The lake is well stocked with Loch Leven trout, and affords the angler excellent sport. The following shows the record of catches since the year 1895:

Year.	Number of Fish Caught.	Weight.	Average Weight of each Fish.
1895	1773	1131lb.	10'4oz.
1896	2093	1312lb.	10'04oz.
1897	2767	1916½lb.	11'1oz.
1898	3348	2397lb.	11'4oz.

Every fish caught in the lake is weighed, and the weight is entered in a book kept for the purpose. The largest fish caught weighed 6lb. It is now to be seen at the hotel. During the spawning season most of the trout leave the lake for the many brooks that run into it. A large number of the female trout are caught, and the spawn carefully squeezed out of them, and, after being fertilised, they are placed in running water in a dark room. The work of collecting the spawn is a very delicate business.

There are very few men on the hotel staff that can do it properly—without injury to the fish. It is a remarkable fact that the spawn must be placed in running water, and in darkness. If the water ceased running for half an hour the spawn would not hatch. In ninety days the young trout makes its appearance. It is then carefully fed three or four times a day with Spratt's food, as a chicken might be, and it soon becomes capable of taking care of itself, when it is turned out into ponds, where it spends three years prior to being promoted to the lake. Several thousands of trout are put into the lake every year from this hatchery.

The hotel stands 1000ft. above the level of the sea, and it commands a magnificent view of the lake, the lofty peaks of the Aran furnishing a fine background. The proprietress (Miss Davies), besides being an ideal hostess, acts as churchwarden of the parish church, and she is also a member of the parish council.

The church and vicarage are close to the hotel. On the vicarage doorstep there is a very interesting round stone marked 57½, which was dug out of the old churchyard. The stone is known as careg-y-gamp (feat stone), and it weighs 57½lb. In the old days, on Sunday afternoons, the youths of Llanwddyn used to meet in the parish churchyard to hurl this stone over their heads for the furthest, which must have been splendid exercise for the muscles of the back and arms. The old churchyard is now at the bottom of the lake, but the remains of the dead were carefully removed to the new burial ground before the old church and the two old chapels (Calvinistic, Methodist, and Wesleyan) were submerged. There are two other interesting stones on the doorstep of the vicarage, viz., a pair of hand mill-stones, which were found in the parish. They date from about A.D. 1.

In the new church a coloured window has been put in by Mrs. Hayhurst France, in memory of her husband, the late Capt. Hayhurst France, who was drowned in the lake while fishing on the opening day of the season in March, 1897. Another window is about to be put in, in memory of the late Mr. Percy Bailey, who was killed while cycling over the dangerous road from Bala to the lake.

During the winter of 1894 the surface of the lake was sufficiently frozen to allow people to skate across.

It is very curious how almost everybody mis-

pronounces the word Vyrnwy, giving the terminal "wy" the pronunciation of the English word "you," i.e., sounding the "y" before the "w," instead of the "w" before the "y." The old form of the word "Vyrnwy" was probably "Chwyrnwy" (Chwyrn=swift; wy=water).

J. A. J.

THE LOWER AND MID-THAMES:
WHERE AND HOW TO FISH IT.

(Continued from page 20.)

By F. H. AMPHLETT.

ROACH.

"There sat my friend with patient skill,
Attending of his trembling quill."—WOTTON.

ROACH are taken from the Thames in large quantities than any other fish. They are held in the highest estimation by a large number of anglers, many of whom confine themselves entirely to this branch of fishing. The London club anglers are particularly devoted to roach fishing, and competitions on a large scale are often arranged between the members, who are, needless to say, much more successful when fishing from a punt. There are times when roach require much coaxing, and the perseverance, doggedness, and skill of the roach fisherman is then brought into play. On some days the float is only disturbed by a succession of nibbles of the faintest description, and it is then that the angler has to bring all his knowledge into requisition, for if one of these faint "touches" are missed, the probabilities are that a large fish has escaped being captured. On the other hand, there are occasions when the veriest tyro can go out and fill a bag with these fish. Such occasions are, however, few and far between, and now that the Thames is so much fished, it requires a great deal of piscatorial persuasion to induce them to feed in a right royal manner. Walton calls the roach "the fresh-water sheep;" but, owing to the pursuit to which they are now subjected, this soubriquet is scarcely applicable, especially to the fish of the Thames and its tributaries. The requisites for success are fine tackle and proper bait. For Thames fishing the "roach-pole" is only used in quiet eddies and lay-byes. Some bank anglers prefer a long rod for fishing any portion of the stream, but the most successful roach fishing is done from either a boat or punt. Then a light cane punt rod is used, with a very fine plaited silk line (undressed) and an easy-running winch—the Nottingham for preference. The float should be a porcupine quill with cork body, capable of carrying about six or seven shots. This tackle is suitable for fishing the swims in the channel of the river, where it is requisite that the bait shall reach the bottom almost directly it is placed in the water. The angler then gets the full benefit of each swim of the float. In clear water, with only a slight stream, a porcupine may sometimes be found sufficient. I always enamel my floats *mignonnette* green, the colour is very pale, and when in the water resembles a weed floating down stream. The hooks should be on the finest gut—Crystal hooks are the best when using gentles for bait. Greville Fennel, in his "Book of the Roach," says: "These 'Crystal' hooks are admirable; they appear, both mechanically and practically, to settle the long mooted question of the best shape, size, and temper requisite for roach angling; and obviously emanate from one who has long thought, and thought to the best results, upon what was most desired, and are named after my best fisherman, Harry Crystal." If using a small worm for bait, use also the round bend hook; wasp grubs, red worms, boiled wheat, and the caddis are also good baits. The fish should be struck immediately the float disappears, and only a small portion of the latter should be left above the water, so that a bite can be immediately detected. Sometimes the fish will only feed at the end of the swim. Then the Nottingham style should be adopted, using the lightest running tackle. This is especially successful in clear water.

It is a very simple matter to breed gentles in the summer and autumn, and as gentles are, as a rule, the best bait for Thames roach, one or two hints will not be out of place. First procure some bullock's liver, and hang it up in a place where blow flies frequent. They will lay their eggs on it, or if a few cuts are made in it with a knife, so

much the better; the blow flies will then be able to lay their eggs in the crevices. An earthenware jar should be placed underneath, and when one or two gentles have hatched and dropped into the jar, take down the liver, and place it in the vessel. In two or three days more gentles will be seen, and then they should be removed into a jar containing bran, with a piece of liver on the top for them to feed upon. By adopting this plan the angler will always have at hand a plentiful supply of gentles. But there is yet another bait which the roach of the Thames are especially partial to, viz., soaked bread crust, cut into small square cubes and placed on the point of the hook. This bait should be tried before gentles. The ground bait used for Thames roach fishing is of simple manufacture. A loaf is well soaked, and then broken up into small pieces, and mixed with bran and clay. The latter is used to make it sink quickly, so that the stream does not carry it away. Sometimes a few gentles are mixed up with the "mess," and then the whole is rolled into a ball, and dropped gently overboard. The clay ball gradually breaks, and the small pieces of bread and bran escape by degrees. This attracts the fish to the spot, and the angler must be ready to hook a fish at any moment after the ground bait is in the water. But the depth must be properly plumbed, and it is usual to fish near the bottom. Never forget to carry a plummet. In the summer, when the stream is slack, more success will be assured if the punt angler can find a piece of water that is more rapid than usual. For bank fishing the stream should not be too fast. Eddies are exceptionally good places for the bank angler to try his skill in the winter. In fishing the cuttings below the locks where the water is quiet try paste. In such places, of course, the clay is not required to sink the ground bait. In fishing the weir pools in hot weather, silk weed (*Conferva rivularis*) which can be scraped off the weirs, is a taking bait. It is twisted round the hook, and sometimes the fish will take nothing better. Ledgering for roach is very seldom practised on the Thames, the float tackle being a more fascinating method.

It goes without saying that more roach are taken by punt fishing than by fishing from the banks. This is because the best swims, as a rule, cannot be reached from the bank. If the services of a professional fisherman are called into requisition, try and obtain one who is *not afraid of work*. In some parts of the Thames one can engage really good men, though there are a number of persons who call themselves professional fishermen, but who have really no sound claim to such title. I quite agree with "John Bickerdyke," who says: "The professional fishermen of the Thames are a curious race. As a rule they know the water well in their own immediate neighbourhood, but cannot be depended on as guides away from their homes, although they will tell you they know every inch of the water for fifty miles. They are generally civil and attentive, but adverse to hard work. They sometimes undertake to provide tackle and bait, but the former is invariably of an inferior description, such as no real roach fisher would tolerate, and the latter—except in two or three very frequented stations—conspicuous by its absence. There are many accomplished and attentive Thames fishermen, but the mere watermen who pose as fishermen should certainly be avoided, and here and there one meets with men who are lazy, impudent and greedy."

(To be continued.)

ANOTHER IZAAK WALTON RELIC.

THE publication of our illustration of the old carved oak linen chest which belonged to Izaak Walton and his first wife Rachael, brought us particulars of another most interesting Walton relic, now in the possession of Sir Henry Harben, of Warnham Lodge, Sussex. We wrote to Sir Henry about it, and he has kindly given us permission to reproduce the photograph of the very fine cabinet which belonged to Izaak Walton and his second wife Anne, in 1656, three years after the publication of the first edition of the "Compleat Angler."

Sir Henry Harben gave us some particulars about this cabinet which we have his permission to print. With a pretty general knowledge of all that is known about Walton, we are unaware of any reference to this cabinet in any published

writings by or about Walton, and believe this is the first public notice of it.

LETTER FROM SIR HENRY HARBEN.

"DEAR SIR,—In answer to your inquiries about the Izaak Walton cabinet, I bought it from a gentleman at Ealing, to whom it had been given as a wedding present, and who would not have parted with it but that he was going abroad, and could not take it with him.

"Before buying it, I had it examined by an expert, and on sending him down I told him the price asked for it, but told him not to make any bid for it until he had consulted me.

"But he was so much impressed with its value that he made an offer for it, lest it should be sold elsewhere.

"On reporting to me what he had done, he said he was afraid lest if it were submitted to auction it might fetch a price I might not like to give.

rich marqueterie panels in arches at sides; the frieze and cornice with mask heads, and inscribed with monograms and

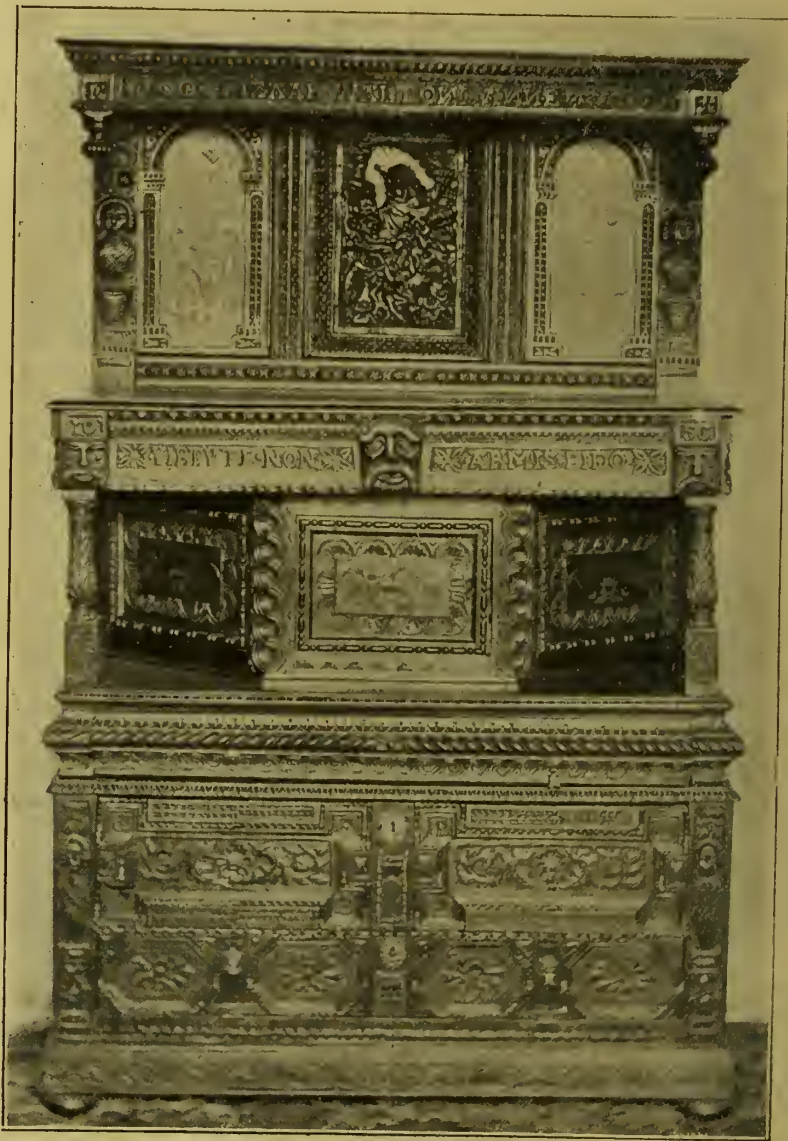
"IZAAK WALTON ANNE,"

"16 VIRTUTE NON ARMIS FIDO. 56."

"Formerly in the old Deanery at Winchester, where the Angler Walton died at his son-in-law's."

It is a little curious that this cabinet was not mentioned in Walton's will, seeing that his hanging cupboard was.* Possibly he had given it during his lifetime to his son-in-law, Dr. Hawkins, or to Dr. Hawkins' wife. He says in his will that he loved Dr. Hawkins "as his own son," and it was at his, Dr. H.'s, Prebendal House at Winchester he died, Dec. 15, 1683.

He married Anne Ken about 1646, he being then fifty-three and his wife thirty-five. She died in 1662, and the cabinet bears the date 1656, when they were probably residing in Clerkenwell, for we know little about his life from 1650 to 1661.



CABINET BELONGING TO IZAAK WALTON IN 1656.

"I immediately sent to the gentleman, and paid him the price he asked for it.

"Pasted in one of the drawers is a piece of printed paper, evidently from a catalogue of sale of old date, of which I send you a copy.

"You can reproduce the photograph in the *Fishing Gazette*.—Yours faithfully,

"HENRY HARBEN.

"Warnham Lodge, Sussex.

"R. B. Marston, Esq."

COPY OF THE CATALOGUE DESCRIPTION REFERRED TO ABOVE.

"Very fine and unique cabinet, the lower part with large drawers, richly moulded and carved, and cupboard with fall front enclosing pigeon holes, drawers, and secret recesses; above is cupboard, with carved and inlaid marqueterie panels in birds, flowers, &c. The top part is canopied with rich back, the centre panel in bold relief, 'The Day of Wrath,' and deeply recessed; figures and

A PRESENTATION COPY OF WALTON'S "LIVES."

Mr. H. Littledale, of Worcester, has kindly sent us this week a note to say that in the library of Worcester Cathedral there is a copy of Walton's "Four Lives" (1760) with

for Mrs. Elyza: Johnson
Fr. Izaak Walton

on fly-leaf.

On the title page she writes: "Eliza Johnson—Given to the Library of the Church at Worcester."

On referring to Walton's will we find that "Mrs. Elyza Johnson" is one of those to whom he left a ring.

* A picture of this hanging cupboard is given in my "Lea and Dove" edition of the "Compleat Angler."—R. B. M.

THE RAINBOW TROUT IN BRITISH COLUMBIA.

(Extract from a letter dated Aug. 30, 1893.)

It will interest you to hear that I have met the rainbow trout in his own home on two occasions, the first, when I had two hours to spare, at a place called Bonnington Falls, on the Slokan river. They are the very gamest of game fish. We fished from a boat on the edge of the rapids in the evening. The best fish rise at dusk, when it is almost too dark to see the fly. I had bronchitis, so did not stop out late, but still, managed to land nine fish, averaging probably $\frac{1}{2}$ lb. They catch them there up to $\frac{1}{2}$ lb., but a 2 lb. fish is considered a good fish. In appearance they are something like an Irish white trout, only with much smaller scales and a brighter silver colour. They fine away towards the tail more than a white trout, after the manner of a mackerel. The "rainbow" is a wide streak, about $\frac{1}{2}$ in. to $\frac{3}{4}$ in., or possibly 1 in. wide, which runs right along the side from the tail to, and including, a portion of the gill-cover, perhaps a third. The streak is a most beautiful pale pink and "iridesces" in the light. Altogether it is the prettiest fish I ever saw, and so game that it was hard to believe a $\frac{1}{2}$ -pounder was not a pounder till you saw him. They mostly rose low; sometimes you could see the curl, but oftener not. Now comes the triumph. I changed one of their three hideous, gaudy, badly-tied local flies for an Excellency before I started fishing. After catching four fish on it, and none on the others, I changed a second one for a Glenhest, leaving the local tail fly on, and caught the other five fish on one or other of our two Irish flies—not one on the local flies! This, after the contemptuous way in which my flies had been criticised, was a distinct "score." I gave the boatman, who really did his best to give me good sport, one of each, to his immense delight.

This place (Kaslo) is a splendid fishing district. It is not a good season, but still, a good many trout and salmon are caught. The former are rainbows; the salmon I have not seen, but they tell me they are exactly like English salmon. They run up to 30 lb.; 20 lb. is no uncommon size. They don't take the fly on the lake, but are caught by trolling with a spinner. Some seasons they are very plentiful, and hang around the mouth of the creek; there, as far as I can make out, they do rise to a fly. An Englishman caught nearly 2 cwt. in two hours a year or two ago.

There is also a smaller variety of trout, called the "speckled" or "mountain trout," exactly like a small white trout in shape and colour, except for some dark-coloured scales here and there on the side. The average size seems about $\frac{1}{2}$ lb. They are game fish, and live in very swift water.

Kaslo is on the Kootenay Lake. There are also two other varieties of fish in the lakes, and a short way up the rivers the chard (which I have not yet seen), something akin to a salmon, but not so game, and I believe not to be tempted by the fly; secondly, the "white fish." They are shaped somewhat like the rainbow, but the head is more like a whiting's, and the fork of the tail is larger and longer than a trout's. They are supposed not to take a fly, but I caught one on a fly a couple of days ago. Their flesh is white, and they are not in the least game. This fellow made one fine rush and then caved in utterly, and was quietly hauled in. Yesterday I had the great piece of good fortune to see and watch from quite close a genuine humming-bird. C. B.

"WATERPROOF," in the *Melbourne Leader*, tells us that "In angling for trout with grasshoppers the best variety to use is the small red legged species, without wings, and the best method of catching them is by walking along the edge of the stream and frightening the 'hoppers' into the water. You can then easily collect them with a landing net. You will require about three 'hoppers' to bait a No. 4 hook. The first 'hopper' should be threaded from breast to tail, and push it well up the shank of the hook; the next you also thread on the hook, but insert hook at back. By doing this you will have the red legs showing at front and back of the hook. The third 'hopper' is placed on similar to the first, just breaking the skin at the tail with the point of the hook. Sometimes it is as well to leave all the barb exposed. Having got your tackle ready and your hook baited, you cast into the deepest water you intend to fish. You will find the bait sinks slowly, and when you think it has reached the bottom, raise it to the surface slowly and make another cast. Do not pull up the bait quickly, as a trout often takes it when just below the surface of the water."

PORTRAIT OF JOHN KIRBY.

In my angling library I have a little volume entitled "The Anglers' Museum," rather scarce, and not, I think, mentioned in that invaluable work the "Bibliotheca Piscatoria," which has for frontispiece the portrait (which I have had reproduced for the *Fishing Gazette*) of "Mr. John Kirby, the celebrated angler."

Although this is the only reference to him, I think it is most probable that he was a member of the celebrated family of fishing hook makers so often mentioned by old angling writers. For instance, Izaak Walton (in his second and third editions only) makes Piscator say to Viator:

"But if you will buy choice hooks, I will one day walk with you to Charles Kerbye's, in Harp Alley, in Shoe Lane, who is the most exact and best hook maker that the nation affords."

Writing about a century later (1760), Hawkins

Engraved for the Anglers Museum.



MR. JOHN KIRBY.
the celebrated ANGLER.

Published June 4, 1764, by John Fielding, Patnr. noster Row, London.

has this note about Kirby in his edition of "The Compleat Angler":

PRINCE RUPERT AND CHARLES KIRBY'S HOOKS.

"In some former editions of this book the author (i.e., Walton) has, in this place, mentioned Charles Kirby as a maker of excellent hooks; of whom take the following account: He was famous for the neatness and form of his hooks; when, being introduced to Prince Rupert, whose name frequently occurs in the history of King Charles the First's reign, the prince communicated to him a method of tempering them, which has been continued in the family to this time; there being a lineal descendant of the above-named Charles Kirby now (1760) living in Crowther's Well-alley, near Aldersgate-street, whose hooks, for their shape and temper, exceed all others."

The "Bibliotheca Piscatoria" says that a copy of the third edition of Walton's "Angler," which belonged to King Charles II., who was an angler, was in the library at Chatsworth. Possibly it was a present from Prince Rupert, as he knew Kirby, who knew Walton. R. B. MARSTON.

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SOME TIPS BY A VETERAN CLEAR-WATER WORM FISHERMAN.

(Continued from page 19.)

At times, in the Tweed and other rivers which are tolerably well fished by all and sundry, the trout, even in the proper season, come short at the worm, or only half hook themselves, a condition of things well known to all who practice the art, and who are "far ben" in its mysteries.

In such a case it is just worth while to try spinning the worm in the streams.

In doing this it will be advisable not to use the very smallest hooks on the Stewart tackle, nor the very smallest worms, for, first, it is indispensable that the worm should spin rapidly, and then fair sized hooks, No. 3 or 4 (Kendal scale), if the worms are medium sized, will be sufficient to hook the trout as they dash at the lure. Very small hooks (1 and 2) would miss, while spinning, many a trout. Of course, a very small swivel is quite necessary, the smallest size made by Hutchinson, of Kendal—not brass, but blued steel. A shot will seldom be necessary. Indeed, one more swivel would be far more advisable, and is often much to be desired—in a deep, strong run—in any large volume of water, like the Tay or the Tweed. In tributary streams ("waters," as they are called in Scotland) the single swivel of smallest size (No. 12) is all that can possibly be wanted. The first thing is to make sure that the worm spins well, and this is no such easy matter. As a rule, I generally find that the upper of the three hooks of the Stewart tackle should be entered quite close to the head, and the worm should be nearly straight to the second hook; but between the second and third hooks the worm should take a spiral form, and the only way is at once to try it, and to shift the bottom hook till the worm spins like a top.

If it is used before it spins quite freely, the result will be failure. I would just like to add, never put a worm on without partially stunning it. It is needlessly cruel, and the worm is apt to tie himself in a knot, especially if you are fishing with very fine drawn gut, and you will have to change your worm, as he will soon break his body in pieces on the sharp, thin drawn gut. In stunning a worm, lay him in the hollow of the left hand, and give him a few taps with the fingers of the right. I have at times kept them in the hollow of the left hand, and with the right palm so held that it is also hollow, I bring the right hand smartly down on the left. The worm is practically never touched at all by the right palm, but the concussion of the air after one or two smacks will generally suffice to stun a worm without breaking it, which is the thing to avoid.

Newly dug worms full of earth easily break, and are a great nuisance to the clear-water worm fisherman. Prithee, avoid them!

As for the method of spinning the worm itself in the stream, it can be spun across with a series of draws, or fished up and across; but in a favourable spot a very good method is to wade in the shallows, and switch the worm upstream and yet across, then, lowering the point of the rod, bring it downwards, making the arc of a circle, and repeating the cast at each step.

I very often use one of these tiny blued steel swivels (No. 12) when fishing upstream—when a shot would be an advantage—and I very much prefer it to a shot. Can anyone doubt that a worm deftly placed near a wary old trout—and which begins to revolve gently when the fisherman lifts his rod upwards—is more likely to conceal the hooks and to tempt the old fox than when simply placed before him more or less motionless. And please remember that the worm, which may spin rapidly when dragged sideways through a rough stream, when thrown right upstream will only turn gently round and round, and more than this would not be advisable. It gives to "the wriggling wum" an appearance of life. Anyone who runs short, and has to use some old water-logged worms, knows how the trout "sneeze" as they come close to their noses; and, as all know, things are proved by their opposites. By the way, did anyone ever do any real good with the indiarubber red-painted worms one sees in tackle shops? I have not dared to try one. I do not mean the rubber sand eels.

Those who fish for sea trout, sewin, herling, or any sort of white trout should give my spinning worm a trial in the shallow streams when the fly

is not doing well. Few ever think of it. N.B.—It is at times very deadly amongst herling. This “tip” alone is worth making a note of. And even old hands may do worse than remember that “naethin’ beats a trial” in this connection.

Good burn fishing is not the highest branch of the art, but I hold that it is the very poetry of clear-water worm fishing.

If I could be a young man again, I really think that I would take up burn fishing as my own special delight and my dream to be in old age. It has a peculiar fascination, and I am proud to say I am at one with that excellent sportsman, be it with dry fly or wet fly, worm or minnow, who still occasionally writes to the *F. G.* under the title of C. Hevit, “The Hon. Chaplain of the *Fishing Gazette*,” and who remembers my paternal grandmother (who was a personal friend of his own father), which is more than I do, as she lived “owre the border and awa” when I was a raw-boned Scotch laddie.

Burn fishing, I say, is a fascinating pursuit. And what, pray, constitutes a burn? asks someone who has never lived in the “land o’ cakes” and “barley bree.” I will try to answer him. The heads of all our Scottish rivers are at first only burns, and at times they are many in these upland regions. There are burns, however, in the more lowland portions of Scotland as well as in the mountainous regions, but they differ widely from the burns which run from every little valley amongst the hills. Now, if once a young angler took to burn fishing as his peculiar hobby, I distinctly say he has entered on an earthly paradise which it is hard to beat. I know of no one who has done so, and I hold it out to those who have youth, time, leisure, and money, for to do it well a man would have to travel from point to point. The trout do not, as a rule, run large. I have fished a burn near the sea where the trout were red fleshed and averaged about $\frac{1}{2}$ lb.; but this was an exception to the rule. There is an infinite variety in burn fishing. In the low grounds the burns have different characteristics—they run slower and are more turbid, sometimes milky if passing through clay, but by no means always, for at times they are as clear as crystal.

The burns—“many muirs an’ mosses many, O”—are apt to be more or less coloured by peat stain, but they are absolutely charming, with their succession of pools and streams and tiny cascades, and now and then one comes to a long, still pool, or a large and deep pot underneath some high cascade; and here the wily fisherman may do well to kneel down, and fish the pool up with a cast of hackled flies. He can still, if he lies low, fish it with the worm. To reverse the process would be a mistake. To the tired brain, what more delightful than being alone with Nature, up some wild, lone glen, rod in hand! The music of the water is of itself soothing; the cuckoo and moorcock are our companions, as are also the water ouzel and various smaller birds. Birch trees grow in clumps here and there, lending beauty to the banks.

The fisherman requires a sinewy, active frame; it is not the pastime for the inactive or the old and feeble. My own day for climbing and kneeling, and so forth, I confess, is over, as is this paper.

E. M. TOD.

THE FLY DRESSER'S LIBRARY.

(Continued from page 21.)

BY VAL CONSON.

IN 1847 the indefatigable “Ephemera” produced his “Handbook of Angling.” It contains a long theoretic dissertation on artificial flies, a clear and interesting chapter on the mechanics of the art, and a list of some sixty-eight patterns, with the dressings. This author was all for “exact imitation.” Another edition appeared in 1848 with eighty-two patterns, and third and fourth in 1853 and 1865 respectively.

In 1847 there also appeared the very artless work of Mr. Soltan, a well-known Devonshire angler. It is called “Trout Flies of Devon and Cornwall” on the title page, but inside it is called “Treatise on Flyfishing.” It is full of irrelevancies from start to finish, and its only value consists in its coloured plates of some eighteen flies. The reader must, however, guess of what materials they are constructed.

A second edition appeared in 1856.

In 1849 appeared a work called “Practical Fly Fishing,” by “Arundo,” which, although neither scientific or accurate in many respects, impresses the reader with the capacity of the author and with a respect for his short list of by no means conventional patterns. There is nothing in it of the mechanics of fly dressing. There has been a recent reprint of this work (Methuen and Co., 1893), which puts it within the reach of all.

Another and still more remarkable work which appeared in 1849 was Hewett Wheatley’s “Rod and Line.” Wheatley was a man much ahead of his time in many ways. He advocated eyed hooks, and described and illustrated the Red Tag, for the title of inventor of which many claimants were lately contending in the columns of the *Fishing Gazette*. His book does not deal with the ordinary trout flies, but after a chapter on “Minnows and Waterwitches” (as he calls spinning artificial minnows), and another on “The Grasshopper, Cabbage, and other Grubs,” chiefly as bait for grayling, he gives a most interesting and valuable set of directions for imitating beetles. In the following chapter on “Fancy Flies” he gives some eleven patterns, which are still worth a trial. Among them are the Red Tag above mentioned, the Yellow and Orange Partridge, and two flies which rather suggest than imitate the Iron Blue Dun. But he admits “many of the so-called fancy flies have their prototypes in nature. The term fancy fly is often vulgarly applied to all flies whose living original is unknown to the angler.” In the next chapter, on “Moths,” the author anticipates the theories of fly dressing lately propounded by Mr. Charles Walker in the columns of *Land and Water*, in his lectures to the Piscatorial Society, and in his clever volume, “Old Flies in New Dresses.” He recommends the dressing of large Sedges and Moths in the position of rest. The last chapter, on “Salmon Fishing,” is one with which we have no concern here. The book is beautifully illustrated, and is written with much caustic wit and spirit. It is a sound, practical work, and it is a matter of surprise that it has not been reprinted.

In 1851 appeared anonymously a work called “Fly Fishing,” published by Van Voorst, and chiefly remarkable for five eccentric plates of salmon flies. It contains more of other matter than of fly fishing. But in the parts devoted to trout and grayling there is a brief list of flies with their dressings.

In 1853 Michael Theakston published his “List of Natural Flies,” republished in 1863 as “British Angling Flies,” and again in 1883 with the same title, edited by Mr. F. M. Walbran. The book is a very creditable attempt on the part of a man who had had no scientific education to describe the natural flies which are imitated by anglers. There are black and white illustrations of every fly, very well drawn indeed. Theakston had a theory of his own as to nomenclature of flies. He called all the Ephemerae Drakes, on the analogy of the Green Drake, probably failing to realise that the Green Drake owed its name to the feather with which it was dressed. He called the Sedges Duns, the Perlidae Browns, the Tipulidae Spinners, and so on. His system has not caught on. The descriptions he gives of the dressing of flies are very inadequate. He was a Yorkshire angler.

Theakston was followed, in 1854, by John Jackson, another Yorkshire angler, with a capital little illustrated work called “The Practical Flyfisher.” It has twice been republished, once in 1862 and again in 1880. In 1889 it was republished at the end of a re-issue of Major’s edition of “The Compleat Angler.” There are some brief instructions for dressing winged and hackled trout flies, eked out with some amusingly primitive, but nevertheless serviceable, woodcuts. Then follow a series of plates, not so good as Ronald’s, none too well coloured, but still of some value. They contain, side by side, the natural flies and their artificial imitations, the latter drawn with little pretence to neatness of dressing, but most evident faithfulness of drawing. The interleaved letterpress describes the dressings—an excellent series.

“Rambles and Recollections of a Flyfisher,” by “Clericus” (the Rev. W. Cartwright), appeared in the same year, 1854. It claims to contain “an appendix, with ample instructions to the novice, inclusive of fly making and a list of really useful flies.” His directions are very simple. His list of flies is a good one.

In 1857 came a work that no angler on wet-fly streams should be without, “Stewart’s Practical Angler.” No better work on fishing burns has ever been published. The description of the methods of dressing trout flies, simple as they are, are well worth learning. Stewart’s list is a short one, comprising three winged and three hackled flies. These, he says, are sufficient; but he is not dogmatic, and he does not deny that other patterns will catch fish.

In the following year appeared “The Teesdale Angler,” by R. Lakeland—an ill-digested collection of dressings, thrown together anyhow and full of repetitions. It was apparently got by ringing the changes of different coloured silks with different hackles. It is at this period one notes the beginnings of the prevalence of that style of fly dressing known as the Yorkshire hackle style. It is, indeed, singular how little earlier authors had regarded the hackled as compared with the winged fly.

In 1861 “Wade’s Halcyon” appeared. It contains some fairly lucid directions for dressing flies, and some miscellaneous information with regard to materials, dyeing, &c. At the end of the book there is a plate illustrative of certain processes of dressing, and five plates of coloured illustrations, roughly done, of natural and artificial flies. The text contains a list of 210 flies, the longest, I believe, and, except Lakeland’s, perhaps the least digested, list in the literature of angling with the fly. They are placed in no sort of order, and there are cases among them of mere repetition.

In 1863 a small volume was published, called “Trout Fishing in Rapid Streams,” by H. C. Cutcliffe, F.R.C.S. It is a most original work, written from the point of view of a Devonshire fly fisher, and it contains much information not to be found elsewhere as to breeding fowls for hackles, and the collection and preparation of materials for fly dressing, and some excellent instructions for dressing the large hackled flies affected on Devonshire waters. At the end of the book is a list of Devonshire flies that he recommends. The book is worth reading closely from cover to cover. A fresh edition was published by Messrs. Sampson Low and Co. in 1883.

In 1865 and 1868 appeared, in New York, two editions by Robert Barnwell Roosevelt of “Superior Fishing.” He gives a poor set of instructions for dressing flies. He adds:

The various flies that appear upon the surface of the numerous and varying waters of our country, from the borders of Mexico to the confines of Labrador, would furnish the subject for an instructive and interesting work.

The natural flies, whether hatched from the caddis at the bottom of the streams, or from the burrows in the ground, or the knots on the limbs, or the acorns amid the leaves of trees, are more numerous than those of any European country. As a class they are larger, the Ephemerae especially, and although often found to be similar in general appearance, furnish many species unknown there. They have never been properly described and classified, and no satisfactory work has been written at all thorough and reliable in which an attempt is made to record their nature and habits.

(To be continued.)

SALMON FISHING IN THE RIVER USK.

A COUPLE of very important meetings connected with salmon fishing in the river Usk were held at the Great Western Hotel, Abergavenny, on Friday. First there was a joint conference of representatives of the Usk and Ebbw Board of Conservators, the United Usk Fishery Association, and of the River Usk fishery owners. The chair was taken by Lord Tredegar, and there were also in attendance Sir Joseph Bailey (now Baron), Captain John Hotchkis, Mr. S. H. Cowper Coles (representing the Marquess of Worcester), General Gillespie, Major Williams, Captain Sandeman, and General Sir Charles Barnard, together with the clerk (Mr. Horace S. Lyne). The question which the conference was called to consider was whether it was desirable to acquire the stop nets in the river. It was generally felt that it would be to the interests of all fishermen to have the nets under the control of one body. Colonel Lyne, it was stated, had already purchased, on behalf of trustees, the nine nets owned by the Marquess of Worcester. The trustees to whom these are to be handed over are Lord Tredegar, Sir Joseph Bailey (now Baron), Mr. A. D. Berrington, Colonel Lyne, and Mr. J. C. Hanbury, of Pontypool Park. Altogether there were eighteen nets on the river Usk. Nine were held by the Marquess of Worcester, one by Eton College, one by Mr. Clifford Cory, two by Lord Tredegar, one by Mr. Rieley, two by Mr. Hanbury, and two by Sir Arthur Mackworth. Already the Marquess of Worcester has sold his nine, Mr. Clifford Cory has agreed to sell his, Mr. Rieley will agree to continue the annual tenancy of his in the hands of the Fishery Association, Lord Trede-

gar has agreed to grant a long lease of his, and Mr. Hanbury's two nets are included in the lease of the Crown fisheries, now held by the association, so that there are only three others to be dealt with, and those will be looked after by the stop net joint committee. The money necessary to be raised to pay for the rights so being acquired is £1800. To meet this sum the fishery owners above Abergavenny have promised £700, and it is hoped to get £800 from the lower fishery owners. Of this latter sum £200 has been promised by Mr. Hanbury, and £100 by the Llanover trustees. It is hoped that the remaining £300 will be obtained from the association members, ticket holders, and the smaller fishery owners. Later a meeting of the Usk and Ebbw Board of Conservators was held at the same place, Col. Lyne presiding. Arising out of the conference of the representatives, the chairman moved two important resolutions in accordance with notices, and these were agreed to, viz.: "That the bye-law made by the Board of Conservators for the Usk and Ebbw Fishery District, on the 30th day of September, 1873, being bye-law No. 1 of the said board, be altered so that such bye-law shall read as follows: 'The termination of the annual close season as to the whole of the Usk and Ebbw Fishery District, both for all modes of salmon fishing, except with the rod and line, and as regards fishing with the rod and line, is hereby altered as follows, namely, such annual close shall terminate on the 1st day of March inclusive,'" and "That the licence duty upon stop nets within the Usk and Ebbw Fishery District be increased from £5 to £7 10s."

PROSECUTION BY THE GREAT WESTERN RAILWAY COMPANY.

At the Bristol Police Court recently, before Mr. S. Wills and Col. Coates, William Pole was summoned for travelling upon the Great Western Railway without having previously paid his fare, with intent to avoid payment of it, and Herbert Edward Cole was summoned for aiding and abetting him in this offence. Mr. Hart (Messrs Osborne, Ward, Vassall, and Co.) prosecuted on behalf of the Great Western Railway Company, stating that the facts of the case were somewhat peculiar. It was not an ordinary offence of travelling on the railway without a ticket, because Pole had a ticket, although not a correct one. In Bristol there was a club called the Golden Carp Angling Association, which was affiliated to the Provincial Angling Association, whose headquarters were at Birmingham. The Great Western Company made great concessions to the Provincial Association, and allowed *bond fide* members to travel to stations on their line at a fare and a quarter for the return journey. The Golden Carp Association being affiliated to it, their members enjoyed the same privileges. When a man was elected a member of the association he was sent, from Birmingham, a member's travelling card, or tablet, so that when he applied at a railway station for an angling ticket, and produced the tablet, he obtained his ticket at a fare and a quarter. On Sunday morning, October 23rd, the defendant Pole was seen at Temple Meads by one of the Angling Association's servants to take a ticket to travel by the slow early Weymouth train. He was heard to ask at the booking office for an angler's ticket, and he produced an angler's tablet. Evidence would be called to show Pole was not a member of the association, and not entitled to the angler's tablet. He had formerly been a member, and would therefore know the rules of the association. The defendant Cole had lent Pole his ticket. When an inspector of the company subsequently spoke to Pole, he replied that he had got the ticket for Cole, but Cole was not at the station that morning. When Cole was questioned by the Angling Association he made four different statements. At first he denied lending the ticket, then that Pole had asked him for it, that he had gone by an earlier train that morning—(there was no earlier train); and also that Pole had made a fool of him. Mr. Hart read a letter that Cole had written to the Angling Association admitting that he had lent his tablet. John Clements, a member of the Bristol Golden Carp Angling Association, said on Sunday morning, October 23rd, he was at the Temple Meads station and saw Pole go to the ticket window with an angler's tablet in his hand, and ask for an angling ticket either for Freshford or Bradford. Cole was not at the station that morning. On the Sunday previous to this he had heard Pole ask at the booking office for two angling tickets, but as he had not a tablet with him, the clerk refused them. Frederick Guy, booking clerk, said that on the Sunday morning in question he did not issue any ordinary tickets to either Freshford, Bradford, or Limply for the early Weymouth train. Richard Dix Frost, president of the Golden Carp Association, stated that Cole, on 23rd October, was a member of the association, and was, therefore, enabled to purchase an angler's ticket at a railway station. There was a rule of the association that no member of the association should use his tablet except when going fishing, nor lend it to anyone else. Pole was not a member of the association, but had been two years ago. Witness further corroborated Mr. Hart's statement, and added that Cole's tablet had now been forfeited. William Thomas Forrester, chief inspector on the G.W.R., also gave evidence in support of Mr. Hart's statement. Wm. Pole, having been sworn, said he lived at 192, Newfoundland-road. He borrowed the ticket from Cole about the 21st of October to have a day's fishing, thinking that as he was a *bond fide* angler he was entitled to use the ticket. He asked for an angler's ticket at the booking office. In reply to Mr. Hart: He had asked for an angler's ticket on the previous Sunday, but as he had not a tablet with him it was refused. Herbert Edward Cole, a butcher, living at Cranbrook-road, said that a day or so previous to the 23rd October Pole borrowed his tablet, saying he wanted it for a friend who had been proposed as a member of the association, but who had not yet received his tablet from Birmingham. Witness knew Pole had been

a member of the club, and had been led to believe he was still a member. He knew he did wrong in lending his ticket, even (as he thought) to another member, but intended it as a kindness to a new member. The bench said the offences had been committed, and the defendants would be fined 40s. and costs each.

BRITISH SEA ANGLERS' SOCIETY.

THE usual weekly meeting of this society was held at the Cannon-street Hotel, Mr. A. W. Parker in the chair. The usual reports from stations were read. Several members reported indifferent sport from Deal. An interesting discussion took place on wire lines. Mr. R. J. Gordon showed a winch in which the barrel was built up with wine corks, so that the drum was greatly increased and at the same time allowed the salt water to run away. Mr. Hearder's letter in the *Fishing Gazette* was read, and it seemed the feeling of members that Mr. Hearder ought to have stated when and where the wire lines were used that he refers to. Mr. Ormiston, who was present, stated, in reply to a distinct query, that he was of opinion that phosphor-bronze wire for sea fishing had certainly not been used for winch lines, being only introduced during the last ten years. Mr. Handley drew attention to the fact that no lectures had been given during the year, and asked that the hon. sec. should lead off. A formal resolution to this effect was then passed. The hon. sec. stated that he would be pleased to do so at an early date. The chairman mentioned that he would bring the matter before the next committee. The hon. sec. announced that Mr. F. E. Eldred would read a paper before the society on Wednesday, Feb. 1, on "Fish Hooks." This would be followed at an early date by a paper on "The Ramblings of a Sea Angler," by Mr. A. R. Mathews. The usual vote of thanks to the chair closed the meeting.

CHARLES S. PATTERSON, Hon. Sec.

GRESHAM ANGLING SOCIETY.

At a largely attended meeting at headquarters, Masons' Hall Tavern, Masons'-avenue, E.C., Mr. Mark Davies occupied the chair. A quantity of business was transacted, the drawing up of the committee's report for 1898, and the programme (provisional) for 1899. This will be issued towards the end of next month, and suggestions for the improvement of same are invited from every member. There are several vacancies for paper readings, and the committee would be glad to receive the names of any gentlemen who would be willing to further the interests of the society by volunteering to read a paper—not of necessity to be upon piscatorial matters. Two gentlemen were unanimously elected members of the society, and another nominated for membership. Mr. H. Short reported some roach from the Storr. Mr. F. Gray, from Leigh, two dozen dabs, in very rough weather; and from the Thames 22lb. of good roach. The event of the evening, a paper entitled "Rain and Rivers," was then forthcoming. It was delivered by our old friend, Mr. James Taylor ("Red Palmer"). He discoursed at very great length upon the subject. It would be impossible in the space at my command to give the details. Sufficient to say that the large audience were more than interested. Several gentlemen discoursed upon the different subjects touched upon by the lecturer, and at the conclusion a most cordial vote of thanks was accorded him for his labours. Several items of interest were discussed, after which the usual toasts and a vote of thanks to the chairman concluded a model Gresham evening.

ALEX. WRIGHT, Hon. Sec.

BRIGHTON ANGLERS' ASSOCIATION.

THE annual meeting of the above association was held recently at the Imperial Hotel, Queen's-road, Mr. Oxborough presiding. The quarterly and yearly balance-sheets were read by the secretary (Mr. Martin), showing a balance in hand of £27 15s. 11d. Mr. Kempshall (auditor) proposed that the balance-sheets should be passed, which was unanimously accepted. Mr. McFarlane (vice-chairman) brought before the members the advisability of introducing influential outside anglers to assist in forming a preservation board for the river Adur. He said "that it would be an expensive undertaking for the association to bear on its own shoulders." It was decided that a meeting should be called for Tuesday, Jan. 24, at 8.30, to discuss the matter. Mr. Pain proposed that ladies should be admitted into the association as honorary members for the sum of 1s. per year, which would entitle them to the railway privilege ticket. This proposition was supported by all, and twelve lady members were enrolled the same evening. The following officers were elected for the ensuing year: Gerald Loder, Esq., M.P., president; Rev. J. Goring and Sir Joseph Ewart, vice-presidents; Mr. Oxborough, chairman; Mr. McFarlane, vice-chairman; Messrs. Pain, Hall, King, Doughty, and Sackellmore, committee; Messrs. Kempshall and Quinn, auditors; Mr. A. Bunting, treasurer; Mr. Stevens, trustee; Mr. W. Martin, hon. secretary; Mr. Saunders, assistant hon. secretary. Members please note that 1898 privilege tickets are now cancelled. Tickets for 1899 can now be obtained by paid-up members from the secretary, at headquarters, every Tuesday night, at 8.30.

W. M. MARTIN.

CARDIFF PISCATORIAL SOCIETY.

THE annual meeting of this flourishing fishing club was held at the Alexandra Hotel on Thursday evening. Mr. R. J. Watkins, superintendent registrar for Cardiff district, occupied the chair, and there was a good attendance of members. Dr. Taylor was re-elected president of the society, and Messrs Lascelles Carr, David Duncan, John

Mander, Colonel Gaskell, Major Rigg, and Councillor Gerhold were re-elected vice-presidents. Mr. Richard Harris was re-elected hon. treasurer, and Messrs W. H. Burrows, and Ernest Webster were elected as joint hon. secretaries, and M. J. T. Williams auditor. The relations of the society with the Taff and Ely Fishing Association and with the Provincial Angling Association continue to be of a cordial character, and the society will fish the first named association's waters on the same terms as last year. The annual subscription will remain at 5s. as heretofore. The society, in entering on the ninth year of its existence, has before it a full programme, and many new features of benefit to anglers generally, not only in Cardiff but throughout the Principality. It was proposed to give up some of the Rumney waters now rented by the society in favour of some more desirable fishings which the committee have in view. It was arranged to hold the annual dinner at the Alexandra Hotel, the headquarters of the society, on Wednesday, February 8th. Application for membership and all communications relative to the business of the society should be addressed to Mr. W. H. Burrows, 66, Conway-road, Cardiff.

GREAT YARMOUTH SONS OF NEPTUNE ANGLING SOCIETY.

ANNUAL MEETING.

THE annual meeting in connection with the above society was held at the clubhouse, North Quay, on Monday evening. Mr. J. S. Bartram, the chairman of the society, presided, Mr. S. Mobbs occupied the vice-chair, and there was a good attendance of members. The first business was to consider the question of raising the subscription of the society, and after a discussion it was unanimously decided to increase the angling subscription to 2s. 6d., whilst non-angling members will pay the same subscription as has previously been in force. The secretary next gave his report and balance-sheet, from which it appeared that the society had just entered upon its seventh year. The present year's accounts compared very favourably with any previous one. They had a membership of 107, which was a reduction on 1897. Several members, however, had not yet paid their subscriptions, but would probably do so if asked. During the past season seven matches had been held, four fresh and three salt water. The first named took place at Potter Heigham, Fritton, Acle, and Ormesby, whilst the three latter were held on Breydon (2) and Caister Beach. There had also been an improvement in the gross catch of fresh-water fish, for in the four matches 228lb. 11½oz. were weighed-in. The salt-water matches had not been so successful, as only 73lb. 14½oz. were landed in the three contests. In the seven competitions held fifty members turned out at one or more of them, whilst altogether 180 entries had been received, an average of nearly twenty-six per match. Nearly £20 had been given in cash or kind as prizes, and of this amount £10 16s. 6d. had been presented to the society by gentlemen interested in it. Early in the season Mr. W. T. Nicholls had presented them with a handsome silver cup. This had been fished for four times, Messrs. D. Houghton (2), H. Grimmer, and G. Himpleman respectively having been the winners, the last named being the holder until next year. In the competition for this trophy they had raised the scale of fish to be weighed-in, and it had worked very satisfactorily. The society's challenge cup had been won by Messrs. J. George, F. Downing, D. Houghton, and G. Himpleman. In the competition for the association shield they had not taken a very prominent position, but he (the secretary) hoped that they might be more successful this year. The report and accounts having been adopted, the election of officers was next proceeded with, with the following result: Mr. J. S. Bartram having decided to relinquish the position of chairman, which he had held nearly three years, Mr. S. Mobbs was appointed in his place, whilst Mr. W. Breeze was elected vice-chairman. The treasurer (Mr. J. Harris) and secretary (Mr. E. W. Buckle) were both re-elected. Messrs. R. Bammant and H. G. Buglass were elected auditors. The general committee were constituted as follows: Messrs. F. Mobbs, F. Downing, R. Rowlett, J. S. Bartram, W. Budds, A. Bensley, H. G. Buglass, E. Plummer, and H. Rudd. The angling committee elected were: Messrs. G. Thompson, S. Mobbs, F. Downing, J. S. Bartram, S. Layton, W. Pye, G. Himpleman, H. G. Buglass, and D. Houghton. Messrs. J. Harris, S. Mobbs, and E. W. Buckle were elected as delegates to the Yarmouth and Gorleston Amalgamated Anglers' Association. The secretary having reported the death of a member (Mr. W. Sharman, of Southtown), which had occurred the previous day, the society decided to show their sympathy and respect for the deceased by purchasing a wreath. Votes of thanks to the retiring officers and to the prize donors concluded the meeting.

E. W. BUCKLE.

ANGLERS' ASSOCIATION.

MR. W. H. BECKETT occupied the chair on Monday evening last at the January delegate meeting of this association. The minutes of the last delegate meeting, general committee, renting and preservation committee were read, and in the latter minutes the cost of the netting at Tottenham reservoirs was mentioned, the same amounting to £85 5s. 2d. It was also stated that Messrs. W. Westbury, T. Harris, H. Hartwell, and F. Lucas had been elected hon. bailiffs to the Grand Junction and Slough Canal. The visiting officers gave their reports. Mr. G. Manning stated that he had had no visit since the last meeting; the next one will be to the Stapsney Angling Society on Monday evening, Jan. 23. Mr. Abrahams reported that his next visit would go to the Islington Brothers'. Mr. T. R. La Mond (Clissold A.S.) was elected

visiting officer of the Tottenham Suburban List on the proposition of Mr. Abrahams, seconded by Mr. Rowles. The chairman read a letter from the Midland Railway, which stated that in reply to their application for Sheffield, on their line, they had issued notice to grant anglers tickets to that station for 5s. A complaint was made by a member, Mr. Haynes (Crown and Buckland), that he had been turned away from the association's fishery at Wormingford, as a society called the Merry Anglers claimed it as their fishery. The secretary was instructed to see into the matter, and will report at the next meeting. Mr. Knight proposed, and Mr. Ford seconded, that application be made to the South-Eastern Railway to issue cheap tickets to Maidstone. Thirty-eight clubs were represented. A vote of thanks to the chairman closed the proceedings.

HON. REPORTER.

PISCATORIAL SOCIETY.

THE annual general meeting of this society was held on Monday evening at the Holborn Restaurant, Major Graham Gordon presiding. There was a very large attendance of members. The auditors, Messrs. C. C. Blundell and F. G. Bridgman, presented their statement of accounts for the past year, showing a small balance to the good after paying all liabilities. After a short discussion the accounts were duly passed, on the motion of Mr. G. Smith, seconded by Mr. Chas. H. Wheeley. The committee and officers for the ensuing year were then elected by ballot, and will be as follows: Mr. T. R. Sachs (president), Mr. R. S. Pennings (vice-president), Mr. E. Foreman (hon. treasurer), Mr. M. G. E. de Courcy (hon. secretary), Mr. J. W. Zaehnsdorf (hon. librarian), Dr. Chas. S. Patterson (hon. curator), Messrs. C. Butler and C. C. Blundell (auditors); and committee, Messrs. H. H. Brown, F. G. Bridgman, C. H. Bywaters, W. Edmonds, E. K. Foreman, E. M. Mayes, C. Stallibrass, Frank Ward, Chas. H. Wheeley, Chas. E. Walker, R. Clay, and Neville Davis. A resolution, proposed by Dr. C. S. Patterson and seconded by Mr. F. G. Bridgman, was unanimously passed that an expression of condolence be forwarded to the hon. treasurer, Mr. E. Foreman, from the members assembled, on his trying illness, accompanied with a hope that he would soon be amongst them again. Mr. J. Flower was duly elected a new member by ballot.

A motion by Mr. E. McFee, seconded by Mr. R. C. Blundell, that the hour of meeting be altered from 8 p.m. to 8.30 p.m. was carried, as also a resolution to the effect that new members joining after Aug. 1 should pay only half the yearly subscription, viz., £1 11s. 6d., with the usual entrance fee of a guinea.

With reference to the acquisition of new water for trout and coarse fishing, it was explained that, owing to the fact of the society having, as the chairman put it, "no concrete individuality," a lease could not be granted to it direct, and, as a consequence, Messrs. R. C. Blundell and E. Foreman had taken for a long term of years the famous fishery on the Colne at Uxbridge, known as Dr. Ramsgill's water, as trustees for the Piscatorial Society. If the latter found that their finances permitted them to take the water over from the lessees named, the operation would be effected by a declaration of trust, which would state that so long as the society paid the rent to Messrs. R. C. Blundell and Foreman all the rights and privileges they had in the water would be enjoyed by the members. The chairman explained the legal aspect of the case, and the question of ways and means was fully gone into. It was felt, however, that until some of the waters which the society at present holds are given up, the income available for water renting would not be sufficient to cover the additional expense of the new water. To get over this difficulty a number of members at once subscribed their names to a guarantee fund to provide the sines of war. Dr. Patterson moved, and Mr. G. Smith seconded, however, that any deficiency in the rent should be taken from the reserve fund. The chairman, as hon. solicitor of the society, although he thought that if there was a deficit at the end of the year, and they could show that it was not likely to be a lasting one, resulting from the exceptional case of having waters on their hands which they could not at once give up, they could draw upon the fund to meet such deficiency. On the other hand, if it was to be an enduring deficit, he did not think they could touch the fund alluded to to provide for it. In any case, until they knew what the deficit was at the end of the year, they could not pass a vague resolution like the one suggested. An amount must be specified. Thereupon Mr. C. Stallibrass moved, Mr. R. Bradford seconded, and it was unanimously resolved that the society take the water secured by Messrs. R. C. Blundell and E. Foreman at Uxbridge; the lessees giving the society the whole of their privileges, with the exception that the control of the fishing hut was to be vested in the two gentlemen named. A very hearty vote of thanks was accorded to Messrs. R. C. Blundell and E. Foreman for the energetic steps they had taken to obtain such a splendid stretch of water for the use of members. It is expected that the members will be able to fish the new water in about a month's time, but they will receive the earliest possible intimation on this head from the hon. secretary. No one, however, will be allowed to fish without a special permit, and until the current year's subscription of three guineas (not two guineas) is paid. The recommendation of the committee that Mr. T. R. Sachs and Dr. Coates be placed on the list of hon. members was agreed to, and, after the chairman had been warmly thanked for presiding, the meeting closed shortly before midnight.

M. G. E. DE C.

REPORTS FROM RIVERS, LOCHS, &c.

River Reporters who want forms and envelopes should send a post card to the Manager of the FISHING GAZETTE, St. Dunstan's House, Fetter-lane, London.

Time of High Water in the Thames.

To find the time of high water in the Thames at any of the following places, to the time of high water at London Bridge given below.

30 min. for Chelsea.	55 min. for Kew.
Add 40 " " Putney.	75 " " Richmond.
45 " " Hammersmith.	80 " " Twickenham.
50 " " Barnes.	85 " " Teddington.

EXAMPLE:—If it is high water at 2 o'clock at London Bridge, it will be high water at Teddington at 3.25, or 85 minutes later.

N.B.—A strong wind up-stream accelerates the tide very much, and one down-stream retards it.

TIME OF HIGH WATER AT LONDON BRIDGE.

	Morning.	Evening.
Saturday, Jan. 21	9.4	9.45
Sunday, " 22	10.28	11.9
Monday, " 23	11.46	—
Tuesday, " 24	0.21	0.50
Wednesday, " 25	1.14	1.36
Thursday, " 26	1.56	2.14
Friday, " 27	2.30	2.46

HIGH WATER AT AMBERLEY AND PULBOROUGH.

	Morning.	Evening.
Saturday, Jan. 21	9.44	10.25
Sunday, " 22	11.8	11.49
Monday, " 23	12.26	0.40

These times show high water at Houghton Bridge, Amberley. Pulborough will be 2h. 40m. later.

ENGLISH AND WELSH REPORTS.

Lower Thames.—GENERAL REMARKS.—At the time of writing my general remarks last week there was every hope of the anglers doing some good business in the river at the end of the week; but since then it has occasioned nothing but the greatest disappointment. There has not only been some heavy showers of rain, but the most disastrous gales and a tremendous stream of water. The old days of work came with great force to my mind, with the absolute necessity of a personal and practical visitation to the river, or as near as I could get to the flooded portion, and the desirability to watch and prepare for the work to follow, when both men and nets would be required on its return to recover the fish that had been drawn away from the parent stream, and it was a sight to witness the priming of the fish in the meadows and lands adjoining. In addition to the staff of wholly paid keepers, the fishermen were always found ready to assist in securing the safety of the fish. One occasion comes strongly to my recollection in some meadows near to Shepperton Lock, where some pools had been left behind full of fish life, and, thanks to the willing and able services of George Rosewell, the late David Hackett, and others, large quantities of good fish were netted out and placed with safety in the proper channel. I could mention others who came forward in other portions of the river to do similar work, and, speaking of the fishermen generally, I am greatly indebted to them for the help they were always ready to give me in the work of river preservation. The tidal waters were always a source of very great anxiety in the time of a flood by the fish getting into the meadows, and the work it necessitated in their recovery, and the names of Kit Brown and the late George Howard are most prominent for help in that direction. In a previous number of the *Fishing Gazette* I referred to the steps taken by the Thames Conservators at the present time to prevent anything like a recurrence of the floods of bygone days, and the anxiety of the officials of the T.A.P.S. is greatly relieved, but the associations in the Upper Thames still find it necessary after a pressure of water to net the ditches and other tributaries for any stray fish. The river is not only high, but the water very thick.—B.

—(Datchet).—John Keene says: "I have been out one day with Mr. Jones and Mr. Herbert, who creeled 30lb. of roach and a chub of 4lb., several of the roach weighing 1lb. each; and another day, with Mr. George Shepherd, 40lb. of roach, a great many of them weighing over 1lb. each. The water is now very thick."—B.

—(Hampton Court).—William Milbourne, writing on Monday evening, says: "Owing to the heavy rain there has not been anything done. The weirs are all drawn, and the water has risen 5ft. 3in., and it is still on the rise. It looks more like high flood. There will not be any fishing in the Thames for the next fortnight if the weather keeps fine."—B.

—(Henley).—Jan. 19.—The continued heavy rain has brought the river up bank high. In places it has overflowed, but am pleased to say to no serious extent in this district at present. Both Marsh and Hambleton Weirs are drawn, and a tremendous stream running. I need hardly say that little has been done in the way of sport, although one or two anglers have braved the storms. It should be good when the water fines down again.—when.—STANLEY MEAD.

—(Kingston).—John Johnson during the week, seventeen bream, twelve dozen of roach, and one brace of jack, the largest roach weighing 1lb., and two of the largest bream 4lb. each. The bank anglers have been getting a few roach and bream. The water is high and thick.—B.

—(Teddington).—There are no reports of angling interest, and W. McBride has been getting a few lampreys.—B.

—(Twickenham).—The principal item of river news which Mr. John Spong could give me on Tuesday morning was the appearance of a seal and a porpoise, which have been roaming about there and Teddington

this last week. One of his men, who had seen the former, estimated its weight at 40wt. It was seen on Monday morning opposite the residence of Mr. Labouchere, and on Tuesday near the ferry. I was sorry to learn the Acton Anglers, in their competition at the end of last week, had been unfortunate through the bad state of the river. One of the members, only three bream; another, seven dozen of gudgeon in the shallows; and another, only two. Mr. F. J. Ogden Smith told me he had been out one day, and only landed a few poise. A gentleman fishing with R. Spong, close by, caught a jack of 2½lb. with pearl barley; and I also heard of one of the residents, fishing from his river steps, creeling a jack of 3lb. with bread. It was the opinion the flood waters would do good for this portion of the river, and bring some good down from the upper waters. The reports from the fishermen were as follows: C. Browne, one day, eight fine bream; R. Moffatt, three bream and a few nice roach; G. Chamberlain, three dozen of fine roach; and George Coxen, three bream and one dozen of dace.—B.

—(Windsor).—The river is now in high flood, and I suppose the usual uncalled for attacks upon the Thames Conservancy and lock-keepers by the floods committee will now be heard of again. No doubt the gentlemen of the committee think they are right; but before making complaints they would do well to grasp the subject of the management of the river before making attacks upon the much respected and hard working lock-keepers, whose attention to their duties, no one who frequents the river will deny, are carried out in the most efficient and painstaking manner. A fair number of fish have been taken by bank anglers. The best lot I have heard of was taken by Mr. Paice, of Eton, and consisted of six roach (five of which were over 1lb., and the best one turned the scale at 1lb. 6oz.), and three barbel, largest over 4lb. Should the rain keep off I am afraid the river will not be in condition for at least ten days.—CECIL HOWLETT.

—(Arun (Pulborough)).—A fair muster visited here on Jan. 15, but, owing to the flood, went on to Amberley. Only three returned from here, Mr. Wigley, of the Bermondsey Brothers, taking a 2lb. bream, which is all to record. At the time of writing (Wednesday night) the water is gradually sinking, but under the most favourable circumstances the river will not be in order by the 22nd, the land at present being under water for miles.—W. G. HOLLMAN.

—(Bure (Norfolk, Wroxham District)).—Jan. 16. This river is now, owing to constant rain and high tides, in the lower reaches, at very high level and full of dirty water, with hardly any current throughout part of the day. Fish appear to be almost entirely off the feed, and prospects are poor all round. With a falling glass, rising wind, and more rain to-night (16th), they do not appear likely to improve for a week or two at least, and angling is likely to have a break, I fancy, for a time.—C. H. TAYLOR.

—(Devonshire Streams).—The streams are all in heavy flood, being bank high. The conservators of the Taw and Torridge will again discuss the question of net fishing in the estuary after the commencement of the close season. This is now prohibited, it being considered that injury to the salmon fishing resulted. It is thought by some, however, that trawling should be permitted. Last season this board had a balance in hand, but their funds now show a deficit owing to the decreased revenue of the past season and the increased cost of watching the rivers. The Avon and Erme Conservators will spend £15 in re-stocking the rivers under their control, and alterations have been made with regard to the licences. Day tickets have been abolished, and the price of weekly tickets raised to 10s., of monthly tickets to £1, and of season tickets to £2.—DEVONIAN.

—(Exe and Canal (Exeter)).—A succession of spates has effectually put a stop to all angling for the past week. To-day (Wednesday) the river is in full flood, and, given no more rain, will take at least three days to subside.—RED PALMER.

—(Fen District (South Lincs. and Cambs.)).—Pike fishing is the leading feature in this district, particularly on the popular lengths of the Welland, the Forty-foot, and other noted waters. Numbers of fish have been caught, but mostly on the small side. The best fish reported has been under 10lb. On the other hand, roach fishing is reported as very successful. Takes up to 20lb. are reported from the Cambridgeshire side. From Surfleet, Outwell, March, &c., good doings are mentioned.—LIMPET.

—(Idle District (North Notts)).—There has been a freshet on the Idle from the late rains, and the water is up again this week. Bottom fishing, however, is fairly prosperous, and good baskets of roach and dace are reported from the lengths just below Retford. Grayling fishing is also at its best on the upper reaches about Gamston. Some good lots are reported by the bottom fishers. From the river below Mattersey there have been captures of pike, and also from the drains in the lower district. Canal fishing continues good.—L.

—(Lark (Lackford and Fliampton)).—Heavy showers are making the water discoloured. A few pike have been killed live baiting in the quiet parts. Messrs. Skinner Brothers, out on the 14th, two pike, 6½lb. and 3lb. If no more rain, river will be in fair order by Thursday.—A. E. KEMP.

—(Lea).—The unfavourable angling weather continues, and Lea fishers have had another bad time of it. The river has been very thick, while on some occasions it has been almost impossible to hold the "pole" over the stream owing to the boisterous weather. To-day (Thursday) prospects are again far from bright for the week-end. As may be imagined, there has been little sport anywhere. The best roach reported (1lb. 3oz.) was secured at Tottenham. No good baskets have been notified me, but as soon as the water begins to settle down and clear again I—

providing the weather is also favourable—hope to be able to report some excellent sport among the roach. There are plenty of grand fish in the river, especially from Broxbourne upwards, and I should advise anglers to try and catch the river fining down. Then, with white paste, gentles, worms, or crust they ought to get some splendid roach. The Stort has been like pea soup, and at the time of writing I can hear of no improvement and of no sport. —ISAAC WALTON.

Lugg and Arrow (Leominster).—Both these streams are now running very high and muddy, and have been out over the fields in some places, owing to the continued falls of rain, accompanied with snow and hail. In fact, the weather has been as bad as it could be, and the rivers are all out of anything like order for fishing, and will be for some time by the look of it. The Pinsley is high and mudd. No fishing done of late.—G.WYNE.

Nene (Peterborough).—The water in the river has risen considerably since last week, to-day (Wednesday) the gauge at Peterborough Bridge registering nearly 13ft. On Saturday, under adverse circumstances, some good sport was had amongst the pike between Alwalton and Woodstone Staunche, about a dozen being taken, the largest weighing nearly 12lb. A good number of roach, too, have been landed, the bait most partial being worms. The question of the pollution of the river Nene came before Judge Bagshaw, at Thrapston, on Thursday, but an adjournment was made to the March Court. It was reported that the Northamptonshire County Council had done all they could to overcome the difficulty, and had sent up plans of a revised scheme of sewage disposal to the Local Government Board, but no communication had yet been received from that authority. It was decided to ask for an early reply in the matter.—E. A. S.

Ouse (St. Ives, Hunts.).—River flooded; roaching to be had in places; roach up to 1lb. 5oz. have been weighed in to-day. Pikeing out of all question for the next week.—E. COLLINSON.

Severn, Vyrnwy, Tanat, and Cain (Llanymynech).—Angling in any shape or form is completely out of the question in this neighbourhood at present, and will be for some time unless we have a sudden change in the weather, but there seems little prospect of any alteration yet, as it is raining in torrents, with a great gale of wind from the south-west, and consequently all these rivers are much flooded, and are still rising rapidly, and contain a large quantity of snow water. On Tuesday a violent thunderstorm passed over the neighbourhood, followed by a very frosty night; but the atmosphere is much milder now, so that a fall of snow is only too probable.—VYRNWY.

Sussex Rivers and Chichester Canal.—Variable has been the weather of the week—gales, hail, and heavy rain storms. The Arun is in flood, and the Ouse following suit. A few good fish have been taken from the Ouse when the elements have favoured. Mr. Durrant secured handsome roach weighing 1lb. 11oz., also dace of 8oz., angling with worm. Other anglers have taken a few roach and small pike. The Rother is running like a mill race, and out of condition. Chichester Canal is the only available water that I know of; although bank high, it is in good condition. Several anglers were out on the 16th, and but little done. On Tuesday pike were feeding—fish of 4½lb., 3½lb., and 3lb. were taken below Donnington, and perch up to 2lb. in the reach below Hunston. Small roach have been captured, and bream up to 1½lb. Seven fish taken recently weighed 9lb., all with paste.—GEORGE F. SALTER.

Teme (Ludlow).—The Teme in this district has been visited with some heavy falls of rain and snow and sleet, and it has made the river rise considerably, and it is now muddy and bank full. At the end of last week there was some prospect of sport being had, but a sudden change has upset calculations, and there will be no fishing done for some days to come. The water is very thick, and there must have been very heavy weather up the country to make it so. No anglers have been out since Saturday. Before Saturday a few coarse fish were taken, but no grayling, with worm and maggot. The Ony, Corve, Clun, and Ledwyche are running high and muddy, and quite out of fishing order, and there has been nothing done in them for weeks.—S. LUDLOW.

Teme (Tenbury).—The Teme in this part has now rose rapidly, and is bank full and very muddy, owing to the most severe weather we have had during the week, when snow, rain, hail, sunshine, thunder and lightning have been the order, and the rivers soon rose again. No anglers have been out, and there is little prospect of any fishing being done for some time—certainly not before the middle of next week.—WORCESTER.

Witham, &c. (Mid-Lincolshire).—Sport on the Witham has been rather quiet. About Bardney there have been some pretty good captures, and also at the outfall of the Bain and of the Sleaford Canal. At Coningsby, on the Bain, roach fishing is reported as very good. A Lancashire sportsman has been doing great things there lately. In four days he took about 100lb. of roach, running up to 1½lb. each. This was in addition to returning all under ½lb. Numerous pike have been secured from the lower lengths, but fish have run small. Live bait is recommended. About Boston things are quiet.—LUCI.

Yare (Brundall).—Four boats were out on Jan. 15. Two Norwich anglers in one boat found a quiet corner and caught 20lb. of roach. The others did next to nothing. To-day (Tuesday) the river is like a clay pit.—W. H. ELSMORE.

Yorkshire Rivers.—We have had a variety of weather since my last report, but more boisterous winds, snow, and rain than anything else. Consequently the Yore, Swale, Wharfe, Nidd, Aire, Ouse, &c., keep very high, particularly in the lower reaches; consequently the bottom fishermen have not been numerous, and their

takes, as a rule, poor. But Mr. Wood and a few other York anglers have done fairly well; and on Saturday last, in the Ouse, Messrs. Pope and Jenkinson, fishing for pike in the waters of the York Angling Association in the Canal at Pocklington, had very good sport, killing between them seven nice pike, the largest fish weighing 9½lb. and the smallest 4lb. Grayling fishing keeps very good in the Yore, in spite of high waters and wretched weather. Dr. Murphey, of Bolton, has had good sport at Danby up to Friday last. Tuesday was a typical grayling day, there being a sharp frost, with bright sunshine. The water was big and high coloured, but I had a dish of fourteen nice grayling, weighing 8lb. The fish took both the brandling worm and gentle. The Rev. Father Murphey had good sport on the same day, both in the Cover and the Yore. The trout have returned to the main rivers, and are "mad on the feed." The three of us returned fully a score fish, several of them weighing over 1lb. They are very forward in condition, doubtless owing to the open winter. Messrs. Smithson and two or three other Northallerton anglers have been out in the Swale, in the neighbourhood of Morton Bridge and in the Wiske. Few anglers have been seen higher up the river in the neighbourhood of Catterick or Richmond, and their takes do not call for any special comment. The frost of yesterday gave way to snow, followed by rain to-day (Wednesday, Jan. 18), and all our rivers are running high and thick again.—JOHN E. MILLER, Northern Anglers' Depot, 19, New Station-street, Leeds.

By TELEGRAM.—The gale which set in yesterday afternoon and continued fiercely all night (melting snow and rain), culminated in the heaviest flood we have had for six years. Miles of land in the valleys of the Yore, Swale, Nidd, Wharfe, Ouse, &c., are under water, and at the time of this dispatch the flood has a tendency to increase rather than decrease. Messrs. Thomas and Bumby, of Leeds, caught two nice pike at Pocklington yesterday.—JOHN E. MILLER, Northern Anglers' Depot, 19, New Station-street, Leeds.

SCOTCH REPORTS.

Kenmore (Loch Tay).—On Jan. 17, on the hotel water, Mr. H. Buchanan, Glasgow, killed two new run salmon, weight, 20lb. and 18lb., also two salmon, 17lb. and 17lb.; Mr. H. J. Carson, one salmon, 18lb. Prospect on loch looks good; only two boats out.—WM. KNIGHT.

Loch Tay (Killin Hotel).—Jan. 16, Mr. Clepham, one salmon, 17lb., and one fine trout, 11lb.; Mr. Mitchell, banker, Ardrrie, two salmon, 19lb. and 15lb.; Mr. Steel, two, 21lb. and 20lb.; Mr. Ure, two, 20lb and 14lb. Jan. 17, Mr. Mitchell, one, 29lb.; Mrs. Maisey, one, 17lb. Jan. 18, Mr. Clepham, one, 17lb.; Mr. Ure, one, 19lb.; Miss Sloan, one, 16lb.; Mr. Sloan, one, 15lb., and one nice trout, 2½lb.—H. MAISEY.

North-East of Scotland.—A snowstorm of some considerable severity has been raging chiefly in the Grampian range since Sunday. This will be all the better for big waters later on, although it may interrupt the work on rivers just opened. The floods are subsiding with the frosts. Fresh fish have been running freely in all the early east coast streams. There is a good head of fish well forward to the upper waters, while the floods have also assisted a good clearance of the early kelts. Disease has been pretty prevalent among speut fish, but no fresh fish have been, as far as is known, yet met with either in a dead or dying state. Bar weather accidents, the opening on the bulk of Scotch waters some three weeks hence should be attended with considerable success. Angling waters are being rapidly picked up.—G. M.

Tay.—The salmon rod fishing opened on this river on Monday last under most unfavourable weather conditions. On the upper reaches the wind was cold, and blew in full gusts from the north-west till the afternoon, when it veered round to the north. Throughout the day showers of snow and sleet fell, rendering it very unpleasant for such anglers as ventured out. The heavy rains and recent snowstorms had swollen the river to an abnormal height, and by mid-day, on the lower reaches, the river got too dirty for fishing. The spawning season was fairly good, and a great many fish were observed on the spawning beds. The prospects are fairly bright, and anglers are hopeful of a good season. On the opening day, on the upper reaches, Major H. J. Pearith, fishing Findyate water, caught one fish of 20lb.; and on Tuesday a salmon of 15lb., and a trout of 4lb. On Pitcastle water, on Monday, Mr. Johnstone lauded a new run fish of 18lb. Fishing Dalguise water, on Wednesday, Mr. H. Mackworth Praed killed five fine new run fish, of 13lb., 14lb., 14lb., 22lb., and 25lb. On Fisher's Hotel (Pitlochry) water, on Tuesday, Mr. Tom Greig, Glencarse, killed a nice salmon of 18lb., and two magnificent specimens of newly run fish, weighing 27lb. and 30lb. respectively; and fishing same water on Wednesday, caught a nice fish of 20lb. Mr. W. O. Bell Irvine, fishing Murthly water on Tuesday, caught one spring fish of 19lb.; and on Wednesday, one of 18lb. Fishing on Stanley water on Monday for Mr. Herbert Lewis, Aberdare, Mr. J. S. Mowat caught two fine fish, which weighed 16lb. and 22lb. respectively. Fishing on Taymount water on Tuesday, Lord Blythwood landed two salmon; and on the same water, on Tuesday, General Campbell lauded a fish of 10lb., and Mr. Montague D. Campbell caught a fine salmon of 16lb. One fish was caught on the Earl of Mansfield's water on Monday.—A. A.

Tweed, Teviot, and other Border Rivers.—From all the accounts that I have received, fishermen in the Border district of the Tweed seem to be under the impression that the forthcoming spring season will be a fairly satisfactory one, especially on waters which will be properly fished. Up to the present time we have had little or no frost, and all the spawned-out fish lately in the rivers have by this time gone back to the sea, there to

resuscitate their wasted energies, and once more, later on, again ascend to the fresh water reaches. There has not been much done in trout fishing since my last notes, although the rivers have been running in good volume all the week, and their colour was good until this morning, when, owing to a fall of snow yesterday (Tuesday) they assumed a bluish tinge. The takes of trout got have been poor, ranging from 2lb. up to 3½lb. Last week the Tweed Commissioners, bailiffs, and superintendent, along with the local fishermen, netted the junction of the Tweed and Teviot and other casts in the Kelso district for gravid fish, so as to obtain ova for the private hatchery at Mertoun House (Lord Polwarth's), in view of again stocking the Tweed with hatchery fry. No fish, however, were got suitable for the purpose, but operations were, I believe, to be tried on other parts of the river. At one shot of the net a very large grayling, said to be fully over 2lb., was landed, but it was at once returned to the river again.—MAXWHEEL.

IRISH REPORTS.

Irish Rivers.—Since last report the majority of the rivers have risen by the floods, and are still greatly swollen, especially the upper reaches of the Shannon. The weather continues fairly mild—a little frost now and then. No pike fishing worth recording for a considerable time.—J. A. B.

Cork Rivers.—All the Cork rivers continue in heavy flood, and the spawned fish are clearing out seawards.—T. J. D.

Lough Curran and other Waters (Water-ville, co. Kerry).—Angling opens here on Feb. 1, and good sport is confidently looked forward to if the weather be at all favourable. The Waterville Weir Fishery has not yielded as well as usual so far, owing to the existing unfavourable climatic conditions, but matters are improving at time of writing. 45,000 yearling salmon are to arrive this week, to be placed in the hatchery here, and a further consignment of 45,000 later on.—T. J. D.

Shannon and Lough Derg (Killaloe).—The weather continues wet and wild; but, all the same, I still think that the river in some parts will be fishable on Feb. 1, despite the present high water. Spring fish are already running up from the sea, and more than two or three huge ones have been seen sporting under the weir wall and gates—the bonniest bit of water here at Killaloe in early spring. Several rods from both sides of the channel have already taken waters here. One enthusiastic salmon fisher writes me: "I am now ready for the fray, having tied some killing flies and got all my tackle in order. So there is nothing now but to wait for this day fortnight, when I hope to meet you on the bridge and once more try my luck on the old Shannon." The spawning time has been favourable to the salmon and trout during the present close season in this way, that there has been no snow, and therefore no snow broth to sicken the fish. But I have a grave charge to make against the conservancy board for the manner in which the main river and tributaries have been left without watchers this winter.—S. J. HURLEY.

Westmeath Lakes (Mullingar).—Since Nov. 1 it has been one continuous scene of spawning operations in the tributary streams of the lakes and the rivers Inny and Brosna. There has been no break caused by frost or snow, and the large staff of water bailiffs have had busy times day and night; in fact, there were no intervals of rest up to the present. At same time, while due vigilance has been used, poachers, otters, and herons have destroyed their quota of fish on the redds. It would take at least four times the number of watchers to afford proper protection. The season for the Drogheda district of Westmeath will open on Feb. 12, and for the Limerick district on March 1.—T. J. W.

SEA FISHING.

Brighton.—About a score of anglers on the west pier, but they have done very little. Water is quite thick, and it is too rough for small boats to venture out; wind west, and very sharp.—W. H. ELSMORE.

Baltimore.—Nothing doing here at present owing to stormy and generally wet weather.—T. J. D.

Darrynane.—All kinds of fishing suspended here for the present in consequence of strong N.W. winds.—T. J. D.

Deal (The Pier).—Very few attempts at fishing have recently been made in this locality, the unsettled weather having rendered the water about the colour of clay. Signs are not wanting which indicate that the whiting season is fast approaching to its close, but codling are fairly plentiful at certain spots. Sunday's anglers included Messrs. Bowles, Hinton, Smidt, Krenkel, Boock, Lane, Scott, and Andrews, but all returned to town that night with very indifferent catches. Mr. Smidt had a small cod of 6lb. in the morning, and Mr. Hinton one of similar weight in the evening. On Monday Messrs. Humphreys, Preston-Gardner, Gareau, Bowles, Camps, and Hinton fished for several hours, but scarcely any return was made. Mr. Gareau hooked and landed a 5lb. cod minus a tail, that appendage having probably been recently bitten off by a dogfish or conger, and Mr. Camps took a small 3½-pounder. The fine weather on Tuesday brought out sixteen rods, but the total day's catch did not reach two score. Matters were even worse to-day (Wednesday), only three fish being caught between eight in the morning and four in the afternoon. The water still remains unusually thick.—J. RICHARDSON (B.S.A.S.).

Dea.—Owing to the very unsettled weather nothing of importance in the way of angling has been done, and the latter part of week several anglers put in an appearance, but returned with poor takes. On Tuesday one local fisherman put out and landed about thirty codling, several of them were large ones. To-day several boats out, but

nothing of importance to report. However, if weather becomes settled, in all probability we shall see more sport. The tides suit to fish all day now for a few days.—EDWARD HANGER (B.S.A.S.).

Dingle.—The weather has been very rough for the past week, and both angling and netting operations are at a standstill here at present.—T. J. D.

Eastbourne.—The weather is still very rough and unsettled, and has remained so now for more than a week, with the exception of an occasional fine day. Boniface has had several good takes, making about £7 during the other week. When weather moderates some good sport should be had. High water on Saturday, Jan. 21, about 5.45 and 6.15 p.m.

Southend and Leigh.—Although since last report some very nice fish have been taken, the week-end, to which the metropolitan angler usually looks for his sport, was very wet, with a strong breeze and choppy sea, so that very little was done. The wind has been very strong all this week, the barometer jumping up and down in a manner indicative of very unsettled weather. Barometer, 29.60 in. falling; wind S.W., fresh; sea choppy. Prospects very uncertain.—CHARLES HUSSEY (B.S.A.S.).

Valentia.—Nothing doing here at present, even within the practically land-locked harbour, owing to a continuance of strong gales and generally wet weather.—T. J. D.

THE following table gives the nearest approximate tides for the use of sea anglers for the week ending Friday, Jan. 20. Tides increase.

	Sat.	Sun.	Mon.	Tues.	Wed.	Th.	Fri.
	a.m.	a.m.	a.m.	a.m.	a.m.	a.m.	a.m.
Scarborough	11.51	0.29	1.41	2.41	3.29	4.8	4.41
	p.m.	p.m.	p.m.	p.m.	p.m.	p.m.	p.m.
	—	1.6	2.13	3.6	3.49	4.25	4.57
Yarmouth	4.13	5.27	6.40	7.40	8.22	8.59	9.35
	4.50	6.5	7.13	8.2	8.41	9.17	9.52
Lowestoft	4.42	6.5	7.22	8.23	9.10	9.49	10.24
	5.23	6.45	7.54	8.48	9.30	10.7	10.40
Aldeburgh	5.31	6.54	8.11	9.12	9.59	10.38	11.13
	6.12	7.34	8.43	9.37	10.19	10.56	11.29
Harwich	6.55	8.20	9.35	10.36	11.21	11.59	0.16
	7.38	8.59	10.7	11.0	11.41	—	0.33
Southend, Sheer- ness, and Leigh	7.51	9.13	10.30	11.30	—	0.34	1.10
	8.32	9.53	11.3	11.53	0.14	0.52	1.27
Margate, Broad- stairs, & Ramsgate	6.46	8.9	9.28	10.30	11.17	11.54	0.12
	7.27	8.50	10.1	10.55	11.36	—	0.29
Deal and Dover...	6.8	7.27	8.44	9.34	10.19	11.0	11.37
	6.46	8.7	9.9	9.57	10.40	11.18	11.54
Hastings	5.48	7.7	8.24	9.14	9.59	10.39	11.17
	6.26	7.47	8.49	9.37	10.20	10.58	11.34
Eastbourne and Brighton.	6.16	7.35	8.52	9.42	10.27	11.7	11.45
	6.54	8.15	9.17	10.5	10.48	11.26	—
Newhaven	6.37	8.5	9.13	10.1	10.39	11.15	11.48
	7.22	8.41	9.39	10.21	10.57	11.31	—
Shoreham and Southwick	6.33	7.52	9.9	9.59	10.44	11.24	—
	7.11	8.32	9.34	10.22	11.5	11.43	0.2
Portsmouth and Hayling Island	6.48	8.11	9.24	10.19	11.1	11.36	—
	7.29	8.49	9.54	10.41	11.19	11.52	0.9
Plymouth	0.34	1.58	3.17	4.21	5.8	5.49	6.24
	1.15	2.40	3.52	4.46	5.29	6.7	6.41

STOP PRESS.

WEATHER REPORT.

BY TELEGRAPH.—FRIDAY, JAN. 20, 9.25 A.M.

DEAL.—S.W.; smooth.
DOVER.—W.; light; moderate.
RAMSGATE.—W.S.W.; smooth.
MARGATE.—S.W.; smooth.
HASTINGS.—W.; smooth.

"MR. SYDNEY BUXTON," says the *Saturday Review*, "is right when he says in his article on angling in one of the monthly reviews that if the reform of the London water systems is much longer postponed, the Hertfordshire trout will be in the same predicament as the men and women of East London. The springs of the lovely head-waters of the Lea are getting lower and lower, whilst the little brook Mimram, or Maran, empties a far smaller supply than fifteen or twenty years since into her neighbour. The Kent Cray is fast disappearing, and the Darent of the same county no longer deserves the praise it won from Spenser. The water companies are sucking dry the great sponges of chalk, in which these once fair streams have their sources."

A GREAT BLESSING TO HUMANITY is without doubt a medicine composed of ingredients that, while it eradicates the germs of disease, strengthens the system. Holloway's Pills act in this manner, and in general debility, mental depression and nervous irritability there is no remedy which operates so beneficially. They purify the blood, give tone to the stomach, and thoroughly regenerate the system. They are mild in operation, although most powerful in removing disease. Delicate females and young children can take them with safety and benefit. It would be difficult to enumerate all the advantages to be derived by taking these wonderful pills. No household should be without them, for there is no complaint which they cannot cure or relieve.

Angling Fixtures.

January 22.

Brothers Well Met: Outing to Bures.
Camden: Match at Henley.
Campbell United: Match at Henley.
Drayton Park Piscatorial: Outing.
Elgin: Match at Surly Hall.
Lincoln: Outing to Bourne End.
North-East Brothers: Match at St. Margaret's.
Prince of Wales: Match at Bourne End.
Royal Oak: Roving match.
United Brothers: Match on the Lea.
White Hart: Lapsed prize outing.

January 23.

Crown and Buckland: Rivers Preservation concert.
North-East Brothers: Concert.
Phoenix: Visit.
Stepney: Visit.

January 24.

Alma: Supper.

January 25.

Friendly Anglers: Annual dinner.
West Green: Snapper.

Jan. 29.—Allason United: Match at Langley.
" 29.—Burlington Piscatorial Society: Outing to Langley.
" 29.—Cambridge Heath Brothers: Outing to Bures.
" 29.—Dalston: Outing.
" 29.—Westminster: Match at Rye House.
" 29.—Wimbledon Piscatorials: Competition.
" 29.—Ye Olde Clapham Rovers: Outing to Sunbury.
" 30.—Anchor and Hope: Reading by Mr. T. Crumplen.
" 30.—Battersea Piscatorials: Visit.
" 30.—Original Alexandra: A.B.S. concert.
" 30.—Piscatorial Society: Smoking concert.
" 30.—Thames Re-stocking Association: Committee meeting.
" 31.—Islington Brothers: Visit.
" 31.—Queen's Piscatorials: Visit.
Feb. 2.—Hatcham Brothers: Concert.
" 2.—West London: Supper.
" 5.—Battersea Friendly: Match at Cookham.
" 5.—Brompton: Snapper.
" 5.—Islington Brothers: Match at Cookham.
" 5.—Sandial: Outing to Bourne End.
" 5.—Waggoners: Match at Datchet.
" 5.—Walham Green: Outing to Cookham.
" 6.—Original Clerkenwell: Visit.
" 7.—Mildmay: Annual dinner.
" 9.—St. Ives (Hunts): Annual match.
" 12.—Phoenix: Match at Bourne End.
" 12.—Seymour Brothers: Match at Goring.
" 14.—Good Intent: Supper.
" 14.—Victoria Brothers: Outing to Bourne End.
March 6.—Piscatorial Society: Annual dinner.

Reports from Clubs

We beg to remind Secretaries that their Reports must reach us not later than **SIX o'clock on Thursday Evening.** Address "Editor, FISHING GAZETTE, St. Dunstan's House, Fetter-Lane, London," marked "CLUB REPORT" outside envelope.

Anglers' Benevolent Society.—The next committee meeting will take place on Friday evening, Jan. 27, at 8.30. At our last meeting one application received £6, another two guinea convalescent home letters and a guinea donation.—R. GHURNEY.

Anglers' Association (No. 1 EASTERN DISTRICT) Visiting List.—The next return visit will be to the Stepney A.S., the Beehive, Rhodesswell-road, Stepney, on Monday next, Jan. 23. As this will be the first visit in the New Year, I hope we shall begin well with a big meeting.—G. MANNING.

Anglers' Association (No. 2 DISTRICT) Visiting List.—Our next return district visit will take place on Jan. 31, at the Islington Brothers' A.S., Myddelton Arms, Canonbury-road, Islington, N. I hope to see the usual crowd of merry anglers present on this occasion. It is my first visit in the New Year.—BEN ABRAHAMS.

Anglers' Association (WESTERN DISTRICT) Visiting List.—On the 16th inst. a most enjoyable visit was given to the Prince of Wales' A.S. On the roll-call eighteen clubs were well represented. The association's box contained £18s. The next visit goes to the Queen's Piscatorials, 1A, Chapel-street, Edgware-road. Date later in the *Fishing Gazette*.—J. HARRIS.

Anglers' Benevolent Society (WINDSOR COMPETITION). Committee-rooms, 1A, Chapel-street, Edgware-road, W.—In answer to various letters received as to whether 1½oz. or 1oz. came in for prizes, all I can say is that there were eighty-five prizes and one special awarded on Jan. 12. Weights ranged from 2lb. 3drs. down to 1½oz. 3drs. Mr. Wright (2nd Surrey) took eighty-fifth prize, and there were 123 who weighed-in. If any prizes come in I will communicate with next on the list.—BEN ABRAHAMS.

Albion Brothers' Angling Society, Frampton Arms, Wells-street, Hackney.—On Jan. 15 Mr. C. Osborne saved us a blank with nice roach and perch. The match at Amberley, which was to have taken place on the 23rd, has been rescinded on account of the state of the water. All members please note match at Hampton Court; roving, either bank; first and second trains only

from Waterloo or Cannon-street—instead of Amberley same date. Usual other conditions; show fish 5.30, at Railway Tavern.—H. HAINES.

Allason United Brothers' Angling Society, Duke of Sussex, Uxbridge-street, Notting Hill Gate.—At our meeting on Jan. 16 we had the delegate's report from A.A. by our delegate G. Blades, which was accepted. One or two of our members had fish, but nothing out of the ordinary. The above was well represented at the Prince of Wales' A.S. annual return visit on Monday last, our member Abbott occupied the vice-chair. Ben had a take of flatfish, and also Mr. Wheeler (hon. member) at Southend-on-Sea. It was a breezy day, and a little wet to crown our sport. We compete for sweepstakes match in the A.A. waters, Langley and Slough canal, for jack. One rod only to be used for jack fishing, but members can have a go for roach, &c. Only jack count. Boundary, Veitches and Cottage Pounds; tow-path or meadow sides. Entrance fee, 1s. Date of match, Jan. 29; 8.43 a.m. train, or any subsequent train. Members arriving later must report themselves to chairman.—BEN ABRAHAMS.

Alma Angling Society, Coach and Horses, Portsmouth Place, Lincoln's Inn Fields.—On Jan. 15 the following weighed-in: Mr. Boothby, roach (heaviest, 1lb. 2½oz.); Mr. Hopping, roach; and Mr. Drew, roach.—J. CHAMBERS.

Amicable Waltonian Angling Society, The Fox and French Horn, Clerkenwell Green.—The result of the competition at Amberley was bad, as, in consequence of the floods, only two prizes were taken, by Messrs. Cripps and Nunn, jun. The remaining prizes to be fished for; go where you like. Mr. Rowley was elected a member and Mr. Fryatt proposed. Will members show up at the Crown and Buckland on Monday night?—G. MERRY.

Anchor and Hope Angling Society, Duke of Kent, Old Kent-road, S.E.—A concert will be held in our spacious hilliard-room on Monday, Jan. 30, when our president (Mr. T. Crumplen) will deliver a lecture entitled "Fishing in the Eastern Counties," and I hope to see a large gathering. A collection will be made for the Thames Angling Preservation Society. Several gentlemen have been proposed as members, and we hope to have some more in a few weeks. Particulars can be had of—F. W. MARTIN.

Battersea Friendly Angling Society, Queen's Hotel, Queen's-road, Battersea, S.W.—Our match at Cookham, on the 15th inst., was fished under very adverse conditions. However, the prizes were won by Messrs. W. Thomas, A. Jenkins, and J. Cox respectively. Also weighed-in: Messrs. Smeed, F. Ireland, Ansty, and G. S. Ireland. Our next match will take place on Feb. 5; open, roving; jack barred. To go down on the morning.—A. JENKINS.

Battersea Piscatorials, Winstanley Arms, Winstanley-road, Clapham Junction, S.W.—Since my last report we fished our match at Wraybury, but owing to the state of the river only two prizes were taken. Mr. Painter, barbel, first; Mr. Tringham, dace, second. Mr. H. White also had fish, but not enough to take a prize. We take a visit on the S.L.U.V. List on Jan. 30, when I hope to see a good muster.—T. TRINGHAM.

Bermondsey Brothers' Angling Society, Woolpack, Bermondsey-street, S.E.—The members of the above fished a competition for their January series of prizes on Jan. 15, in the river Arun. Only one member, Mr. J. Wigley, succeeded in taking a fish. The two remaining prizes will be added on to the February series.—ALF. CONN.

Bloomsbury Brothers' Angling Society, Rose and Crown, Broad-street, Bloomsbury.—On Jan. 15 Messrs. F. S. Pavett, F. W. Stocker, and T. Davis weighed-in roach. All subscriptions must be paid on or before Wednesday next, Jan. 25, when the books will be closed.—T. PATERNOSTER.

Brompton Angling Society, D'Oyley Arms, Marlborough-road, S.W.—Will members kindly note our supper match for the 29th has been postponed to Feb. 5, in order that we may join with the Sandial Angling Society on the latter day at Bourne End. Final arrangements will appear next week.—C. A.

Brothers Well Met Angling Society, King Edward VI., King Edward-street, Liverpool-road, N.—On Jan. 11 one of our members, Mr. A. Field, had a very fine show of roach, weight 15lb. On Jan. 15 Mr. H. C. Canton, 4lb. of roach. We fish a match on Jan. 22 for a series of prizes in our water at Bures. Any member can go down on Saturday evening.—HY. TAME.

Cambridge Heath Brothers' Angling Society, The Good Intent, Mowlem-street, Bishop's-road, Cambridge Heath.—On the 15th Mr. E. Wright and H. Ward saved us from a blank with roach. A prize outing takes place at Bures on Jan. 29, for six prizes, pegged-down, start Jan. 22, 9 a.m. train from Liverpool-street. Start fishing at 11.30 a.m., cease fishing at 5 p.m.; show fish at the Swan Inn not later than 6.15 p.m.; stewards, R. Hubbard and T. Benny. On the 17th four working members were made.—P. E. LOFT.

Camden Angling Society, The Locomotive, James-street, High-street, Camden Town, N.W.—We have a roving match at Henley on Jan. 22.—E. BOXALL.

Clapham Junction Angling Society, The Clarence, Winstanley-road, Clapham Junction, S.W.—Several members fished a competition at Wraybury on Jan. 15, but returned with small results: J. Thorne, first, &c. A committee meeting will take place on Monday, Jan. 26, at 9 o'clock sharp. Important business will be transacted on this occasion. Mr. A. Bowater weighed-in 5lb. 5½oz. roach from other waters.—G. T. JAMESON.

Clissold Angling Society, The Cricketers, Northwold-road, Stoke Newington, N.—On Jan. 15 several were out, with bad results. We were saved a blank by

Mr. Gudgeon. On Tuesday usual meeting, good mnster, and delegates gave a good report. Members please attend, to arrange for A.B.S. concert and fix date.—T. FAULKNER.

Collingwood Angling Society, The Lord Nelson, Nelson-square, Blackfriars-road, S.E.—During the last fortnight we have had some nice shows of fish, Mr. W. Beames heading the list with 16lb. of jack; Mr. F. Beames, 8lb. of jack; Mr. Ball, roach and perch; Mr. Jarrett, roach and perch; Mr. Turner, roach; Mr. Stafford, roach. A vote of thanks was given to Mr. Sandilands, of the Stratford A.S., for his kindness in returning Mr. Beames his pocket-book, with privilege ticket, &c., which was lost on London Bridge Station. Members are requested to attend in force on Wednesday, to hear the balance-sheet read.—G. FORD.

Covent Garden Piscatorial Society, King's Arms, Long-acre, W.C.—On Jan. 15 Messrs. Curtis, Massey, Marshall, and Outbush had some good shows of roach and dace; and on Tuesday Mr. Halford (our host) had a good bag of roach, dace, and bream.—W. MASSEY.

Crown and Buckland Piscatorial Society, Middlesex Arms, 35, Clerkenwell-green, E.C.—On the 15th we had the first blank this season. Will clubs not receiving tickets for our concert on the 23rd kindly accept this invitation, as it is impossible to write to all. I hope to see members and friends early. I am sorry that the Phoenix A.S. have arranged their visit on the C. and D. for the same night.—G. H. FRANKLIN.

Dalston Angling Society, Brownlow Arms, Brownlow-street, Dalston.—On Jan. 15, in spite of the inclement weather, several of the members were out, but Mr. Davies was the only one who succeeded in obtaining any fish, he saving the society from a blank with a few nice roach. On Tuesday, the 17th, there was a fair attendance, when the auditors (Messrs. S. Wood and T. Swain) presented their report and balance-sheet, which was accepted. Members will oblige by attending on Tuesday, the 24th, to make final arrangements for the outing on the 29th.—S. MALBY.

Didbin Angling Society, St. Martin's Tavern, Pratt-street, N.W.—Several of our members out on Jan. 15, but no fish were weighed-in; all got soaked. Wednesday, at usual meeting, Mr. Colman elected a member, and Mr. West proposed as another new member. All going well and strong at present.—J. EDWARDS.

Drayton Park Piscatorial Society, Stanley Arms, Landseer-road, Holloway-road, N.—Outing Jan. 22.—GREG.

Forest Gate Piscatorial Society, Forest Gate Hotel, Godwin-road, Forest Gate.—On Jan. 15 only one member weighed-in, viz., Mr. H. Creeke, 5½lb. roach and bream, largest 1lb. 4½oz. and 2lb. 10½oz. respectively.—H. F. C.

Forest Piscatorial Society, Rose and Crown, Hoe-street, Walthamstow.—Messrs. H. Tisley and G. Beaumont weighed-in with roach, and Mr. W. Davies with dace.—H. TISLEY.

Golden Barbel Angling Society, Sir Isaac Newton, Union-street, W.—On Jan. 15 Mr. Ellins had the only fish weighed-in, a nice roach of 1lb. 6½oz. On the 17th, Mr. King weighed-in nearly 16lb. of jack. I should like to see members on Tuesday, to discuss the question of the next outing.—J. E. LAWFORD.

Good Intent Angling Society, The Crown, Church-street, Shoreditch.—Mr. Thompson saved us from a blank on Jan. 15. On Tuesday the members decided to have our annual supper on Feb. 14. Mr. J. Williams was unanimously voted chairman and Mr. A. Coker, vice-chairman. I hope all members will attend on Tuesday next to decide about prizes.—R. MURPHY.

Greenwich Angling Society, Morden Arms, Circus-street, Greenwich.—At our annual general meeting, held on the 11th, for the election of officers for the ensuing year, the following were elected: Mr. G. H. Dowsett, president; Mr. W. Marshall and Mr. J. B. Orr, vice-presidents; Mr. T. J. Church, chairman; Mr. H. Burgess, vice-chairman; Mr. A. T. Waring, treasurer; Messrs. French, Gorton, Dupere, Wack, Steer, Thompson, Windred, and Scoble, committee; Mr. J. Dryden, secretary. The statement prepared by the auditors showed that we have £20 in Post Office Savings Bank and £4 in hands of treasurer, and the number of members to date 101. Several alterations were suggested in the rules, and increased measurements of fish suggested instead of weight; and, after due discussion, most of the alterations were carried. A present of books from Mr. M. H. Smith (published in America), on fishing subjects, are on the way, which will be most interesting to the members. A committee meeting will take place on Wednesday, Jan. 25, at 7.30 p.m.—J. DRYDEN.

Hearts of Oak Angling Society, Ye Olde Crown, Brick-lane, Bethnal Green, E.—Mr. Smith has weighed-in some roach. The balance-sheet has been adopted. I hope members will attend next meeting night for special business.—C. SMITH.

Hoxton Brothers Angling Society, Spread Eagle, Kingsland-road, Shoreditch.—At the last meeting (Jan. 12) the auditors, Messrs. S. Cole and W. Bishop, gave their report. The balance-sheet showed an increase of members, which now stand at seventy, and still electing more. Mr. J. Huntley, jun., was proposed as a working member. On Jan. 15 Mr. F. Newton weighed-in roach.—JOHNNY.

Islington Brothers' Angling Society, Myddleton Arms, Canonbury-road.—On Jan. 15 Mr. Burwash weighed-in dace, saving the club from a blank. Others were out, but had no sport. We met on Tuesday, Mr. Boys in the chair, when the minutes of the previous meeting were read and confirmed, and one new member proposed. A special meeting is called for Jan. 24. Our return visit on No. 2 Eastern List takes place on Jan. 31.—J. H. HERBERT.

Lincoln Angling Society, Metropolitan, Winchester-street, Pentonville.—On Jan. 15 a few members were out, but no fish were shown, this being our first blank

of the season. On Jan. 22 we fish at Bourne End for seven prizes. All to start from Paddington by the 8.40 train. Usual conditions.—W. WATLING.

Liverpool Angling Association, Bee Hotel, Queen-square.—The weather has been most unsettled—windy, wet, and cold—and totally unfit for angling, and consequently most anglers have wisely stayed at home. Our quarterly meeting on the 12th was only moderately attended, but the quality, if not the quantity, was there all right enough. Capt. Macnab was in the chair, and the president, Mr. Veale, was his *vis-à-vis*. The minutes of previous meetings were read and confirmed, subscriptions received, and the routine business speedily got through. The hon. treasurer's quarterly account of receipts and payments was read and submitted, and unanimously adopted, and all due accounts, amounting to over £23, ordered to be paid. The annual dinner was fixed for Feb. 23, and a dinner committee appointed. Our fine library was well patronised, members taking home the "Book of the Grayling," "Book of Angling" (Francis), "George Doggett, Keeper," "Fish and Fishing" (Manby), &c. Steps are being taken to obtain some more jack for the Knowsley water. Following up the forming of a centre in Liverpool of the Northern Anglers' Association, members from the Liverpool, West Derby, and Central Angling Associations here met Mr. Redford, by appointment, at the Bee Hotel, on Saturday evening last. Mr. Redford explained the position, and after some discussion, it was unanimously resolved, on the motion of Mr. Woolfall, that a centre of the Northern Anglers' Association be constituted here; and on the motion of Mr. King, seconded by Mr. Wishart, Mr. R. Woolfall was unanimously elected first representative and secretary for two years of the said centre. It was further agreed that a meeting be held on Saturday evening next, Jan. 21, at the Bee Hotel, at 8 p.m., for the purpose of electing a committee and settling generally the preliminary business of the centre, and placing it in working order. There is no doubt all Lancashire and Cheshire angling organisations should belong to the Northern Association, their railway concessions, fishing facilities, and privileges being equal to, if not better, than any other consolidated body.—RD. WOOLFALL.

Maldon and Heybridge Angling Society, White Lion Inn, Fullbridge, Maldon, Essex.—The Langford waters during the past week have been well coloured, and a good run of water has been beneficial to anglers fishing the backwater. Mr. J. Freeman, jun., and A. Springett have taken some remarkable good roach (over 14lb. between them) on the 16th inst. The result of the first round in the cup competition fell to S. Vince on the 14th inst., with three roach, scaling 3lb. 12½oz. (largest fish 1lb. 6oz.), and T. Springett, second, with roach. The water is now fining down a bit, and some good catches of roach are expected. Messrs. Ben Lees, Miller, Race, Homer, and a few other anglers were here on the 15th, and secured some good roach between them. The time of high water at Beeleigh will be at 9.7 a.m. on the 22nd. The second round in connection with the cup competition commences at two o'clock on Saturday next; start from the Long Weir after drawing for swims; finish fishing at five o'clock; weigh-in fish at six o'clock at the clubhouse.—F. KEENE.

Mildmay Angling Society, Clarendon Hotel, Mildmay Park, N.—The outing arranged for the 22nd inst. to Pangbourne has been indefinitely postponed. The only fish shown last week were a few decent roach from Broxbourne. I shall be glad to hear from any of the members who have not yet received tickets for our fourteenth annual dinner, to be held here on Feb. 7.—A. E. HENDON.

New Albion Piscatorial Society.—As the Great Eastern Co.'s lantern slides are in such great request, we are unable to give our lecture as arranged on Thursday next, and the matter must stand over to a future date. On Feb. 9 we fish for Mr. Wood's fifteen-guinea cup in conjunction with the St. Ives inter-club competition. Mr. Daish's ten-guinea cup will be fished for on Feb. 23. Members will please note that their attendance is necessary at the meeting previous to the outing.—A. E. BALDWIN.

North-East Brothers' Angling Society, Star and Garter, Green-street.—On Jan. 22 we have a boundary match from St. Margaret's Bridge to Rye House Bridge. All fish to be shown at St. Margaret's Bridge at leaving off time, to be decided on morning. Train, 7.20 Globe-road, or eight o'clock Liverpool-street. Monday, Jan. 23, concert; all club members are cordially invited.—A. LEWIS.

North London Angling Society, Tap House, Holloway-road.—A successful return visit on the Central List took place at the above on Tuesday, the 17th, the chair being occupied by Mr. J. Pailles. The harmony being started, never flagged, being contributed by the following: Messrs. H. Stretch, Wells, Sherton, W. Stretch, A. Fitter, H. Pink, and Collis; and special mention must be made of Messrs. A. Thomas, Haynes, and Badham for their selections on the guitar and whistle; Mysteria, who gave a ventriloquial entertainment, and also showed how a rim of a hat could be turned about and altered to represent a great number of styles; last, but not least, Mike O'Leary (our waiter) for his songs and dancing. Twenty-one clubs responded to the roll call, to all of whom I return thanks.—H. STRETCH.

Original Alexandra Angling Society, The Lamb, Three Colts-lane, opposite Bethnal Green Junction.—On Jan. 15, a blank. £2 10s. has been voted from our funds to be fished for; date not fixed. On Jan. 30 our first Bohemian concert this season will take place at the above in aid of the Anglers' Benevolent Fund.—E. BROCKETT.

Original Clerkenwell Piscatorial Society, Sutton Arms, Great Sutton-street, Goswell-road.—On

Jan. 15 only two prizes were taken. Mr. Abbott, first, roach, largest 14lb.; and Mr. Foster, second, roach. Mr. C. Wood showed a nice tray of roach. Remaining prizes to be fished for; members to go where they like. Next return visit on the Central will take place at the above clubhouse on Feb. 6; secretaries please note.—A. HILL.

Park Angling Society, Park Hotel, Park-lane, Tottenham.—A few members of the above were out on the 15th inst., Messrs. Hopton, sen., Tracy, Carter, Reitz, Skeggs, Hopton, jun. Only two weighed-in jack and perch. All members are requested to attend on Tuesday, at 8.30.—W. S.

Phoenix Angling Society, The Tavistock, Stibington-street, N.W.—On Jan. 15 Messrs. Anstin and Bonflier a few good roach from the Thames. The last match of the season will be at Bourne End on Feb. 12, three prizes. Members and friends who are not post-carded re Clerkenwell concert on Jan. 23rd please accept this invitation.—R. C.

Queen's Piscatorial Society, Queen's Arms, 1A, Chapel-street, Edgware-road, N.W.—On Jan. 15 the following weighed-in: Messrs. W. Shepherd, J. Winsby, and C. Brett. The return visit on A.A. List takes place on Jan. 31 at 8 p.m. sharp. We expect to have a host of talent. Re correction plaster casts, instead of reading lent by Gibson, should have read "Gillson," of the Queen's Piscatorial Society. The casts have been very much admired, and have been pronounced by many to be perfect specimens of art, particularly when it is taken into consideration that it is the work of an amateur.—GEO. KEENE.

Royal George Angling Society, Queen's Arms, Bateman-street.—Most of our members were out on Jan. 15, but only one, viz., Mr. Davis, returned with fish, and he also had the satisfaction of saving the club from a blank. I should be very pleased if members would make an effort to attend our next meeting.—J. GIBBONS.

Silver Trout Angling Society, Bedford Head, Maiden-lane.—On Jan. 15 Messrs. Smith and Woolton weighed-in roach.—PELICAN.

South London United Anglers' Visiting List.—The next visit on the above list will take place on Jan. 30 at the Battersea Piscatorial Society, Winstanley Arms, Winstanley-road, Clapham Junction.—ALF PAINTER.

Stockwell Angling Society, Old Queen's Head, Stockwell, S.W.—The first annual supper, held at the above address on Tuesday, Jan. 17, was a decided success. With the exception of two members, who wired their excuses, the whole of the club sat down to do justice to the good things provided by our host and brother angler Mr. Geo. Fisher. The concert that followed went with a roar, and was kept up to a late hour. I am desired to express sincere thanks to those gentlemen of the profession who so ably entertained us, notably Messrs. Harry Payne and Ted Batt, character comedians; and to Mr. Walter Graham and the lady who presided at the piano. Our outing to the Thames has been postponed until further notice.—THOS. LUCAS.

Sundial Angling Society, Plough and Harrow, King-street, Hammersmith, W.—On Jan. 15 Mr. Parker had 4lb. 6oz. of roach, and Mr. Holt 12½oz. Our next outing will take place at Bourne End on Feb. 5; further arrangements next week. During the evening a very handsome lamp, which was presented by Mr. Sherman and won by Mr. Holt, was admired by all who saw it.—C. E. LOCK.

United Brothers' Angling Society, Druid's Head Tavern, Deptford.—Several members were out on Jan. 15. Mr. J. Oakley had roach. We fish a match in the Lea on Jan. 22. A special meeting will be held on Jan. 23 to transact important business.—H. TYLER.

Victoria Brothers' Angling Society, Princess Victoria, Robert-street, Hampstead-road, N.W.—On Jan. 15 Messrs. J. and W. Toothill weighed-in a good show of roach. We have a prize outing to Bourne End on Feb. 12, and a good prize list.—W. H. B.

Waggoners' Angling Society, White Lion, Albert Embankment.—Some of our members were out on the 15th, but only one weighed-in (Mr. Clegg, dace). We had a good meeting on the 17th, when some very important business was got through. Our next match takes place on Feb. 5, at Datchet; full particulars next week. Members wishing to compete must bring themselves within limits.—H. C.

Walham Green and Chelsea Angling Society, Black Bull, Fulham-road, S.W.—On the 18th inst. we had a fairly representative meeting, and a lot of business was done. I wish to remind all members that our supper outing at Cookham takes place on Feb. 5. All those who wish to compete should send in their names at once.—W. BATCH.

Walworth Waltonians Angling Society, St. Paul's Tavern, Westmoreland-road, Walworth, S.E.—Our competition resulted in a blank, the river being unfishable on account of the floods. At the invitation of our worthy president (Mr. A. Pielaine) we sat down to a very nice leg of mutton supper, provided by our host, and enjoyed a very pleasant evening.—W. WRAT.

West Ham Brothers' Angling Society, Coach and Horses, The Grove, Stratford.—On Jan. 15 the following weighed-in roach: Messrs. John Newton, T. Miller, C. Miller, F. Homer, and R. Pethurst. I wish to remind members that it is our monthly meeting on Wednesday next, Jan. 25.—R. LOWTHER.

West London Angling Society, Dartmouth Castle, Hammersmith.—Our next supper is arranged to take place at the clubhouse on Feb. 2, at 7.30. Members will also fish for six prizes in a club match on the same date, so as to endeavour to make a show on the trays for the evening. All fish to be weighed-in after the supper. Our president will give a Bickerdyke's book for the heaviest roach of 1lb. or over. We shall be pleased to welcome brother anglers and friends at our social gathering.—J. J. HUNTER.

Westminster Angling Society, The Telegraph, Regency-street, S.W.—On Jan. 15, in spite of adverse conditions, Mr. A. Beck made a good show with barbel, roach, and dace. On Wednesday next there will be a special meeting to consider a question raised about the last match. The January match will be fished on Jan. 29, in the Lea, from Rye House Bridge to St. Margaret's Bridge; leave Liverpool-street for Rye House 9.8, return 7.20; two rods; jack barred.—S. J. H.

White Hart Angling Society, The Volunteer, Chesnut-road, Tottenham.—On Jan. 8 we fished a pegged-down match at Ware for Mr. Croxon's prize of 1 guinea, divided into three prizes, the first prize only being taken, by H. Walton, with roach. The remaining two to be fished for on Jan. 22; all fish; open; also for an handsome oil painting, presented by Mr. W. Perry (open).—W. E. BEAUMONT.

Wimbledon Piscatorials, 28, Alexandra-road, Wimbledon.—A roving competition is arranged for the 29th inst., in the Thames, anywhere between Hampton Court and Weybridge. Mr. W. Bovie took a good tench from the Thames on Monday, weighing 2lb. 2oz., a somewhat unusual catch at this time of the year.—HON. SEC.

Ye Olde Clapham Rovers' Angling Club, The Windmill, Clapham Park-road.—We had a good muster at our meeting on Tuesday, when the books were audited, and, after paying all expenses, leaving us in satisfactory condition with a fair balance in hand. The outing advertised for the 22nd has been postponed till the 29th, owing to floods.—N. LINDEN.

Doffings by the Way.

THE fifty-seventh annual dinner of the Friendly Anglers' Society will be held at the Hotel Cecil, Strand, on Wednesday next, Jan. 25. The dinner is ordered at 6 for 6.30 sharp. Mr. Fred Berry will occupy the chair, and Mr. A. C. Kent the vice-chair.

It is with great regret that the news is received of the death of Mr. Fred Freethy, on Jan. 15, aged 58. For many years he has been connected with the St. John's Angling Society, and was for some time its secretary. In the words of one who knew him well, "he was as good an angler and as good a gentleman as ever lived, and his loss will be mourned by all who knew him."

THE Royal Aquarium will add considerably to its attractions on Monday. An American champion cyclist will compete with an Englishman in a two miles' race on a home trainer; Dido and Domdo will give a comic knock-about show; the Phantos, a laughable pantomime act; and Schubert's goats and dogs, a very clever performance. The Yachting Exhibition, opening Feb. 1, will, I am told, be a fine display.

SHARP penalty on poachers. At Fintona (Co. Tyrone) petty sessions a few days ago, three men named Gibson, Gerr, and Muldoon, were prosecuted for poaching Fintona river. Muldoon thrashed the water, driving the salmon towards the net which was held by the others, Muldoon was fined in £2 10 or a month, and the others were awarded the full penalty of £10 or three months each.

MR. W. BOVIE, one of the members of the Wimbledon Piscatorials, was fishing from the bank on Saturday near the Hampton waterworks. A little girl and boy were larking about in dangerous proximity to the edge of the river, and were twice warned by the angler that if they were not careful they would assuredly tumble in. The youngsters, however, paid no attention to Mr. Bovie's remarks. Soon after a scream was heard, and the gentleman named saw, upon turning round, the girl struggling in the water, which was 5ft. deep at this particular place. He rushed to where the child was, and being just able to reach her with his hand, pulled her out. Had he not been on the spot the girl must have been drowned: no one else was near, the current was setting out from the bank, and a very high stream was running. The rescuer, I understand, was not even thanked by the parents for saving the child's life; but there, the winter wind is not so cold as man's ingratitude.

JUDGING from the recent news of the progress of the Royal Commission on London's water supply, the water companies are spending money lavishly (I was about to write "like water," but realised in time the unsuitability of the simile) in expensive counsel and witnesses, in order to make the commission report to Parliament that very much more water can be taken from the Thames without "injury" to the river. Should they succeed, and obtain Parliamentary powers to carry out their schemes, it will be a sad day for London anglers, and, indeed, for all lovers of the Thames. The trout fishing would not be worth pursuit, the barbel and chub fishers would find their occupation gone for lack of stream, as many have experienced during the last summer and autumn; and all re-stocking of our grand old river would of necessity have to be confined to slow-stream fish, such as carp, tench, and bream; while those who have been dreaming of making the Thames once more a salmon river, would be rudely awakened to impossibility of salmon negotiating a mere succession of semi-stagnant pools, divided by locks. If there are any old wet-bob Etonians among the counsel assisting the companies, their hearts can scarcely be in their work when they remember the Thames of the days of their youth, and think of what the companies now wish

to make of it. Surely, if the Thames is to be ruined, it should only be for a real public necessity, which has not been shown—and not for mere private profit.

UNDER the heading "A Chance for Anglers," says the *Sun*, "the damage caused by the bursting of Tangle Mere, near Guildford, is being repaired. The lake, standing above the level of the surrounding meadows, is now a sheet of mud. The water tore a deep hole in the meadow, causing a pond, in which thousands of fish were caught, including carp, tench, pike, roach, a few trout, and eels. The neighbouring ditches are also full of fish."

MR. LUCAS writes: "Dear 'Dragnet,'—I noticed your explanation of Poetic License; would it permit the following impromptu atrocity?

An angler who drank half and 1,
When lucky, would ch¹ folks and 1½;
But the floods stopped his 1½ter, for very soon ½ter,
He was found hanging dead by his sc¹.

OUR F. G. ALBUM OF ANGLERS.

No. 33 (New Series).



DR. FREDERICK JOHN BROWNFIELD BATEMAN

Was born at Norwich in 1859, and commenced his angling career in the rivers Waveney, Bnre, and Yare, and the Wroxham and Ormsby Broads, where he caught large numbers of bream and roach. At eighteen he was placed as a pupil with a medical man at Stony Stratford, Bucks, where he had good sport in the Ouse, and succeeded in landing, on fine tackle, a bream of 6½lb. His next move was to Cains College, Cambridge, where he had good sport in the Cam. From Cambridge he entered Middlesex Hospital, and had good sport in the Colne with the late Dr. Henman, where he caught his first chub with pith and brains. After getting qualified he went out to China as ship surgeon, and on his return went into practice in Somersetshire, where he had good sport with the trout up to 4½lb. Since the year 1895 he has been very successful in the Thames. His first big take was on Sept. 27, 1895, with the late J. P. Wheeldon, when they took over 400lb. of barbel up to 6lb.; J. P. W. took 108 fish, and the Doctor 118. In the same summer he took a fine roach of 1lb. 13oz., when out with John Keene. On July 12, 1897, before 6 a.m., fishing near Surly Hall by himself with strawberries, he caught three chub in one swim, the respective weights of which were 5lb. 4½oz., 4lb. 6½oz., and 2lb. 9½oz. (the best brace he had set up by Cooper). The same summer, fishing with Mr. Cecil Howlett, of Eton, and attended by James Bunce, on many occasions had good sport with the barbel, and landed in October a pike of 11lb. 9oz. whilst barbel fishing. He is a good all-round sportsman, and a true lover of dogs. Last year he succeeded in winning the silver challenge cup of the Royal Windsor and District Piscatorial Society outright, and he is also a member of the well-known Kingston Piscatorial Society.

IN answer to several queries as to which part of the globe I elected to fish during the unsettled weather we have been experiencing, I can only say that I "selected" none. There is one little river in Norfolk (that's as near as can be mentioned—for it is a little bit of private) which might have been all right, but it was not sampled. It came about thuswise. Two friends (good sportsmen), A. C. B. and E. W., were discussing the various appliances for sea fishing. We had long rods, short rods, light rods, heavy rods, rods made expressly for sea fishing, and rods that were not.

WE had rods with revolving tops and some with pulleys. Wire lines, hemp lines, and silk lines. Leads of every conceivable make, shape, and size. Paternosters, trots,

chopsticks (not Chinese), booms, and hand-lines. No; that's wrong. We were wedded to the rod, and Mr. A. C. B. said, "Why not let us experiment with them?" Agreed. Southend was selected. A wire to "Manager: Alexandra Hotel. Dinner for three. Roast fowl and ham—and followers.—'Drag.'" Of course, the manager did not know "Drag," and had it not been for Mr. Charles Hussey, "dinner for three—special" might not have been ready on our arrival.

"CHARLEY" met us at the station (Great Eastern), and made arrangements with a boatman to provide baits and all that was necessary to carry out our trials—hemp v. wire, &c. He introduced us to all the most influential sea fishermen, resident and non-resident. A gentleman (yes, a "puffick" gentleman, whose name I am sorry to say I cannot remember, but whom I thank most heartily), placed at our disposal a strong, servicable, and thoroughly sea-going boat. The coxswain of the lifeboat was to be our guide. The luncheon was ordered to be stowed away, and it was stowed. What did it consist of? Wait.

AFTER a good dinner one seldom worries about next day's luncheon; but Mr. Manager Toogood, assisted by his admirable manageress (Miss Heath), had fixed us up with a champagne case containing a bottle of brandy, one of whisky, a large (very large) bottle of bitter, rabbit pie, cold fowl, celery, cheese, bread (yes, bread), corkscrew, knives, forks, plates, glasses, &c. I volunteered a remark that our "trial" trip was a bit ominous, as there would not be much time for fishing after "testing" Toogood's sea tackle.

UP to now you will notice that I am getting on with the account of an outing to Southend. There is a large and pretty theatre at Southend. "Little Red Riding Hood" was being performed, and the quartette (for "Charles" was showing us up—I mean about) would have nothing short of a private box. We had it; also a drink with the lessee; also, on returning to the Alexandra, just one with all the "boys" who had assembled to meet "Drag" and Co. To bed, anxiously awaiting the morning. "Breakfast at nine, please, Mr. Toogood."

THE breakfast came; the morning broke; the tide was out; the rain came down; we were in; and there we remained, for the prospects of fishing were anything but favourable. Now for the fishing! Arrayed in sou'-westers, sea boots and macintoshes, we got wet going to the boat. Then discharged the boatman; told him to eat the two quarts of shrimps, do what he liked with the sprats and lugz, and send the champagne case back. We followed it.

"Let us have some hot luncheon, Mr. Toogood—say at 1.30." We had it. (Better than cold rabbit pie and celery, eh?) Then we discussed the rods and tackle. Then we strolled out, for at 3 o'clock the rain had ceased, and the wind blew enough to knock another piece out of the 3-mile pier. At the extreme end of this pier were many fishermen—that is to say out of about twenty there were three or four. "Ben" Abrahams was getting an occasional dab, not many, and not very large, but his were sizeable. So were two or three others. The remainder basketed everything that came up; dabs quite 2in. in length, and even the harmless unnecessary crab.

"CHACUN à son goût."—Certainly! I like the long line if I'm fishing for the pot, but when fishing for sport the rod is preferable. It was "amooisin'" to see several so-called anglers using two, three, four, and even five lines, all tied on to the pier. They were using lines that would have been useful as clothes lines, and kept working away at them, getting them out of tangle—and rebaiting. The bait merchants must have done a roaring trade, for the fish (or crabs) made a clean sweep of everything offered them, and quite unknown to the fishermen. I should like to see this indiscriminate slaughter of baby fish prohibited by the Southend authorities. Why does not Mr. Charles Hussey (a resident) see to this?

JUST one little bit more fishing before we leave Southend. The wind, as I have said, blew. My nose was blue. My cap was secured by a bit of wire line (had no hemp handy). Found it useful, for I came home with my own cap. Not so "Charles." His seven-and-sixpenny B.S.A.S. Commodore cap, on which was fastened the B.S.A.S. badge, went on a voyage of discovery to the North Sea. There were no boats handy for the rescue, and so, it is presumed, will ere this be food for conger or cod.

I HAVE often heard that well-known sea fisherman (Zachnsdorf) relate the story of the cod and mackintosh sleeve. Some poor sailor had lost his oilskin, and some poor cod—hungry perhaps, and taking a fancy to the oil—had swallowed the sleeve. It was discovered when being prepared for table, and the chef of the hotel is keeping it as a "momentum." Look out for Hussey's hat when you catch or buy cod. It will be recognised by the B.S.A.S. badge.

Also look out for a startling headline in the evening papers. "During the recent gales a fishing boat was discovered bottom upwards. Near it was found floating a seaman's cap, on which was fastened a very pretty badge—B.S.A.S." Should this meet the eye of the bereaved widow, it shall be forwarded at once on application to DRAGNET.

Notes from the North.

FINER weather seldom if ever favoured the opening on the far north streams of Sutherlandshire as was experienced last week. Fresh fish were seen on the lower reaches, but the rivers were too high for good sport all over.

The Tay and Loch Tay district opened in the midst of a blinding snowstorm, and dashed for the nonce the otherwise bright prospects of fair weather at least. The advent of hard weather, however, will have the favourable effect of checking the floods and reducing the water to its normal level.

Now that a commencement has been made on the first group of early spring salmon waters, greater interest will be manifested as to the prospects on the second and main group of streams, which open on the 11th prox., some eighty in number, as also in the netting, which also opens on the 11th.

A sudden change in the weather has been experienced since Sunday, and a considerable fall of snow has taken place in the Grampians and northern ranges. As it has come from the west, however, the prospects are that it will not be long.

Salmon disease has been rather prevalent on the Tay during the winter, but as yet only the spawning fish seem to be affected. No spring fish have, as far as is known, been yet picked out in a dead or dying state from the disease, and it is hoped it may now disappear with the descending kelts.

On Saturday night, Dr. Fulton, late scientific expert to the Scottish Fishery Board, delivered an address in the Town Hall, Lossiemouth, on the international aspect of the trawling limit. The address was under the auspices of the Moray Firth Fisheries Association.

Buckie, a rising east coast fishing town near Peterhead, is to have a fish mart of its own. Fishery matters are going up by leaps and bounds in the north.

It is understood that Lady Gordon Cathcart has decided on the erection of a new hotel at the highly attractive and picturesque village of Colliston, some three miles from the Ythan estuary, on which Lady Gordon has joint proprietary rights. The new hotel is to be after the model of Cruden Bay Hotel, although probably of smaller dimensions.

Cluny Castle, in Aberdeenshire, is a favourite resort of the Duke of Connaught when at Balmoral. Other members of the royal family pay yearly visits to the Cathcart party, and this new hotel will form an admirable adjunct to Cluny Castle during the autumn season.

Since commencing these notes a snowstorm has been raging with considerable severity, and from 6in. to 1ft. of snow has fallen in the Inverness district. The more the better for the spring prospects in general.

Mr. G. Sim, naturalist, Marischal-street, has just received three pheasants, crosses between the golden and the common. The cross is a very peculiar and quite an uncommon one. SPECIAL SCOTCH.

Provincial Notes

FROM BIRMINGHAM AND DISTRICT.

A fully-attended general meeting of the Birmingham Angling Association was held on Thursday evening last, Jan. 12, at the headquarters. The meeting was called for the purpose of electing the working committee for the ensuing year. Mr. T. Coles presided, and Mr. J. A. Dance occupied the vice-chair. The president, in opening the meeting, pointed out to the delegates the good work the committee had done during the past twelve months; they had all worked together with one common object, and that was to benefit the association as far as possible with their council and wisdom. The secretary reported that fourteen committee meetings had been held during the year, and that the attendances of the members had been all that could be desired. In some few instances the committee-men had been unable to attend through illness, but the majority of the members had attended the whole of the meetings. The result of the election was as follows, the following twenty members receiving the highest number of votes, namely: Messrs. Halliday, Birmingham Piscatorial; Hughes, St. Paul's; Foster, St. Stephen's; Kingham, Spring Hill; Bowley, Good Intent; Gilman, Lozell's Falcon; Tucker, Deritend; Gamley, Chandos; Perry, Aston Britannia; Bagley, Alliance; Jolly, Queen's Arms; Neale, Birmingham Heath; Rabone, Fruitful Vine; Jones, Highgate Park; Currie, Belmont Royal; Dudley, Haddleton; Hands-worth, Yardley Manor; Kingerley, Highgate; and Griffiths, St. George's. Mr. W. Phipps, of the Rose and Crown Society, was elected general auditor. For some time past it has been thought that the different railway companies have been very slow in not taking action against the members of such large associations as the Provincial Angling Association for lending their travelling cards to non-members. A case was heard at the Bristol Police-court, of which a full account will appear in another

column, in which both the lender and the borrower were fined 40s. and costs on Wednesday, Jan. 11 last, for so committing themselves. This, when it becomes known, will deter members of all associations throughout the country from rendering themselves liable to prosecution; it will also be the means of strengthening the associations, as there are many anglers who, as long as they can borrow a card, will not join any society; they will now have to choose either to join a club or pay the full fare. Anyway, it will teach all a lesson, and settle the important question as to the rights of the railway companies. The Provincial and Birmingham Associations have asked the railway companies to take these cases up before, but they have refused, and left the matter in the hands of the associations to deal with the offenders as they think fit; expulsions have followed, but still now and again a case crops up, but now that the companies have begun to take action, we shall not be troubled with any such cases in the future. I wish to remind the secretaries of the branch associations of the P.A.A. that the Coles' testimonial fund will shortly close, and those wishing to contribute to it should forward their donations as soon as possible to the secretary of the P.A.A. The committee, who have the matter in hand, wish to make the testimonial as large as possible, in order to recompense Mr. T. Coles for the good work he has done, and the loss of time and money which he has been put to in furthering the interests of the angling community at large. Rain and wind has again very much interfered with our sport. All our rivers are flooded, and the water is out over the meadows in low lying districts for miles. I have just received a letter from Stafford to this effect. Under the circumstances angling is almost at a standstill.

FROM THE FEN DISTRICT (LINCOLNSHIRE).

Towards the end of last week a check was put upon angling operations in the Fen district in consequence of the flooded condition of the rivers, the result of Thursday's heavy rain, and since then, owing to the prevalence of wind storms, only desultory sport has been obtained. The waters, however, have fined down again, and angling generally has been improved by the freshet. Roach fishing, in particular, has undergone a marked change, and with suitable bait—worms and paste for preference—as good sport has been met with as is often experienced in the autumn. Especially has this been the case in the Tattershall district, where the Bain falls into the Witham, and at the confluence of the Sleaford Canal, near Dog-dyke. Another water which is just now attracting the attention of visitors, and which will continue to do so so long as the open weather continues, is the Glen, at Surfleet, where hags varying from 15lb. to 20lb. of roach have been captured in a single day. The heavy gales have quite upset the arrangements of pike fishermen; but those who have operated in periods of calm weather have found the fish more disposed to feed than has been the case for some time. In this department the Witham and Welland are showing the best sport.

FROM HULL AND DISTRICT.

Live bait fishing for pike has been fairly good in the upper stretches of the river Hull, and also in its tributaries and at the heck-ends, where several good-sized fish have been met with. Odd fish have also been taken in the lower waters at Beverley Beck-end and at Wawne. A few fish of fair size have also been taken in the vicinity of Brigg, on the river Ancholme, but our local pike fishermen have done by far the best on the Market Weighton Canal, and the ponds in the Newport district, where fish up to 5lb. each have been taken. Roach fishing since the New Year came in has only been very moderate considering the success of our city roach men during the month of December, but this may chiefly be accounted for owing to the stormy weather and swollen condition of the river. A few nice-sized roach were taken during last week in the top stretches of the river Hull, above Hempholme Lock and in the neighbourhood of Bingham, and amongst the fish shown at the clubhouses Mr. N. Cracknell, of the Globe Angling Society, had a roach that scaled 1lb. 3½oz., taken near Emmotland, this being about the best fish shown since the advent of the New Year. Worm fishing for flounders and eels is being practised with a fair amount of success at the havens and drains entrances, and also in the lower portion of the river. One of our most successful pike fishermen, Mr. Charles Snowden Nowell, passed away rather suddenly on Jan. 5. He was much respected by a large circle of angling friends, and will be greatly missed on the banks of the river Hull, which was his happy hunting ground. A new angling society is in contemplation at Newland, the matches to be fished on the river Hull on Saturday afternoons. The first match on the river Hull this season, open to all comers, will take place at Dunswell on May 13, under the auspices of the Blundell, Spence, and Company's Angling Society. Another new angling society is being formed at the Bangor Castle Inn, Providence-row, Mr. H. Hudson being appointed the hon. secretary *pro-tem*. The members of the Tigress Angling Society dined together at headquarters on the 9th instant, when a most pleasant evening was spent, and the president (Mr. J. P. Sherwood) in his address to the members, said that although the society had only been in existence about seven months, they had fished for about £14 in prizes, and had a good balance in hand to commence the season with. The Duke of York A.S. have removed their headquarters to the Gainsborough Tavern, in High-street, where the club's business will in future be conducted, a special meeting being held there this (Saturday) evening, on important business. The Central Hull Angling Society's hall, which took place at the Central Hall, was a most enthusiastic and successful affair. On Monday evening next the North Myton A.S. will hold their annual *soirée* and ball at the same hall; and the Victoria A.S. have their annual meeting at headquarters.

FROM THE LAKE DISTRICT.

The controversy respecting sea gulls and the alleged mischief they work upon fish life advanced a stage on Thursday, at the meeting of the West Cumberland Fishery Board. The clerk read a letter from the Home Office, in answer to one sent by the board, asking the procedure necessary to get the black-headed gull removed from the list of birds protected by the Act. The reply stated that the steps necessary to this end were for the board to ask the County Council to make application to the Secretary of State, stating the ground on which the application was based. Mr. W. H. Watson suggested that a little more time be given to the question. There were several kinds of black-headed gulls, but he believed the resolution passed at their last meeting referred to the lesser black-headed gull, and this bird was not detrimental to fish. Small black-headed gulls did little, if any, damage to fish, but they were of great benefit to the farmer by killing insects and other parasites injurious to crops. He suggested that they should obtain further information, and discriminate between the two species, and not make a representation to the County Council simply as to the "black-headed gull."

FROM LANCASHIRE.

Liverpool is a city just at present affording a lot of interest in angling matters. For some time they have displayed plenty of healthy enthusiasm, their latest item being a movement to federate all clubs into one general association. Like Manchester was, their affections are divided between two premier associations, and with a view to getting evidence to guide them, Mr. Redford, gen. sec. of the Northern Anglers' Association, visited Liverpool on the 14th, and so satisfied were those at the meeting, that it was resolved to form a centre of the N.A.A.; and with Mr. R. Woolfall as hon. sec. and representative to executive council they have an efficient official to start with. The proceedings were unanimous and enthusiastic, and stand adjourned for completion until to-day (21st). Several additional stations have been added, most favouring the anglers at Bamfurlong and Stalybridge. The Clarendon A.S., at Openshaw, is developing into a strong one. The last general meeting of the County Palatine Angling Association was held on the 12th, and was attended by delegates from sixteen societies, when it was resolved that no action be taken to acquire any fishing rented by any club or association without their consent. Notice of motion was given to the effect that in future all meetings be held at some hotel in the city convenient for the majority. The next meeting will be held at the Britannia Inn, Rowsley-street, Ashton New-road, Bradford, Manchester, on March 9.

FROM MANCHESTER.

The Good Intent A.S. report further progress with their new venture. Several new members have joined, and more are offering. A report is to hand from the old Standard A.S. On Jan. 16 they elected the following as their executive for 1899: President, Mr. Clarke; vice-president, Mr. Vignerot; treasurer, Mr. Chadwick; secretary, Mr. M. Plant; committee, Messrs. Dyson, Ewart, and Underwood; delegate, Mr. Lloyd. The president congratulated the members on their sound position in every way, and intimated that owing to the great success of their last match, that of the coming season would probably be on the same lines. Several new members were enrolled, and others will come on for voting at the next meeting, when several items of deferred business will also be discussed. The annual dinner of the Buckland Angling Society was a great success. After the dinner there was an interval for social intercourse, during which the guests were amused with a "gramophone" programme. Then came the event of the evening, Mr. Bibby's lecture on his angling trip to Ireland, or through the Ballintra district with rod and camera. Mr. W. Johnson manipulated the lantern satisfactorily, and as one scene after another was depicted the grandeur of this wild district was effectively demonstrated. The Moss Side Socials are again in evidence with more stocking operations. They have arranged for another large consignment of mature roach and other coarse fish. Several city clubs were busy last Saturday transferring fish to their waters.

FROM NOTTINGHAM.

There is really no practical angling news to record or relate. The fact is the Trent has been running in flood volume for a week, and at the period of writing the waters were out in the meadows. On the 15th inst. anglers mustered in force on the southern bank above the City Bridge hoping to kill roach in the slacks behind the weir; but before the advent of noon rain began to pelt down, and the downpour continued for hours. On Tuesday Mr. F. J. Lindley tried the "Slough" at Beeston, but found the water too thick for fish to discern a bait. Recently, in Flintham Lake, Mr. E. Bull and Mr. J. Bell killed a dozen pike.

FROM SHEFFIELD.

Better sport has been obtained during the last week by Sheffield anglers, but the weather has again been too unsettled to allow of fishing being followed with that degree of comfort which would render it enjoyable in the extreme. The river Trent, as usual, has been patronised by a large number of anglers, and during the end of last week a good deal of fishing was obtained, the water having run down a little after the recent heavy rains. Pike anglers have had a fairly good time of it, and at Shardlow some very fine heavy fish have been captured, whilst other well-known stretches have been well looked after. The water has been of a very good colour for roach fishing, a few nice baskets having been obtained at Fiskerton, Barton, and other places, the cockspur worm having proved very deadly, with the result that some exceptionally fine fish have been secured. The lower reaches of the Trent

have not fished very well, and it is not until the weather settles that really good sport is anticipated. Visitors to the well-known winter stream, the Idle, have dropped in for some first rate sport in the immediate neighbourhood of Retford, roach and dace having furnished some capital fishing, whilst in the neighbourhood of Mattersey pike have been found to well repay the trouble of anglers who have gone with the special intention of devoting their energies to this particular branch of sport. The Witham is just now in rattling condition, and anglers seem to increase in numbers every week. Roach have been diligently fished for, and by using paste and worms as bait the majority of rosters have accounted for some nice takes, a good proportion of the fish running up to decent size, 1lb. being about the top weight. The heavy rain has nearly spoilt pike fishing, but at Bardney there has been no lack of sport amongst roach. In the Bain, the Dogdyke, and Sleaford, several roach anglers have had a very good time, the condition of the former river being in marked contrast to what it was in the summer, when the bottom weeds choked the water and made the lot of the angler an unhappy one. Pike fishing in Hornsea Mere has been followed with gratifying success during the last week or so, and anglers are also looking forward to getting some good eels out of the water. Very little fly fishing has been obtained in the Wye and Derwent owing to the height of the water, but a fair amount of coarse fishing has been secured.

FROM WORCESTER AND DISTRICT.

Angling is quite at a standstill in this district. All the rivers are full of highly coloured water, and, with the heavy storms we are having, it will be some time before either stream will be fishable again. Some few have had a little sport among the pike in private water, but not many fish have been taken. Meetings have been held at the various clubhouses, and the arrangements for the coming season are nearly complete. The St. John's Club have arranged to have their annual dinner on Feb. 2, and it is likely to be a good affair. The Good Intent Club have removed their headquarters from the Four Ways Inn to the Gloucester Arms, Copenhagen-street. The salmon have been passing over the weirs in numbers, and there should be more in the upper waters of the Severn than have been for years. The season opens in another fortnight, but the local fishermen do not expect to have very good fortune, so many fish having gone up the river.

FROM YORK AND DISTRICT.

The continuance of stormy weather has not permitted of either enjoyable or successful angling. The flooded and discoloured state of the rivers has proved disheartening, and, even under the most favourable conditions that could be sought out by experienced hands, the poor results have by no means compensated for the discomfort undergone. Many anglers who have ventured abroad are said to have had "lively" times, which is very likely indeed. The week-end reports had very little to show in either the quantity or the quality of the fish caught, and prospects were little better for the present week. Owing probably to the prevalence of mild weather, grayling have not been anxious for fly or bait. The season for this class of fish, in the Wharfe and the Yore especially, seems to have been a poor one. Early this week there were sharp frosts, which, however, quickly resolved into thaws before the advancing south-westerly currents, and Wednesday last witnessed a condition of things for anglers generally of a somewhat depressing character. Purely local fishing in Ouse and Foss waters remains at a very ordinary level, there being nothing unusual to report. The gathering in connection with the York Amalgamation, at the Bay Horse Hotel, this (Saturday) evening, has of late formed the principal topic in angling circles. It is anticipated that some very important topics relating to angling will be touched upon. It is complained by York anglers that they are placed at a very great disadvantage in having to seek

most of their sport in other rivers than the Ouse, which flows past their doors. This state of things is attributed to the Ouse not being covered by the Fresh-water Fisheries Act, the river poacher having it all his own way in consequence. This is one of the chief grievances of the Amalgamated Anglers, who seek to have a close time for the Ouse, and to stop the netting system, which is found to be most pernicious and ruinous to angling.

ANSWERS TO CORRESPONDENTS.

G. W.—The only coarse fish, other than pike, mentioned by "Hi-Regan" in "How and Where to Fish in Ireland," are perch, concerning which he has much to say on page 14, under the heading of "Perch Fishing with the Fly." They are also casually alluded to on pp. 147, 149, and 150.

Correspondence

[We do not hold ourselves responsible for the opinions expressed by our Correspondents.]

THE MAY FLY ON THE AMOUR.

SIR,—Some time ago, in reading Mr. H. de Windt's "The New Siberia" (Chapman and Hall, 1896), I came across a paragraph in his book, which I noted at the time, but which I had afterwards overlooked, and which, I think, may be of interest to anglers generally, but especially to that portion of them more closely identified with midland and south country angling.

Mr. de Windt, in relation to his voyage upon the lower Amour and of the vessel's approach to Michaelovsky, which he describes as a pretty village not far inland from Nicholaefsk, situated at the mouth of the Amour, says: "We approached the village (Michaelovsky) towards sunset, after a glorious day, and as we did so witnessed a curious sight. Millions of large white moths suddenly surrounded the steamer, and the river (previously glassy as a mirror) became alive with splashing, leaping fish, attracted to the surface by the fluttering insects. The swarm was so dense that, viewed against a background of dark pine forest, it looked like a heavy snowstorm."

Is there any trout angler acquainted with the May Fly who does not believe that these "white moths" were not as Mr. de Windt describes them, but in reality May Flies? Michaelovsky, I believe, is not above 100 miles north of Vladivostok, the eastern terminus of the Siberian Railway now in course of construction by Russia. There is, Mr. de Windt says, a fleet of about twenty-five steamers now on the Amour, and it was upon one of these vessels that he steamed down the river for a distance of upwards of 700 miles.

Nicholaefsk, at the mouth of the Amour, Mr. de Windt tells us, is about four miles wide, so I take it that the river will not be much narrower at Michaelovsky.

What think you of this, ye May Fly anglers, and of the sight which a fine summer's evening would produce over upwards of 1000 miles of this great river, without reckoning the possibilities which the locality would place at an angler's command?—Yours, &c., W. B.

[We are much obliged to "W. B." for this interesting note, and have no doubt the "moths" are really members of the great family of the Ephemeridae. Some are

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much whiter and slighter than our *Ephemera vulgata* or *danica*, and others larger and much stouter in the body.—Ed.]

IMPROVED BAIT PRESERVING.

SIR,—I am glad to see that my letter on this subject has led to a certain amount of correspondence. What strikes one as most curious are the varied opinions of your correspondents as to the utility of certain methods; but as a very old hand at bait preserving, I suspect that the differences of opinion are really due to differences of use. To myself, for instance, whose fishing is practically limited to trout, with an occasional salmon, it is quite conceivable that a plan may be useful which is of no use for pike fishing owing to the different way in which those fish approach their prey. If, therefore, my experience differs from that of others who have written, I hope that they will attribute it to this, the real cause, and not to simple "cussedness."

As "W. P. H." says, the bait question is not yet settled, I venture to prophesy that it never will be till we find a way of keeping fish alive without water. Even preserving in ice or cold chambers won't do it, as fish kept thus, though they keep good and preserve their colours, lose some of the glitter that makes a live or freshly killed bait attractive. I think, however, that if your correspondents will try the plan I advocated of first keeping the baits for twenty-four hours in a weak solution of formaldehyde (1 in 250—equal to a one per cent. solution, or dilution rather, as Mr. Hussey points out, of formalin), and then keeping the baits in glycerine, they will get all the advantages of formalin—the natural glitter of the bait. The reason of this is, I think, that the watery solution soaks the scales, rendering them sodden, which the glycerine apparently does not. As to the stiffness in formalin baits, to which some of your correspondents seem to object, is to me, as a trout fisher, "a boon and a blessing," as once the baits are cured to the proper extent they do not lose their elasticity for a much longer time than a fresh bait. The apparatus I use is so simple that anyone can make it for himself with the aid of a few strips of tin and a strong pair of scissors.

Then there is a consideration which I suspect may have to be faced soon. By the new postal regulations as to "deleterious fluids," there is no saying but the authorities may conceive it their duty to forbid the postage of bottles of baits unless sent by registered letter and packed in a metal box. I do not say that they will, but it is quite conceivable that they may, and then there would be a pretty kettle of fish. Now, fish preserved as I directed will keep some time without drying up or wilting, and may thus be sent free of all liquid but the little glycerine adhering to them.

So far of the method I suggested. Of the various other plans proposed, I may say that I have tried them all and found them wanting. I have tried glycerine alone, and in combination with boric acid, borax, boro-glycerid, and tannic acid (this last is the Pharmacopoeial glycerine of tannic acid), and found that it had the disadvantage for a preservative of not keeping the baits fit for use. I have also tried the boric acid and salt cure, and found it almost as good as common salt without the acid; a combination of borax and salt was quite as good, and I fancy, though I am not quite sure, that I sent a note on this subject to the *Fishing Gazette* early in the "eighties." I have also tried *inter alia* chloride of zinc, corrosive sublimate, tannic acid without glycerine, as well as those methods depending on spirits. I must confess that I have never done well with methylated spirits, though baits preserved in whisky proved useful if one could only reconcile oneself to the necessary waste of good liquor, and the over festive smell communicated to the user thereof.

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unt I have always found minnows simply salted the surest bait till formalin came in. I certainly have found it the best thing yet, but for the dulling of baits kept long in it, and I think the glycerine treatment disposes of that objection. I have had in my possession sprats preserved in formalin solution for about two years, and they are wonderfully clear in colour, but they have not the iridescent glitter of a fresh bait; though, of course, so very brilliant a bait can stand some dimming without losing its efficacy.—Yours truly,
T. SPENCE.

SEA FISHING AT SOUTHEND.

DEAR SIR,—After reading in *Fishing Gazette* of Saturday last that good sport was being had at Southend, I went there on Sunday morning, and sticking at it in the wet and wind till nearly five o'clock, my take consisted of two dabs—both, however, of good size. Now, as my experience coincides with that of several of my friends, and we have had much the same luck these few weeks past, either our fishing, or methods of fishing, or the reports must be wrong, unless, of course, they apply simply to boat fishing. I happen to be one of those unfortunate beings who cannot go out in a boat, so confine myself to pier heads. I do not say a greater number of fish than stated above have not been caught, but I say that fish of good size for some little time past have been few and far between. I saw one or two strings of dabs on Sunday, numbering, I should say, forty or fifty. But the size of them. No true sportsman would ever take them off the pier. I notice these are caught generally by fishermen mostly using hand-lines and very small hooks. Could not something be done to prevent this business? Sport is sport, but this seems destruction. Some of these gentlemen have no less than six or seven lines going at a time. Between three of them on Sunday there were seventeen, one having seven, another six, and the other four. Why not charge so much per line or rod, and limit the number to two at Southend, as at other places? Perhaps if this matter was ventilated, some steps would be taken to improve it.—Yours, &c.,
OBSERVER.

SOUTHEND PIER—A SUGGESTION.

SIR,—As a frequent visitor throughout the year (and in the near future a resident) of Southend-on-Sea, I have read of the second narrow escape of the pier, the first accident to which has so interfered with our fishing, and I certainly think that all piers round the coast could be protected from accidents of this kind by adopting a very simple arrangement, which may suggest even better methods. My idea is that chain cables of sufficient strength could be run (say, 50yds. to 100yds. distant from the pier) right away from the shore to within a few yards of the end of it, so as not to interfere with steam-boat traffic. The method of securing it in position would be to run it through rings affixed to wooden or other piles driven into the shore at sufficient depth and at regular distances, allowing the chain to swing clear of the bottom. Had this been in position before the *Dolphin* cut the pier in half (I was on it at the time), her anchor would have caught the chain, and the accident would have been averted. I am not a nautical man versed in winds and tides; I only know that "when the stormy winds do blow," such accidents are always possible, especially where long, light piers are found, such as Southend, and where the authorities, for cheapness, I suppose, employ foreign materials in the construction, the chances of serious damage are greater. From the peculiar flat character of the shore at this town, I should think that it is essentially the very spot on which to test successfully this idea. A nautical friend, and fellow member of the B.S.A.S., Mr. W. S. Penny, is at one with me in this suggestion.—Yours truly,
R. CHAS. GRAHAM, C.E. (B.S.A.S.).

FISH FROM DEAL BY RAIL.

DEAR SIR,—I and a friend, wishing to send some fish to town a few days since, dispatched five small baskets, carriage paid through, but on my arrival home I was informed, to my surprise, that another demand of 6d. had been insisted on, and paid. I therefore applied to the Chatham and Dover Railway Company, and was informed that that part of Canonbury to which the basket containing only a codling (weighing 1lb.) and a dozen whiting was addressed, being more than two and a half miles from Somerses House, it was beyond their radius of free delivery. I pointed out the fact that Somerses House was not the terminus of the Chatham and Dover Railway, and that St. Paul's Road was not two and a half miles from Holborn Viaduct; but I could obtain no satisfactory reply. The matter seems so illogical that you may think it worth while to insert this as a caution to my fellow members of the B.S.A.S.

The charge for the five small baskets, weighing altogether from 25lb. to 30lb., being 4s. 11d., I should have thought sufficient to cover delivery over a greater area.—Yours truly,
H. J. M.
Jan. 12, 1899.

HOW THEY RUIN THE SALMON RIVERS.

SIR,—I was much saddened by the way in which they ruin the fishing in Ireland. I rented a small river near Galway last year, and large numbers of grilse and salmon were constantly waiting to run up, but Lord — scooped them out by hundreds every night and morning. I don't whether a dozen fish were caught in the river the whole summer. I got six!—Yours, &c.,
AN IRISH ANGLER.

THAT 10LB. PIKE.

SIR,—While accepting "Dragnet's" suggestion that I should take a landing net when fishing for pike, I do not claim the honour you seem to accord to me, of landing a

10-pounder—a most difficult feat—without help. As a matter of fact I had with me a gaff, and was assisted by a friend, Walter H. Weil, a well-known member of the Stock Exchange, whose ardour for fishing is almost equal to my own.

The wolf like rapacity known to be dormant amongst members of the House probably evidences itself in the pursuit of the river wolf, and I have frequently noticed my friend's face light up with a more than ordinary gleam of pleasure at the sight of the hideous head bristling with rows of teeth brought safely to the punt bottom.

Last Saturday I essayed the same water, hoping to find my pike's mate; but alas! the three preceding days' rain had so fouled the river that another catch was an impossibility. Thus "Dragnet's" prophecy that next time I should have a net but no fish was verified to the letter. I tempted with snap and paternoster, but believe that even an Ave Maria would have failed to lure a lue.

Saturday was, however, a glorious day; the sun shone as in September; the cattle were lowing on the bank side; trees were budding forth, mistaking winter for spring, and the bird's sang with a will—a perfect charm. The usual disagreeable noises were absent from the river, the wave-creating launch, the noisy boating party, the loaded Oxford steamers were all conspicuous by their absence. In the upper reaches quietude reigned supreme, and I forgave the empty creel in the enjoyment of the pure and peaceful air.—Yours faithfully,
WENTWORTH STURGEON.

CAPTURE OF A STING RAY OFF PLYMOUTH.

DEAR SIR,—A fine specimen of the sting ray (*Raja pastinaca*) was caught about eight miles south-east of the Eddystone the day before yesterday by Capt. Greap, of the fishing sloop *Janet Hunter*, P.H. 49. As this fish belongs to a most dangerous and deadly species, it is a good job that neither of the crew was stung by it. It is a very rare occurrence that the sting ray is caught in English waters. It is supposed that the dart or sting in the tail is used in obtaining food, which appears to be small fish.

This dart or spear is serrated along the edges in such a manner that it cuts clean into your flesh, but it cannot be withdrawn unless it tears the wound and makes it much larger—something to the same effect as the barb of the hook.

There are some curious tales told about the enervating properties of this sting. In olden times it was used for the purpose of enabling children to cut their teeth more easily. When reduced to powder it was believed to have the power of relieving toothache, and of finally causing decayed teeth to drop out of their sockets. The fish was shown to me by Mr. G. Spicer, fishmonger, 1, Abbey-place, St. Andrew's-street, and it is well worthy of a visit.—Yours, &c.,
WILLIAM HEARDER (B.S.A.S.).
195, Union-street, Plymouth.

LOUGH DERG QUERIES.

DEAR SIR,—I should be much obliged if some of your readers could answer the following queries:

1. What is the best route to Lough Derg?
2. Name of any reliable resident who will give notice when the fly is up?
3. On which Irish loughs is there the best chance of having good sport with rudd and bream?—Yours truly,
BLATHERWYCK.

WIRE SEA LINES.

DEAR SIR,—I venture to trespass on your space in order to put before your numerous readers the precise nature of the problem of which, in the opinion of Mr. Parker and others who have given a good deal of attention to the matter, a wire line affords the only probable solution.

At several points on the coast there are rather deep swims, in which fish in large numbers or of exceptional size congregate and feed at certain times of the tide, generally when the stream is running with considerable force. Of these I may mention as well known to sea anglers the near Deep off Yarmouth, the South Bank End at Deal, the West Roads at Dungeness, and some excellent marks off Shoreham. At none of these places is it possible to fish with the line at a smaller angle to the perpendicular than 60° without the use of inordinately heavy leads at such times as the tide is running with even one half of its spring-tide flood velocity.

A very heavy lead throws an unfair strain upon a nicely-constituted rod, and necessitates the use of an instrument like a barge pole. A long tide-swept line deadens the vibrations of the bite and involves a great expenditure of, perhaps, valuable time in running out and reeling in. What sea anglers want is a line which, with a sinker of not more than 8oz., and, if possible, only 6oz., will reach and hold bottom in eight fathoms of water in a two-knot tide, and will lie at an angle of not more than 45° from the perpendicular. Its breaking strain should be not much under 20lb.

Of numerous cord lines which I have tried I mention three which, though they do not quite fulfil the desired conditions, approximate more nearly than most of the lines used by my confrères:

- (a) A "Victor" line from Ramsbottom, Manchester (letter H, I think), 3s. for 30 fathoms;
- (b) A cable-laid line, called "No. 9 drab," from the Manchester Cotton Twine Company (2s.);
- (c) A cable-laid line from Belfast Twine Company. Not in the retail market, so far as I can elicit, but supposed to be extremely cheap.

Single wire lines of extreme thinness would fulfil the stated conditions, but there are other grave objections to the use of them, which Mr. Parker has already pointed out. The experiments made with the twisted wire are

giving great promise, but they are hardly as yet sufficiently exhaustive.

The resistance which lines offer to the water varies (approximately) as the diameters of their sections; but their strength varies (approximately) as the areas of the sections, that is, as the squares of the diameters. It follows that if you halve the thickness of your line, you must use a material four times as strong if you wish to have the same strength.—Yours truly,
HAMUS (B.S.A.S.).

WIRE SEA LINES.

SIR,—After trying everything which has come along in sea lines during the last twenty years, I can give my opinion most emphatically that there is nothing to beat hemp, cotton, or silk.

As a reel line, wire of any make which has appeared up till now springs, kinks, or overlaps. As a hand-line, besides kinking and want of pliability, the punishment to the hands is great. I would ask Mr. A. W. Parker how his hands feel after even one tide's heavy handling of cod or conger?

Even used as snooding, I have found it desirable to use the snoods as short as possible.

Wire lines certainly hold less tide than any other, but good, strong, and fine hemp lines have too many advantages to be displaced by a material which has so many disadvantages.

Good hemp is suitable for all sea fishing, and much river fishing, too.—Yours truly,
VIATOR.

DEAR SIR,—Messrs. Hearder and Sons' letter, which appeared in the *Fishing Gazette* last week, must have astonished those anglers who have adopted the wire running lines which I am introducing, because it is evident, even from their own statement, that they could not have tested such lines, using blocks with sheaves the size of a shilling. Their statement is: "If there had been at all any virtue or benefit in using plaited, twisted, or even single wire for sea lines we should have adopted it years ago, when we thoroughly tested it."

There are many good things that cannot be appraised at their true value without practice and experience. For instance, the patent boom which I am about to introduce in an improved and simple form will not catch fish unless the baited hooks attached to it are dropped on the spot where fish are feeding. On the other hand, whether there are fish or no you can at once test your running line. And I am pleased to be in a position to state that many of the members of the B.S.A.S. will be able to convince the most sceptical or conservative angler of the advantages of using wire lines provided the two fish together in the same boat, for even if the usual heavy sinkers rendered necessary by silk or flax lines fail to convince by a comparison with those of his friend using wire lines and light sinkers, the matter must come home to him when he finds, as the tide gathers strength, that he is unable to keep the bottom whilst his friend is fishing in comfort.

Permit me, in conclusion, to state that the improvement is so very marked that I am convinced those who adopt wire lines will no more be induced to give them up than our navy and mercantile marine their wire hawsers and rigging. Some of our best yachts are now using phosphor bronze for these purposes.—Yours truly,
A. W. PARKER.

THE STONE FLY, &c.

DEAR SIR,—I observe in this week's *Fishing Gazette*, page 32, in your footnote to "Mona's" letter, you make a mistake in stating the larvæ of the Stone Fly lives in a case or caddis. The Stone Fly belongs to the *Perlidae* family, none of their larvæ having caddis cases. The Stone Fly, sometimes confused with the May Fly, and as coming from a caddis case, is called *Bipunctata bicaudata*. The larva is known as the creeper. The fly hatches out in May and June, and occasional stragglers all summer. The larvæ hatch in September and October with us. They grow very rapidly, feeding all winter principally on the larvæ of other insects and their own species. At present they are much darker in colour than they are in April and May. During the winter they do not change their skins, but do so once during the spring. Before emerging into a fly, they crawl to the side, on to the stones, or up a stem of grass, the back splits open and the fly crawls out, and soon flies away, their flight being peculiar. If the wind is blowing across stream towards you, they come whizzing over like a wounded bird about to fall.

Another little mistake, see page 15. "G. M." says, in the spring fish in the Earn, &c., are like the 7, 8, 10, and 12-pounders got in the Dee, &c. The spring fish on the Earn average over 20lb., some years heavier. The autumn fish average 17lb.—Yours truly,
Perth.
P. D. MALLOCH.

NETTING FOR FISH IN THE RIVER TRENT AT NOTTINGHAM.

DEAR SIR,—I should like to call attention, through the medium of your valuable paper, to the netting there is being carried on in the river Trent between the Clifton Colliery and Beeston Bend. On several occasions during the past few weeks I have been an eye-witness to what I consider a condition of things which is nothing short of a scandal. On one occasion I saw the son of a local fishing-tackle dealer, together with three other men, net the small hole found just inside the first field beyond the Clifton Colliery; and so great was the haul of fish that it required the united efforts of all four men to draw the net out. The fish were then sorted, and all suitable for pike haite and stocking purposes were put into a small tank, and the larger fish, which included several baby pike, were put into a sack, and the lot taken away on a hand-

cart. I could scarcely believe there could be so many fish in the spot mentioned had I not seen them myself, but perhaps the river running in semi-flood accounts for this. I might say that the same place was again netted on behalf of the same party during the week. One day during the past week I saw two men netting in all likely places right up beyond Beeston sewer. Each man had a net—one a dip, and the other a cast net. I was pleased to see their efforts meet with very little success. Is there no one responsible for this kind of thing? Can nothing be done to put a stop to it? If it is allowed to go on unchecked there will be little use or pleasure in going to the river to fish in the neighbourhood I have named. Many working men anglers, like myself, have not the time or means to go to a distance, and the free fishing near the city has been looked upon as a great boon by us, but cannot long remain so if something is not done to put a stop to this illegal practice.—Yours truly, A WORKING MAN ANGLER.

SEA PATERNOSTER BOOMS.

SIR,—Mr. Chas. A. Payton, writing from Calais, sends you some French sea booms which he extols as simpler and more effective than the combinations of brass swivels and a (generally pendent) brass boom which he saw at Deal lately. As this amounts to a direct challenge of my Patent Straight-pull Sea Paternoster (which, by the way, happens to be figured in Farlow's advertisement on the page next to that containing Mr. Payton's letter), I claim a few lines in reply.

Any boom which is fixed to, and projects rigidly at right angles from, a metal attachment in the same line as the main line is irredeemably bad in principle, and an abomination in practice. Every sea angler with a ha'p'orth of experience knows that much. The French kickshaw that Mr. Payton has dug up (from what pile of pre-historic remnants Heaven only knows) appears to be similar to what every little lad makes for himself, from bottle wire, when he first essays paternostering, and as figured it stands self-condemned. Mr. Payton claims for this barbarous relic superior simplicity and effectiveness. As to the great simplicity of the thing, and of those who may be cajoled into using it, I make no question; but on what data, pray, does he found his assertion of superior effectiveness? Has he killed big fish on both gears; or on either?

For aquaria fishing, and for children fishing up and down in still water for atherine and 2oz. pouts, this French trash doubtless serves admirably; but Mr. Payton talks of Deal! Now, at Deal we get big fish; at Deal we cast the bait well out; at Deal there is a tideway, so that willy-nilly the bait usually hits the ground at a point some distance from the point under the angler's feet, and if the boom is attached at right angles to the main line, the main line itself being at an angle of, say, 60°, such a boom becomes a manifest absurdity in practice. The whole truth of the matter, whether one is fishing up and down or casting out, is that the rigid boom is bad, because there is always a right angle, or a series of angles equivalent to a right angle, between rod point and bait, and when a big fish lays hold the metal suffers. This hending and unhending of the metal damns for all time all rigid right angle booms.

Mr. Payton says his French boom was admired at Deal. Well, people, even anglers, are sometimes polite, even at Deal, and most of us admire a veritable antique; or perhaps he uses the word "admira" in its original sense of denoting amazement and surprise?

My booms have been tested to lift 1½cwt., and anyone can hang a 4lb. to 10lb. weight on them and swing them for a minute, or an hour (if he can), without bending or damaging them; but I would like to see the French soda-bottle wire (twisted, apparently, to make it strong?) after hauling six score 1½lb. whiting, or a tussle with a 12lb. cod. Mr. Payton, who, I should imagine, does most of his fishing with a "J" pen, calls my gear a pendent boom, quite oblivious of the facts (a) that one does not fish in air, but in water; and (b) that in the sea the pendent boom is strayed out by the cumulative pressure of the tide on boom and snood and bait. Clearly, the salient points in favour of my gear have never come home to Mr. Payton, viz., that the angle intervening between rod point and bait is practically nil; that the strain on the metal is always longitudinal, never transverse; that the tackle fishes straight, and the fish are hauled in a direct line.

Mr. Payton further says: "I do not see that either swivels or revolving booms are at all necessary for sea paternosters, and can vouch for it that the slightest bite is felt when using these booms properly." Well, I always pity the blind, who cannot see; and the man who will avouch that the slightest bite is felt on a particular tackle will vouch for anything, though in this case I take the more charitable view that he is not aware of the meaning of his words. It is, of course, absolutely impossible that bites can be felt so well on a right angle boom as on a straight pull boom. But granted that gingerly bites are to be felt on his tackle, what of it? Does Mr. Payton really imagine that sea fish (I talk not of eight-to-the-pound fish) are "struck" in the fresh-water angler's sense? It occurs to me that he must be one of those omnipotent fresh-water anglers, who occasionally patronise Deal—who intend to astonish the natives and empty the sea, but only succeed in making laughing stocks of themselves. These amazing folk—and we get fine samples of them at Deal—persistently delude themselves that they "strike" their sea fish. Fancy a rodsman striking a fish, thirty fathoms of line out, 1½lb. lead on, and a 3-knot tide under him—a fish, too, that has already half digested the hook. But I encroach.

Personally I think no paternoster, not even my own, is at all comparable in efficiency as a fish slaying implement to the Kentish rig, and if had to catch fish for a living (which the Lord forbid!), I should use hand-line and

spreader. But anglers are wedded to the rod, and let no man sunder them.—Yours &c., JOHN KIRBY.

[Mr. Payton (known for nearly half a century as a salt and fresh water angler, under the name of "Sarcelle," of the *Field*) did not mention or refer specially to any particular boom for sea fishing—their name is legion—but he can hold his own either at sea fishing, salmon fishing, or fishing with a "J" pen—if he cares to do so.—Ed.]

AVON AND ERME FISHING ASSOCIATION.

DEAR SIR,—The season will soon be coming around for trout fishing again, and I see that some of the associations have had their annual meetings. I notice that the Avon and Erme Fishing Association, which was started two or three years ago, are making some wonderful alterations, and from all appearances the committee and association are desirous of keeping the rivers to themselves. They resolved that season tickets, other than landowners, should be limited to thirty; day tickets, which last year they charged the modest sum of 4s. 6d. for, are this year to be abolished; the price of weekly tickets are to be raised to 10s.; monthly tickets, £1; and tickets for the whole season, £2. These prices are for trout only, as the association has nothing to do with the salmon licences, which of course will be extra. They also resolved that not more than two monthly tickets and five weekly tickets should be running at the same time. I don't know whether the Board of Trade has any jurisdiction over associations of this kind, but I should recommend any landowners having property through which any portion of the rivers run, to form themselves into a company and issue tickets to fishermen upon payment. I am not sure how these associations get their power, and upon what terms. I think it is to the interest of all honest fishermen that we make full inquiries.—Yours, &c., WILLIAM HEARDER, Plymouth.

FISHING NEAR LEATHERHEAD.

DEAR SIR,—I should feel greatly obliged if you would give me and several of my club members any information respecting the coarse fishing (if any) to be had in the neighbourhood of Leatherhead.—Yours truly,

W. HOWELL.

[Leatherhead is on the Mole. You can go by either L.B. and S.C. or L. and S.W.R. by anglers' privilege tickets. The following, which appeared in the *Fishing Gazette* of Dec. 14, 1895, should be useful to you.—Ep.]

MOLE (Surrey).—The Mole rises from springs in lakes situated in St. Leonard's and Tilgate Forests, near Crawley, Sussex, and although fed by other small tributaries and drainings from Field Mill Pond, it attains no volume until it reaches Horley, and is thus of very little fishing value. After passing Horley the stream is gradually increased, until at Betchworth it assumes greater proportions, and is of value to anglers. It then pursues a winding course through the beautiful vale country surrounding Mickleham, to Dorking, Box Hill, Leatherhead, Cobham, and Esher, falling into the Thames opposite Hampton Court Palace. In the upper portions of the river at Reigate it only requires a "small tip" to the keeper when he comes round, to avoid molestation; whilst at Horley, anglers using the Six Bells (Mrs. Chart's) can fish. At Dorking, 1s. per day can be paid at Castle Mill and elsewhere, in private parts, but near Box Hill and Dorking permission must be obtained; also at Leatherhead, where there is good water and excellent fishing—trout up to 4lb. or so, pike fairly large, roach, perch, chub, carp, bream, and very fine dace. From the old bridge, looking towards the South-Western Railway line, numbers of trout may be seen on the shallows, and in the season they may be caught with fly. Below the railway bridge some good swims will be found for roach, bream, chub or perch fishing, and pike are met with here and there in suitable spots. Some of the landowners about here are liberal in granting a day, but not on Sunday. In Betchworth Park the water is strictly private; likewise between Cobham and Esher, where it flows through private lands and estates. The fishing from the left bank, from Esher Bridge to the South-Western Railway embankment (South Waylands Farm), is rented by the Anglers' Association for the sole use of its affiliated members. No night fishing allowed. The Mole, which was once a good trout stream, is now chiefly productive of bream, roach, carp, dace, tench, and pike, with a few trout in its upper and swifter running reaches. Its lower lengths are of a very sluggish character, but exactly suited to bream, which abound in shoals, and attain a size of 4lb., 5lb., and even 6lb. They are very seldom taken in daylight; but in the right weather (hot nights), and a little advance baiting with brewer's grains, mashed potato, boiled rice, worms, and sometimes even bran and bread balls, a ledger with a lob or marsh worm will often account for from six to a dozen good fish between ten o'clock at night and break of day. Mole fishing, like that of the Medway and Kentish Eden, requires thoroughly understanding to achieve success. There are mostly a few good fish in the wide pool, particularly carp, just above the Linoleum Works by the railway embankment, also in the millpool below, but they have been too much fished. In the stretch below the mill down to the Thames the fishing is poor. Above the Anglers' Association water at Esher, the left-hand bank upstream from Esher high-road bridge, permission must be had from Mr. Thompson, the farmer of the land on that side of the river from the bridge to Barwood House Estate (Hon. Henry Leonard Bourke). It will be remembered that a few years ago Mr. Bourke put chains and barbed wire across the Mole at the commencement of his land, and stopped the navigation of boats from that point to Cobham. The law suit which resulted, the Public versus Bourke, upheld the right of navigation, and the obstruction has been removed. As to the fishing rights on the Mole from East Molesey to Cobham, they

are wholly and solely in the hands of Captain Hotham, who does not, however, interfere with angling from boat or bank, and only asserts his rights by annually posting printed notices over that part of the river. Under these circumstances, so long as Captain Hotham does not actually forbid fishing, the public may fish from a boat, and cannot be prevented by owners or lessees of the land, provided the angler conducts himself properly. The farmers and tenants can personally let their banks for fishing with Captain Hotham's permission only. Be it noted that the Hon. H. L. Bonrke chained the river to prevent ignorant and rowdy boating parties using bad language, and bathing in a nude state opposite his mansion at all hours of the day throughout the summer. This is what anglers have frequently to suffer from. The Mole's close season is as the Thames, viz.: Coarse fish, March 15 to June 15, both days inclusive.

A LANCASTER FISHING TACKLE MAKER.

To the Editor of the *Lancaster Guardian*.

DEAR SIR,—It gives me great pleasure to forward to Mr. Marston information respecting my grandmother, Elizabeth Howell. Her father, Edmund Taylor, was the nephew of the celebrated and learned divine, Dr. John Taylor. He commenced the fishing tackle business entirely for the benefit of his widowed daughter, Elizabeth Howell.

Mrs. Howell not only made her own flies, but spun the fishing lines, and these were sold from north to south; in fact, she was known far and wide. Her fishing tackle, along with the verses (issued in the local papers Jan. 6, 1899), were to be seen in the windows of the great metropolis.

Her father was an ardent angler—had been out fishing only a few hours before his death, which took place Jan. 18, 1816. A month after this event Betsy issued the said verses—so afraid was she that after Edmund Taylor's death the business would cease to prosper. (She was a highly educated and very intelligent woman.) Many of the gentry now living in the vicinity of Lancaster will remember Elizabeth Howell—the Taylors were a well-known Lancaster family.

Mrs. Howell's ancestors were horn at Scotforth. Her uncle, John Taylor, was a member of the council. He died in 1817, leaving several bequests to charitable purposes. (A copy of J. Taylor's will is in my possession, and I shall be pleased to let Mr. Marston see it at any time.)

There are no descendants of the Taylor family living, not that I know of, with the exception of my sister, Mrs. Hall, of Friar-street, her son—who is quite as keen a fisher as his great grandfather—and four daughters. Edmund Taylor's great grandson, Rev. John Reeves Pursell, died recently at Eastwick Rectory. His sister, Miss Pursell, was in London the last time I heard of her, doing good work among the Chnrch Missions. In conclusion, Edward Taylor was manager for James Nohle, Esq., silk merchant of this town, and was highly respected by that family. In 1789 the Freedom of the Borough was presented to him. In the advertisement the warehouse is described as being "behind St. Anne's." There it still stands, only the warehouse has, in late years, been substituted for the much-needed washhouse.—I am, yours truly,

ELIZABETH TAYLOR CLEMMY.

5, Friar-street, Lancaster.
N.B.—The fishing-tackle business was carried on until Elizabeth Howell's death in 1856, at the age of eighty-five.

TROUT FISHING IN SCOTLAND, &c.

SIR,—Could any reader of the *Fishing Gazette* kindly inform me if there is any sea trout fishing in Sutherlandshire as early as April, and if the brown trout fishing is good in the north of Scotland at that time?

Also when brown trout fishing is good in Shetland? I am told that the best months there are the autumn months; but is there any decent fishing there as early as May and June? I should be very grateful for information on these points.

I am so much obliged for your kind information with regard to the "Sportsman's Guide."—Yours, &c., A. K.

[March and April are the best months for brown trout on such streams as the Tweed, Tay, Don, Deveron, &c. There is no sea trout fishing worth going north for until June or July. "A. K." should write to Mr. E. Bankart, Vaila Estate Office, Sandness, Shetland, for particulars about the excellent brown trout, sea trout, and sea fishing to be had there.—Ed.]

ROACH AND DACE—WHAT WILL THEY LOSE AFTER CAPTURE?

DEAR SIR,—It is well known (at least so it is frequently reported) that fish grow quickly when taken out of the water; and I should be glad if any of your readers would kindly say what deterioration (if any) would take place in seven or eight hours on a hot day.—Yours truly,

H. WILKINS.

[If the fish does not bleed, and is kept in a damp cloth, there is no appreciable loss of weight in a day.—Ed.]

ANGLERS' ASSOCIATION RE-STOCKING FUND.

DEAR SIR,—Since my last report to you I have to acknowledge receipt of the following sums:

	£	s.	d.
Kingston Piscatorial Society	...	1	1
Clissold Angling Society	...	0	10
Original Alexandra	...	2	2

—Yours faithfully, ALEX. WRIGHT, Hon. Sec.

Several important letters unavoidably held over.

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THE FISHING GAZETTE is published every Saturday, and can be obtained at Messrs. W. H. Smith and Son's Railway Bookstalls and of the principal Newspapers and Fishing Tackle Dealers in London and the Provinces.

Communications relating to the Literary Department, Fishing Tackle for Notice, Books for Review, &c., should be addressed to R. B. MARSTON, Editor of the FISHING GAZETTE, St. Dunstan's House, Fetter-lane, London.

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The GAZETTE can be had by sending Postal Order or Stamps to Messrs. Sampson Low, Marston and Co., Limited, the Proprietors, St. Dunstan's House, Fetter-lane, London, to whom all money payments should be made.

For One Year, post free to any part of Great Britain and Ireland	10s. 6d.
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The Fishing Gazette

WITH WHICH IS INCORPORATED

ANGLING AND CLUB GOSSIP.

SATURDAY, JANUARY 28TH, 1899.

THE EARLY SPRING ANGLER.

In another fortnight spring salmon angling will be in full swing north of the Border. Already in the Perthshire valleys and far north streams in Sutherlandshire the song of the reel is being daily heard; but the bulk of Scotch salmon angling waters do not open till Feb. 11, and a few are somewhat later still. The second group of rivers, however, which open on the 11th prox., includes by far the more important salmon angling waters than either the very early or the very late streams—except the Tay and Loch Tay.

The opening days in the Tay district were somewhat blighted by the sudden advent of a passing snowstorm, the abnormal and muddy condition of the waters, and the adverse nature of the wind—a most important factor in salmon angling. Towards the end of the week, however, more favourable weather conditions were experienced, and on the whole the early spring angler on the Tay system found his lines cast in more pleasant places than deigned to grace the opening days, and the amount of sport since then has been deemed highly satisfactory, one rod, on the 19th (Mr. H. Mackworth Praed), having five newly run

fish scaling from 13lb. to 25lb.; while other anglers since then have fared equally well.

The weather conditions either make or mar the early spring angler's prospects of sport to such a degree that, given fair open weather, other considerations are of minor importance, and may be relegated to the background. He may have big waters to face, but as long as he can get his line out and his fly well sunk he has hope, and covering his water pool after pool, and trying an eddy here and bit of slack water there, he ultimately lands on the right spot, and draws blood.

As far as the season has gone the prospects are all in favour of the early spring angler. There has been comparatively no snow, so that the temperature of the waters is much above the normal readings for January. This induces an early run of fish, and, as these have been observed running inland in considerable numbers for many weeks past, the current belief is that fresh spring fish are well forward into the head waters of all our long seasoned rivers, such as the Dee and Spey, and that the upper proprietors and lessees on these waters may confidently look forward to participating again this season, as they did last year, in a share of the sport agoing on the opening days. This is not often the case, the common experience in these parts being that the spring is well advanced before anything like angling is general so far inland. As a rule, these upper waters bear such a reputation of being so barren of fresh run fish in the early days of the season, that in a season like that of last year, and like the present as far as it has gone, they are apt to be neglected and left to the local fishermen and gillies to make the best of, till sport is a certainty. Then they have a right royal time of it. There may be kelts galore, but when spring fish are about there is rejoicing in many a camp over the picking of their bones, too, and they know how to pull them out.

At the best the early spring angler has no easy task before him. The rigours of an arctic climate may be his lot for weeks on end, just as he has wet his line for the first time, and before he can rejoice in a single run. He may then be shut up in a wayside hostelry out of the world, shut out from all external communications for days on end, and even reduced to considerable straits when the storm lasts, and the commissariat department gets low. Lucky he may think himself should he have a chum to share the tedium of his enforced idleness, and doubly so if an "open door" be found to the friendly society of some social shooting lodge or country house party, even after a sledge drive or a tramp through the frozen snow. Then times may pass tolerably well while waiting for a thaw, and the discomforts of the early spring angler reduced to a minimum. Hospitality is an outstanding characteristic of gentle and simple alike in these highland glens, and, were it not so, the lot of many an early spring angler in times past would have been beyond endurance, even to the most sanguine enthusiast. The early spring angler need not stand much on ceremonies at such times. His position as a gentleman is taken for granted should he have no other credentials or friendly acquaintance to introduce him, and the parson, the laird, or the local doctor for that matter, are ever on the lookout to proffer what kindly help and hospitality they can command when sporting gentlemen are snowed up in their neighbourhood. Many life-long acquaintances have been made under such circumstances, and not a little romance to boot, when likely-like subjects have come together. A welcome may always be counted on if such be within reach. As Burns says:

And when life's stream I ferry o'er,
A time that surely shall come,
In Heaven itself I'll ask no more
But just a highland welcome.

The early spring angler should at all times provide himself with plenty of warm clothing. When packing his portmanteau, his furs and flannels should occupy a conspicuous place. If he does not need them, so much the better, but there is no saying what a day may bring forth in these northern latitudes. The morning may be bright and fair, and the rugged landscape showing its best in the glowing sun, cheating one in the belief that spring, with its genial showers, has come to stay; yet before night the howling wintry blast and stormy drift has changed all, and the face of nature lies buried beneath a foot or so of snow.

It is then that heavy underclothing enables the early spring angler to "face the music." Wrapped in his reefer, and well "stockinged" both under and above his waders, with sealskin or fur lined cap, with capacious ear flaps, well encasing his head, he can sally forth and—bar heavy frosts, filling the river with ice floes—enjoy the best of sport sometimes, even when the fleecy flakes are falling thick and heavy on the water. But if not well protected, chills are often caught, for the running of a fish, apart from the heat of excitement, is a heating job in itself, the after effects of which have to be well guarded against.

A most fatal moment for getting a rise is just as the snowfall commences, or is just going off. Many experienced anglers and fishermen would not miss such an opportune moment on an otherwise unpropitious and stormy day for weeks of fine weather put together. They will sit shivering in the hut, or under a sheltering bank, while the storm rages above, watching for the first indications of a break, by the light or otherwise, in the storm clouds, and when it comes, make for the head of the pool, and, with a 3in. Eagle or Tricolour or Heron, cast swiftly and silently and with shortened line—for one cannot see far over the water through a haze of snowflakes—over the stream, and wait with eager expectation for the rug which is sure to come when there are fish about.

They do not need to reply to such a bite. The fish then generally take the lure with such determination that they are, in ninety-nine cases out of a hundred, fatally hooked, and only the possibility of an accident of the most unforeseen description can result in a loss. It may be the light, which is either darkening down or clearing at the breaking out or passing off of a snow shower, but, whatever it is which affects the fish, they seldom come short, and are seldom found without a full mouthful of the hook well home.

The early spring angler is an enthusiast of enthusiasts, but he is well rewarded for his pains. There is much to face in getting to the riverside in the early days of the season, but then the sport is par excellence the very best of the whole year when a good head of fish is in the river. The fish are then in the gamiest condition and the battle royal of the keenest description. A seven or eight-pounder will show as much fight when fresh from the sea as a salmon twice its weight later on, when it has been a few weeks up from the briny. They are not nearly so shy, and then the season is young, and this also may account for much of the inborn enthusiasm of the early spring angler.

Whatever may be said about killing autumn fish while sitting in an armchair surrounded by cushions, &c., the same cannot be thrown in the teeth of the early spring angler. He has to rough it, even under the best of weather conditions, for it is winter still in the north even when March is well advanced, and only but the average hardy constitution can stand the ordeal with impunity. Yet he has his reward; and few, if any, who have ever had a spell of good spring salmon angling can say that they are not tempted to return again and again, be the difficulties and hardships what they may, to renew the experience.

That there will be a rush north in the course of the next few weeks goes without saying. Even should the weather break down at the last moment, the prospects of sport are so well assured, from the favourable conditions hitherto enjoyed during the close season, that when the weather mends, as it certainly must do as the season advances, the chances are all in favour of the success of the early spring angler. G. M.

THE WORLD'S POSTAGE STAMPS.—All postage stamp collectors ought to know of the existence of an extremely useful and cheap little book published by Messrs. Bright and Son, Bourne-mouth, and Simpkin, Marshall, and Co., London. It is called "Bright and Son's A B C Descriptive Priced Catalogue of the World's Postage Stamps, Envelopes, Post-cards, &c." It is well and fully illustrated, and it enables the possessor of a collection of stamps to price almost every item; also to judge whether prices asked by stamp dealers are fair or not. The illustrations are so good that you can instantly identify originals by them, and there are many thousands of them, and all particulars about all stamps, post-cards, &c., of all nations.

A COLLEGE BOY'S SPORT IN NEW ZEALAND.

PERHAPS some readers of the *Fishing Gazette* may remember having seen in its columns in 1894 a fishing diary, kept by a New Zealand boy—Alister C. Grant, aged fourteen. Well, I am that boy, and having again had uncommonly good sport, I thought that my experiences might be of interest.

In September, having had the misfortune or otherwise to have a slight attack of rheumatic fever, which forced me to leave Christ's College and take a complete change, I went to stay with my brother-in-law, Mr. W. H. N. He lives in Woodville, a small township in the Bush district, about a hundred miles from Wellington.

The term the Bush district is rather deceptive. Ten or fifteen years ago there was between Napier and Wellington a block of about fifty miles square, three-quarters of which was covered with thick native bush. Now, except in the case of one or two fairly large blocks, and here and there small patches of standing bush, this large tract of country is all cleared, and all that remains of what once was magnificent bush is charred stumps and logs, with pasture land between.

However, although civilisation has done much to spoil the scenery, it has also brought blessings with it, and it was to splendid trout fishing that I looked forward when it was decided to send me to Woodville.

This district abounds in fine shingle, streams, and rivers, all of which are either fully stocked or fast becoming so, and it is now about the best fishing district in New Zealand.

The main river of the Bush, into which all the other streams of the district flow, is the Manawatu. It is a large river, flowing over a wide shingle bed and full of fine rapids and pools. To cross it when in its normal spring condition is a matter of at least 50 yds. of wading up to one's knees in a stiff current; but in a hot summer like the present one it gets much lower than this at about Christmas time.

The best places to fish the Manawatu from are Danevirke, Kumeroa, and Woodville, and from all these places one can also get splendid fishing in the smaller streams. A lot of these streams flow through patches of standing and fallen bush, and, as a consequence, are very full of logs. It is impossible for an English fisherman to fully realise what fishing a loggy creek means without having seen the article for himself. In almost every pool there is a log or a pile of logs, under which the monster of the hole lives. Your fly floats down the rapid and skims above this mass of snags, and out he comes. Often he is a fish of 3 lb. or more. If you hook him, does not he fight to get back? And if he succeeds, doesn't he wind you round and round those logs? Test a brand new cast well before you use it in a bush stream, and make up your mind to bend your rod quite double sooner than get taken into one of those piles of logs. You need sound tackle in the bush.

The tackle I use is as follows: A 12ft. Hardy's split cane; a Hardy's perfect reel; 40 yds. of No. 16 oil silk line, the finest silk line I can buy here; finest drawn casts, but I always test them very heavily before using; and flies on No. 9 hooks, mounted as lightly as I can buy them. The only alteration that I should like to make in my list is that the rod should have a steel centre. But in saying this I say nothing against the 12ft. split cane, for it is a beauty. It has already caught me about 800 fish, weighing over 1000 lb., and it will catch me many another. The difference the steel centre makes is that you can put these heavy strains on, for sometimes it almost means lifting a three or four-pounder out of a mass of logs, and yet not wear your rod out. The split cane bears tremendous strain, but it is not built to stand them for more than a certain time, and cannot fairly be expected to.

The experiences Hardy's steel centred rods live through are marvellous. A friend of mine was fishing with a 10ft. 6in. steel centre Hardy in the Totara Creek at Kinneroa. He hooked a 4-pounder above him, and, in playing, the fish came straight down to his feet. The tip of the rod caught over a thin branch of a tree, and was completely bent back round it—an experience that no wood could have stood—but J. I. N. M.

succeeded in landing the fish, and the tip sprung back straight again. I have since used the rod, and, although there is a very slight kink in the middle of the tip, there is not enough wrong to affect the rod the least bit as far as use is concerned.

As for the light casts standing these heavy strains, they will stand nearly as much as the heavy ones when new, and although they don't last quite as long, one gets far more fish with them than with heavy ones.

In a loggy part of the Tamaki I got a 4 lb. trout in an extraordinary way. A tree had fallen across the stream, and in among its branches was a space of clear water of about two square yards. In rather a reckless moment I flicked my fly into this piece of open water, when out from the tree came my 4-pounder. I had no room to play him, so I held my reel, doubled up my rod, and held him with his head almost on the shingle, while I slipped off my gaff and hooked him out.

In one of the pools of the Mangatoro there was a mass of logs, in the middle of which there was a space of clear water of about 2ft. square. As I came up a 2½ lb. trout was lying on the top of the water, evidently well on the take. After a moment's hesitation I went my fly, and he had me almost before it touched the water. Letting him get his head down meant allowing him to wind my cast round at least a dozen logs, so there was nothing for it but to hold his head up till I gaffed him, and after a severe struggle this was managed.

But these are only two instances of success among a hundred of failure, resulting in lost flies and casts, and even in the escape of big fish who, although almost played out, made a last effort and got into a snag.

The weights of the different baskets in my diary give a very fair idea of the average run of fish in the different streams. If one can strike a new and almost totally unfished piece of water, as my uncle, A. J. R., and myself did when we fished the upper waters of the Mangatainoka, on Jan. 6 and 7, one probably will get a 5-pounder or two, and perhaps an even larger fish.

On the 6th, my basket of eight fish, weighing 25 lb., was made up of a 5½-pounder, a 5 lb., a 3½ lb., a 3 lb., a 3 lb. rainbow, and three smaller fish, running about 1½ lb. each. A. J. R. had a 5-pounder and three fish of about 1½ lb. each—two of them rainbows. The following day he got a 4 and a 3-pounder, while I got a 4½-pounder. On Dec. 10, when I caught twenty-eight fish, weighing 46 lb., in the Upper Tamaki, I had a 4-pounder and a 3½-pounder, and nine others of over 2 lb. On the 16th, when my bag totalled thirty fish, weighing 57½ lb., it contained two 3½-pounders, and four others of over 3 lb.

There are a few large fish in the Manawatu Gorge, and in the Mangatoro and Upper Mangatainoka I have seen several fish of at least 7 lb. or 8 lb.; but the average fish of the district will only be a 1½-pounder.

Of course, the way the fish play varies with their condition. In September they are hardly in sufficient condition to be very game, but by November they are pretty well right. From this month on the Manawatu fish are very game, indeed; and often does a fly fisherman need a clear 40 yds. of line to control them when they rush across the stream and leap into the air on the opposite side. Many of the fishermen of the district use a minnow, and, of course, they find the fish comparatively lifeless, for no fish will play very gamely with three sets of triangles in him. Those we caught in the Mangatainoka were in uncommonly good condition, playing like tigers, and tasting afterwards like salmon. But in the comparatively unfished streams one comes across a good many ill-conditioned fish that just give a few wriggles and come out. One such old shark I caught in the Makairo. In really good condition it ought to have weighed 8 lb., but only weighed 3 lb., and its head must have accounted for at least half.

The fish to give one good play are the rainbows; but, although the society is letting out more and more of them every year, there are at present very few of them in the streams I have fished in the district.

The first rainbows I have seen caught were caught in the Makairo on my rod by my pupil, in the art of fishing, Miss A. M. H. B., on Nov. 17. She caught two of 1½ lb. each, and they were very

game. Subsequently, F. S. H. B., who was also a pupil of mine, caught four of these fish in the Makuri, and another in the Makairo, and his report as to their play is very enthusiastic, indeed. My only personal acquaintance with the rainbow trout lasted for twenty minutes, and was in the Mangatainoka. I caught a 3-pounder, and he gave me magnificent sport. Running out, on several occasions, within 3 yds. or 4 yds. of all my line, and then shooting into the air, he would come back almost as fast as he went, and leave yards of my line hanging slack, before I could do anything. However, being well hooked, he came ashore all right in the end.

The only day's fishing out of the Bush district that I had was in the Hantapu, near Karioi, on Dec. 2. To reach this stream one has to go fifty-six miles by steamer up the Wanganni river, coach thirty-two miles in from Pipiriki to Karioi, and then ride another seventeen miles to the fishing. Having a day to spare while at Karis, and knowing that there were fish in the Ranjitikei, into which the Hantapu flows, I thought it worth my while to try whether they had yet worked their way up to the head waters. A fifteen mile ride brought me to the stream, and going another mile down I started fishing at about 10.30. However, after fishing for three hours, and seeing nothing, I rode a mile further down, and had another try. Not believing there were fish in the stream, I was fishing rather carelessly, when I came right on to a fish of about 7 lb.—a real beauty. Leaving him to recover himself for half an hour, I caught some locusts and grasshoppers; then, planting myself behind a bush, I started to fish for him. My first device was a large grasshopper, which landed nicely in front of him. Up he floated, and his great nose almost touched my bait, but take he would not, so I tried him with a locust. Having treated this in the same way as the grasshopper, and having absolutely ignored a fly, he seemed quite immovable; but on my dragging a fly minnow over him he came at it in real earnest. Thinking he had it, I struck too soon, and he would not come near me again. My last device was a Halcyon spinner, but this was too much for the old villain's nervous system, for after rushing round it about half a dozen times, he turned tail and went under a big rock; and so, after an hour's excitement, I had to give him up and go home empty handed.

Perhaps the best of my this season's baskets is that of Dec. 27. My brother-in-law, myself, and a friend of mine, L. H. G. G., plotted on Sunday to make an early start the next day and fish the Manawatu at Ornihi Flat. We got up at 1 a.m., had an early breakfast, or, perhaps, better, a late supper, and having caught the horses in the dark, a long and very annoying business, we set off at 3.40 a.m. to drive our thirteen miles. We had chosen about the best piece of water in the Manawatu, and we started fishing at 6 a.m. The day was a cold and raw one, with a misty rain falling at times. W. H. N. fished a minnow, myself a fly, while L. H. G. G., who is not a fisherman, looked on and did the cooking. By 9 a.m., when we adjourned for breakfast proper, we had seventeen fish between us; W. H. N. had seven fish, weighing 20 lb.; while I had ten, weighing 21 lb. He then tried fly, but found himself handicapped by the thickness of his line, so we swapped reels for two and a half hours. During that time W. H. N. caught seven fish to my three. We then again swapped, and I got seven to his one. A fairly conclusive proof that a light line makes a difference—at least W. H. N. thinks so, for he has now got a No. 16 line, like mine. Thus my basket for the day was twenty fish, weighing 43 lb., which is by far the fly fishing record for the river. W. H. N.'s basket was fifteen fish, weighing 35 lb. Our total basket of thirty-five fish, weighing 78 lb., is also the two rod record for the Manawatu. Mr. J. N. M., however, has done much better than I have with a minnow, catching twenty-six fish early this season weighing over 50 lb.

While at Danevirke I stayed with Mr. W. F. K., of Tahoraiti—a keen sportsman. One evening, when fly fishing in the Manawatu, after I had caught two fish the fish seemed to go quite off the take. After strolling some distance up the shingle bed, I noticed a fish rising very fast, and started casting over him. At first he did not take, but after some time he rose just beside where my last cast had gone, and so I struck

sharp—and out spun my reel. At first it hummed out, and then it worked out at a slow, steady pace. Mr. W. F. K. and a friend were looking on, and each of them had a try at the rod, and we all came to the conclusion that it was a 4-pounder at least. After twenty minutes heavy dead play, out came a 1½lb. eel, which we found to be hooked foul right in the middle of the body. When the first moment of disgust was over—for we had all made up our minds after the first fifteen minutes that it was a 6-pounder—we had a hearty laugh at ourselves. However, the eel's life did not end that night, for I took him home and put him in a pan of water in the meat safe, to keep him alive and fresh. In the morning shriek after shriek came from the bath-room, and, on enquiring the cause, to my horror I found that Miss O. K., in having her plunge bath, had stepped on a living eel under the water, and that my eel had disappeared—to my mind a conclusive proof that

water much affected by the fire. However, not going far enough down before starting, I arrived back at the station at 2 p.m. with eighteen fish, weighing 25½lb. Not a dead fish was to be seen until within about a quarter of a mile from the station, when I noticed one dead and another dying. I then saw a fish of about 2½lb. lying in the shallows at the edge of a pool, apparently feeding; but as he would not take, I went up to him, and found him breathing at about three times the normal rate, and evidently dying of suffocation. He let me pick him up, but was able to swim away when put back again. A little further up there was a pool with fifteen fish in it, either dying or dead, so I stopped fishing, and, having had lunch, rode four miles down stream to where the fish were unaffected by the fire, and succeeded in catching twelve more that afternoon, which went 32lb.; thirty fish, weighing 57½lb., being my total for the day.

readers wish for really good sport they could hardly do better than visit Danevirke or Woodville, and try the bush streams of New Zealand.

As to flies, I advise a very small variety. Throughout the season the red tip Governor is the standard fly, and never should one put up a cast without him. Early in the season, *i.e.*, until the end of October, an Irish March Brown pays well; after that date substitute a Quill Black Gnat, and don't use more than two flies.

In the hot weather of January and February a locust, a small gauze winged "cicada," which chirps in the grass, is more deadly than an artificial fly, but, of course, it is not the same sport fishing with this bait, although it takes considerable skill. As to buying one's tackle, the best man to deal with is W. H. Tisdall, Wellington.

To get good fishing in the Bush, and, for that



Photo by G. Lindauer]

A DAY'S CATCH (FORTY-TWO FISH WEIGHING 80LB.).

[Woodville, N.Z.]

eels do travel at night on dry land when they cross from one sheet of water to another.

My fishing in January was much spoilt by bush fires, and I am afraid that some of the streams in the district will not yield as good fishing again, as they did this year, for another two years, owing to the terrible mortality that these fires caused among the fish.

The effect of a log or bush fire on the trout is curious to watch, and I had an uncommonly good opportunity of doing so on Dec. 16. The night I reached Waewaepa, Mr. G. P.'s place, a large fire had swept right across his property, covering about 3000 acres in its ravages, and burning a piece of fallen bush on the very banks of the stream within a mile above where I was to fish the next day. Mr. G. P. advised me to walk down about two miles through some standing bush, and to fish up to the station, and thus avoid fishing

The cause of this mortality is variously explained, but I fancy this explanation to be the true one—the burnt charcoal forms hydrate of potash, which absorbs the oxygen in the water and acts like lime does, and hence the fish die of suffocation.

Of course every year there are fires, but never have they been so bad as they have this year. A long hot summer, and some heavy gales of hot, dry wind just as everyone was doing their year's burning, caused the fire to spread from log to log throughout the district. Homesteads were burnt, and thousands of pounds worth of stock and fencing lost; and so, compared with these evils, the mortality among the trout is dwarfed into insignificance.

However, many of the best streams and rivers are hardly affected, although some have been almost swept clean of fish, and should any of your

matter, in New Zealand, all one requires is a £1 licence. For the most part the fishing of the district is quite unpreserved, and even where it is preserved it is done so more on the principle of what is not worth asking for is not worth having than on any other. Besides, the English tourist is a welcome guest, and men such as Mr. W. F. K., who do preserve their water, would allow him to fish where they would refuse to allow anyone else but their friends.

As for accommodation, there are good hotels throughout the district within comfortable reach of the fishing.

In these notes I have only dealt with a small district in the North Island of New Zealand. However, I have one of Mr. J. A. Harvie-Brown's fishing diaries, which I have kept since 1893, and which was a present from the author. In this there is a record of some 500 more trouts' deaths;

some in Wellington, some in Canterbury, and some in Central Otago.

The illustration shows a catch made with the fly in the Manawatu River, North Island, N.Z. W. H. Nelson, eighteen fish, weighing 34½lb.; A. C. Grant, twenty-four fish, weighing 45½lb. The result of nine hours' fishing on April 10, 1898.

ALISTER C. GRANT.

P.S.—I have delayed in sending this, and since writing it have had three more days' fishing. On Easter Monday my brother-in-law (Mr. W. H. N.) and myself made another midnight start, and broke our previous record for the Manawatu. We caught forty-four fish, weighing 80lb., all on fly. Between 12 a.m. and 2.30 p.m. I took eighteen fish out of one rapid of not more than 100yds. in length. W. H. N. then came up, and took three more fish out of the same piece of water. We have determined to, on next Boxing Day, again try our luck at the same place, and to, if possible, break all previous records.

A SNUG BERTH FOR A SEA ANGLER.

I AM only a tyro in the art of angling, either in salt or fresh waters. My inborn fondness for sport having, through circumstances of climates and countries in which the greater part of my manhood has been spent, been devoted to the gun, the rifle, and hound. Advancing years, diminished means, and other circumstances over which I have had no control, have combined to induce me to seek rest for a time from worries in the quiet of a seaside village, there to try and enjoy the pleasures, hitherto unknown to me, to be found in sea angling. The perusal of Mr. Bickerdyke's "All Round Angler," one of the most perfect in detail of any book I have ever read of instruction on any kind of sport, determined me to try my 'prentice hand, and, although late in my life, to endeavour to become a decent performer with rod and line. I have so far succeeded that I have found pleasure in the pastime, and the bracing sea air has given better health, and makes the worries look less black.

Mr. F. G. Affalo's most clear and instructive work on sea angling further stimulated my desire to become a proficient in the art, the mysteries of which he so well describes for the benefit of his readers. Mr. Affalo writes in the appendix to his book on the fishing to be had at many places at home and abroad; and, writing of Mevagissey Bay, incidentally remarks that, "When the proper spirit of piracy has (as it inevitably must do, with the development of Cornish railways) found its way west of Plymouth, I shall go abroad for my sea fishing, or, at any rate, to the North of Scotland or West of Ireland, &c." Now, in gratitude for his book, and as a duty I feel I owe to Mr. Affalo and other brother anglers, I will endeavour to describe this other resort for sea angling, which as yet almost unheard of, excepting by people in the immediate neighbourhood, will, I expect, when better known, become a favourite resort of the sea fisher.

The month of June last year I spent with relatives at Crosshaven, a village opposite Queenstown, in Cork Harbour, built on the estuary of the Carrigaline river, and never heard until months after my departure that the said river simply swarms with bass and grey mullet in their due season. One day, when at Crosshaven, I was persuaded to join an excursion to this place—Ballycotton, a fishing village, said to be one of the best stations for fish on the south coast of Cork. What I saw and heard that day regarding its fishing capabilities decided me to return one day and try my hand; but it was not until Oct. 1 that I found myself here and settled for the winter. There are two ways of getting here. One by train from Cork to Middleton, and thence by car (about eleven miles) on here. The other, by train from Cork to Passage, thence by steamer up Cork Harbour, touching Queenstown, to Aghada (pronounced Ahadda), and there you are met by a long car, which brings you by a pretty road, through the ancient city of Cloyne, on here (about eleven miles of car). This is by far the pleasantest route, but it can only be used every day in the week from May 1 to Oct. 1. During the other months of the year the long car runs from Ballycotton to Aghada, and returns only on Wednesdays and Saturdays. This village is built in a straggling

fashion along the south-west side of the harbour of Ballycotton, the houses generally facing north-east. There are some very decent lodgings to be had and a few furnished houses. The Sea View Hotel, as its name indicates, is built just overlooking the little port, with its pier and breakwaters, and commands the best view in the place. It is very clean and comfortable, the food abundant, well cooked, and neatly served, and Mrs. O'Keeffe, the proprietress, is most obliging and attentive to the wants of her guests. Yachts and rowboats can be hired by the month, week, or day, and there are several capable and obliging men, who thoroughly understand their work and know every rock and the best ground for each kind of fish, who would hire by day or terms. To mention only a few known to me—John Hoar, a typical old salt, who served ten years in the Navy, a master of the art of fishing, and full of droll yarns; William and Richard Harding, respectively captain and coxswain of the local lifeboat; Tom Daly has a boat of his own; and Richard Welch. All the above are dependable men. Ballycotton Bay faces S.E., and runs N.W. inland for about two miles. In breadth it is over three miles at its entrance, narrowing gradually to less than one and a half miles. The village ends abruptly at a channel of 150yds., dry at low water, which separates it from a small, flat island, from which in turn it is divided by a deep and rocky sound from a larger island formed of a high scarped rock, on the summit of which is built a fine lighthouse. The sound is about 300yds. across, and a heavy tide runs through it each way. Of the principal fish caught here, I am enabled, through the kindness of Mr. W. Howard, chief officer of the local coastguard station, to give a list, together with the approximate numbers of each caught during the past year by the professional fishermen. This list does not, of course, include the large numbers caught by amateurs. Cod, 1700; ling, 1663; hake, 4025; pollack, 4824; mackerel, 10,640; herrings, 213,250; flat fish, 7840; skate, 500; conger, 3885; sprats, 520 firkins; haddock, 43; bream, 2244; whiting, 1525; gurnard, 9560; lobsters, 604; crabs, 322. This last season has been one of the worst known for herrings, and very poor for mackerel. Of lobsters and crabs there are an abundance, but the local men don't go in for them, and they are taken by outsiders. The small number of haddocks taken does not imply that they are scarce, but mussels, the best known bait to catch them with, are totally absent from this part of the coast, although they are plentiful in Youghal and Queenstown harbours. Scad (horse mackerel) are caught in large numbers, but are worthless. There is another fish which gives good sport, a summer visitor, and I have not seen it. Locally it is called connor or rock bream, and frequents very much the same rocky depths that pollack and bream prefer. Dog fish, like the poor, we have always with us, and a veritable pest they are. Then, for those whose fishing takes them ten or more miles out to sea, there are the large sharks, which are so persistent in their attentions as often to render fishing impossible, and oblige the crews to up anchor and change ground. There is little or no mud anywhere near here, so that lug worms are practically unknown as bait. Sand eels also are so rare as not to be counted upon for bait. Mackerel and sprats are the universal baits in spring and summer, with the addition of herrings in autumn and winter. Conger and dog fish are the most generally used as bait for spillers in winter and early spring. Sprats come in immense shoals, and, considering that they are ceaselessly preyed upon by everything big enough to swallow them, it is a marvel how the supply, year after year, appears at the usual time, and ever inexhaustible. One of their most wholesale devourers is a cetacean, from 30ft. to 40ft. in length, and locally known as the "worrum" (a grampus, I imagine it to be). Unlike their smaller brethren, the porpoises, these large fellows are almost invariably solitary. They generally rise up suddenly under the shoal of sprats and suck them down by the bushel, often, as I am informed by John Hoar, engulfing at the same time a lot of puffins, who, busy under water eating sprats, get drawn, in common with their prey, into the terrible vortex. The puffins, however, eventually fare better than the sprats, for, after a time, they are thrown up—tickling the throat with feathers seeming to have

the same effect on the "worrum" as it has upon us poor humans. The puffins look dishevelled and utterly demoralised for a time, but they eventually recover, and are able to fly away. Mackerel, whiting, pollack, bream, and mullet are abundant throughout the summer; the latter are, however, little fished for, as no one understands ground baiting, and fishing for them with paste and fine tackle. This bay is well sheltered from all seas but those from E. and S.E., which roll in splendidly in winter, but are rare in summer. One need not go far to get fishing; in fact, mackerel, gurnard, and whiting you can scarcely go wrong for, whipping in the early morning or evening, and plenty of all kinds can be taken from pier or breakwater with paternoster, ledger, or float tackle. Then there are well-known rocks, over which one can anchor and fish with paternoster for bream, pollack, and conger, &c. The rocky sound between the two islands, through which a strong tide runs, swarms with pollack and bream, and the former run to large size, and take greedily rubber eels and other artificial bait used trailing. The registered fishing boats number forty-four, of which five are luggers, used principally for trawling. There are two small private yachts, and about ten small punts. The port, with its pier and breakwater, gives safe anchorage in all weathers, and if there was a light at the entrance would be a most valuable harbour of refuge, in the event of their being surprised by bad weather at night, for the fishing boats of Youghal and Queenstown, lying equi-distant about ten miles east and west of Ballycotton, but owing to the want of a light they are deprived of its benefit. Even the local boats have to run terrible risks trying to grope their way into the port on dark nights, and it is more by good luck than anything else that there have not been serious disasters. Considering that this is a coast-guard station, and that there is a splendidly equipped lifeboat here, too, and that both crews are liable to be called for service on rough, dark nights, the neglect of the responsible authorities to provide a light at the entrance to the port is all the more unaccountable. However, owing to the kindness of Capt. Donelan, the energetic M.P. for this district of co. Cork, who has already commenced to interest himself on behalf of these poor fishermen, there is every reason to hope that the authorities will at length see their way to remedy so serious a want. There is a post and telegraph office here, likewise a Protestant Church, the curate, Rev. A. Martin, a good fisherman.

EDWARD H. H. MASSY.

BALA, NORTH WALES—ITS RIVER AND LAKE FISHING.

IN May, 1898, I found myself with this (to me) rather difficult question to answer: "Where can I obtain fairly good river and lake fishing, combined with comfortable quarters at reasonable charges, for the next few months or longer?"

My general experience has been that when the rivers are low and almost useless, then lake fishing is at its best; and when the rivers are good, then lake fishing is poor. Hence I wanted two strings to my bow, for year in and year out I am never tired of fishing, although occasionally fishing tires me. Many an evening I have been so worn out that I have resolved in the most determined way possible to rest or cycle on the following day, but no sooner has the next day dawned than in nine cases out of ten I have broken my resolution, and started even earlier than usual for either the river or lake. "Poor humanity! Queer commodity!" as an old Scotch parson often said to me, after visiting his people.

I thought first of Ireland, and that was only natural, for among the fifteen fish cases that decorate my walls one contains a brown trout which is labelled: "Lough Conn, April 24, '97; 10½lb."

For several reasons I was reluctantly forced to the conclusion that the hour for Ireland had not yet again arrived, so that elsewhere it must be.

Then I thought of the English Lake District, but the thought was strangled almost before its birth; for had I not fished one of the largest and best known lakes of that lovely district several months for several years in succession, and the best trout I have to show for so much work is the

saddest looking fish in my collection, weighing only some 3lb.?

(I always start with this fish on show days, and by the time the visitor gets to Lough Conn the wisdom of so doing is more than apparent.)

Then I thought of Scotland, but my personal experience of that austere but wonderfully attractive country has been, large expenses—small returns. Justice, however, bids me say that only on three occasions have I fished north of the Tweed, and then only for two short weeks on end, and then, also, only for salmon.

(The Scotchmen I meet assure me that either the weather, or water, or some other thing was wrong on these occasions; and I have so far managed to believe them, that I purpose trying again some day, but not yet.)

Then I thought of “gallant little Wales.” Knowing nothing from experience, either for or against its fishing possibilities, I hunted in my books for information, and finally settled that for “good or ill” I would go to Bala. From that moment I began to ask all and sundry, “Do you know Bala?” I met no one who knew Bala (usually I had to spell the name), but from my books I learned that the lake was large, and from the fact that no one I met knew Bala, I concluded that it would be a quiet place; but for the rest I could only devoutly hope that it would meet my desires in most, if not all, other respects. From the “Angler’s Diary” I gathered that Mr. Owen, of the White Lion Royal Hotel, would supply information, &c., to visitors. In the kindest way possible he answered my questions in regard to the river, lake, and boat; and through him I secured comfortable quarters near both the lake and river.

The little town of Bala, with its 2500 inhabitants, is prettily situated among the hills; and all who have travelled in North Wales know how beautiful the railway journey is from Ruabon, via Llangollen and Corwen, to Bala and onwards. The constant peeps of the Dee, from the train, set all my fishing emotions on fire, and I longed to get to work.

The day after my arrival I purchased a £1 ticket (season) from Mr. Moses Roberts, fish tackleist, &c., High-street, which gave me nearly three miles’ fishing on the river Tryweryn.

The fishing begins under a mile from the town, and about the middle of it, and close to the river, is Frongoch, the first railway station beyond Bala. This station I found of real service, for when the weather was unsuitable for cycling the train brought me home in a few minutes.

Except in dry weather there is plenty of life about the river. Mostly it is broken water, with short stretches of quiet bits, while here and there deep pools are found which hold a few salmon in the autumn.

On the afternoon of May 6 I went to the river for the first time, and returned with an empty basket. Although on some other days my basket was lighter than I liked, yet this first day was the only blank one that fell to my lot during the many happy days I spent by and in the river—for I usually wade. The river opens on Feb. 14 and closes on Sept. 15. Before April 1 and after Sept. 1 no worm fishing is allowed.

The lake is about four miles long and averages a mile across. A small portion of the upper part Sir W. W. Wynn, Bart., reserves, but the rest is open to all. It takes some three hours to go round the free part with trolling rods, and, being deep on both sides, the boat can run within 20yds. or 25yds. of the shore, except in a few places where shallows or rocks make it necessary to work out a bit further. The lower end is not deep enough for trolling, but is good for perch and spinning.

At odd times, when the trout or pike did not move, I gave a few hours to perch fishing. From my diary I see that on one of these occasions I had thirty perch, weighing 7lb.; on another, forty-eight perch, weighing 12lb.; and on another, thirty-eight perch, the twenty-three largest going 4½lb. Worm or minnow seem equally good as bait. More than once when the fish “slacked off” from the worm, they started again curiously at the live minnow and vice versa. June and the three following months are the best for perch. Fish of 2lb. and 3lb. and larger have been taken.

My best day on the river was twenty trout, weighing 6½lb. My four best lake trout weighed 7lb., 5lb., 4½lb., and 4lb. The 7lb. fish is a good

shape, and Messrs. Cooper are setting it up. Not long after the season closed I had another trout of 8lb., which I returned, after carefully taking his weight.

My nine best pike weighed 15lb., 13½lb., 12½lb., 12lb., 11lb., 10½lb., 10½lb., 10½lb., and 10lb.

The best time for the lake trout is from the opening day in February up to the end of April. The best artificial baits for the lake are the Brown and Blue Phantoms; but sprats, gudgeon, and the small perch from the lake, on spinners, are far better. Small perch, on an Archer Spinner, accounted for all my trout but two, and certainly the most, as well as the largest, of the pike.

I ought to mention that an old professional fisherman (Tweenie), who has fished the lake with visitors for years, states that the past season was the poorest he has ever known for lake trout and pike.

I keep a record of each day’s fishing, and from this I have compiled the following table. It shows at a glance the number of days fished and the monthly results. This I thought might be a guide to any who, like myself, decide to visit Bala.

	RIVER TROUT.*				LAKE TROUT.				PIKE.			
	No.	lb.	oz.		No.	lb.			No.	lb.		
May, 17 days	101	21	12	...	—	—	...	...	2	9		
(River 11, lake 6)												
June, 16 days	73	14	4	...	1	4	...	...	3	12		
(River 8, lake 8)												
July, 8 days	14	3	0	...	5	6	...	...	6	14		
(River 1, lake 7)												
Aug., 18 days	144	27	3	...	2	2½	...	...	6	20½		
(River 11, lake 7)												
Sept., 23 days	—	—	—	...	5	13¾	...	...	32	193		
(Lake).....												
Oct., 13 days	—	—	—	...	2	6	...	...	13	87½		
(Lake).....												
Nov., 12 days	—	—	—	...	—	—	...	...	6	15½		
(Lake).....												

* The river contains a quantity of small trout. I returned far more than I retained. J. C.

BIG FISH IN AN OLD DUCK DECOY.

SOME years ago it was my good fortune to have permission to fish in an old wildfowl decoy—a lake of about fifteen acres, with an island in the middle of it, covered with trees, laurels, and other evergreen shrubs. The water was about 12ft. deep at the lower or floodgate end of the lake, shoaling gradually to less than a couple of feet, where once was the over-arching net of the decoy. The lake is situated on the confines of an ancient and extensive park near to the sea coast of Sussex, and when the north-east gales of winter howled over the cliffs of Beachy Head, hundreds of wild ducks and other sea fowl resorted thither for shelter from the bitterly inclement weather of the open sea in the channel, and were captured, to find a ready sale in the large towns of the south coast.

The decoy (now dismantled and disused) and the lake were seldom visited, except in early morning by the decoy men, for fear of disturbing the wildfowl that had “pitched” there during their evening flight, to be beguiled into the nets by the tame ‘coy ducks, and afterwards caught and killed by the men who “worked” the decoy. A little further up the valley were other ponds—originally “stews”—from which the dwellers in the fine old hall (built centuries ago) were supplied with fish on fast days. These still hold carp, and some are of large size.

A small overfall or weir forms a rivulet, which flows from the ponds through the dismantled decoy to the lake. The last 50yds. or 60yds. of this little stream was sheltered on both sides with trees, and covered with nets, stretched on bent saplings, forming a long archway some 15ft. above the brook. These gradually decreased in height and width, until they terminated in a long “pipe” of net, not more than 4ft. diameter, into which the wildfowl were driven and captured, for, after they had been enticed by food and the ‘coy ducks within the wide entrance to the nets, there was no escape, a screen, or curtain of net being instantly dropped or drawn across the outlet to the pond.

But I am describing a thing that was—an industry which has long passed away. The decoy is dismantled; the nets are decayed; even the stone fabric of the boathouse is a ruin; the boat a

wreck; and the pond, once a resort of numberless wildfowl, is now swarming with pike and perch.

My first visit there was in January, 1882; that was long after the decoy had fallen into disuse. But the bent saplings, on which the nets were stretched, yet remained; and the ex-decoyman (turned lake keeper) attended on me and my companion, and told us how, formerly, he had caught “thousands and thousands” of wildfowl during the keen, wintry N.E. gales; also how, that once a covey of eleven partridges, bewildered by wind and a snowstorm, had flown within the decoy and up the “pipe,” where he caught and killed them, and his “missus made ‘em into pigeon pies.”

There was a tidy little inn about a mile away, where I always stayed when fishing this decoy pond; it was called the Anchor. The landlord (a retired sea captain, who had been in the Baltic timber trade) kept the finest whiskies and other spirituous liquors. His wife was deceased, but his niece, the manageress, an excellent cook, and a bonny woman, vied with him in making their customers comfortable; in fact, visitors staying at the Anchor “sojourned in a land of milk and honey”; and there my companion and I arrived that January night to find our supper (previously ordered) ready and waiting us. We, of course, “sampled” the “captain’s” grog, and, as already stated, it was excellent. The park, slightly covered with snow, presented itself to my view from my bedroom window as I peered eagerly forth the next morning. Magnificent oaks and elms were dotted about at wide intervals, and in the distance I could just make out a belt of tall poplars which surrounded the decoy pond. We did not loiter over breakfast, but made an early start, as a slight mist was drifting away, dispersed by a gentle breeze and the bright winter sun, so that the chances appeared favourable for our having good sport. The lagoon-like waters of the lake were margined by reeds and sedge (the latter is called “sword grass” by the natives or marshmen), and under the shadows of the poplars the decoy pond lay, dark and somewhat gloomy. At the top end were the remains of wattled hurdles, interlaced with fir branches, and some of the old decoy stakes yet stood where years before many a bronze-winged mallard and blue-striped teal had plunged down on to the waters at their evening flight like bullets from the clouds. The pond was rather weedy, but fishable at certain places.

My companion set to work in a nice clear pool between some weeds with a small gudgeon on paternoster tackle, and soon had a run, eventually landing a beautifully marked perch, gleaming with lustrous colour, and in prime condition. It seemed as though he had tumbled upon a large family of perch, for he kept pulling them out one after another, until in about an hour he had eight splendid specimens, one or two close upon a couple of pounds apiece, and altogether a handsome catch of fish. All this time I had been live bait snap fishing for pike in the deeps near to the culvert at the lower part of the lake and caught two fish, the largest 12lb. 6oz., which gave me good sport, and allowed of no “scruffing,” for my trace of gut was not very stout, my practice being to always use fine tackles, on which I invariably hook most fish, and generally bring them to the gaff or landing net. The perch having gone “off feed,” my companion, following my example, began snap fishing. We were not well provided with dace live baits, they being about that time scarcely procurable, but we had plenty of roach, which we found good substitutes, and did very well with them. He baited with a small roach, and soon landed an 8lb. pike, also some smaller ones, while I made frequent captures, and had fair sport. We retained none under 4lb. At noon lunch reached us from our inn, with an accompanying jar of brown October ale, and never was liquid more enjoyed by thirsty anglers.

After lunch I tried a likely looking place by a venerable pollard willow that had partly fallen over, half covering a deepish bit of water. Casting my live bait under the tree, I was about to draw the float a little towards me when I saw a huge pike sail up, with its great fanged jaws wide open, and gulp down my bait as a man would an antibilious pill. Then I felt a savage tug, and the fish went straight away with at least 30yds. of line from off my reel. Then it rushed back again to where the hidden roots of the old tree lurked

beneath the surface. The remains of an old worn-out punt had sunk in the deep water close by, but the lake keeper had warned me of this submerged obstruction. I soon had the fish well under control, and induced it to shape another course in less dangerous places, when, after some twenty minutes of grand sport, I played it to the gaff, and lifted ashore a splendid specimen of a really handsome pike. It weighed 21½lb. My companion meanwhile had not been idle, for having cast a gudgeon on float tackle under the branches of an oak that reached over the water, he captured a perch of 3½lb., one of the most superb specimens I ever saw. This fine fish was immortalised, i.e., made "a thing of beauty," in a handsome glass case, by those most skilful of taxidermists, Messrs. S. Sanders and Son; and it now helps to adorn the club-room of a London angling society. He next got a pike of retainable size. Then a curious thing occurred. He put a large gudgeon on his hook, and cast it again under the oak boughs. He laid down his rod, came to me, and remained a quarter of an hour. On returning, he found his float was under water, and the bait (as he thought) fast in a weed; but keeping a strong tension on his line, the float came up and sailed some distance away, bobbing under water and up again for several minutes. At last he got the fish to the bank, and lifted it out in the landing net—an eel of 4½lb., which had entirely swallowed the big gudgeon.

It was a "silver bellied" eel, and next day, served up "spatchcock'd" and stewed, proved most excellent eating. By driving some miles we caught a train for London, and of my own captures I brought home:

1 pike, 21lb. 8oz.	} 80lb. 6oz.
1 " 12lb. 6oz.	
7 " 46lb. 8oz.	

My companion's basket contained:

5 pike, 31lb. 8oz.	} 50lb.
1 perch, 3lb. 4oz.	
8 " 10lb. 12oz.	
1 eel, 4lb. 8oz.	

Our next visit to the decoy was on a fine wintry day in early February, 1883. A new punt, constructed with a well in it to contain live bait, had meanwhile been launched on the lake, and this enabled us to fish the water round the island, where, under the overhanging branches of trees, we captured some nice sized perch, but none much exceeding half the weight of the fine 3½lb. specimen caught on our previous visit. Our landlord, the Baltic ex-captain, volunteered to accompany us on this occasion to manage the punt, and the first thing he did was to fall partly overboard, but, fortunately, into shallow water. I think it was from the effects of his "sampling" too much of his old Jamaica rum, which had made him unsteady on his legs. However, beyond a wetting he was not much the worse, and stuck bravely to us all day, declining to go home and change his clothes; so I fitted him up a rod with stout tackle, put on a "thumping" roach, cast the bait out beyond the pollard willow, and started him pike fishing. His float was bobbing up and down on the ripples raised by a brisk wind, when I exclaimed, "There's a fish after your bait, Captain, or I am much mistaken;" and I had scarcely uttered the words when under went his cork. "Told you so," said I. "Let him have it." And he did, with such force and fervour, too, that if the tackle had not been strong enough to hold an elephant, it must have resulted in a break.

The next movement on the part of the pike, was one that nearly pulled the rod out of the captain's grasp. Then I remembered the danger of the sunken boat, and I cried out "Hold him up, hold him up!"

The old man was all abroad at this unexpected rush of the fish, and his line was then dangerously slack. "Here, take hold of the rod," he shouted, "or I am bound to lose him." "Not a bit of it, play him yourself," said I. And so literally did he take my advice that he drove the winch round as if he was working the handle of a windlass aboard his old Baltic timber ship, while my companion and I could not help a hearty laugh at the mingled expression of enthusiasm and distress depicted on the old fellow's features. Another impetuous tug and the big fish, ignoring the heavy strain then put on him, flew up to the surface, sending the water in swirls of foam-tipped wavelets across the lake. Clearly the

"king of the pool" was on, and resenting the captain's rough treatment the fish instantly retaliated with a magnificent "burst" for the deeps. Down went the bending rod once more, and then followed an ominous crack, like the snap of a frost-bitten stick. The lately arched rod-top broke, and slid down the line into the water, and the big fish was gone. "Oh, devil take him," cried the captain, "he's broke me. Oh, to think on't! Oh, dear me! What a grand 'un! What a fish! If it had been one of Carter's rods he wouldn't have broken me." And the captain quite collapsed. But the big fish was not utterly lost, for from the eddies on the surface of the pool I saw that the pike had retreated to his lair among the sedges bordering the deep waters near the flood-gate of the lake, and there I fished later on in the afternoon. ALFRED JARDINE.

(To be continued.)

THE LOWER AND MID-THAMES: WHERE AND HOW TO FISH IT.

(Continued from page 38.)

By F. H. AMPHLETT.

DACE.

Of't swiftly as he swims his silver belly shows;
But with such nimble flight, that ere you can disclose
His shape, out of your sight like lightning he is shot.

MICHAEL DRAYTON.

THIS lively little fish abounds in the Thames, and can be caught on the same tackle as used for roach. They are usually to be found where the stream flows rapidly, and on the shallows they afford capital sport to young fly fishers. It is a very sportive fish for its size, and though often taken when roach fishing, they will greedily take the artificial black gnat, coachman, or governor, especially in warm weather. There are other small flies he will take—little red tag and the sweep—and if they be tipped with a gentle or small piece of white kid, it sometimes helps to fill the creel. Three flies may be used at the same time, two nine inches apart from each other, and nine inches above the one at the end of the collar—or gut cast, which should be tapered. A light single-handed stiff fly rod is used; and when the flies are cast across stream they should be drawn gently over the water. If a fish seizes either of the flies, strike sharply. The exact manner in which to throw a fly must be learnt by experience, and there is every opportunity on the Thames for learning this art in fly fishing for dace. It also forms a pleasant diversion from float fishing, and on a warm summer's evening plenty of dace are to be found on the shallows. Dace will also take a sunken fly or a single gentle on the hook, thrown as a fly, and usually called whipping. The lighter the gentle or fly falls upon the water the more prospects there will be of the fish taking it.

Upon the curling surface let it glide,
With nat'ral motion from your hand supplied.

I have already pointed out the shallows at Kew, Richmond, Twickenham, and other portions of the river where fly fishing is obtainable. Mr. R. A. Banfield, a member of the Clapham Junction Angling Society, once took at Twickenham 117lb. 4½oz. of these sportive little fish in fifteen days, or an average of 7lb. 2½oz. per day. There is no reason to believe that on the scours between Twickenham and Teddington the sport has deteriorated, and it is possible to catch a large number of fish there provided that the tide is suitable, and the water not too highly coloured.

PERCH.

Perch, like the Tartar clans, in troops remove,
And urged by famine or by pleasure rove;
But if one pris'ner, as in war, you seize,
You'll prosper, master of the camp with ease;
For, like the wicked, unalarmed they view
Their fellows perish, and their path pursue.

Thames perch are renowned for their fine colouring, the back being of a rich olive green, with greenish yellow sides, and white belly. They spawn in April, depositing their ova in the form of a ribbon round weeds and submerged boughs of trees. It is seldom the good fortune of the Thames angler, especially in the lower and mid portions of the river, to have a really "big day" amongst them. They have been so rarely met with during late years, that many anglers have altogether given up the idea of spending time in

an endeavour to take them. But there can be no doubt Thames perch are gradually but surely becoming more numerous, and these fish, as a rule, are seldom under a "takeable" size. A 2lb. fish, however, is considered a decent fish, whilst he who takes one of 2½lb. should have it "set up" in memory of the occasion. The best baits for perch fishing are lob worms, red worms, and minnows, and they often take a spinning bait. Some portions of the Thames are better stocked with these fish than others, but though there is no hard and fast rule that can be definitely laid down concerning their whereabouts, they may be found near old piles, bridges, in deep holes, and in the water just above the weirs. The weir pools sometimes holds them, and occasionally they are taken there when barbel fishing. The paternoster is the recognised style of fishing for them in the Thames, but two hooks should be used in this instance. The lower should be baited with the tail end of a lob or a small red worm, and to the top hook, which should be placed nine or ten inches above the other, a minnow should be fastened by placing the hook through the upper lip. With a paternoster a large amount of ground can be covered, and if the angler takes a fish he should try the same place again, as perch swim in shoals. If using float tackle, only use one hook, and do not let the float be large. One which will carry seven or eight shots is sufficient. If baiting with minnows, give the fish a few seconds before striking, so as to ensure his getting the bait well into the mouth. Izaak Walton says: "The perch is 'valiant to defend himself,'" and if a good sized fish is hooked this is perfectly true; but in worm fishing the bait is generally swallowed so that the angler need not fear losing a fish if he knows how to handle his rod, and has good, though fine tackle.

A large number of perch have lately been taken at Kingston, Staines, Datchet, and Marlow. One London angler took thirty of these fish at the first-named place, and there can be little doubt that, if perch fishing was more pursued, the reports from the Thames would show that a quantity of them would be caught, especially if the paternoster was used, the *modus operandi* of using which is thus described by Mr. H. Cholmondeley Pennell: "The rod should be a longish one, and moderately pliant. The leaded line should be dropped under the point of the rod, or gently swung out into the spot it is desired to fish, and the lead allowed to rest on the bottom. The line between the lead and the point of the rod should always be kept taut, in order that the bite, which is perceived only by the touch, may be more readily detected, and the probability of hooking increased. When a bite is perceived, the bait should not be pulled up immediately; on the contrary, it is better to drop the point of the rod slightly, so as to slacken the line a very little, and prevent the biter being prematurely pricked. After two or three preliminary twitches or nibbles a decided downward tug or pull will generally be experienced, and this is the moment for the fisherman to pull in return, which should not be done suddenly, or in any degree striking-wise, but by a firm and steady upward movement of the rod. The chances of hooking the fish are increased in proportion to the shortness of the line between the point of the rod and the lead." I can recommend no better advice for paternostering than that given by Mr. Cholmondeley Pennell, though, perhaps, I should not be inclined to allow so much time to elapse between the bite and the moment of striking.

(To be continued.)

"TAILING" GRAYLING.

THOSE who have fished the Kennet at Hungerford have oftentimes had long tales of woe to recount of what they have termed the extraordinary prevalence amongst the grayling there of the reprehensible practice of "tailing." Some of the most expert fly fishers, both of the wet and dry school, have undertaken the sixty odd miles of railway journey to that charming place, only to spend a day with the tailers. They have found all their skill and ingenuity absolutely and completely baffled, and have in the end had to retire vanquished in the unequal combat. I am fully aware that the question of whether grayling do tail or not may produce a plentiful crop of

opinions, both *pro* and *con*, but the importance to those who stalk this "lady-like" fish of coming to a definite understanding on this debateable point cannot, I think, be gainsaid.

Trout we know for a certainty do sometimes tail in a *bonâ fide* manner, and by casting over them continuously with a biggish fly, they generally succumb to the patience of the angler.

As a case in point, I remember on one occasion last summer I visited a trout stream in company with two brothers of the angle. I came across a tailing trout in the evening, and threw over it for a quarter of an hour to no purpose, and had finally to leave to catch a train. Friend No. 2 took my place, and cast yet another fifteen minutes, but he, too, had to give up the game. For trains, like time and tide, wait for no man. Friend No. 3, who had a bicycle with him, took up the running, and ultimately got the fish. He rode to the station at a rate which, had he been unlucky enough to have come across the man in blue by the wayside, would most assuredly have resulted in his being brought up before the bench and mulcted in a more or less severe fine for furious riding. He just managed to bundle his machine into the guard's van and scramble in our compartment well nigh breathless, but he had got a 3lb. taylor to show us for his pains.

It is heartbreaking, too, to tackle "smutting" trout, but even these may frequently be circumvented by putting up a small Greenwell's Glory, or (on waters where the wet fly is allowed) a medium Alexandra or Silver Doctor, but with grayling things are altogether different. In my own limited experience I have not discovered, nor have I heard of, any fly which can be relied upon to catch grayling when they are indulging in the bad habit of tailing.

I had often heard of the famous—or rather, I ought to say, *in-famous*—Hungerford tailers. I was fishing there in September, and had apparently a grand day for sport. There was just enough wind to cause the tiniest ripple on the generally smooth gliding shallows. I saw plenty of fish disporting themselves, but could not get one either with the best presented dry fly or the most reliable patterns of sunk flies. Nondescripts of various sorts were not of the slightest use—the grayling were tailing, and it appeared waste of time to cast over them.

As a last resource I thought I would give a trial to a fly I had had dressed as the result of an idea fortuitously found flourishing in my fertile fancy, and this, from its very novelty it may be, brought me nearly two dozen fish, the majority of which were, however, small for the Kennet. Still, I went away almost convinced in my own mind that I had partly, if not quite, solved the problem of "nailing the tailers." In fact, so delighted was I with the new fly, that I had made up my mind to call it "The T. T." or "Tailor's Terror." But alas!

The best laid schemes o' mice and men
Gang aft a-gley—

for when next I journeyed to Hungerford, and tried the same fly, I could not get a single fish to entertain it, and my visions of big bags of tailers melted into thin air. I experimented with yet another fresh pattern, one with a fat slate coloured floss silk body ribbed with silver, ginger hackle, and Indian crow tip. With this I had three tailers, although on a subsequent occasion this fly also turned out a dead failure.

I have read through most carefully an admirable lecture delivered some time ago by that noted grayling fisher, Dr. Brunton, before the members of the Piscatorial Society, but not a word can I find in it bearing upon tailers.

Quite recently, however, an entirely different complexion has been put upon the matter of these so-called tailers. A member of the aforementioned society, who frequently fishes at Hungerford, has made a series of most valuable observations upon them, and the conclusion he has arrived at, after mature thought and consideration, is that they are not tailing at all in the generally accepted meaning of the word, but are in reality playing, amusing themselves, or doing something else than grubbing. The gentleman in question watched several fish for an hour at a stretch at different times of the day. He saw them push their heads into the sand and gravel, and then roll over and over. This performance was repeated at short intervals for a long time. There was nothing to indicate that they were on

the look out for larvæ of any kind, and the only explanation which could be given of their strange conduct, was that they were to all appearances rubbing their bellies on the bottom in order to get rid of an itching or tickling sensation caused by some parasite adhering to their bodies. In fact, they seemed to be scouring themselves in precisely the same manner a trout does after spawning, for the sake of some peculiar pleasure or benefit derivable from the operation.

This scouring, or whatever it may be, is the *bête noire* of the grayling fisher, on the Kennet at any rate, and if any of the numerous readers of the *Fishing Gazette* could elucidate what seems to be somewhat in the nature of a mystery, and would point out how these "tailers" can be attacked with a reasonable prospect of success, they would earn the thanks and gratitude of many who have toiled hard the whole day through and caught nothing.

H. A. ROLT.

SOME NOTES ON BANK AND BOAT FISHING.

THE other day I was looking at a once favourite eddy in a well-known river in which I had caught many splendid roach, when a native I had known from a boy appeared on the scene, and, after the usual salutations, said by way of warning, "Fishing from the bank in this part of the river is no good now." "No good? How is that?" "That I do not know, but I do know that all the best fish this summer have been taken by the most clever anglers fishing from a boat."

This man was no angler, suspected nothing, and, on asking him what anglers caught from the bank, replied: "If you want to see what they catch you should come and look at one of their pegged-down matches that are constantly taking place about here." "Indeed." "It is one continual slaughter of baby roach, dace, and chub, in addition to a few gudgeon, bleak, and wretched 'tin plates,' or silver bream." "The old game, I suppose—loz. one shot, 2oz. three shots." "Yes; about ten or twelve to the lb." "I wonder if it will ever cease." "Not until 'scrapers,' I suppose, become as scarce as specimens."

Not long after he had gone I met two Sheffield anglers fishing in the best eddy that could be operated on from the bank in this locality, in a river seldom disturbed by either boats or barges.

One of them, after fishing about five hours, had caught a dozen fish. They consisted of roach, bleak, and dace; the largest roach weighed about $\frac{1}{2}$ lb. The eddy was some 4yds. from the bank, easily commanded, and the fish were caught with gentles, in the approved finished Sheffield style. The eddy was about 6ft. in depth, the water clear, and, from the mere fact of this angler using only gentles and admitting that the fish, although biting well at first, soon went off the feed, I think he should have tried some other bait and swim. A river that an angler knows is constantly fished from the bank when at its normal summer level, by all sorts of anglers, using three or four different baits, I think makes a great mistake to stick to one particular bait, expecting the fish to come on the feed. In the course of a day it often happens that from three to five anglers will fish in the same swim with different baits and tackle, and one can easily predict what the result is likely to be. No wonder fishing further out, from a boat, in deeper, quieter swims, where an angler can sometimes catch his fish from 10yds. to 20yds. from a boat, as the case may be, is often more successful. In some rivers swims vary to such an extent that, by keeping well back, and being perfectly still, I have taken splendid roach within 2ft. and even less from the side. In this case it was really an overhanging hollow bank at a sharp bend of the river, where the fish loved to go in and out. Personally, I always like to have two and even three good swims on which to operate, some distance from each other, for, strange as it may appear, roach will sometimes bite in one particular swim and no other. In three or four favourite swims the fish, from some cause, or another, may be dead off the feed, but in the fifth, roach after roach may be caught with a similar bait that they would not look at in any of the other swims.

In the field where the Sheffield man was fishing, probably before he was born (for he was not forty) on several occasions I have commenced to

fish with stewed wheat, using fresh brewers' grains as ground-bait, dropping in two or three small balls made up of a mixture of pollard and grains, with a few grains pitched in at intervals afterwards, or even half a handful of the grains well masticated and dropped in a very gentle swim fishing well over the same, and failed to catch a single roach; but as evening approached I have tried the same swim with stewed malt, using nothing but grains as ground-bait, and had capital sport. For the time being the fish were evidently sick of wheat.

To say (as some anglers do) that roach can only be caught with wheat at harvest time I think is great bosh, for I have caught plenty of roach long after that period. Not only this, I know half a dozen rivers along which one might walk for miles and miles without passing a single wheat field. I know several clever anglers who take considerable pains in baiting up roach swims; but I prefer to get the roach together as I go along, and the angler should (more especially where wheat is much used) always endeavour to make the fish believe that the grains are floating down the stream of their own accord. He should never allow the fish to see him pitch in the ground-bait, and so, for the purpose of both fishing and using ground-bait, he should, if possible, be so hidden that he can only just see his float. It lulls suspicion.

Another thing I do not agree with, is pitching in handful after handful of loose grains at comparatively short intervals, for I know of few baits that spread out like grains float down such long distances even in rather sluggish streams, and so take the fish clean out of the swim from the commencement. It appears to me that in some rivers fish are so harassed and disturbed—they often frequent swims in mid-stream—it would be folly to try for the same sort of fish in similar swims in less disturbed rivers. In fact, in swims an angler in the know would not think of trying for them, such fish as chub and roach, for instance, affecting swims that can be successfully fished for from the bank. These fish simply adapt themselves to circumstances; but on several occasions, even in such a comparatively quiet river as the Ouse, I have caught much larger roach angling in mid-stream than local anglers have caught when fishing from the bank. I know several rivers along which an angler might walk a long way without seeing one of those ideal swims so often charmingly described, for there is no such thing as "a deep, quiet hole under overhanging banks and bushes," and even if there were the disturbance is so great that the "deep, quiet holes," &c., may be the very worst places to obtain sport, for the simple reason that the fish are enjoying themselves higher up the river, right out in mid-stream, in 8ft. and even 10ft. of water, in the height of summer, where I have absolutely seen them caught, and where fishing for the same sort of fish at the same depth and period in other rivers of equal calibre would be considered an idiotic proceeding. Thus we see in one river fishing from the bank is best, but in another mid-stream. So much depends on the nature of the traffic and other conditions.

To succeed in business all sorts of things must be taken into account—heaps of 'em—and it appears to me that the same remark applies more now to angling than ever it did; for what, may I ask, do we really know why fish refuse to feed, when, so far as one can judge, everything is as favourable to sport as one could wish; and yet they will sometimes feed with avidity when everything is apparently dead against it? I have repeatedly experienced it.

Even the novice will not fail to gather from these facts that fishing is often nothing but a contradiction, caused probably by some hidden necessity, so pressing that, if he be wise, he will be on the alert to take every advantage of these necessary yet peculiar proceedings on the part of fish whenever an opportunity occurs.

H. E. W.

THE 1000th issue of *Blackwood's Magazine* will be reached in February, and will be a double number. Among a long list of contributions are a *Noctes Ambrosianæ* revived for the occasion, Sir John Mowbray's reminiscences of the House of Commons, and stories by Joseph Conrad, Maurice Hewlett, Hugh Clifford, Neil Munro, Miss Beatrice Harraden.

THE FLY DRESSER'S LIBRARY.

(Continued from page 40.)

By VAL CONSON.

ANOTHER American work, "The American Angler's Book," by Thaddeus Norris, appeared in 1867. It contains a fair description of some simple modes of fly making, but it does not mark any advance in the art, or touch the higher branches.

In 1867 an unpretending little work by J. T. Burgess, called "Angling," appeared. It contains a brief and poorly illustrated set of instructions for fly making, and a list of some forty flies. A later edition, revised by Mr. R. B. Marston, was published recently.

In the same year appeared what is probably the best all-round book on angling ever written—"A Book on Angling," by Francis Francis. It has gone through a number of editions, but is still fresh and sound. It contains the first reference to fishing with the dry fly. There is a plate of natural flies in colours, looking suspiciously like those of Ronalds' "Flyfisher's Entomology," and a plate of beetles, grasshoppers, &c., confessedly borrowed from Hewett Wheatley. There is an excellent list of dressings—as good a list for all-round purposes as is to be found in angling literature. There are four or five pages of instructions in fly making—sound and useful, if now a little out of date. They are simply illustrated by a plate of woodcuts.

Francis Francis' work, in its successive editions, appears to have very much held the field for some years, for no noteworthy publication occurred for some time.

"The Modern Practical Angler," by Mr. Pennell, in 1870, was chiefly remarkable for discarding all the usual theories as to flies, and propounding a theory that three flies, tied with yellow, brown, and green hackles respectively, answered all purposes. The theory seems to have died a natural death. It would have been bad business for the tackle-makers if it had found universal acceptance.

St. John Dick's work on "Flies and Fly-fishing" was brought out in 1873. It contains some pages on fly dressing, with some roughly executed cuts, and a longish list of patterns of flies.

In 1876 the late Mr. W. H. Aldam printed from an old manuscript, never before published, the work of an old man well known a century earlier on the Derbyshire streams, under the title, "A Quaint Treatise on Flees, and the Art a' Artificially Flee Making." It was illustrated by means of sunk panels, in which were mounted, side by side, the artificial flies described and specimens of the material employed in their manufacture. It was published at £4 4s., and was, and is, of great interest, not only on account of the text, but on account of the exquisite colours of the floss and tying silks employed by Mr. Aldam in the work of fly dressing. It is a pity that Messrs. Pearsall or some energetic trade rival do not procure and imitate the colours.

"Ogden on Fly-tying" saw the light in 1879. The author was the late James Ogden, tackle-maker, of Cheltenham, the father of the present James Ogden. It gives a brief description of dressing an upwinged Dun, and a short list of flies. The main portion of the work is devoted to angling incidents foreign to the subject of the title.

About 1881 Mr. W. Sang published at Barnard Castle a little pocket volume (24^o) of "Synonyms of Trout Flies." It is an interesting little work, even if one cannot agree with all its conclusions.

In 1882 appeared the first edition of David Foster's "Scientific Angler." It has the merit of propounding for the benefit of anglers a simple and intelligible system of nomenclature of natural flies without troubling them with minute scientific distinctions or entomological terminology. There is a very inadequate set of instructions for dressing trout flies, but a commendable list of patterns. This, however, does not, curiously enough, include either of the famous Derbyshire patterns, the Throstlewing Dun or the Apple Green Dun, though the author was distinctively a Derbyshire angler. A series of later editions has appeared. The coloured plates are somewhat disappointing.

The year 1885 saw the late Mr. T. E. Pritt's "Yorkshire Trout Flies"—a work which gave an

excellent series of Yorkshire patterns, but no instructions for dressing. The coloured illustrations do not do the text credit. They are not well drawn, the colours are often glaring, and altogether they contrast unfavourably with the work of fifty years previously. The work, however, supplied a want, and later editions have followed under the title "North Country Flies."

The same year was marked by the publication of "The Angler and the Loop Rod," by David Webster, a professional angler on Tweed and Clyde. It gives directions for dressing winged flies not differing vastly, so far as winging goes, from the floaters of the south; but the patterns are much sparer, and are marked by extreme simplicity of detail. There is a grotesquely illustrated list of flies, twenty-one being day flies, five gloaming flies, ten night flies, and five spider flies. The book is interesting and valuable as being no compilation or bit of book-making, but the original work of a genuine sportsman.

In 1886 Mr. J. Harrington Keene published a work called "Fishing Tackle: Its Materials and Manufacture." There is an elaborate, but not first rate, set of directions for dressing flies. It is, however, interesting and full of hints. Among the novelties it propounds are fish scale wings and gut bodies. Detached bodies are also dealt with. Tod's triple gut hinge is described and illustrated, and the work includes directions for building those ugly American grubs used for black bass. The illustrations are plentiful and sufficiently clear, but crude in execution. There is a list of patterns with their dressings.

In 1886 Capt. Dunne ("Hi Regan") published "How and Where to Fish in Ireland." The work contains a number of dressings of a kind not very familiar to Englishmen, but doubtless effective on Irish waters.

In the same year came Mr. F. M. Halford's work, "Floating Flies, and How to Dress Them," in which, for the first time, the whole process of dressing artificial flies of the most complicated kind was treated so simply and logically that it became possible for the novice to instruct himself from that book alone. It was an epoch-making work, and one which will probably be always accorded a place of honour in angling literature, both for the information it contains, and for the lucidity and charm of its style. Having once learned what it has to teach, the amateur can without difficulty pass to the simpler methods in use in dressing wet flies. Some of the methods described have been improved upon and abandoned. The book contains numerous illustrations, including a plate of colours for dyeing, and ninety-two coloured flies, whose component parts are succinctly given in the letterpress. The work was incorporated with much subsequent matter in "Dry-fly Entomology," to which reference will be made later.

In 1888 "The Book of the All-Round Angler," by John Bickerdyke, appeared. There is a brief but not inadequate illustrated set of instructions for dressing the commonest form of loch trout fly, but no other information on the subject either of the mechanics of the art or the composition of the patterns referred to.

In the same year appeared the "Book of the Grayling," by Mr. T. E. Pritt, illustrated with a beautiful plate of that fish, and some far less satisfactory pictures of the favourite grayling casts of the author and four other noted anglers, the dressings of which are described in the text.

In 1888 also appeared the "Salmon and Trout" volume of the Badminton Library, which was entrusted to the editing of Mr. H. C. Pennell. It contains an article by H. R. Francis, on "Fly Fishing for Trout and Grayling." There is in it a poorly illustrated series of six flies for lake fishing, with the dressings described in the text. There is also a short list (also illustrated) of flies for river fishing, with descriptions of the dressings. The work also contains an article on "Chalk Stream Fishing with Dry Fly," by Mr. H. S. Hall, with an excellent list of eighteen patterns. This, again, is followed by an exhaustive article on "May Fly Fishing," and the necessary patterns of May Fly and Spent Gnat from the pen of Mr. F. M. Halford.

(To be continued.)

GRANT'S CHERRY WHISKY.—This attractive "pick-me-up" is a pleasant combination of Kent Cherry Juices and very soft old Scotch Whisky. This and Grant's Morella Cherry Brandy are sold by Wine Merchants.

PISCATORIAL SOCIETY.

DR. CHARLES S. PATTERSON took the chair at Monday's meeting of this society punctually at 8.30 p.m., the time fixed, under the new rule, for the weekly gatherings to begin. Angling experiences were exceedingly meagre, owing to the boisterous weather and heavy rains which had obtained during the previous week. It was left for Mr. Neville Davis to recount the best day's sport. This gentleman had been fishing private water, and had taken nine jack in all, the heaviest weighing a trifle over 6lb. Mr. Charles H. Wheeley mentioned that on Saturday the Thames at Shepperton, and as far up as Chertsey, was running tremendously fast. There was also a gale blowing, which made it absolutely impossible to fish anywhere. Messrs. M. G. E. de Courcy and H. A. Rolt had paid a visit to the new water on the Colne, at Uxbridge, and reported very favourably upon it. It was mentioned that, despite the abnormal rainfall, the banks were quite hard, nor were there any signs discernible of the meadows having been flooded. The extent of the water was over a mile, the society having the right to use both banks. The main river branched out some half mile below the road bridge, part running down to a mill, and the other portion to a weir, below which there was a fishing hut erected upon piles in mid-stream. The whole of the water looked particularly "fishy," and would, doubtless, prove exceptionally good for chub. There were broad shallows and narrow deep runs, with plenty of eddies and lay-byes. The river wound about a good deal, which was a great advantage in strong winds, as it was possible to find sheltered swims let the wind blow from what point of the compass it might. The gentleman named, considered the water would be somewhat "tricky" to fish, and warned the members that in their opinion they must not expect to sit down at a swim and "dig out" fish as fast as they could bait the hook. They had tried the water in different spots, and, the terrific wind notwithstanding, had taken a nice lot of roach, some of the fish weighing 1lb. each. These were got for the most part "longcorking," the best and most successful method of fishing the Colne. The keeper had informed the visitors that there were plenty of tench in the mill stream and some large bream in various holes in the river. There would appear to be two distinct varieties of roach in the water, those of the Colne shape—short and broad—and others exactly like the Thames fish, long and more dace-shaped. The railway journey to Uxbridge from Paddington, took about three-quarters of an hour, and the fare by privilege ticket was 1s. 7d. The cottage occupied by the keeper close to the weir, could be reached from Uxbridge Station, taking matters quite easily, in a quarter of an hour, provided there were no stops for refreshments en route. The smoking concert arranged for next Monday, has been unavoidably postponed until the 20th February, and Mr. Robert Charles Blundell has most kindly consented to see to all the arrangements connected therewith.

M. G. E. DE C.

BRITISH SEA ANGLERS' SOCIETY.

THE usual weekly meeting was held at the Cannon-street Hotel on Wednesday, Jan. 25, Mr. C. O. Minchin in the chair. But few members reported sport owing to the stormy weather during the past week. Mr. Preston Gardner reported fishing at Deal for four days, one day taking six codling (two of 5lb., two of 4lb., and one of 3½lb) off the pier, baiting with lug on two Minchin whiting hooks lashed at an angle of about 90°. Other anglers fishing near him with single hooks took no fish. The subject "To strike or not to strike in sea fishing" was discussed, arising out of a paragraph in a letter in the *Fishing Gazette*. Mr. Mignot said how necessary it appeared to him, especially in cod fishing. Mr. Norman concurred. Mr. Preston Gardner said it was entirely a question of how the fish were feeding. The hon. sec. also spoke, endorsing Mr. Gardner's remarks. The chairman spoke, drawing attention to the manner in which cod feed in aquaria, and the invariable practice of the professional hand-liner in striking cod. Dr. Branton also urged the necessity of striking when the fish bit lightly. A very useful graduated load was shown by Mr. J. B. Bates. The discussion turned on bottom feeding fish feeding near the surface. Mr. Preston Gardner stated that he had seen a dab follow his bait nearly to the surface and then take the bait. Striking the fish, he got it. The fish lay over at an angle of 45° when taking the bait. Mr. Norman, after consultation with his co-owners, offered to lend his boat to fellow-members wishing to fish at New-haven by communication with them. A very hearty vote of thanks was given by the assembled members. Mr. Norman urged members to take their bait with them when going fishing at that station. Members are reminded that on Wednesday next a paper will be read on "Fish Hooks," by Mr. F. E. Eldred. A good attendance is hoped for.

CHARLES S. PATTERSON (Hon. Sec.).

CARDIFF PISCATORIAL SOCIETY.

At an adjourned meeting on Jan. 17, Mr. R. J. Watkins in the chair, three gentlemen were added to the committee. It was proposed to have several angling contests during the coming season; and I should like to see a large number of the members taking part in them, so as to show their appreciation of the committee's work. Mr. Burrows (hon. secretary), Mr. Watkins, Mr. Armstrong, and Mr. Handley expressed their intention of giving lectures at our fortnightly meetings. The progress of the society has been marked by a great increase of members lately, and we commence the season with a good balance in hand over last year's expenditure. Will members please make a note that the date of our annual dinner is fixed for Feb. 8?

C. C. J.

THE FRIENDLY ANGLERS AT DINNER.

A VERY pleasant and enjoyable evening was spent by the members and friends of the above-named society, numbering nearly one hundred, at the Hotel Cecil, on Wednesday, Jan. 25. The occasion was the fifty-seventh annual dinner of these friendly sportsmen, which was made still more interesting and memorable by the presentation of a silver tea and coffee service and a handsomely embellished vellum testimonial to their chairman of the night, Mr. Fred Berry, as a mark of the high esteem in which he is held by his brother members for his very unselfish devotion to their interests, extending over many years, and exemplified particularly in his successful efforts to obtain the lease of the grand stretch of the Colne, which the members have the exclusive right to fish, and to his labours in connection with re-stocking this water. In fact, the singularly capable and energetic personage of Fred Berry has always been to the fore in connection with good work for his old society. These and other points of interest were happily referred to by Mr. H. Mitchell, one of the oldest members, in the speech in which he made the presentation.

Mr. Berry, in a characteristic reply, expressed the pleasure it gave him to be surrounded by so many friends, old and new, and to receive from them such a handsome and permanent proof of their goodwill towards him, and gave renewed assurances of his readiness to assist the society whenever required.

In his toast of the Friendly Anglers, the chairman gave due meed of praise to those of the members whose skill during the past exceptionally bad season had enabled them to triumph over difficulties, and put good fish on the society's trays. The members thus singled out for distinction were Messrs. R. L. Pugh, W. Back, E. T. Craggs, W. Griffin, B. Alfieri, J. Stewart, W. and J. Palmer, Shepherd, and Sutton.

The vice-chair was Mr. A. C. Kent, who discoursed humorously on the Thames Angling Preservation Society and the Press, replied to by Messrs. H. W. Higgins and T. Crumpley respectively. Mr. Kent further, in the toast of "The Officers," accorded them due praise in jovial fashion. Mr. McDermott, the secretary, replied.

Mr. Napier Satton gave the toast of "The Visitors," responded to very entertainingly by Mr. S. Pallant.

Mr. Meakin dealt ably with the toast of "The Vice-chair," and gave Mr. Kent another opportunity of displaying his good natured good humor.

The dinner itself was fully abreast of the high standard which the Hotel Cecil has set for itself.

The musical programme was a triumph for that worthy and able Friendly angler, Mr. Walter Back, who seems to perform the impossible task of improving on his previous best in that respect. He had gathered round him the following accomplished artists, viz, Messrs. John Sandbrook, Fred Stephens, Herbert Emlyn, Mansell Lewis, James Ayon, Fred Russell, and pianist Mr. J. Douce, B.M.—all of whom acquitted themselves in a manner worthy of their high reputations—and Mr. Back himself sang two songs in very pleasing style. J. M. D.

ESK (YORKS) FISHERY ASSOCIATION.

ANNUAL MEETING OF CONSERVATORS.

The annual meeting was held at the offices of Mr. W. S. Gray on Saturday, Col. J. W. Richardson, J.P., presiding over a fair attendance. The report showed that the balance from 1898 was £206 7s. 11½d., and that their total income had been £425 11s. 11½d. The expenditure amounted to £184 7s. 11½d., and they had now a balance in hand of £241 10s. The total weight of dead fish had amounted to 12cwt. 2qr. 25lb., which compared very unfavourably with the returns for the past five years, the number of dead fish amounted to 189. Col. Richardson was reappointed chairman; Mr. J. Robinson, J.P., vice-chairman; and those two gentlemen, with Messrs G. E. Barry, W. S. Gray, R. Hay, and J. H. Keighly, the committee. Mr. W. Brown was reappointed clerk. It was decided that £100 should be deposited to the reserve fund; and that the question of repairing Lealholm dam should remain in abeyance. The committee were empowered to spend £100 in yearling trout. J. JACKSON.

NEW PISCATORIAL PATENTS.

The following particulars are compiled by Messrs. Hughes and Young, Patent Agents, 55 and 56, Chancery-lane, London, W.C.

154. Philip Ormiston, Old-street, London. Fishing and landing lines.
202. Henry Wilkinson and Alfred Rouston Gumsley, Chancery-lane, London. Improvements in fishing reels.
456. Samuel Brooks, Chancery-lane, Ardwick, Manchester. A perfect float for all kinds of angling.
- 21,244. Fishing. Patentee: Mr. A. José, Duncan-terrace, Islington, London. Relates to nets (other than landing nets) for pier, &c., use. A net extended by cross arms, and weighted, is suspended from a rod, and raised and lowered by a line and winch.

ORIENTAL BOOKS formerly issued by W. H. Allen and Co., now published by Sampson Low, Marston and Co., Limited, St. Dunstan's House, Fetter-lane, London, Publishers to the India Office.—A CATALOGUE of these Text Books, Class Books, Histories, and Indian Government Publications can be had on application.

REPORTS FROM RIVERS, LOCHS, &c.

River Reporters who want forms and envelopes should send a post card to the Manager of the FISHING GAZETTE, St. Dunstan's House, Fetter-lane, London.

Time of High Water in the Thames.

To find the time of high water in the Thames at any of the following places, to the time of high water at London Bridge given below.

40 min. for Chelsea.	55 min. for Kew.
Add 40 " " Putney.	75 " " Richmond.
45 " " Hammersmith.	80 " " Twickenham.
50 " " Barnes.	85 " " Teddington.

EXAMPLE.—If it is high water at 2 o'clock at London Bridge, it will be high water at Teddington at 3.25, or 85 minutes later.

N.B.—A strong wind up-stream accelerates the tide very much, and one down-stream retards it.

TIME OF HIGH WATER AT LONDON BRIDGE.

	Morning.	Evening.
Saturday, Jan. 28	3.2	3.18
Sunday, " 29	3.33	3.47
Monday, " 30	4.2	4.18
Tuesday, " 31	4.34	4.50
Wednesday, Feb. 1	5.5	5.20
Thursday, " 2	5.36	5.54
Friday, " 3	6.18	6.33

HIGH WATER AT AMBERLEY AND PULBOROUGH.

	Morning.	Evening.
Saturday, Jan. 28	3.42	3.58
Sunday, " 29	4.13	4.27
Monday, " 30	4.42	4.58

These times show high water at Houghton Bridge, Amberley. Pulborough will be 2h. 40m. later.

ENGLISH AND WELSH REPORTS.

Lower Thames.—GENERAL REMARKS.—I had a few lines at the end of last week from Mr. McBride, of Teddington, in which he stated: "The water was all over the place and very thick, but was out on Wednesday and got a pike of 7½lb. on a lob, fishing for bream. After the water fines down we ought to get a lot of fish at the weir." The weather has been more or less unsettled since this was written, and until it has settled down there will be little chance of the anglers, especially the punt fishers, doing much amongst the fish, which are without doubt plentiful in the grand old river. The committee of the Thames Angling Preservation Society are rightly making a good start in their efforts to secure the housing of the barren swans during the fence season, and the best wishes of all anglers will go with them in their spirited determination to seek its accomplishment. In the year 1879, it would appear from the "Blue Book," there was the same anxiety as there is now about the swans, and the committee in their annual report state they received much assistance from the Lord Chamberlain during the fence season, through Her Majesty's Swan-keeper, the late Mr. J. W. Styles, the perch spawn had been preserved from the swans, and it is reported there had been an unusually large amount of ova on the boughs, and all were successfully vivified. The angling club to which I have previously referred in the *Fishing Gazette* as being about to be established at Twickenham will soon be an accomplished fact. The headquarters will be at the Black Dog, in London-road, and my piscatorial nephew, Mr. J. M. Brougham, of the Woodlands, Isleworth, is acting as hon. sec. pro tem. The first meeting is to be held on Friday, the 27th, at the above address, for the purpose of its inauguration and the enrolment of members. Mr. Ogden Smith, of 7, London-road, is taking great interest in the movement, and will be pleased to receive the names of any who are willing to become members, and there are plenty who ought to give it their hearty support. As far as the river is concerned angling is at a great discount, and now we are exceedingly scanty.—B.

—(**Datchet**).—River very high and thick. Not much chance of fishing for some time. The water went down yesterday, but this afternoon, after four fine days, it rose 4in., a rather curious phenomenon. We find ourselves at Datchet just as unable to get rid of water now that the old river is ruined, all the shallows gone, and boughs cut down as before it was done. The shallows at Boveney Weir and Windsor Weir are doomed, for no benefit whatever but to put money into the pockets of builders. We hear of fish preservation societies putting a few fish in here and there, at the same time allowing their natural spawning grounds to be destroyed. I make hold to say I could show them how to go to work to get rid of surplus water. It is apparent to a mere child if the question is looked at fairly. I should have thought the angling fraternity was influential enough to look after their interest, but it means money. Enough of talk, I will put down £5 to start a petition to Parliament to see if we cannot check the evil.—G. LUMSDEN.

—(**Hampton Court**).—The report from William Milbourne is of a very gloomy character. He says: "The water is higher than ever, and still rising. It will take a fortnight before the Thames will be in fishing order."—B.

—(**Henley**).—Jan. 26.—The water, although bank high and a very heavy stream running, is showing signs of fining down, which, with the sharp frosts we are having and no more rain, should be in condition by the end of the week, when some good sport should be had, especially by hankers. A few roach and perch have been taken, and some jack up to 4lb. A trout of about 2½lb. was caught at Shiplake while legering for roach with loch worms, which was, of course, returned to the river.—STANLEY MEAD.

—(**Kingston**).—John Johnson, one day, with Mr. Gunston, thirty-two bream; and during the week, with other anglers, an addition of thirty-five bream and nine dozen of roach.—B.

—(**Strand-on-the-Green**).—A trout of about 4lb. has been taken here this week in one of the nets of H. Pearce, and handed over on Wednesday to head river-keeper William Douglas, of the T.A.P.S., and turned into the river at Kingston, on payment of the usual reward of half-a-crown. The fish has been pronounced as a real Thames trout.—B.

—(**Ecdington**).—A few more lampreys have been taken by W. McBride, but no angling reports except that of a bank angler taking a flounder of 1lb., and another getting a smelt of 6in. in length.—B.

—(**Twickenham**).—When I was in this neighbourhood, on Tuesday, I found the river lower than in the preceding week, and a few really fine days would make it in good general fishing order. I found Mr. John Spang had gone with one of his clients to some private water, and his son was on the river amongst the dace. The bank anglers have now decidedly the best of it, and, according to Mr. F. J. Ogden Smith, are doing remarkably well. He gave me the following example of takes that had been shown to him: Mr. Simmons, from fishing in the bank eddies one day, five dozen of roach and dace; another day, seven dozen; and another day, four dozen. Mr. Edwards, one day, three bream and three dozen roach and dace, and the fish were all in good condition. The prospects of weather on Wednesday morning was fine and frosty.—B.

—(**Windsor**).—The river is still very high, but, should the weather continue fine, good all-round sport should be had in the course of the next week or ten days. Good roach have been taken by anglers fishing the eddies and quiet spots to be found under the boughs. It is a long time since so many specimen roach have been taken as during the past month. I hear Mr. Amphlett and friend were fishing some private water near here on Jan. 23, attended by James Bunce, and succeeded in creeling fourteen jack. My public duties prevented me from joining this genial Kingston angler on that day, but I followed on the next day with his friend, attended by the same fisherman, when we landed eighteen jack of the total weight of 45lb.—CECIL HOWLETT.

—(**Ancholme District**).—The conditions are very favourable just now for pike fishing, and a few anglers have been out and met with a fair reward. Bream are now off the feed a little, but some good roach have been taken in the middle and upper reaches of the river. The Market Rasen Trout Club is making good progress. A large stock of fry will be placed in the rearing ponds at Willingham in a few days' time.—THOMAS FORD.

—(**Arun (Pulborough)**).—There is nothing to record for the 22nd, fishing being out of the question owing to the flood. At the time of writing (Wednesday morning) the water is rapidly sinking, and, given fine weather, bank fishing will be possible on the 29th, though the water will not be in the best of order.—W. G. HOLLMAN.

—(**Dart (Totnes and District)**).—It is thought that the spawning season is a good one, there having been a good run of fish to the spawning beds. The Board of Conservators are desirous of making the fishing of the river better known, but at their meeting this week, nothing was said about re-stocking the river. Unless this is done really good seasons cannot be expected, and it is an unquestionable fact that something should be done if the river is to maintain its repute. It remains to be seen whether the fishing association will take action at their meeting next week. The revenue from the board's licences last season was £323, a decrease of £48, an adverse balance of £351 being reported.—DEVONIAN.

—(**Derwent (Malton, Yorks.)**).—The river has been in constant flood for the past fortnight. There was 12ft. 10in. of flood water in the Onse at York last Saturday. In about a week's time, if the weather is settled and colder, jack fishing should be good.—H.

—(**Devonshire streams**).—All the streams have had a good cleaning out by the prolonged heavy rains, and the run of salmon has no doubt been greatly assisted, although probably in some cases injury has been done to the spawning beds. The Upper Teign Fishing Association will re-stock the river with 1000 yearlings from the Western Fishery, Norwich. Last season some fine trout were taken in these waters; and it has now been decided that the minimum length of fish to be retained shall be 6in. instead of 4in. as heretofore.—DEVONIAN.

—(**Exe and Canal (Exeter)**).—After a month's almost continuous rain we have been treated to a couple of frosty days—a most welcome change to the pikeist. The river is still too high for angling yet, but, given a continuance of present delightful weather, some good pike scores are bound to be made. On Tuesday Messrs. Roberts and Tweenissen, fishing Cowley backwater, secured three, but all small, the largest but 4lb. Both Tiverton and Exeter canals have yielded a fair number of pike, but up to now have heard of no heavy weights.—RED PALMER.

—(**Fen District (South Lincs. and Cambs.)**).—The unsettled weather, and especially the gales, upset the fishermen's prospects at the end of last week. On the whole, however, when days are favourable, a change for the better is noticed. Roach fishing is better than usual at this time of the year, and visitors about Snettisham have been doing good things with this fish. About Outwell also roach fishers have done well. Takes have run up to 18lb. or so. Pike fishing is off, owing to the gales.—LIMPET.

—(**Idle District (North Notts)**).—Anglers in this district have had to seek their sport in the quiet waters. The river in many places has been affected by the storms and gales. The best report this week comes from the canal, between Stockwith and Retford. About Clayworth a few good roach takes have been obtained with gentles. In the lower fishing district pike fishing has been quiet. I hear of a good pike take, however, at Flintham, from a private water.—L.

—(**Lea**).—Prospects are very promising at the time of writing (Wednesday), and if the dry, frosty weather is

maintained many a good roach should be brought to bank this week-end. The river has been very thick. At the same time it has undergone a splendid flushing. There have been some nice roach and perch caught, but no heavy takes are reported. Next week I hope to hear of some 10lb. to 15lb. bask ts being secured. The fish are there right enough, and ought to feed if gales and rain hold off. Pike should also run as a result of the sharp weather. Satisfactory news has also reached me from the Stort. The river is clearing nicely. A few roach and jack have been captured, but few anglers have fished the river lately, as it has been quite out of condition.—**ISAAC WALTON.**

Lugg and Arrow (Leominster).—Both these streams have undergone a considerable change since last report. The rain continued to fall heavily, and the water coming down from the hills caused the rivers to rise quickly, and very soon they were out over the river banks, and along the side of the river the fields presented a fine lake of water to the depth of 2ft. to 3ft. The weather has changed, and frosts have been bad. The rivers are going down, but it will be some days before there will be any chance of sport in this part.—**GWYNNE.**

Lugg, Arrow, and Pinsley (Kingsland).—Two much weather, wind, and water. Waiting for a change; worse it cannot be, so there will be no thanks for mercies received.—**R. T. W.**

Nene (Peterborough).—Owing to the stormy weather, and the still high state of the water in the river, very little angling has been indulged in during the past week; but the state of things in existence, if not favourable for plying the rod, provides sport of another kind, as the wildfowl and seagulls have been seen, disporting themselves on the floods on the Fen side of Peterborough Bridge, and wild swans were noticed on Sunday morning swimming on the flooded fields near Orion Staunton. E. P. Monckton, Esq., M.P. for North Northamptonshire, and Councillor T. Pendered have been reappointed by the Northamptonshire County Council conservators of the Ouse and Nene Fishery District.—**E. A. S.**

Ouse (Huntingdon).—Water has been very high, but is now down again to its usual height, and, given fine weather for about three days, will be in grand fettle for all kinds of fishing, which doubtless, after the push of water, will show a marked improvement. At the present time anglers in quest of specimen roach would do well to try the quiet backwaters, the water being just the right colour for them.—**B.**

Ouse (St. Neots).—The water remains at its proper height and is slowly clearing, but is still rather thick for jack fishing, though some anglers consider it about right for roach. The river has had a good wash out, and frosty weather now seems likely, so that if we get no more rain I anticipate better sport in a few days than we have had during the past two seasons.—**WM. NASH.**

Severn, Vyrnwy, Tanat, and Cain (Llanymyneon).—Owing to the heavy rainfall in this district recently, accompanied by gales of wind from the south-west, all these rivers have been flooded to a much greater extent than for many years past. The flood was at its greatest height on Sunday last, and for three or four days many of the residents were kept prisoners, as their houses were completely surrounded by water, and the Severn Valley, as viewed from the adjacent hills, appeared like a huge lake. Angling under such circumstances was altogether impossible, but it is hoped that the forthcoming season for salmon fishing will be more productive than for many years past, as these rivers have now been so long in a more or less flooded state the salmon have had a most unusually favourable opportunity to reach the upper waters. The Tanat is fast getting into good condition, and the sharp, frosty nights are now followed by bright sunshine throughout the day, so that prospects of grayling fishing in that stream are all that can be desired.—**VYRNWY.**

Stour (Bures, Suffolk).—The water is now running in splendid colour for roach angling, and, with colder weather, some better sport is being had. The Brothers Well Met fished a match here on the 22nd, and all the members had fish, some having some good roach. Mr. Geo. Root, on the 25th, had a nice bag of roach, several of them close on 1lb. each. Should the weather continue as at present some good sport amongst the roach and jack should be had on the 29th.—**W. T. BAINBRIDGE.**

Sussex Rivers and Chichester Canal.—The weather during the past few days has been bright with frost, and rivers are feeling the benefit. Floods have been prevalent, and although the Adur, Ouse, and Cuckmere were running bank high, there is every appearance of sport by the 29th. A few bream have been taken from the Cuckmere by Mr. Maslin, also a few pike and perch. The Rother is out of condition, yet a few pike have been secured, one of 6lb from below the Tumble Bay. Chichester Canal remains in good trim, and during the week perch up to 2½lb., and several pike, averaging 3½lb., have been secured with live gorges. What a pity it is that the corporation should not take steps to secure fair fishing in this, one of the best pike and perch waters in the south. A goodly rental might be made as a subscription water, but when live gorge is allowed, and trimmers and bank runners ad lib., the water must soon be decimated. Nine bank runners were seen near Donnington a few days since, and at Histon and the basin the same pot-hunting is carried on to the detriment of legitimate sport.—**GEORGE F. SALTER.**

Taw (North Devon).—Feb. 1 is our opening day, but the death of the owners of the rivers may curtail the permits which were before so freely given, and when a few days were given it was made overlasting, besides that trout scarcely over 4in. and fishing all night when the summer was on. If free permits are given in future, they will be restricted considerably. The rivers have had a good washing out, and may have interfered with the salmon spawn. The net fishermen were brought up again

to-day for breaking the bye-law (no nets in the rivers after a certain time), and have continued to do so after the threats of punishment, and were fined. Wind E., with frost.—**RUSTY GAME.**

Tempe (Ludlow).—This district was visited at the end of last week with one of the highest floods that have been had for years. Heavy rain set in on Thursday, and continued until Saturday, and the water from the hills came down quickly into the tributaries of the Tempe, and the Tempe rose very rapidly on Saturday. In one place it rose 8in. in one hour, and the residents of some of the houses in the lower parts of the town had to move their furniture into upstairs rooms. In the fields under the castle, at the junction of the Tempe and Corve, the water was out over the fields, and it was like one vast lake. Cattle and sheep were removed with difficulty to places of safety. During the day and night the river rose quite 3ft. On Monday there was a change, and frost set in, and the rivers soon began to lower; and to-day (Wednesday) they were going down, and if the weather holds fine there will be a prospect of sport next week with maggot, worm, and paste. The Ony, Corve, Clun, and Ledwyche are all running high and coloured, and no fishing done of late.—**S. LUDLOW.**

Tempe (Tenbury).—In this part the weather has been most miserable, and heavy falls of rain have been had, which has filled all the springs, and they have now caused the Tempe to rise higher than it has been for some years, and on Saturday and Sunday there was a high flood, and a large number of the fields were covered with water. On Monday the weather changed, and frosts have been had since, and the river is going down nicely, and by Monday there will be a prospect of some sport being had bottom fishing. No fishing done during the past fortnight.—**WORCESTER.**

Witham, &c. (Mid-Lincolnshire).—Angling in this district has only been moderate during the last week or so. About the only decent take reported was obtained at Tattershall, as far as the river is concerned. In addition to a good basket of roach, a visitor obtained with live bait several good pike, one reaching 13lb. The quieter waters, such as the Horncastle and Sleaford Canals, however, are affording better sport for the bottom fisher. From Coningsby, on the former, some capital baskets have been obtained from the backwaters beyond the village. Here a few lukes are reported, best 20lb., with fish running to over 1lb. each. About Chapel Hill some good roach have been taken.—**LUCI.**

Yorkshire Rivers.—**YORE, SWALE, WHARFE, NIDD, DERWENT, OUSE, &c.**—The big flood of Thursday last had hardly commenced to subside when another followed on Saturday, and thousands of acres of land were again submerged, doing much damage to farmers, &c. It is, however, remarkable how quickly rivers run in after floods, and with an improvement in the weather on Sunday, followed by a sharp frost, which increased in intensity on Tuesday and Wednesday, many of our streams in the higher reaches are nearly at their normal level again, and as I write (Wednesday night, Jan. 25) prospects for pike and grayling fishing could not possibly be better. I had some splendid sport with the grayling in the Yore yesterday, three of my best fish weighing 2lb.; Collinson, of Middleham, had seven good fish. The Rev. Father Murphy also did well to-day, his reverence had eight fine fish, the largest weighing 14oz.; Collinson, fourteen fish, weighing all 8lb., other anglers also did well; all were caught with the braudling and the little red worm, on the improved Stewart tackle. The water being high and coloured; weather frosty, but brilliant fine. To-night the frost has a tendency to increase in intensity, and if the weather keeps settled sport amongst grayling, pike, &c., will continue good. The Black Ox (Northallerton) Angling Club held their annual dinner on Friday last, when over thirty members sat down to an excellent repast. Mr. John Harkness presided, the vice-chair being occupied by Mr. J. S. Smith. A very enjoyable evening was spent. The club is in a good position financially, and the prospects for the future are promising.—**JOHN E. MILLER, Northern Anglers' Depot, 19, New Station-street, Leeds.**

BY TELEGRAM.—The frost continues and increases in intensity, eighteen, and in places twenty, degrees of frost being registered. According to indications, there is every probability that the weather will continue settled for a few days. James Blades writes me that he killed five grayling in the Yore, at Hawes, yesterday. The river there is getting into capital trim; prospects for sport good. All the backwaters are frozen hard, and skating, &c., in full swing. At the North Riding County Council meeting, held at the Court House (Northallerton) yesterday, the following members were appointed to represent the council on the Yorkshire Fishery Board: The Rt. Hon. the Lord Bolton, Bolton Hall, Leyburn; Col. the Hon. Lewis Payan Dawnay, Benningbrough Hall, York; the Hon. Cecil Duncombe, The Grange, Nawton, York; Sir Reginald Graham, Bart., Norton Conyers, Ripon; the Rt. Hon. the Earl of Harwood, Harwood, Leeds; Mr. John Timothy Darcy, Hutton Marske, Richmond; the Hon. Geo. Edwin Lascelles, Sion Hill, Thirsk; Mr. Andrew Sherlock Lawson, Alldborough Manor, Boro'bridge; the Hon. Samuel Cunliffe Lister, Swinton Park, Masham; John William Lodge, The Roostery, Bishopton, Aysgirth; Sir Henry Meysey Thompson, Bart., Kirby Hall, York; and Mr. Charles Edward Redell, Leyburn Hall, Leyburn.—**JOHN E. MILLER, Northern Anglers' Depot, 19, New Station-street, Leeds.**

SCOTCH REPORTS.

Loch Tay (Kenmore, Perthshire, N.B.).—On the hotel water, on the 18th, Mr. Buchanan, Glasgow, killed two salmon, 17lb. each. 19th, Mr. J. H. Caron, one salmon, 18lb. 20th, Mr. D. Carson, one salmon, 16lb.; Mr. W. Knight, one salmon, 20lb. 21st, Mr. H. Buchanan, Glasgow, one salmon, 22lb.; Mr.

W. Knight, one salmon, 19lb. 23rd, Mr. Mowat Stanley, fishing for Mr. F. Kelley, killed two salmon, 28lb. and 17lb. 24th, Mr. D. Carson killed two salmon, 22lb. and 18lb.—**W. KNIGHT.**

Loch Tay (Killin Hotel).—Jan. 19, Mr. Clephan, one salmon, 15lb.; Mr. Steel, one, 23lb. Jan. 20, Mrs. Maisey, three, 18lb., 15lb., 13lb.; Mr. Clephan, one, 18lb.; Mr. Ure, one, 18lb.; Mr. Steel, one, 21lb.; Mr. Menzies, one, 20lb.—**H. MAISEY.**

North-East of Scotland.—A snowstorm of considerable severity is presently being experienced over the north. Hard frost has succeeded a considerable fall of snow. Yet on the whole the prospects continue all the more favourable for the opening of the bulk of Scotch waters two weeks hence. The death of Professor Nicholson, Aberdeen University, removes an eminent scientist from the world in general, and a pisciculturist from the arguing world of no mean authority. He was instrumental in establishing a marine aquarium at Aberdeen. The Spey pollution case was again on the *apis* last week, when the First Division of the Court of Session confirmed Lord Kyllachy's judgment in favour of the riparian proprietors. Inquiries for early spring angling are very rife. Mr. Smith, Feughside Inn, Banchory, N.B., has the Upper Blackhall water for April, May, and June to dispose of. The netting also opens on Feb. 11, even on systems where angling is already permitted.—**G. M.**

Tweed, Teviot, and other Border Rivers.—Just after sending off my report last week we had a very heavy rainfall, the result of which was an 8ft. flood, as marked by the Tweedometer at Kelso Bridge. This had scarcely subsided before we were treated to another rise, heavy rain in the western district, together with melting snow, having occasioned the second rise, of fully 6ft., in the rivers, Teviot being heaviest on this occasion. Both Tweed and Teviot are still running very full, the gauge to-day marking 3ft. of flood water. Very many so-called anglers have been out during the past week when there was a chance for getting a dish of trout or anything else with bait. Some of these fishers had very fair baskets, ranging from 3lb. upwards. On the tributary streams, which have all been more or less flooded, many baskets of trout have also been got. On the Eden, at a favourite spot four miles from Kelso, two anglers also had some trout. During the last three days we have had pretty hard frosts, as much as 12 degrees having been registered, but it has only helped to clear the rivers and decrease their volume, without doing any further damage.—**MAXWHEEL.**

IRISH REPORTS.

Antrim Rivers.—Angling opens on several of these rivers on Wednesday next (the 1st proximo), including the Lagan, Bush, Margery, and the Glens of Antrim rivers. Most of these will be in fair order by that time, but in the past few nights there have been very keen frosts, the continuation of which would put a stopper on trouting for some time. The Maine does not open till March 1.—**J. A. B.**

Bundrowes River (co. Donegal).—This river opens for angling on Feb. 1, and we are pleased to inform anglers generally that the conditions on which the river opens this year are much more satisfactory than heretofore, as we understand that the present lessee of the fishery is going to let the rod fishing of the river to anglers from Feb. 1. We also understand that the box and net fishing will be very considerably diminished in order to keep a constant stock of salmon in the river for anglers. The tickets will be issued by the day or by the week.—**M. ROGAN AND SONS (Ballyshannon).**

Caragh Lake (Kerry).—Jan. 22.—The fishing promises to be very good. Spring fish are running through. Anglers staying at Southern Hotel are now allowed to fish on lower Caragh at 2s. per day. Angling on lake is free by paying the usual licence. Boats and men are available at the hotel at moderate rates. The hotel hatchery is again stocked with salmon and trout ova. Some local gentlemen have contributed towards it this time, paying part of expense.—**G. C.**

Cork Rivers.—All the above rivers are now in grand order, and spring salmon are coming up in more than average numbers on the earlier waters. As far as can be judged at present the prospects for the opening day (Feb. 1) are very good for the Blackwater (preserved portions), Lee, Bandon, and Gullane.—**T. J. D.**

County Donegal Rivers.—Several Donegal rivers open on Feb. 1 next, the principal of which are the Bunduff, Bundrowes, Lennan, Gweedore, and Gwee Varra. This week the weather is cold and frosty, and snow lies on some of the mountain ranges. The Erne and Bann rivers remain closed till March 1. The majority of the Donegal rivers are still high.—**J. A. B.**

Kerry Rivers.—All the Kerry rivers are now rising down after the recent heavy and prolonged floods. Spring salmon are coming up in fair or average numbers in the Sneem, Kenmare, and Waterville rivers in South Kerry, and in the Feale, Gale, and Smeragh, in the northern parts. In the Killarney and Glenbeagh districts the runs have been reported heavy last week.—**T. J. D.**

Lough Currane, &c. (Waterville, co. Kerry).—Lough Currane is falling rapidly since Saturday last, and it will be in good order very probably when the angling opens on the 1st prox. The weir fishery on the river is now giving better results, and it is plainly evidenced that big shoals of spring salmon passed up into the lake on Sunday last. Kelts are clearing out to sea in big numbers from the Waterville, Lunny, and Cummeragh rivers.—**T. J. D.**

Lough Neagh.—The pulen fishing season commences on Wednesday, or rather, legally commences, for the fishers recognise no close season the year round, unless when the law compels them. The small stock of pulen will not be increasing in consequence. A few delinquents were made amenable to the law for poaching,

bnt the fines inflicted were, as a rule, only incentives to further poaching.—J. A. B.

Moy, Lough Conn, and Cullen (Ballina, co. Mayo).—Angling opens here on Feb. 1 on both river and loughs for salmon and trout. The past spawning season was an unusually good one, and not for many years has there been seen so many fish on the beds of the rivers. At present the river is in high flood; but, as we are having frost, would expect by the opening day to be in order for the fly.—PAT HEARNES.

Shannon and Lough Derg (Killaloe).—The floods are increasing, so it is now very doubtful whether the river will be fit on Feb. 1. I can, however, vouch that the preserved reach above the bridge, which has been rented by the Rev. Mervyn Archdall, Chaplain to the Forces, Belfast, will be in tip top form throughout that month, because high water suits it best. This week, again, the boisterous weather has interfered with the pike fishing on Lough Derg. Mr. Richard Hope and Mrs. Hope, of Maidenhead, England, who have arrived here for the fishing, have, however, secured a fair number of pike during the week. The largest, a 15-pounder, fell to the rod of Mr. Hope; and Mrs. Hope, who is a most accomplished angler, and loves the sport, has brought to boat several well-conditioned fish. Major John P. Traherne has let his lower water for February and March. There are a few other salmon stretches to let here, full particulars of which I shall be happy to forward to any of your English subscribers who may be on the look out for spring fishing.—S. J. HURLEY.

SEA FISHING.

THE following table gives the nearest approximate tides for the use of sea anglers for the week ending Friday, Feb. 3. Highest tide on Monday.

	Sat.	Sun.	Mon.	Tues.	Wed.	Th.	Fri.
	a.m.	a.m.	a.m.	a.m.	a.m.	a.m.	a.m.
Scarborough	5.13 p.m. 5.28	5.42 p.m. 5.57	6.12 p.m. 6.28	6.44 p.m. 7.0	7.17 p.m. 7.36	7.56 p.m. 8.16	8.37 p.m. 9.0
Yarmouth	10.9 10.25	10.40 10.55	11.11 11.27	11.43 11.59	— 0.15	0.31 0.47	1.6 1.28
Lowestoft	10.56 11.12	11.27 11.42	11.57 —	0.13 0.29	0.45 1.2	1.19 1.36	1.53 2.12
Aldeburgh	11.45 —	0.1 0.16	0.31 0.46	1.2 1.18	1.34 1.51	2.8 2.5	2.42 3.1
Harwich	0.50 1.6	1.22 1.37	1.53 2.9	2.25 2.41	2.57 3.13	3.29 3.46	4.4 4.23
Southend, Sheerness, and Leigh	1.43 1.59	2.14 2.28	2.42 2.57	3.12 3.27	3.43 4.0	4.17 4.35	4.53 5.13
Margate, Broadstairs, & Ramsgate	0.45 1.0	1.15 1.30	1.45 2.0	2.15 2.31	2.47 3.3	3.20 3.37	3.55 4.15
Deal and Dover...	— 0.11	0.28 0.45	1.1 1.17	1.34 1.51	2.8 2.26	3.44 3.2	3.21 3.42
Hastings	11.51 —	0.8 0.25	0.41 0.57	1.14 1.31	1.48 2.6	2.24 2.42	3.1 3.22
Eastbourne and Brighton	— 0.19	0.36 0.53	1.9 1.25	1.42 1.59	2.16 2.34	2.52 3.10	3.29 3.50
Newhaven	0.4 0.19	0.34 0.48	1.2 1.17	1.33 1.48	2.4 2.21	2.38 2.56	3.17 3.40
Shoreham and Southwick	— 0.36	0.53 1.10	1.26 1.42	1.59 2.16	2.33 2.51	3.9 3.27	3.46 4.7
Portsmouth and Hayling Island	0.26 0.43	0.59 1.15	1.32 1.43	2.4 2.10	2.35 2.51	3.7 3.26	3.46 4.7
Plymouth	6.57 7.13	7.28 7.42	7.57 8.12	8.26 8.41	8.56 9.11	9.27 9.44	10.3 10.25

Ballinskelligs.—Pollacking is once more giving good sport between Horse Island and Bolus Head, one angler, Mr. Sullivan, getting fifteen good fish on Monday in three hours.—T. J. D.

Brighton.—We have had about two weeks of very stormy weather from the west. The wind is now in the north, and a calm sea. Several boats have been off to-day (Jan. 25) hooking for cod and silver whiting. Dogfish are plentiful. The Brighton "winter herring" have arrived, and silvery, sweet flavoured fish they are; one boat took 1000 last night.—H.

Darvane.—Whiting are now giving generally good sport since the frost set in, and pollack are taking pretty well near Coom.—T. J. D.

Deal (The Pier).—The sudden change of wind which took place on Monday last has sadly interfered with local fishing, having rendered the water about the colour of yellow clay. The wind is still blowing strong from the north-east without any signs of abatement. The angling visitors on the 22nd inst. were Messrs. Tathnell, Clarke, Dupre, Lewis, Preston-Gardner, Vaughan, Barnard, and Andrews. The day's catch consisted of a few codling, pouting, and some very fine whiting. The pier had few patrons on Monday morning, but one of them (Mr. Hopper) was fortunate enough to secure several fine codling and a few whiting. Nothing was done in the afternoon on account of the extreme thickness of the water. Tuesday opened fine and bright, and Messrs. Morse, Howells, Boshnell, Filmer, and Waddell fished for several hours, but with scant success. A slight fall of snow and sleet dispersed all the above in the latter part of the day. To-day (Wednesday) the weather has been piercingly cold, and for the first time for many months not a single angler has patronised the pier.—J. RICHARDSON (B.S.A.S.).

Deal.—Owing to the strong winds and gales, which has

made the water very thick, scarcely any boat fishing has been done. It is now (Thursday morning) blowing hard easterly, and no prospect of fishing.—EDWD. HANGER (Agent B.S.A.S.).

Dingle.—No anglers have been out since last report, though the weather has been favourable enough for angling within the harbour.—T. J. D.

Fowey (Cornwall).—We have had very stormy weather for some weeks past, and sea angling has been quite in abeyance. A few pollack and small bass are netted in the harbour from time to time.—H.

Penzance.—Although we have had mild weather for the last week or two, the weather has been so fearfully stormy that boat angling in the bay has been out of the question, and pier angling is also in abeyance.—H.

Plymouth.—The weather has been very boisterous lately, and has interfered with all kinds of fishing. To-day, as I write, it is very fine and cold, and I see several boats are out. The pike anglers are doing a little but not much, on account of so much fresh water coming down the rivers; mullet are still on the feed, and some fine flat fish are being taken. The rivers are all in great flood, and I am afraid that some of the spawning beds will be disturbed. There are plenty of salmon in the big pools of the upper reaches.—WILLIAM HEARDER (B.S.A.S.).

Southend and Leigh.—After a month of very unsettled weather, with squalls and frequent gales, a fresh slant of wind has brought a great improvement with a much lower temperature. Fishing prospects are necessarily much better, but even now it is not possible to predict the weather for more than twenty-four hours. As far as one can judge, however, angling prospects are good. Owing to bad weather few fishermen have been out during the week, and, except in the trawls, only a few fish of good size have been taken. For next week the tide will be favourable. Barometer 30.58, with upward tendency. Wind N.N.E. slight. Sea smooth. Weather clear and bright. Mr. George Wagstaff, a well-known Southend angler, asks me to say that he has just opened his new and handsome Railway Hotel, where he will be pleased to welcome fishing visitors.—CHARLES HUSSEY (B.S.A.S.).

Angling Fixtures.

January 29.

Albion Brothers: Match at St. Margaret's.
Burlington Piscatorial Society: Outing to Langley.
Cambridge Heath Brothers: Outing to Bures.
Camden: Roving match.
Collingwood: Outing.
Dalston: Outing to Cookham.
North-East Brothers: Lapsed prize outing.
Original Clerkenwell: Roving match.
Westminster: Match at Rye House.
Wimbledon Piscatorials: Competition.
Ye Olde Clapham Rovers: Outing to Sunbury.

January, 30.

Anchor and Hope: Reading by Mr. T. Crumplen.
Battersea Piscatorials: Visit.
Original Alexandra: A.B.S. concert.
Thames Re-stocking Association: Committee meeting.

January 31.

Islington Brothers: Visit.
Queen's Piscatorials: Visit.

February 1.

B.S.A.S.: Lecture on "Fish Hooks" by Mr. Eldred.
Holloway: Reading by Mr. Horner.

February 2.

Hatcham Brothers: Concert.
Royal George: Visit.
West London: Supper.

Feb. 5.—Battersea Friendly: Match at Cookham.
" 5.—Brompton: Supper.
" 5.—Cambridge Friendly: Sweepstake match.
" 5.—Clapham Junction: Outing.
" 5.—Hearts of Oak: Outing.
" 5.—Islington Brothers: Match at Cookham.
" 5.—Izaak Walton: Match.
" 5.—Jolly Butchers: Supper match.
" 5.—North London: Match at Ware.
" 5.—Sundial: Outing to Bourne End.
" 5.—Wagoners: Match at Datchet.
" 5.—Walham Green: Outing to Cookham.
" 6.—Central Association: Delegate meeting.
" 6.—Clissold: Smoking concert.
" 6.—T.R.A.: Committee meeting.
" 6.—Original Clerkenwell: Visit.
" 7.—Millway: Annual dinner.
" 9.—A.B.S. (Windsor competition): Committee dinner.
" 8.—Cardiff Piscatorials: Annual dinner.
" 8.—Holloway: Supper.
" 8.—Izaak Walton: Match.
" 9.—Ives (Hunts): Annual match.
" 12.—Allason United: Match at Langley.
" 12.—Harcourt: Match at Shiplake.
" 12.—Phoenix: Match at Bourne End.
" 12.—Prince Albert: Outing.
" 12.—Seymour Brothers: Match at Goring.
" 14.—Good Intent: Supper.
" 12.—Victoria Brothers: Outing to Bourne End.
" 12.—West Ham Brothers: Match.
" 13.—Piscatorial Society: Smoking concert.
" 13.—West Ham Brothers: Visit.
" 14.—Golden Barbel: Roving match.
" 18.—Park: A.B.S. concert.
" 26.—Silver Trout: Outing at Hertford.
March 6.—Piscatorial Society: Annual dinner.

STOP PRESS.

WEATHER REPORT.

By TELEGRAPH.—FRIDAY, JAN. 27, 10 A.M.

DEAL.—E.; moderate.
DOVER.—E.; moderate.
RAMSGATE.—E.N.E.; heavy.
MARGATE.—E.; choppy.
HASTINGS.—N.E.; smooth.

Reports from Clubs

We beg to remind Secretaries that their Reports must reach us not later than **SIX o'clock on Thursday Evening.** Address "Editor, FISHING GAZETTE, St. Dunstan's House, Fetter-Lane, London," marked "CLUB REPORT" outside envelope.

Anglers' Association (No. 2 DISTRICT) Visiting List.—My next visit takes place on Jan. 31, at Islington Brothers A.S., Myddleton Arms, Canonbury-road, Islington. I hope to see a good muster.—BEN ABRAHAMS.

Anglers' Benevolent Society (WINDSOR COMPETITION), Queen's Arms, 1A, Chapel-street, Edgware-road, W.—The committee dinner takes place on Feb. 9, not Jan. 26, as stated, owing to short space of time, and we want to see a good muster. Tickets 3s. each, and Mr. Keene, our treasurer, at above house, will supply same.—BEN ABRAHAMS.

Albion Brothers' Angling Society, Frampton Arms, Wells-street, Hackney.—Our match at Hampton on the 22nd was quite a success, considering the condition of the water, good shows of fish being the order. Messrs. Thompson, bream, first; C. J. King, roach and bream, second and a special; A. Smith (Buster), third and a special; and A. Smith, largest roach prize. Other members had fish, not in the match. Owing to prizes being numerous, it was decided on Wednesday another match on Jan. 29 should take place at St. Margaret's; four good prizes and a sweepstake, and two left from last outing; all pegged-down; first and second train only; Messrs. C. J. King and Jeswell, stewards; stop fishing at 5; show fish at Railway Tavern 6.30 o'7.—J. H. HAINES.

Allason United Brothers' Angling Society, Dnke of Sussex, Uxbridge-street, Notting Hill Gate.—The match which was to take place on Jan. 29 is postponed until Feb. 12. All members please make note of same. We are unsettled as to the club owing to the change. I hope to furnish good news for my members next meeting; everyone will please attend. I have all cases of fish, books, &c., at my residence. Messrs. H. Smith, H. Slack, G. Blades, and G. Prouten had fish on Jan. 22. We were favoured with the company of our visiting officer, J. W. Harris, and Mr. Bungey, of the Prince of Wales A.S., on Jan. 25.—BEN ABRAHAMS.

Alma Angling Society, Coach and Horses, Portsmouth Place, Lincoln's Inn Fields.—On Jan. 22 Mr. Montgomery weighed-in roach. On Jan. 24 the members and friends sat down to a capital spread, put on by Mr. Ling, and presided over by Mr. Pailles. After the tables were cleared, harmony followed. Messrs. Pailles, J. and C. Hawes, J. Drew, Jewell, Butlin, Habbijam, Johns, Collins, and Chambers sang some excellent songs. "Auld Lang Syne" brought a very pleasant evening to a close.—J. CHAMBERS.

Amicable Waltonian Angling Society, The Fox and French Horn, Clerkenwell Green.—On the 22nd the following members weighed-in some good shows of fish: Messrs. Shurey, roach; Hutchinson, roach; Payce, roach; Millin, roach and dace; Brealsforth, roach, dace, and perch; Nunn, sen., roach. The prizes left from the previous outing being won by the following: Messrs. Shurey, Hutchinson, Payne, Nunn, sen.—G. MERRY.

Battersea Friendly Angling Society, Queen's Hotel, Queen's-road, Battersea, S.W.—On the 22nd inst. several members were out, but met with poor sport, owing to the recent floods. Absent members please note that an open roving match takes place on Feb. 5. Mr. C. Burton was elected a working member on the 24th inst.—A. JENKINS.

Battersea Piscatorials, Winstanley Arms, Winstanley-road, Clapham Junction, S.W.—Our visit on the S.L.V.U. List takes place on Monday next, when I should like to see the clubs well represented and give us a bumper. We fish for a series of prizes on Feb. 5, at Feltham; to go by the 8.27 a.m., and return by the 6.25 p.m.—T. TRINGHAM.

Blackfriars Angling Society, The Imperial, Southwark-street, S.E.—We had a very nice show of roach by Mr. Howard on the 18th; also a nice lot of roach on the 25th. Other members out, with very poor takes.—WHEELHOUSE.

Bloomsbury Brothers' Angling Society, Rose and Crown, Broad-street, Bloomsbury.—On Jan. 22 Mr. J. Taylor weighed-in some nice perch, one weighing 1lb. 1oz.; Messrs. F. W. Stocker, W. Bray, and R. Lummas, roach. Wednesday next, Feb. 1, will be audit night, Messrs. D. Warren and J. Morrell being the auditors appointed.—T. PATERNOSTER.

Brothers Well Met Angling Society, King Edward VI., King Edward-street, Liverpool-road, N.—On Jan. 22 the outing to our water at Bures for a series of prizes turned out a success, in spite of the boisterous wind, 42lb. of roach, one jack, and one bream being taken. A. Field, with 17lb. of roach, 1st; H. Bodien, 6lb. roach, 2nd; C. Smith, 5½lb., 3rd; H. Tame, 4th; E. Gairdner, 5th; H. Canton, 6th; H. C. Canton, 7th.

Cambridge Heath Brothers' Angling Society The Good Intent, Mowlem-street, Bishop's-road, Cambridge Heath.—On the 22nd we had a good show of fish on the trays. A pegged-down match takes place at Bures on the 29th for six prizes. All to go down by 9 a.m. train from Liverpool-street on the morning. Start fishing at 11.30 a.m.; cease fishing at 5 p.m. Show fish at Swan Inn not later than 6.15 p.m. Stewards, R. Hubbard and T. Benny. Will members please attend next Tuesday to arrange for an A.B.S. concert?—**SECRETARY.**

Camden Angling Society, The Locomotive, James-street, High-street, Camden Town, N.W.—We have a roving match Jan. 29; members to go where they please; two rods. I wish to remind members next Wednesday is quarterly night.—**E. BOXALL.**

Central Angling Association (Liverpool), Original Prince of Wales Hotel, 13B, Moss-street.—A meeting of this association was held on Friday, the 20th inst., when several new members were elected. Messrs. Bratt, Wishart, and Hann were elected to represent the association on the committee of the Northern Anglers' Association Centre, recently formed in this city. It is expected that membership cards, rules, &c., for 1899 will be ready by Feb. 2, and members are requested to note that on and after that date the meetings will be held every Thursday, from 8 to 10 p.m., instead of on Friday, as heretofore. Mr. J. Wishart has been fishing the Leeds and Liverpool Canal at Netherton, and reports good sport with the roach.—**GEORGE W. HANN.**

Clapham Junction Angling Society, The Clarence, Winstanley-road, Clapham Junction, S.W.—Our next day's outing will take place on Feb. 5 at Cookham; boundary, from Cookham Bridge to Bourne End Railway Bridge. All members to go by the first train from Paddington; return from Cookham 7.40. All members to cease fishing at six o'clock.—**G. T. JAMESON.**

Clerkenwell and District United Visiting List—The visit to the Phoenix A.S. on Monday was a success, their large clubroom was crowded with company; Mr. Bouffier in the chair, faced by Mr. Isaacs. Twenty societies sent representatives, viz.: Great Northern, Lincoln, St. John's, Eustonians, Bloomsbury, North London, Camden, Phoenix, Royal George, Central Club, Queen's Piscatorials, Prince of Wales, Dibdin, Brompton, Walton and Cotton, Original Clerkenwell, Social Brothers, Wenlock, High Wycombe, and Globe. The next visit will be to the Royal George. At our last delegate meeting it was decided that we hold a concert in aid of the prize fund of the C. and D. List in the fence months, the arrangement of which will be taken into consideration at our next delegate meeting at the end of March.—**F. CASTELL.**

Glossold Angling Society, The Cricketers, North-wold-road, Stoke Newington, N.—On Jan. 22 we were saved from a blank by Messrs. Hunt and Thompson. We hold a "smoker" in aid of A.B.S. on March 6. On Wednesday Mr. Ringrose brought me up a grand show of roach. The three largest I weighed personally, and they scaled 1½ lb., 1 lb. 9½ oz., and 1 lb. 5½ oz. All three have been taken to Mr. Hesse to be set up. Members are requested to attend on Tuesday, and also committee meeting on Wednesday next.—**THOS. FAULKNER.**

Gobden Angling Society, Kensal-road, W.—On Jan. 22 three members weighed-in fish as follows: Messrs. E. Baxter, A. Howland, and J. Barnfather. Very poor show for this last six weeks. Will members kindly oblige by attending the club early next week, as we want to go to the Queen's return visit, and the conditions of the last match will be made on Feb. 7.—**T. TWYMAN.**

Gollingwood Angling Society, The Lord Nelson, Nelson-square, Blackfriars-road, S.E.—The following weighed-in during the week: Messrs. W. Beames, jack, 10 lb. 10 oz.; Ball, roach; and Jarrett, bream. Mr. Warren was made a member. Our monthly outing takes place at Hampton Court on Jan. 22. All start by the 8.15

a.m. train; return by 6.10 p.m. Towpath; roving.—**G. FORD.**

Convivial Angling Society, City of London, Sidney-street, City-road.—On Jan. 22 there was a fair muster of members out, but only the following weighed-in fish: Mr. G. Kynaston, 5 lb. 2½ oz. roach and jack; Mr. W. Marshall, 13 lb. 6 oz. roach and jack, several roach 1 lb. in weight.—**PHIL.**

Covent Garden Piscatorial Society, King's Arms, Long-acre, W.C.—On Jan. 22 Mr. Cuthbert weighed-in roach and perch, and on Tuesday Mr. Curtis had a good bag of roach.—**W. MASSEY.**

Crown and Buckland Piscatorial Society, Middlesex Arms, 35, Clerkenwell-green, E.C.—The concert in aid of the Rivers Preservation Fund took place on Jan. 23, and was a great success. The following artists contributed to an enjoyable evening: The Verns (duettists), Will French, Dick Sandow, Harry Fowers, Ted Heath, Bert Langford, W. Isaacs, E. Scrutton (banjo solo), A. and C. Burwash, J. Garlick, Mrs. French, and our host W. Sear, who made a capital chairman. Edie Vern gave every satisfaction at the piano. Amongst others present were Messrs. Ghrnney, W. J. Wade, Matthews, and T. Crumple. The last named gentleman in a capital speech strongly urged the claims of the Preservation Societies upon anglers. The sum of 11s 6d. was collected, and will be duly handed over to the fund.—**G. H. FRANKLIN.**

Dalston Angling Society, Brownlow Arms, Brownlow-street, Dalston.—On Jan. 22 a few of the members were out, but the only gentleman who weighed-in was Mr. T. Thompson, who had a very fine show of roach, several going over 1 lb. On Tuesday it was decided that the members should travel to Cookham on the 29th by the 8.40 and 9.40 trains from Paddington.—**S. MALBY.**

Drayton Park Piscatorials, Stanley Arms, Land-seer-road, Holloway-road, N.—General outing Jan. 29. Particulars, &c., see—**GREG.**

Eagle Angling Society, Red Lion, Tottenham.—During the last fortnight our members have met with but poor success. On 19th inst. Mr. T. F. Barlow had a nice show of roach and dace, also a grayling just over 1 lb. Mr. G. Baynton also had a nice show of roach and dace on the following day. On 24th inst. Messrs. G. Baynton, J. Dyer, and T. F. Barlow weighed-in roach and dace. On 18th inst. about thirty members and friends sat down to a leg of mutton supper at headquarters, which was ably catered for by our worthy host, Mr. T. F. Barlow. Our president, Mr. E. T. Elder, occupied the chair. A most enjoyable evening was spent, songs, &c., being rendered by various members of the company.—**W. J. PRICE.**

Elgin Angling Society, Blenheim Arms, Blenheim-crescent, Notting Hill, W.—We fished our match at Surly Hall on Jan. 22, but owing to the bad state of the river four only of the seven prizes were taken, in the following order: Messrs. Drury, Pilgrim, Bridge, and King. The remaining prizes to go on to the next outing. Will all members try and attend next meeting night, in order to arrange date of concert in aid of the A.B.S.—**G. KING.**

Enterprise Angling Society, City Arms, High Cross-road, Tottenham.—The following members weighed-in on Jan. 22nd: Messrs. Crump, 11 lb. 8 oz. roach and dace, one p.p.e., 2½ oz.; Pheasey, 4 lb. 2 oz. roach and dace; Harne, 1 lb. 5½ oz. roach and dace; Mr. Crump being the winner of the fortnightly prize.—**W. LEFEVRE.**

Forest Gate Piscatorials, Forest Gate Hotel, Godwin-road, Forest Gate.—Only two members weighed-in on the 22nd inst., viz.: Mr. Head, about 6 lb. of good roach; and Mr. J. Durell, a fine roach 1 lb. 13 oz.—**H. F. C.**

Golden Barbel Angling Society, Sir Isaac Newton, Union-street, W.—A roving match will take place on Tuesday, Feb. 14. There are several prizes, and I should like to see members on Tuesday, so as to allot them. On the 22nd Mr. Ellins saved a blank, weighing-

in between 5 lb. and 6 lb. of roach and dace.—**J. E. LAW-FORD.**

Good Intent Angling Society, The Crown, Church-street, Shoreditch.—Mr. Thompson and Maybury were the only members that showed fish on the 22nd. On the 24th the members decided to fish for eight prizes at St. Margaret's on Feb. 5; all go by the nine o'clock train. Our annual supper will take place on Feb. 14. Mr. J. Williams will be chairman; Mr. A. J. Coker, vice-chairman. The caterer will be Mr. Mignot, of Hackney.—**R. MURPHY.**

Harcourt Angling Society, Harcourt Arms, Harcourt-street, Marylebone.—We fish a match at Shil-lake on Feb. 12 for eight valuable prizes, when I hope to see all the members compete.—**A. E. PAYNE.**

Hearts of Oak Angling Society, Ye Olde Crown, Brick-lane, Bethnal Green, E.—Mr. Smith had a show of roach. Mr. R. Norris was proposed as a member. Our prize outing takes place on Feb. 5. Hope members will attend and clear up arrears to be eligible to fish for these prizes.—**C. SMITH.**

Holloway Angling Society, Holloway Station Hotel, 295, Holloway-road, N.—At our usual weekly meeting on Wednesday, Mr. F. Clay in the chair, we had the largest company for some time. Several members had been out, but had met with indifferent sport. Messrs. Stevens and F. Clay had perch and pike on the 22nd, fishing in Hertfordshire. We have made arrangements for our third quarterly supper, which takes place on Wednesday, Feb. 8. Our final outing has been arranged for the third week in February. Mr. Horner gives a reading on Wednesday next. The meeting terminated with the usual vote of thanks to the chairman.—**A. CLAYTON.**

Islington Brothers' Angling Society, Myddleton Arms, Canonbury-road.—On Jan. 22 Mr. J. H. Herbert weighed-in roach. On Tuesday Mr. Moore was made a working member. Those members who intend going to the match on Feb. 5 kindly turn up on Tuesday next and clear books. The return visit on No. 2 Eastern District takes place on Tuesday, 31st, when I hope to have a bumper, as the A.B.F. box will go round, and after which it will be opened by the visiting officer, Mr. B. Abrahams. Those clubs not receiving post-card kindly accept this.—**J. H. HERBERT.**

Isaak Walton Angling Society, Old King John's Head, Mansfield-street, Kingsland-road.—The members will compete for three special prizes on Feb. 5, on any part of the Lea or Thames (private waters barred). There are also three specials to be competed for on Wednesday, Feb. 8, on the Lea, between the Fish and Eels and Ratty's Weir.—**H. B.**

Jolly Butchers Angling Society, George the Fourth, Walnut Tree-walk, Lambeth, S.E.—We fish a match at Sunbury on Feb. 5, Jolly Butchers *versus* the Wellington A.S., for a supper; all members to leave Waterloo at 7.50 a.m.; no live bait to be taken down; jack barred; one rod only to be used at one time; members to start fishing by the steward's whistle, and to cease by the same. I hope all members will turn up on Wednesday next for important business.—**G. EDWARDS.**

Jubilee Angling Society, Prince Arthur, Golborne-road, North Kensington.—Since my last report we fished our match on Jan. 15, Mr. Reddington being the only successful gentleman. On Jan. 22 Messrs. Bence and Gilder weighed-in roach from the Thames. I hope members will attend better next meeting night.—**G. BENCE.**

Lincoln Angling Society, Metropolitan, Winchester-street, Pentonville.—On Jan. 22 the following were the successful winners at our match at Bourne End: Messrs. Biggs, first; Manly, second; Johnson, third; Richards, fourth; Palmer, fifth; Packer, sixth; and Bowley, seventh. The takes of fish were rather small, owing to the flooded state of the river. Messrs. More, Holmes, Stevens, and Utton also weighed-in fish. A

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special meeting is called for Wednesday next to arrange our last outing of season.—W. WATLING.

Liverpool Angling Association, Bee Hotel, Queen-square.—Only a few members of the Liverpool Angling Association turned out for the competition in the Dee on the 19th, for it was only likely the river would be in flood. This was found to be the case, and fishing was almost impossible, but Mr. Jagger managed to get a few dace, and so won the second prize. The whole of the neighbourhood where the fishing took place was by the end of the week and on Sunday all submerged, and the adjacent village quite isolated, and people had to live in their upper rooms. Frost has now set in very keenly, and, no doubt, the river under its influence will rapidly fall. Mr. J. Pennington, a most persevering and skilful angler, was amongst the pike last week, getting eleven (heaviest, 6lb. 14oz.), and one perch (2lb. 6oz.), a really grand specimen, and one not likely to be easily beaten. A meeting of the centre committee of the Northern Anglers' Association will be held at the Bee Hotel on Monday evening, the 30th, when all preliminaries will be adjusted.—RD. WOOLFALL.

Maldon and Heybridge Angling Society, White Lion Inn, Fullbridge, Maldon, Essex.—The second round of the Saturday afternoon cup competition resulted again in favour of S. Vince, with 2lb. 14oz. of roach, and second place was again secured by T. Springett, with 2lb. 3oz. of roach; B. Hutchinson third. The third round takes place next Saturday afternoon, Jan. 28, at 2 o'clock as usual, drawing for swims on the long weir and finish fishing at 5.30 p.m., weigh-in fish at 6.30 at the above clubhouse. During the past few days, anglers have caught some very fine roach. Mr. Ben Bevers secured a roach, 1lb. 6oz., on Jan. 21, and Dr. Jim Race took seven roach, 6lb., same date. Mr. A. Springett also had a nice show a few days ago—ten roach scaling 9lb. from the Langford preserved waters. On Jan. 22, Mr. Durrell, a member of the Forest Gate Piscatorial, secured a fine specimen roach scaling 1lb. 13oz., and I hear from the secretary, Mr. Creeke, that it has been sent for preservation. Messrs. Ben Lees, Sandilands, Race, T. Springett, S. Vince, Newton, and others anglers were here on Jan. 22, and most of them secured fair sport. The time of high water at Beeleigh on Jan. 29 will be at 2.28 p.m., and anglers wishing to fish the tidal waters will have plenty of time for sport. The whiting pont are again giving excellent sport from Heybridge Basin. Mr. A. Butcher informs me he took 30lb. on Jan. 23 at night with rod and line, and lob worm as bait. I have a few more tickets for the Langford Fishery. Subscription to March 31, 3s.; day tickets 1s. each. Applications for particulars apply to F. KEEN, 26, Spital-road, Maldon, Essex.

North-East Brothers Angling Society, Star and Garter, Green-street.—Result of match on the 22nd inst., in rotation: Messrs. G. Thorn, W. Smith, S. Barrett, and W. Richards, sen. On Jan. 29 members may go where they choose for the prizes left. Mr. H. Collins, sen., has given 10s. 6d. for the largest roach taken on the 29th, in or out of match.—A. LEWIS.

North London Angling Society, Tap House, Holloway-road.—On Jan. 22 a few of the members were out, but did not succeed in catching any fish. On Feb. 5 the members fish for five prizes at Ware; pegged-down. At the Phoenix visit Mr. Badham left his bag, containing five whistles. If any gentleman has found them, and will communicate with me, I shall be obliged.—H. STRETCH.

Original Clerkenwell Piscatorial Society, Sutton Arms, Great Sutton-street, Goswell-road.—On Jan. 22 Mr. Hill first, with roach; Mr. Hunt, second, roach; Mr. Foster, perch. We fish for prizes on 29th, all members to go where they please.—A. HILL.

Park Angling Society, Park Hotel, Park-lane, Tottenham.—Several members were out on the 22nd: Messrs. Thompson, Reitz, Tracy, Carter, Hopton, jun., Hopton, sen., Coldwell. Only one had fish (Mr. Hopton), nice tray of roach. We hold a smoking concert in aid of the A.B.S. on Feb. 18, when we hope to have a good muster.—W. S.

Phoenix Angling Society, The Tavistock, Stibington-street, N.W.—On Jan. 22 Messrs. Carter, Austin, and Bonfield had some good roach. On Jan. 23 the Clerkenwell visit was a success; twenty clubs being represented. Mr. Bonfield, chair; Mr. H. Isaacs, Original Clerkenwell, vice; Mr. Booker, pianist. Numerous artists were crowded out. The next visit is to the Royal George on Feb. 2. A new member to make next week, please turn up.—R. C.

Prince Albert Angling Society, Prince Albert Hotel, Woodfield-road, Harrow-road, W.—Members of the above please note our last outing takes place on Feb. 12, at Cowley, between Cowley Lock Bridge and General Elliot Bridge. Meet at Westbourne Park at 8.30. Mr. Deary was the only member who was fortunate to obtain a show on Jan. 22.—W. B. F.

Prince of Wales' Angling Society, Windsor Castle, Church-street, Edgware-road.—Our return visit on the 16th was a grand success, eighteen clubs answering to the roll call, and I take this opportunity of thanking those who by their presence and ability helped us to spend a very pleasant evening. Our match at Bourne End

on the 22nd, for six prizes given by our host, resulted in some fair shows of fish. All the prizes were won. Among the takes was a fine tench of 2lb. 10oz. and a nice perch.—W. B.

Queen's Piscatorials, Queen's Arms, 1A, Chapel-street, Edgware-road, N.W.—On Jan. 22 we had a very poor show, only three weighing-in, viz., C. Brett, C. Strayton, and W. Brind. I hope members will not forget return visit of the above club on Tuesday next, 31st inst. Those clubs who have not received a postcard, will they please accept this notification as an invitation? All will be made welcome.—GEO. KEENE.

Royal George Angling Society, Queen's Arms, Bateman-street.—On Jan. 22 several of our members were out, but only the following turned up to weigh-in, viz., Messrs. Bardot and W. Alport. On Feb. 2 we take a return visit on the Clerkenwell and District Visiting List, when we hope to have the pleasure of welcoming all friends.—J. GIBBONS.

Royal Oak Angling Society, Coborn Arms, Coborn-road, Bow.—On Jan. 22 we fished a roving match for seven prizes, and the following were the winners: Messrs. F. Gardener, first, roach; E. Perry, second, roach; Helle, third, roach and dace; fourth, F. Pigatelli, roach and dace; G. Williams, fifth, roach; sixth, J. Payne, roach. Prize left over.—F. PIGNATELLI.

Silver Trout Angling Society, Bedford Head, Maiden-lane.—Our next outing will take place on Feb. 26, at Hertford.—PELICAN.

South London United Anglers' Visiting List.—The next visit on the above list takes place on Monday next at my own club, the Battersea Piscatorials, Winstanley Arms, Winstanley-road, Clapham Junction, and I should like to see a good muster on this occasion.—ALF. PAINTER.

Stepney Angling Society, Bee Hive, Rhodeswell-road, Stepney.—On Jan. 22 the following weighed-in: Mr. L. Ehern, roach; Mr. J. Shum, dace. On Monday last our annual visit was quite a success, twelve clubs in all being represented, and a most enjoyable evening was spent.—C. TATNALL.

Stratford Angling Society, Dorset Arms, Leyton-road, Stratford New Town, E.—Since my last report the following members have weighed-in fish: On the 22nd Mr. J. Race, a good show of roach; Mr. F. Humphres, roach and dace; Mr. T. Sandilands, roach. On the 15th Mr. J. Race weighed-in some fine roach.—G. F. WEAVER.

Sundial Angling Society, Plough and Harrow, King-street, Hammersmith, W.—On Jan. 22 Mr. Holt weighed-in 2½lb. of roach; Mr. Parker, roach; Mr. Lock, 6lb. 2½oz. of roach (largest roach 1lb. 14oz.). Last meeting night further arrangements were made with regard to the outing to Bourne End. The Brompton Angling Society accepted our invitation to join us in a sweepstakes. Several prizes were promised to be fished for by both clubs. I hope that as many members as can make it convenient will come up next meeting night, to make final arrangements.—G. E. LOCK.

True Caledonian Angling Society, 23, Caledonian-road, N.—On the 19th inst. one of our members (Mr. Miller) had a nice show of fish, thirty-six roach and four dace, weighing 38lb.; six roach over 1½lb. each, largest 1lb 11oz.; largest dace 11½oz. The same gentleman, on the 20th, had twenty-four roach and one dace, weighing 25lb.; eight roach over 1½lb., largest 1lb. 11½oz. Mr. Marsh, on the 24th, had a very prettily marked jack of 10½lb.—THOMAS F. WARD.

United Brothers Angling Society, Druid's Head Tavern, Deptford.—Several members fished a match in the Lea on Jan. 22. Mr. J. Oakley, first; W. Todman, second; S. Drage, third. Other members had fish. A special meeting will be held on Saturday evening next for some very important business.—H. TYLER.

Victoria Brothers Angling Society, Princess Victoria, Robert-street, Hampstead-road, N.W.—On Jan. 22nd Mr. J. Toothill weighed-in a good show of roach. We are still making new members. Outing to Bourne End Feb. 12.—W. H. B.

Waltham Green and Chelsea Angling Society, Black Bull, Fulham-road, S.W.—On Feb. 5 we have an outing at Cookham, at the close of the day we adjourn to Mr. Cocking's for supper. The club invites all brother anglers who are desirous of joining us at the supper table to communicate to our secretary by Wednesday next, so that Mr. Cocking can be informed of the number to cater for. The supper will be supplied at 2s. a head.—W. BATCH.

Waltham Brothers Angling Society, King's Arms, Waltham Abbey.—Quite a representative lot of members attended the club-room on Monday night to have just a bite off Mr. W. Taylor's 9lb. jack, taken from the Lea at Waltham Abbey. The fish, together with a smaller one of 3lb., caught by the "Guv'ner," were handed over to Hostess Perry, and right well she performed her share in the cooking of it. After the supper harmony was indulged in.—A. G. BEACH.

Wellington Angling Society, Prince George, Hillingdon-street, S.E.—We had a crowded meeting on Tuesday night, and transacted a lot of business. During the evening, Mr. Mason weighed-in a fine pike from Ireland, weight 15½lb. We held a special meeting on Jan. 31, to select a side to represent us in our match versus the Jolly Butcher A.S. All members wishing to participate in same will please attend. The following gentlemen weighed-in on Jan. 22: Messrs. Brown, Carpenter and Barber, with roach and bream; Mr. Looker, with club, heaviest fish 3lb. 8oz.—S. WESTOBY.

West Ham Brothers Angling Society, Coach and Horses, The Grove, Stratford.—Our members were out on Jan. 22, and the following weighed-in: Mr. John Newton, roach; Mr. James Newton, roach; Mr. C. Miller, roach; Mr. F. Homer, roach; Mr. R. Pethurst, roach. Our return visit takes place on Feb. 13. All

secretaries not getting a letter to this effect will take this as a notice, and that we have a jack match on Feb. 12, at Hatfield Peverel, from the Baddow Bridge to How Mill Bridge.—R. LOWTHER.

West London Angling Club, Dartmouth Castle, Hamm-smith.—Members are requested to return to me the unsold supper tickets on or before Monday next. Supper will be served at 7.30. Members will oblige by attending punctually, as we have a long musical programme to get through during the evening. Members fishing in the match must weigh-in after supper, or they will be disqualified.—J. J. HUNTER.

Westminster Angling Society, The Telegraph, Regency-street, S.W.—On Jan. 22 Messrs. Goose and Dickens weighed-in roach from the Lea. At a special meeting, held on Wednesday, called to consider a report that a member weighed-in fish that were given to him by another member, was discussed and not proven, the accused leaving the club without a stain on his character. The January match will be fished from Rye House Bridge to St. Margaret's Bridge; two rods; jack barred. Leave Liverpool-street 9.8 a.m.; return from Rye House 7.20 p.m. Show fish at station before leaving.—S. H.

White Hart Angling Society, The Volunteer, Chesnut-road, Tottenham.—On Jan. 22 we fished for the two remaining prizes of the pegged-down match, which were not taken on that occasion, one only again being taken by S. Claridge, with roach. D. Knight was the successful winner of Mr. Perry's oil painting. On Jan. 29 we fish for four prizes.—W. E. BEAUMONT.

Wimbledon Piscatorials, 28, Alexandra-road, Wimbledon.—At Tuesdays meeting there was a very creditable display of fish. Mr. Bowie exhibited a brace of pike, the heaviest fish weighing 4lb. 12oz., and an eel of 2lb. 8oz., taken (with five other jack) from Wimbledon lake. Mr. H. A. Rolt showed a nice lot of roach—6lb. weight in all—and Mr. C. Floris reported the capture of bream, and a perch of 1lb. 2oz. from the Thames.—HON. SEC.

Doffings by the Way.

THE fourteenth annual dinner of the Mildmay Angling Society will take place on Tuesday evening, Feb. 7, at the Clarendon Hotel, Newington Green, N., under the presidency of Mr. J. A. Strachan. The dinner is ordered for 7.30.

THE fifth annual dinner of the Kingston Piscatorial Society will be held on Monday evening, March 20.

THE Lantern Lecture (in aid of the funds of the Thames Preservation Society) by Mr. T. Crumpfen will be given on Monday evening, Jan. 30, at the spacious club room of the Anchor and Hope A.S., Duke of Kent, Old Kent-road, S.E. Mr. W. H. Elsmore will take the chair at 8.30. The subject of the lecture is "Fishing in the Eastern Counties," and no doubt "Old Isaac" has photographed a few good "shops." A concert follows the lecture.

ON the same evening Mr. F. H. Amphlett, author of "The Lower and Mid Thames," will lecture before the members and friends of the Hastings and St. Leonard's A.A., at the Assembly Room, Castle Hotel, Hastings, on "The River Thames as an Angling Resort." Over eighty limelight views, including Mr. Amphlett's private collection of views of the old Thames bridges, will be shown. The chair will be taken by Dr. O. R. Travers at 8 o'clock sharp.

A BROTHER member of the Anchor Fishing Society, Kingston-on-Thames, writes: "Passing through Hampton on Friday last, I came across a fisherman near Tagg's Island with some splendid roach, six fish weighing over 9lb. I saw him take two of these fish within half an hour. The water at this time was very thick, and running almost like a mill-race. The man's name is Cox, of Hampton. He was fishing from the bank."

A SPECIAL general meeting of the Thames Restocking Association will be held at Carr's Restaurant, 265, Strand, W.C., on Tuesday, Jan. 31, at 7.30 p.m., to further consider the proposal to establish fish hatcheries on the River Thames.

"THE Resources of the Sea," or "An Inquiry into the Experiments on Trawling and the Closure of Areas," is the title of a work by Prof. McIntosh (C. J. Clay and Sons, Cambridge University Press Warehouse) to be issued shortly. The work gives the results of many years' experience in the department—from Lord Dalhousie's commission (1883-85) onwards. It commences with a general sketch of the resources of the sea in the various groups, then reviews the Trawling Report of 1884, the present condition of the fishing-grounds and fisheries, and comments on the changes which have since occurred in vessels and their equipment. The mode in which the trawling experiments have been carried out by the Scotch Fishery Board is then dealt with in connection with the closed areas, and, as the author suggested these closures for experiment, his criticisms have some interest. The whole series of the experiments in St. Andrew's Bay, the Forth, the Moray Frith, and the Clyde are minutely reviewed and criticised, and finally conclusions are drawn in accordance with the facts. These conclusions are adverse to the closure, and show that the influence of man in regard to the destruction of

"THIEVES! POLICE! MURDER!" are the blood-curdling cries which are sometimes heard in the silent watches of the night coming from the bed of some unfortunate sufferer from what is termed a disordered liver, or dyspepsia. Horrible nightmares are a common feature of these complaints, and the lives of the victims become a burden to them in consequence. Holloway's Pills and Ointment have long been famous for the cures they have wrought in such cases, because they act directly upon the liver. The Ointment rubbed on the skin penetrates immediately to that organ, whose blood and nerves it rectifies. One trial is all that is needed; a cure will soon follow. The Pills are also the best known antidotes for want of appetite, nausea, and flatulency.

any marine food-fish on an open seaboard is comparatively insignificant. The work is accompanied by thirty-two tables, and various photographs and figures.

ON last Boxing Day, according to a contemporary, a scratch crew—fitting title—of fenmen and others organised between themselves what must have been a most atrocious travesty of an otter hunt on the river Lark, and which ended in anything but a lark for two unfortunate otters. Instead of hunting the otters in a legitimate manner, this crew armed themselves with clubs, spades, spears, and other murderous implements, dispensing altogether with dogs, but, with dogged perseverance worthy of a better cause, they eventually discovered both Mr. and Mrs. Otter at home. The home was forthwith speedily broken up, and both the poor beasts literally smashed to death.

IN addition to the male and female otter there was another occupant of the house—a dear little baby otter about a month old. Some of the crew, more tender-hearted than their compeers, persuaded the others to spare the little mite, so it was taken away alive, and placed in the hands of a good Samaritan, who, assisted by his daughter, assiduously attended to the poor little orphan with such success that at the present time it toddles about the room after its benefactors, lies and sleeps in their lap, as tame as a kitten, very healthy, and a most interesting and pretty little creature. Comment on this story is needless.

IN a "jotting" recently mention was made of a kingfisher being shot at Bath on account of being suspected of appropriating some of the goldfish from the Roman bath in that city. The *Daily Mail* of Jan. 14, under the heading "Two Murdered Kingfishers," says, "the shooting by an attendant at the Roman bath, at Bath, of a little kingfisher who had made a practice of feeding on the goldfish with which the water is stocked, continues to evoke interest, not to say indignation, in many quarters." Then the *Daily Mail* editor says, "What, however, will the Marquis of Granby and other lovers of rare and beautiful birds think when they learn that not one, but two kingfishers were shot? A Bath correspondent, who expresses his approval of the act, says that not only the male bird but his mate also was shot as an accessory before and after the act." Some people will no doubt think that those who commit such outrages, as well as those who express approval, are exceptions to the theory of the survival of the fittest.

AMONGST other letters on the subject is one from Lord Llandaff to the editor of a Bath newspaper, and which is written from the office of the Brighton and South of England Zoological Society. His lordship suggests that "cats are also very fond of goldfish, and that kingfishers prey on very small kinds of fish, such as minnows, and cannot swallow any above that size, and they also feed on tadpoles and water beetles. It is a great pity that such beautiful and ornamental birds as kingfishers should be so ruthlessly destroyed for such a trifling cause as eating a few goldfish, which are so easily replaced. Not so these lovely birds, which are getting scarcer year by year, to the great regret of all genuine anglers, who always accord them a hearty welcome."

"RUSTICUS" sends the following: "What strikes one is that in such a city some naturalist had not interceded on behalf of these beautiful birds. Half a sovereign would probably purchase a couple of score of goldfish, and the last place one would suppose such fish would be placed was in a luxurious Roman bath. Indeed, some folk would possibly be of opinion that the splashing and cheerying these philosophic fish must undergo, amounted to 'cruelty.' The *Fishing Gazette* will probably print the prompt protest against the slaughter of the kingfishers from the most noble the Marquis of Granby, the friend of all anglers. How true it is, in the words of the noble Marquis, that 'gold fish can be easily replaced, kingfishers cannot. I am sure that, on reflection, those who control the management of the baths will, for the future, see the wisdom and humanity of welcoming, instead of destroying a stranger so rare and lovely as a kingfisher.'" Noble words these from a noble man!

THE Yachting Exhibition will open on Wednesday next at the Royal Aquarium, and will be on a large scale. The exhibitors come from all parts of the United Kingdom, and bring with them many novelties. Motor launches will be a popular feature of the show. There will be a great variety of launches, skiffs, punts, canoes, and other craft, and an exhaustive display of miscellaneous exhibits. The home trained bicycle races have been a success, and will be continued daily.

IN a section of the Shannon, where inundations are frequent, a board raised on a post presents the following inscription: "Take notice, that when this board is under water the road is impassable."

MESSERS. LUNLEY announce that they have acquired the Mandal River, South Norway, on long lease; all nets and traps have been bought up from Mandal Bridge to Foss-Poss (the highest pool accessible to salmon), and this early salmon river will be entirely devoted to purely sporting purposes. The Mandal flows from the large Haskfeld Plateau and from countless lakes or mountain tarns, thus forming an adequate reservoir for maintaining the necessary volume of water. From Government statistics

nearly 40,000lb. of salmon have been annually taken at three netting stations near the mouth of the river. No record of the amount of fish taken above these stations is obtainable, but, from the numerous ingenious traps and other implements used, it is computed that at least an equal amount has been annually netted in the upper waters, and it may be mentioned that the farmer owning the Foss-Poss pool had to pay an annual land-tax of twelve barrels of salmon, taken solely out of the Foss Pool.

MR. A. SCARD, of Holywell, near St. Ives, says "the flood is going down very nicely, and the water is a real good colour. I took some fine roach on Wednesday, several going over 1lb. each, in the deep eddies in front of my house. I reckon if we get no more rain good sport should be had by the end of the week. Some fine pike have been seen chasing the baits, and the frosts made them a bit hungry." Just so. I am quite of the same opinion. All along the line at St. Ives, Huntingdon, and St. Neots, the water should be in very fair condition. Time is getting short; March 16 will soon be "down on us"; and if you dress warm, keep your feet dry, and your haits wet, there should be something to report next week from the dreamy, breamy Ouse.

No official reports are to hand as to the state of the Lark at Barton Mills or of the Ouse at Brandon, but from what "I hear" some good fish are being taken. Two gentlemen managed to secure fourteen jack between them on the Lark recently, but the largest was only 9lb. The 30-pounders are not so numerous as they were—anywhere.

THE 45th annual dinner of the Friendly Anglers at the Hotel Cecil, on Wednesday evening, was a grand success. The dinner was (as usual at the Cecil) first class; the toasts, songs, speeches, &c., under the genial chairmanship of the veteran, Fred Berry, caused the time to pass all too quickly. I was sorry not to be able to accept a kind invitation to be present.

OUR F. G. ALBUM OF ANGLERS.

No. 34 (New Series).



MR. W. BENNETT

Is a prominent member of the British Sea Anglers' Society, and though a modest and withal of a retiring nature, has fished in many waters, and captured some good fish. As proprietor of the Old Cock Tavern, Market-street, Haymarket, he may be seen daily, and he is able and willing to converse with visitors in several languages. For many years he was on the Continent (France, Germany, and Russia) in the capacity of interpreter, and for eighteen years at Blanchard's, of Regent-street. Mr. Bennett possesses a beautiful oil painting (life-size) of "The Expulsion of Eve." It is on view, free, at the Pall Mall Safe Depository (close to the Old Cock Tavern). Mr. Bennett has many friends, few enemies, and is in every way worthy of being classed in the category of "gentle" anglers.

MR. E. WEBSTER and Mr. W. H. Burrows are the hon. secs. to the Cardiff Piscatorial Society, and Mr. A. E. Armstrong (late of the T.A.P.S.) is a member of that thriving society. Mr. Webster is responsible for the following: "Dear 'Drag,'—I am instructed by the committee to ask your kind acceptance of the accompanying ticket to our ninth annual dinner at the Alexandra Hotel, on the 8th prox. Mr. Armstrong has arranged for some extra special Scotch." Of course, I shall write and thank these good boys at Cardiff, and tell them I am not strong; that I was obliged to refuse a breakfast at Brecon; that I have not taken extra special for some time; but if all goes well I must try and keep an engagement to dine at the Hotel Cecil on the same night. I wish them all a pleasant evening and prosperity.

"FACTS are stubborn things," said the Irish lawyer to a female witness under examination. The lady replied, "Yes, sir, and so are women; and if you get anything out of me just let me know it." "You'll be committed for contempt." "Very well, I'll justly suffer, for I feel the utmost contempt for every lawyer present."

WHAT a blessing this change of wind is. "A green Yuletide," says an old proverb, "makes a fat kirkyard." That the Registrar-General's statistics have disproved the truth of this saying everyone knows, but all the same, a warm winter, or, indeed, unseasonable weather, at any time is bad for business and sport alike.

"THE Loch Lomond Angling Improvement Association," says the *Glasgow Evening Times*, "will be glad to hear that it has been relieved of one of its deadliest enemies in the shape of an enormous pike weighing close on 18lb. Two Jamestown gentlemen, while out duck shooting the other day, observed the fish resting salubriously in about a foot of water on the western shore, near the Frin. A plan of attack was formed, and by strategic movements his lordship was confined to shallow water. Several 'pot shots' were taken with a rifle, the third 'dose' causing wounds and excitement. A desperate *mêlée* ensued, in the midst of which Mr. Pike was rendered unconscious by a blow from an oar. I have the feeling that pike shooting will take on."

A CERTAIN large publishing house records the following experiences when asked for certain books:

WHAT THEY ASKED FOR.	WHAT WAS WANTED.
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Worcester's Diseases of the	Worcester Diocesan Calendar.
Callender	
The Treacle of Storm	In the Track of the Storm.
Photo Frames, 1895	Photograms, 1895.
Nobody Born	Nobly Born.
Stories from a Diary Adopted	(Stories from the Diary of a Doctor.
Aces and the Apostles of Cambridge	(Acts of the Apostles, Cambridge Bible.
God Aim us by a Farmer	Gaudemus. By Farmer.
Jewel Logs by Simpsons	Duologues. By Simpson.
Thoughts for Washing Days	(Thoughts for Working Days.
Gourdal's Cart in Lecture	Candle's Curtain Lectures.
Nancy's Voyage to Greenland	(Nansen's Voyage to Greenland.
River Frozen, Silent Gold and	Rev. Fraser's Silent Gods
Unsteeped Lands	and Sunsteeped Lands.
Carbonical Club	Carbuncle Club.
Play Actress, and Cricket in the	Play Actress. By Crockett.
Pandemonium Library	Pseudonym Library.
Charlotte in Loveliness	Charlotte's Inheritance.
How to make a Hand Camel	(How to make a Hand Camera.
Alice and her Mistress	Alice, or the Mysteries.
Birth and Growth of Worms	(Birth and Growth of Worlds.
Founders and Heretics	Frondes Agrestes.
Key to Carving and Analysis	(Key to Parsing and Analysis.
Pharaoh's Life of Christ	Farrar's Life of Christ.
Brown Antimacassar	Brown Ambassador.
Frenchie Owen	French Heroines.
Across the Russian's Nose	Across Russian Snows.
Morgan's St. Paul in Brighton	(Morgan's St. Paul in Britain.
Oxford and Cambridge Gladiators	(Oxford and Cambridge Galatians.
Can Bridge of the Timothy and the	Cambridge Bible, Timothy and Titus.
Titus	
C. B. Genius, or Generous, or some	Cambridge Bible, Genesis.
such thing	(Miracles of Modern Spiritualism.
Marbles of Modern Speculation	
Think of the Mighty, or Sinks of the	Seats of the Mighty.
Mighty	
Boy Hero of Walthamstow	(Boy Hero. By Welsham How.
Improver's Story	Improvisatore.
Sweet Story of the Piptuagint	(Sweetie's Story of the Septuagint.
Handbook to Orkney's Shorthand	Handbook to Orkneys and Shetland.
Telephona in Love	Tryphena in Love.
Ince on Wills	Hints on Wills.
Lorna Dorne	Lorna Doone.
Ex an Orphan. By So Fockles	Xenophon. By Sophocles.

WINTER OF DISCONTENT.

I've done a lot of fishing
In salt water and fresh,
And now atisha! tishing,
Am ordered to secesh.
But when the dismal day arrives
To punt me on the shelf,
A nuisance to my relatives
Will be my wretched self.
Recounting all I ever did
In piscatory way
Till they, in desperation, bid
Me "Shut up! Go away!"
And having thus been brought to book,
An antiquated bore,
I'll shrivel up and take my hook
To quite another shore.
A passenger in Charon's punt,
Across the river Styx,
When the time comes for me to shunt
Without my bag of tricks.—GOOSESTEP.

I AM sure all anglers will sympathise with Mr. Charles Hussey in the loss he has sustained by the death of his mother. The deceased lady was the daughter of a Waterloo officer, and had been an invalid for a long time. She was in her eighty-fourth year. DRAGNET.

"COMING OF AGE."

WE have much pleasure in recording the coming of age of Miss Florence Elise Williams, daughter of Mr. Alfred Williams, a member of the well-known firm of Messrs. S. Alcock and Co., Standard Works, Redditch, which took place on Jan. 20.

In continuance of the festivities on this occasion, Mr. Alcock invited about a hundred of the staff, heads of departments, &c., employed at the works, to an entertainment ball at the Temperance Hall on Friday evening. The room was tastefully decorated for the occasion, and a good programme of music, both vocal and instrumental, was provided, under the management of Mr. Albert Stratton, who, during the evening, asked Miss Williams to kindly accept a gold chain bracelet (which had been subscribed for by the staff at the works) as a memento of that day. He was sure that wherever her future life might lead her, she would always entertain a kindly recollection of those who had spent so many years in the service of her father and grandfather.

Miss Williams briefly returned thanks for the present, and also thanked Mr. Stratton for his kind words, which she should ever remember.

ABBAY MILLS SICK BENEFIT SOCIETY. (WM. BARTLEET AND SONS.)

THE annual meeting of this society was held on Monday, Jan. 23, Mr. H. S. Bartleet (president) in the chair. Mr. E. R. S. Bartleet was also present.

The chairman congratulated the members upon the work of the society for the past year, and also upon the excellent financial position, the sick pay having been less than the previous year. He trusted the coming year would be equally prosperous, both as to trade, which during the past year had been good, and also that the health of the workpeople would be as satisfactory.

Mr. E. R. S. Bartleet, in returning thanks for the election of Mr. H. S. Bartleet as president, and himself as vice-president of the society, expressed a hope that during good times they would not fail to make some provision for times of depression, which might possibly arise in consequence of war or other causes over which neither master or workpeople have any control. From the statement of accounts of the benevolent fund in connection with the society, it appears that the income, including the balance brought forward last year, was £42 12s. 10d., and that grants had been made of £10 10s. to the Hospital Saturday Fund, £1 4s. to the Nursing Association, £2 2s. to the Eye Hospital, and £7 to necessitous cases amongst the workpeople. It was resolved to make grants of similar amounts for the present year, and to leave the amount to be contributed to the Hospital Saturday Fund to the discretion of the committee at the time of the collection. The various officers and committee were elected, and a vote of thanks to the chairman concluded the business of the meeting.

LONDON WATER SUPPLY.

(From the *Daily Telegraph*, Jan. 17.)

When the Royal Commission, presided over by Lord Llandaff, resumed their sittings yesterday at the Guildhall, Westminster, Mr. Balfour Browne, Q.C., on behalf of the London County Council, took exception to the holding of a separate inquiry by Col. Rathbone, who has been appointed an assistant commissioner, as to the cost of the Welsh scheme of the County Council and the Thames storage scheme of the companies, in view of the fact that the former scheme had been submitted to Parliament, which would have to determine upon it. The chairman stated that the commission had had a vast number of conflicting estimates of the cost of the two schemes, and, inasmuch as it would be a task of infinite detail and considerable labour to criticise and compare these statements, it was intended to refer them for examination to Col. Rathbone, who would have before him the evidence already given. Continuing his evidence in support of the engineering case of the water companies, Mr. Charles Hawksley stated that the charges for high service made by the London water companies were little or no higher than those made by local authorities. When the fittings for constant service were complete and in proper order throughout London, he believed that by means of the regulations already in force the companies could reduce waste to such an extent that twenty-five gallons per head of the population per day would be an ample water supply for London. Except that the water examiner should be armed with express power to enter upon the works of the companies for the purposes of his investigations, no further public control was desirable either in the interests of the water consumers or the ratepayers. Whilst an amalgamation of the eight companies into one strong body might to some extent improve the position, he did not think it would result in any very great advantage, having regard to the fact that each of the companies was already very large. Cross-examined by Mr. Balfour Browne, for the London County Council, he expressed the opinion that it would not cause any injury to the flow of the Thames if 400,000,000 gallons of water were taken from it daily for the supply of the metropolis. Evidence to a similar effect having been given by Mr. E. M. Eaton, the commission adjourned until to-day.

(From the *Echo* of Jan. 19.)

It was hardly likely that the London water lords would go comfortably off to sleep while all the best heads in the municipality are working at the problems of purchase and supplementary supply. Indeed, to do the companies justice, they have lost no time in preparing for the struggle, and bending all their force to resist the new Bills from the earliest stages. Their witnesses talk expansively before the Water Commission in a confident fashion that might

deceive the very elect, if the elect were not reasonably convinced of the superior virtue of figures to special pleading. The Thames Valley supplies depleted, the poor Lea reduced to its lowest terms? Nothing of the kind say the prophets of smooth things. These two inexhaustible streams can easily supply, not only the London of 1899, but the prospective London of 1940 or 1950. And naturally they do not overlook the shamefully oppressed farmers of Wales. Emissaries of the companies are discovered in the pleasant valleys, quietly nursing revolt. Surely the Welsh farmer will not allow himself to be dispossessed by the rapacious County Council of a far-off Metropolis? Is it not an outrage on the liberty and the ancient rights of those who till the soil? And so the small farmer is sympathetically tended. His hypothetical grievance is carefully enlarged upon. He is treated with a liberality that speaks volumes for the disinterested motives of the water companies' agents. He is even brought to London in troops, and by special train, to support the protesting memorial in person. And the days occupied in the examination of the Bills are made to pass agreeably by means of dinners and the delights of music and drama. It was ever so. The children of darkness are wiser in their generation than the children of light. The public purse is not available for this sort of hospitality. True the right side wins in the end. But, unfortunately, the "resources of civilisation" provide its opponents with weapons of a peculiarly subtle and effective kind.

THAMES ANGLING PRESERVATION SOCIETY.

MR. HARRY L. W. LAWSON, J.P., L.C.C., &c., was unanimously elected president of the above society at a specially convened meeting of the executive committee, who met on Jan. 25 under the chairmanship of Mr. Alfred Nuthall, J.P. The future officers of the society therefore will be—H. L. W. Lawson, Esq., L.C.C., &c. (president); A. Nuthall, Esq., J.P. (chairman of committee); T. Crumplen, Esq. (vice-chairman); H. W. Higgins (hon. sec. and hon. treasurer).

Notes from the North.

THE snowstorm of last week has again ended in a rain-storm, and the rivers and streams have been running mountains high. Frosts have been very frequent and continuous in the upper part of the valleys, and curls have been again wielding the broom. On Saturday, however, the ice gave way, and anglers on the far north streams again got out a line.

The death of Professor Henry Alleyne Nicholson, of Aberdeen, will be received throughout the scientific world with regret. Professor Nicholson was a master in whatever science he took up, but natural history was his forte. In the matter of establishing a marine aquarium at Aberdeen the late Professor entered heart and soul into the concern, and in this respect alone his removal at the early age of fifty-five is a severe loss to pisciculture. In the beginning of May, 1882, he succeeded Professor Cossar Ewart in the Natural History Chair, and, notwithstanding his many engagements, found time for considerable original research. He was author of nearly thirty separate works, besides numerous contributions to zoological and other journals.

Mr. W. S. Bruce, who accompanied the Dundee Arctic expedition 1892-3, and served as naturalist to the Jackson-Harmsworth expedition, has just returned from a voyage to the Greenland seas.

On Friday last the judges of the First Division of the Court of Session—the supreme Scottish tribunal—affirmed Lord Kyllachy's judgment in the Spey pollution case against Roderick Kemp, Macallan distillery, Elgin.

A fresh snowstorm has been raging since Sunday, and snow is falling thickly as I write (Jan. 24). I am glad to see it, and hope it will harden up a bit among the hills. The more the merrier for the spring fishing.

With the opening of the salmon angling season finnock and sea trout also come under the chances of the angler. There is a run of finnock and sea trout contemporary with the early spring salmon, and many a jolly basket is made on the tidal waters by those who know the lies.

The Don was once one of the most prolific finnock reaches in the north, and more than one local angler made a good hit at the job—pot-hunting, of course. When the fish were thick, 40lb. of a morning was no unusual thing for the expert tidal fisher.

In the very early days the worm is a most deadly lure on the tidal reaches, and used by those who know how to place it, it is simply irresistible. The Devon and tube, white and red, are the next best lures, and on a fine sunny day the March Brown of a large size.

The fly is the best all-round spring lure, and of the plainest sorts and largest irons. In a river of "grue" and snow broth the Phantom works well, and in a heavy water nothing else should be tried. SPECIAL SCOTCH.

TO SPORTSMEN—Burberrys, of 30, Haymarket, London, are now offering, at half price, their 1898 model and stock sporting garments, in gabardine, combination, and rain-proofed tweed; shooting coats, 20s. 3d. and 31s. 6d.; breeches, 15s. and 21s.; Burberry capes and long overcoats, 31s. 6d.; farmers' overcoats, 15s.; Scotch stockings, 2s. 9d. Sent on approval on receipt of cheque covering.

Provincial Notes

FROM BIRMINGHAM AND DISTRICT.

The annual meeting of the Birmingham Anglers' Benevolent Society was held at the Birmingham Arms Hotel, Smithfield, on Thursday evening last, Jan. 19. Mr. T. Coles presided, and Mr. C. White occupied the vice-chair. The minutes and work of the committee transacted since July last was placed before the meeting, and accepted without comment. The secretary, Mr. J. Rahone, gave in a report of the financial position of the society, which went to show that since July last the sum of £23 12s. 6d. had been paid out in death claims, the amount of money in hand at the present time amounted to £246 0s. 4½d. The late *soirée* would result in the sum of about £7 being added to this fund; the numerical strength of the society was about 700 members. The report was received and adopted as very satisfactory. The election of officers resulted in the following being appointed: President, Mr. T. Coles; vice-president, Mr. C. White; treasurer, Mr. C. White; secretary, Mr. J. Rahone Messrs. J. Hughes and H. Tullett, trustees; and auditors, Messrs. Foster and McMullen; committee, Messrs. Dearne, Bagley, Hopwood, Jolly, Holding, Shale, Foster, Wright, Egerton, Bailey, McMullen, Ainge, Barton, Gilman, Pearsal, Perks, Glover, Daws, Wilcox, and Bullock. The committee will be appointed to the various divisions at the next meeting. A vote of thanks to the president and committee for their past services brought the meeting to a close. The Severn Fishery Board have just issued their annual report, the financial portion of which goes to show that there has been a falling off in the income, which shows an adverse balance of £67 3s. 1d., notwithstanding that £150 has been transferred from the deposit account. This is very much to be regretted, as it has brought about the discharging of four water bailiffs. The action of the anglers not taking out the trout licences for taking coarse fish is strongly commented upon, and it is stated that a case has been granted on the question in connection with the late case which was tried at Shrewsbury some weeks ago. Although a case has been granted, it does not state that it will be taken to a higher court. The next meeting of the board will no doubt decide upon the matter. Salmon and trout take up the major portion of the report, and nothing is mentioned as to the close time for coarse fish. The board met on the 26th inst. at Birmingham, a report of which I will forward for your next issue. The Vine Unity Society, at their special general meeting held on Jan. 18, unanimously decided to form a fund for the preservation of specimen fish caught by their members. The scale of sizes for the fish to be set up are as follows: Roach, 11lb. 6oz.; perch, 11lb. 8oz.; bream, 5lb.; chub, 4lb.; dace, 10oz.; and pike, 10lb. It was also resolved to give prizes to those weighing-in the heaviest fish of the kinds mentioned. Several of the leading members promised some very valuable prizes, independent of which a framed diploma will be given to those weighing-in the heaviest fish in each class; the club offers £20 worth of prizes, and also are willing to pay a like sum per annum for a decent stretch of private water. The Cradley Association, which has just been formed, was visited last week by a representative of the Provincial Association, and found in every way properly constituted. A list of stations to which they require the privilege to travel to is in the hands of the sub-committee, and they will be in possession of their travelling cards in a very short time. The weather has changed for the best; from rain it has turned to a dry frost, which, I hope, will continue for some time. This will be suitable for pike fishing, and our members will be on the warpath as soon as convenient. All our rivers are up; but, should the present weather continue, by the time these notes are in print they may be fishable.

FROM THE FEN DISTRICT (LINCOLNSHIRE).

Roach fishermen continue to obtain excellent sport on the Fen waters; in fact, better bags are being made in some districts than were made in the autumn. One of the best streams, the Glen, continues to yield as good as any, and many visitors have turned their attention in that direction. It has not been a difficult matter to obtain a bag of 12lb. and upwards with paste baits, and on some lengths of the Witham, especially where the various tributaries join the main stream, even better sport has been had. The boisterous weather has again proved troublesome to pike fishermen, and little was done towards the end of last week. At the time of writing, however, trolling had again got into swing, and anglers report favourably on the condition of the waters and the activity of the fish. On all the principal pike streams rodsters have been busy since Monday. A Forty-foot subserber, on Tuesday, landed three fish weighing 12½lb., and another had a brace weighing 9lb.

FROM HULL AND DISTRICT.

The wet and stormy weather of the past week or so has prevented many of our local anglers from being out, and only a few fish have been shown at the different anglers' rendezvous, although the club members at the White Horse Hotel have had roach, going from 12oz. to 15oz. each, during the week; and Mr. A. Marshall, of the Central Hull Angling Society, showed one last week that scaled 1lb. 5½oz., from the upper waters of the river Hull. The best pike of the week recorded scaled 4lb. 12oz., taken by Mr. Jefferson near the Foulness Dam, Market Weighton Canal. A perch of 14½oz. was taken by Mr. J. Cheeseman on Monday, amongst other fish, whilst worm fishing at Dunswell. A nice catch of flounders and eels was also had on the same day near Cicey. At the February council meeting of the Hull Amalgamated Anglers' Association the question of netting the Stone-

ferry Reservoirs and turning the fish into the river Hull will be discussed, and a day fixed for the operations, a committee having already been selected. Several of our local societies have made their fixtures for their first match of the season. The Alexandra Angling Association have selected March 1 as their opening day, on Patrington Haven; and at the same place the Albion A.S. will commence their season on Good Friday. The George and Dragon A.S. held their annual dinner at headquarters on the 16th inst., the president, Mr. R. Green, occupying the chair, when the aggregate and other prizes were presented. Mr. C. Turner was the recipient of the society's gold medal for most points in the matches of the past season, Mr. J. Ashwell also receiving a gold medal for the best fish during the season, the rest of the evening being devoted to conviviality. The annual meeting also took place on the 16th of the Albion A.S., when Mr. J. Kelly was elected to the presidential chair, Mr. J. Walsh as treasurer, and Mr. G. Hastrop hon. secretary; and on the 17th the County Angling and Recreation Society held their annual meeting, and elected officers for 1899, Mr. J. Helm being re-elected president, Mr. H. Dewhurst treasurer, and Mr. J. Coates hon. secretary. The members of the Globe Angling Society dine together at headquarters on Feb. 3. The Hull Corporation Employers' A.S. held a most successful smoking concert on Monday evening. The officers elected for 1899 are: president, Mr. C. H. Clarkson; treasurer, Mr. J. Dick; and secretary, Mr. W. Pegg. The annual *soirée* and hall of the Hull Angling and Preservation Society will take place at the Central Hall, on Feb. 6. At the annual meeting, which took place at the White Horse Hotel, Mr. John Dickenson was reinstated in the presidential chair for 1899, which he so well and ably fills, to be assisted by Messrs. W. Cutting and C. Wurr as vice-presidents, and Mr. W. Hay as hon. secretary. The official report shows the income of 1898 to have been £64 6s. 9d., and after

deducting all expenses—rent of preserves, and cost of securing 12,000 fish from the Barmston Drain and turning into the river Hull—shows a balance in hand of over £36 to commence the present season with. The "Cutting" and "Turner" challenge cups will each be fished for at Ferrihy sluice, on the Ancholme, this season.

FROM LANCASHIRE.

The Stockport County Anglers' Association have just placed some large orders for consignments of fish, and are anticipating the successful transfer of same to their private waters at Edgeley Park. The association offer prizes for the heaviest fish taken by the members during the season, and at the recent annual dinner, held at headquarters, the distribution took place. The first three winning fish were taken from club waters, the fourth from Cheshire Mere. The successful prize winners are: Mr. F. W. Williamson, roach, 1lb. 1½oz.; Mr. T. Cheetham, carp, 1lb. 10z.; Mr. John Lakin, trout 8oz.; Mr. D. Fielding, pike, 4lb. 5oz. The president of the association, Councillor Joseph Broadhurst, took the chair. The Ben Brierley A.S., Moston, have recently held a most successful annual business meeting at headquarters. The following are the officers for the ensuing year: President, Mr. Geo. Jackson; vice-president, Mr. A. Jeffrys; treasurer, Mr. Geo. Richardson; secretary, Mr. R. Cox. This club is now in a thoroughly sound condition, both numerically and financially. The Royal Walton A.S. recently held a meeting at headquarters, Barnes Green, Blackley, for disposal of important business and to elect the new executive for the ensuing season, which is as follows: President, Mr. M. Thompson; vice-president, Mr. J. Butterworth; treasurer, Mr. W. Roberts; secretary, Mr. J. Holmes. The private waters of the society are being replenished with consignments of mature coarse fish, and some 2000 are shortly expected to arrive for this purpose.

FROM MANCHESTER.

The Welcome Anglers have recently closed their club year with a most satisfactory balance-sheet, and every prospect of "good times" and increased membership in the ensuing season. A report is to hand of an important meeting held on the 24th at headquarters, Vulcan Inn, Clarendon-street, Hulme. There was a good attendance of members, and after going through some minor details, the question of revising the rules was discussed. Five new members were added. The following are the officers for the ensuing season: President, Mr. W. Hawkins; vice-president, Mr. J. Lloyd; treasurer, Mr. J. Swift; secretary, Mr. F. W. Garner. The fifth general meeting of the Lancaster A.S. was held on Jan. 18, at headquarters, the Lancaster Hotel, Stockport-road. The society is gradually increasing in strength, two new names being enrolled. A rather extensive programme is down for the coming season. The Sun A.S. has started 1899 on entirely new lines, and held an important meeting recently for the purpose of compiling fresh rules, notably those to govern a fishing match for the funds of the organisation. The officers are: President, Mr. Ridings; vice-president, Mr. Stafford; secretary, Mr. Ashworth.

FROM NOTTINGHAM.

The Trent has again been running in flood, and no fishing has been possible throughout the week. On Friday, at Beeston, Mr. James Lee, of that village, caught about 16lb. of roach and perch; and on the following morning a few choice roach were killed at Wilford, on the gravels, near the old barbel swim adjoining Jarvis's wall. In the afternoon, members of the Shoulder of Mutton Association engaged in a competition at Staythorpe, but failed to land a single fish. The weather turned out fearfully bad, and since Saturday night the river has been in a state of flood.

STATIONS AVAILABLE TO ANGLERS BY PRIVILEGE TICKETS.

ADDLESTONE (Wey), D, Surrey, 21; 2s. 3d.
ALTHORNE (Crouch), A, Essex, 36; 3s.
AMBURLEY (Arun), F, Sussex, 5s. 8d., 54 (By Eldridge's Excursion, 2s. 6d.).
AMERSHAM (Mishbourne), I, Bucks, 23½; 2s. 3d.
AMPHILL (Lakes), G, Beds, 44; 4s. 4d.
ADLEIGH (Stour), A, Essex, 46; 4s. 9d.
ALESAY (Ivel), E, Beds, 37; 3s. 11d.
ASHURST (Medway), F, Kent, 32; 3s. 4d.
AUDLEY END (Cam), A, Essex, 44; 3s. 6½d.
AYLESBURY (Thames), H, I, Bucks, 48; 3s. 8d.
BAZOOMER MILLS (Ouse), F, Sussex, 50; 5s. 6d.
BATTLEBURST (Crouch), A, Essex, 29; 2s. 4½d.
BEDFORD (Ouse), G, H, Beds, 50; 5s.
BERKHAMPTON (G.J.C.), H, Herts, 28; 2s. 11d.
BILLYCAY (Chelmer), A, Essex, 26; 2s.
BILLINGHURST (Arun), F, Sussex, 44; 4s. 8d.
BIGGLESWAD (Ivel), E, Beds, 41; 4s. 4d.
BISHOP'S STORTFORD (Stort), A, Herts, 33; 2s. 7d.
BLAKE HALL (Roding), A, Essex, 21; 1s. 9½d.
BLUNTISHAM (Ouse), A, Hunts, 74; 5s. 2d.
BLETOLEY (Ousel), H, Bucks, 46½; 4s. 11d.
BLUNHAM (Ouse), H, Beds, 68; 5s. 3d.
BOTTISHAM, A, Cambs, 61½; 5s. 1½d.
BOURNE END (Thames), B, Berks, 28½; 3s.
BOX HILL (Mole), O, F, Surrey, 22½; 2s. 8d.
BOXMOOR (Oanal), H, Herts, 24½; 2s. 6d.
BRAINTREE (Blackwater), A, Essex, 45; 3s. 10d.
BRAUGHING (Rib), A, Herts, 30½; 2s. 7½d.
BRANDON (Little Ouse), A, Suffolk, 86½; 7s. 3½d.
BRIKET WOOD (Colne), H, Herts, 22; 2s.
BROXBORNE (Lea), A, Herts, 17½; 1s. 6d.
BUNTINGFORD (Rib), Herts, 33½; 2s. 11d.
BURNS (Stour), A, Suffolk, 54; 4s. 8½d.
BURNHAM-ON-OROUER, A, Essex, 39; 3s. 3d.
BURN FEN (Little Ouse), A, Suffolk, 77½; 6s. 6d.
BURN MILL (Stort), A, Essex, 25; 1s. 11½d.
BUSHEY (Colne), H, Herts, 16; 1s. 8d.
BYFLEAT (Wey), D, Surrey, 21½; 2s. 3d.
CASTLE HEDDINGHAM (Colne), A, Essex, 56½; 4s. 11½d.

CHAPPEL (Colne), A, Essex, 50½; 4s. 2½d.
CHALFORD ROAD (Mishbourne), I, Bucks, 22; 2s.
CHEDDINGTON (Oanal), H, Bucks, 36; 3s. 9d.
CHESHAM (Chessa), I, Bucks, 27; 2s. 5d.
CHELMSFORD (Chelmer), A, Essex, 29½; 2s. 6½d.
CHESHUNT (Lea), A, Herts, 14½; 1s. 2d.
CHERTSEY (Thames), D, Surrey, 22½; 2s. 4d.
CHIGWELL LANE (Roding), A, Essex, 13½; 1s. 1½d.
CHILTERN GREEN (Lea), G, Herts, 27; 2s. 10d.
CHOBLEY (Thames), B, Berks, 43½; 5s. 1d.
CHOBLEY WOOD, I, Bucks, 20; 1s. 10d.
CLARE (Stour), A, Suffolk, 62; 5s. 3d.
COEHAM (Mole), D, Surrey, 18½; 2s.
COLCHESTER (Colne), A, Essex, 51½; 4s. 4½d.
COLNE (Colne), A, Essex, 37½; 4s. 6d.
COLNEBROOK (Colne), E, Bucks, 16½; 1s. 8d.
COOKHAM (Thames), B, Berks, 25½; 2s. 10d.
COWDEN (Medway), F, Kent, 29; 2s.
CROMER, A, Norfolk, 189; 10s.
DATOHET (Thames), D, Bucks, 28½; 2s. 3d.
DOWNHAM (Ouse), A, Norfolk, 86½; 7s. 3d.
DORRING (Mole), C, F, Surrey, 26; 2s. 8d.
EARLSWOOD (Lakes), F, Surrey, 21½; 2s.
EAST GRINSTEAD (Medway), F, Sussex, 30; 3s. 6d.
EAST FARLEIGH (Medway), C, Kent, 44; 4s.
EABITH BRIDGE (Ouse), A, Hunts, 76½; 5s. 4d.
EDENBURGH (Eden), O, F, Kent, 33; 2s. 8d.
EGHAM (Thames), D, Surrey, 21; 2s. 3d.
ELY (Ouse), A, Cambs, 70½; 5s. 11½d.
ELSTREE (Reservoirs), G, Herts, 12; 1s. 8d.
ELSENHAM (Oam), A, Essex, 38; 3s. 0½d.
ENFIELD LOOK (Lea), A, Middlesex, 12; 1s.
EPPING (Roding), A, Essex, 17; 1s. 5½d.
ESHER (Mole), D, Surrey, 14½; 1s. 6d.
FAMERIDGE (Crouch), A, Essex, 35; 2s. 10d.
FLITWICK (Ivel), G, Beds, 40; 4s. 2d.
FORREST LOW (Medway), F, Sussex, 39; 3s. 6d.
FULWELL (Thames), D, Middlesex, 12½; 1s. 4d.
GORING (Thames), B, Oxford, 44½; 4s. 9d.
G. CHESFORD (Cam), A, Essex, 48; 3s. 10½d.
GREAT MARLOW (Thames), B, Bucks, 35½; 3s. 2d.
G. MISSENDON (Mishbourne), I, Bucks, 20; 2s. 9d.
GUILDFORD (Wey), O, D, Surrey, 28½; 3s. 2d.
GUNTON (Broadas), A, Norfolk, 183; 10s.

HADHAM (Ash), A, Herts, 25½; 2s. 3d.
HALSTEAD (Colne), A, Essex, 62½; 4s. 8½d.
HAMPTON (Thames), D, Middlesex, 14½; 1s. 6d.
HAMPTON WICK (Thames), D, Mdx, 14½; 1s. 2d.
HARLINGTON (Tod), G, Beds, 37; 3s. 11d.
HARLOW (Stort), A, Essex, 26½; 2s. 1½d.
HARPENDEN (Lea), E, G, Herts, 27½; 2s. 7d.
HARTFIELD (Medway), F, Sussex, 42; 3d. 6d.
HATFIELD (Lea), E, Herts, 17½; 1s. 10d.
HATFIELD PAVEL (Chelmer), A, Essex, 36; 3s. 1d.
HAYWARDS HEATH (Ouse), F, Sussex, 37; 4s.
HEVER (Eden), F, Kent, 27; 2s. 10d.
HIGH BARNET (Brent), E, Herts, 11½; 1s.
HENLEY (Thames), B, Oxon, 35½; 3s. 9d.
HERTFORD (Lea), A, E, Herts, 24½; 2s. 6d.
HILGAY FEN (Ouse), A, Norfolk, 88½; 6s. 10½d.
HORLEY (Mole), F, Surrey, 25; 2s. 8d.
HORSHAM (Arun), F, Sussex, 37; 3s. 10d.
HORSTED KEYNES (Ouse), F, Sussex, 36½; 3s. 10d.

HUNSTANTON, A, Norfolk, 114½; 9s. 6d.
HUNTINGDON (Ouse), E, Hunts, 58½; 6s. 2d.
IROHESSTA (Ouse), G, Northampton, 61; 6s. 5d.
KILVEDON (Blackwater), A, Essex, 42½; 3s. 7d.
KING'S LANGLEY (Canal), H, Herts, 21; 2s. 2d.
KINGSTON (Thames), D, Surrey, 12; 1s. 3d.
LAKENHEATH (Ouse), A, Suffolk, 82½; 6s. 11½d.
LANGFORD HALL FISHERY (Blackwater), A, Essex, 44; 3s. 3½d. (Change at Witham).
LANGLEY (Canal), B, Bucks, 16½; 1s. 8d.
LEAGRAVE (Lea), G, Beds, 32½; 3s. 5d.
LEATHERHEAD (Mole), D, F, Surrey, 19½; 2s.
LIGHTON (Ouse), H, Beds, 40½; 4s. 2d.
LAWES (Ouse), F, Sussex, 50; 5s. 2d.
LINGFIELD (Eden), F, Surrey, 28; 2s. 8d.
LITTLEPORT (Ouse), A, Cambs, 76; 6s. 5d.
LOUGHTON (Roding), A, Essex, 12; 1s. 0½d.
LONG MELFORD (Stour), A, Suffolk, 61½; 5s. 2½d.
LOWESTOFT (for Waveney), A, Suffolk, 117½; 10s.

MAIDENHEAD (Thames), B, Berks, 24½; 2s. 6d.
MALDON EAST (Blackwater), A, Essex, 44; 3s. 3½d.
MALDON WEST (Blackwater), A, Essex, 3s. 2d.
MANNINGTREE (Stour), A, Essex, 59; 5s. 0½d.
MARCH (Nene, &c.), A, Cambs, 88; 6s. 4d.
MARDOCKS (Ash), A, Herts, 23; 2s.
MARK'S TAY (Colne), A, Essex, 47; 3s. 11½d.
MIDHURST (Rother), D, F, Sussex, 61; 6s.
MILDENHALL (Lark), A, Suffolk, 76½; 6s. 4½d.
MOULSFORD (Thames), B, Berks, 45½; 5s. 1d.
NEW BARNET (Brent), E, Herts, 94; 1s.
NEWPORT (Cam), A, Essex, 42½; 3s. 5d.
NORTH WALSHAM (Ant), A, Norfolk, 134; 10s.
NORTH WEALD (Roding), A, Essex, 18½; 1s. 8d.
OAKLEY (Ouse), G, Beds, 52½; 5s. 4d.
OFFORD (Ouse), E, Hunts, 55½; 5s. 10d.
ONGAR (Roding), A, Essex, 22; 1s. 11½d.
OXTED (Eden), C, F, Surrey, 21; 2s. 1d.
PADDOCK WOOD (Medway), C, Kent, 31½; 4s.
PANGBOURN (Thames), B, Berks, 41½; 4s. 4d.
PARK STREET (Ver), H, Herts, 22; 2s.
PONDER'S END (Lea), A, Middlesex, 10; 9d.
POTTER'S BAR (Colne), E, Middlesex, 12½; 1s. 3d.
PULBROUGH (Arun), F, Sussex, 50; 5s. (By Eldridge's excursions, 2s. 6d.).
RADLATT (Colne), G, Herts, 15; 1s. 7d.
READING (Thames), B, Berks, 35; 3s. 9d.
RED HILL (Lakes), C, F, Surrey, 20½; 2s.
RICKMANSWORTH (Colne), H, I, Herts, 22½; 1s. 9d.
ROYDON (Stort), A, Essex, 22½; 1s. 9d.
RUDGWICK (Arun), F, Sussex, 44; 4s. 2d.
RYE HOUSE (Lea), A, Herts, 19; 1s. 3d.
SANDY (Ivel), E, Beds, 44; 4s. 7d.
SAWERDEWORTH (Stort), A, Herts, 29; 2s. 3½d.
SELHAM (Rother), F, Sussex, 58; 5s. 6d.
SHALFORD (Wey), O, Surrey, 41; 3s. 2d.
SHARNBROOK (Ouse), G, Beds, 55; 5s. 5d.
SHEFFORD (Ivel), G, Bedford, 87; 5s.
SHEFFORD (Cam), A, Cambs, 55; 4s. 5½d.
SHENFOLD (Chelmer), A, Essex, 20½; 1s. 8d.
SHIPPARD (Thames), D, Middlesex, 18½; 2s.
SLOUGH (Canal), B, Bucks, 18½; 1s. 11d.
SLOUGHMINSTER, A, Essex, 40; 3s. 4d.
STAINES (Thames), D, Middlesex, 19½; 2s.
STANDON (Rib), A, Herts, 29½; 2s. 6½d.
STANTFORD (Stort), A, Essex, 33; 2s. 10d.
ST. ALBANS (Colne), E, G, H, Herts, 20; 2s. 1d.
ST. IVES (Ouse), A, Hunts, 70½; 6s. 2d.
ST. MARGARET'S (Lea), A, Herts, 20½; 1s. 8d.
ST. NANTS (Ouse), E, Hunts, 51½; 5s. 5d.
STOKE MANDREVILLE, I, Bucks, 37; 3s. 6d.
SUBBURY (Stour), A, Suffolk, 53½; 4s. 11½d.
SUNBURY (Thames), D, Middlesex, 16½; 1s. 8d.
TAPLOW (Thames), B, Bucks, 22½; 2s. 4d.
TEMPSFORD (Ouse), E, Beds, 47½; 4s. 11d.
THATONHAM (Kennet), B, Berks, 43½; 5s. 2d.
THETDON BOIS (Roding), A, Essex, 16; 1s. 2½d.
THRAE BRIDGES (Mole), F, Surrey, 27; 2s.
TILESHURST (Thames), B, Berks, 58½; 4s. 1d.
TRING (Reservoirs), H, Herts, 31½; 3s. 4d.
TURNERIDGE (Medway), O, Kent, 29½; 3s. 3d.
TWYFORD (Thames), B, Berks, 31; 3s. 3d.
UXBRIDGE (Colne), B, Middlesex, 15½; 1s. 7d.
VIRGINIA WATER (Thames), D, Berks, 23; 2s. 6d.
WALTON (Thames), D, Surrey, 17; 1s. 10d.
WALTHAM CROSS (Lea), A, Essex, 13; 1s. 1d.
WARE (Lea), A, Herts, 22½; 1s. 11d.
WATERBURY (Oam), A, Cambs, 61; 5s. 2d.
WATERBURY (Medway), O, Kent, 46; 4s.
WANDVOAR, I, Bucks, 33½; 3s. 9d.
WEST DAYTON (Colne), B, Middlesex, 18½; 1s. 5d.
WEST GRINSTEAD (Arun), F, Sussex, 45; 4s. 8d.
WEST MILL (Rib), A, Herts, 32½; 2s. 9½d.
WEYRIDGE (Thames), D, Surrey, 19; 2s.
WHITLESFORD (Oam), A, Cambs, 49; 4s. 2d.
WICKFORD (Crouch), A, Essex, 26; 2s. 2d.
WIDFORD (Ash), A, Herts, 24; 2s. 1d.
WINDSOR (Thames), B, Berks, 21½; 2s. 3d.
WITHAM (Blackwater), A, Essex, 39; 3s. 3½d.
WOKING (Basingstoke Canal), D, Surrey, 24½; 2s. 6d.
WOODHAM FERRIS (Crouch), A, Essex, 31; 2s. 7d.
WYALSBURY (Thms. & Colne), D, Bucks, 21½; 2s. 3d.
WYCKHAM (Broadas, &c.), A, Norfolk, 122½; 10s.
YALDING (Medway), O, Kent, 38½; 4s.
YARMOUTH (Bure, &c.), A, Norfolk, 121; 10s.



RAILWAY REFERENCES.

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|---|--|
| A. Great Eastern (Liverpool Street). | E. Great Northern (King's Cross). |
| B. Great Western (Paddington). | F. L. B. & S. C. (London Bridge and Victoria). |
| C. South-Eastern (Charing Cross, Waterloo Junction, Cannon Street, London Bridge, and New Cross). | G. Midland (St. Pancras). |
| D. South-Western (Waterloo). | H. North-Western (Euston). |
| | I. Metropolitan (Baker Street). |

Map shows the 18 new stations.

FROM SHEFFIELD.

At last we appear to have finished with the rain that has fallen so incessantly during the last month or so, and which has made matters so uncomfortable for anglers. The weather has turned very frosty, and if the cold snap will only continue, it will give the rivers a chance of running down a bit, and then anglers will look forward to better sport than they have recently had. Coarse fish anglers who have sought their recreation in the neighbourhood of Holmesford and Ambergate have fared pretty well, and in the canal bottom anglers have secured several nice roach and perch. Pike anglers in these parts have had poor sport. Up to the end of last week the Derwent and Wye were running much too high for grayling fishing, although in the Miller's Dale section of the Wye a few nice fish have been captured. At Darley Dale, too, bottom anglers have accounted for a few nice grayling with brandling worms. The Trent has come in for a good deal of attention, and now that the waters have receded anglers are doing very well amongst roach; whilst the Witham is rapidly improving, and is now beginning to afford first class sport amongst roach, whilst pike anglers are again having a look in. The Bain has provided several anglers with fish of very satisfactory size, and several well filled baskets have been taken from this stream during the past week. The proposed fishing match for £100, which is announced to be held during March, in Nickey Nook Reservoir, is exciting a good deal of interest amongst trout anglers in Yorkshire.

FROM WORCESTER AND DISTRICT.

All the rivers in flood, the country for miles along the Severn watershed, Teme, and Avon under water, and to-day (Wednesday) it is still on the rise. It is a long time since we had so high a flood in this district. Angling of course out of the question, but will be beneficial to sport in the long run.

FROM YORK AND DISTRICT.

The murmurings of discontent on the part of anglers on account of the weather reached a climax in general grumbings at the week-end, when the streams were running at great height, the flood waters reaching many feet above the summer level. On Sunday morning the Onse at York was 13ft. in excess of the ordinary depth, being the third time since Oct. 1, 1892, that a similar height had been attained. On that occasion 16ft. were registered. It follows, under these circumstances, that anglers have been obliged to forego their accustomed sport, and the reports show very little doing. The rivers ran down rapidly after Sunday, and with a crisp, frosty air, pleasant sunshine, and conditions other than that of the actual state of the waters being of an agreeable character, anglers were once more entertaining hopes of a better time, and of something like successful sport. The amalgamation of York anglers dined together at the Bay Horse, Marygate, on Saturday night, Capt. Key, J.P., presiding over a large gathering. The principal guest was Mr. Butcher, one of the city members, who, in responding to the Parliamentary toast, caused amusement by remarking that his colleague, Lord Charles Beresford, whose mission in China is just closing, possibly might bring home, amongst other discoveries, a new method of angling. Having referred to the abortive bill which he and the late Sir Frank Lockwood introduced with regard to fresh-water fishing, he said that if anglers wished it he would reintroduce it. The Bill would, if passed into law, advance the interests of anglers throughout the country. He ventured to tender this piece of advice, which he had read in an old book on angling: "The angler should practise courtesy to all his brethren, and be ever willing to lend a killing fly to a needy friend." The president, in acknowledging the toast of his health, referred to the Fresh-water Fisheries Amendment Bill, and said that he was pleased that Mr. Butcher would be willing to help them again. Mr. J. W. Blakey (Scarborough) proposed "Success to the Amalgamation." He urged the York organisation to devote as much money as they could possibly afford to the stocking of their rivers. He strongly deprecated the netting of the Onse for bait. An Act ought to be passed which would compel existing conservancies to preserve coarse fish, and prevent them applying the funds provided by the coarse fish anglers to the preservation of trout.

Correspondence

[We do not hold ourselves responsible for the opinions expressed by our Correspondents.]

LOUGH DERG QUERIES.

DEAR SIR,—In reply to the above in the *Fishing Gazette* of Jan. 21, the most direct route to Lough Derg is from Dublin by G.S. and W.R. to Nenagh, via Ballybrophy. Nenagh is five miles from Dromineer by car, and Dromineer is a central point on the Tipperary or east shore, where hotels and lodgings can be had. Lodgings and good fishing can be also had between Dromineer and Portmanna, the latter being the most northern point on the lake; and there are good hotels and lodgings to be found at Killaloe, the most southern point of the lake; and also at Mount Shannon, which is on the Galwey, or west shore, of the lake. Killaloe can be reached by rail from Nenagh.

If "Blatherwyck" wishes I shall be happy to give him further particulars by letter, and for that purpose send you my address, and, if "alive and well" next May, will let him know when the fly is up. I am in no way interested in any hotels or lodgings, and my information will be guided only by a desire to oblige a brother angler. Lough Derg holds large "schools" of rudd (locally

called roach), perch, and bream; but they are seldom fished for nowadays, except when they come to the shore and tributaries for spawning purposes.

I have killed bream in the Nenagh river of 7lb. weight, and good sport is sometimes had with perch, using live minnows for bait.

If duly "baited" for, I see no reason to doubt that rudd and bream fishing would give good sport, but up to date methods are unknown on the lake. I have often seen in warm, calm weather large numbers of both fish playing on the surface.—Yours truly, OIRMUHAN.

FISHING ON THE CASPIAN.

SIR,—I should esteem it a great favour if you or any of your numerous correspondents could give me any information as regards fishing near or around Baku, on the Caspian. Thanking you in advance for anything you can do for me,—I am, sir, yours truly. FERN SPRINT.

BOOMS.—THE GENTLE ANGLER!

SIR,—I venture to regret that you did not, by way of doing the writer a kindness and making room for more interesting matter, hold over Mr. Kirby's remarkable letter among the "several important letters" mentioned at the foot of the page on which it appears. That Mr. Payton's French spreader is—if Mr. Kirby permits me to speak as a "sea angler with a ha'porth of experience," as he very chastely puts it—extremely efficient is a fact that has stood the test of time, which, with all its possible excellence, Mr. Kirby's pattern has not. May we hope that he will ponder awhile on the peaceful countenance of his eighteenth century namesake (p. 39 of the *Fishing Gazette*, Jan. 21), and apologise to our most genial friend, Charles Payton.—Your obedient servant, Bournemouth. F. G. AFLALO.

SEA PATERNOSTER BOOMS.

DEAR MARSTON,—Many thanks for your kindly note at the foot of Mr. Kirby's extraordinary effusion, which must have gone far toward showing that gentleman that he was as mistaken in the ignorance and inexperience in sea fishing which he is pleased to attribute to me, as he is in his unqualified condemnation of the French wire booms, apparently without having seen them or tried them. In the face of so gratuitously uncourteous an attack, I think I had better say that I have no interest whatever in "booming" these booms, my stock of which far from "prehistoric" contrivances was purchased at tackle shops here, except some of the very finest kindly presented to me by an excellent French sea angler. But I have found, and still maintain, that they are not only simple, but effective, both for light and heavy sea fishing where booms are used at all, though for specially heavy work I recommend them to be made of a stiffer wire than the samples I sent you.

Some good English sea anglers have asked me for samples, and expressed an approval which I am sure actual use will justify. As to fishing up and down in still water, the anglers this side are famous for long casting. As to the killing of big fish, if any part of the tackle should give way during a tussle, I would bet it would not be the wire boom; and as to striking, perhaps I have had sufficient experience both in fresh and salt water angling to know when fish need striking and when they do not. The white metal, especially when dulled by use, is, I think, preferable to brass for clear water. These booms answered very well when I fished in December at Deal, where I found the anglers all polite, and therefore presume Mr. Kirby was not among them.—Yours very faithfully, CHAS. A. PAYTON.

WIRE SEA LINES.

DEAR SIR,—The secret is out, as I see our friend A. W. Parker is introducing these wire lines again to several of his friends. Of course he would see that there was nothing better. Did you ever know a fisherman run down anything that he had introduced as something new? Wire lines were tried just about the same time as gimp was made, and my late father was one of the first to manufacture this article. I have the machines by me now, but needless to say they are very antiquated in comparison with those of the present day. I am afraid that the old adage, "we are never too old to learn," applies to our friend A. W. Parker. Our fishermen here do not confine themselves to sitting on a pier with a rod and catching their 2oz. ponting, as is suggested by another writer, but their weekly catches are weighed by the ton, therefore I think they may be classed as fishermen of experience. We catch a few fish here, and it was not very long ago that one of our members of the B.S.A.S. (which society, by the bye, I was one of the founders of) caught in fourteen days, at Plymouth, 6wt. 1qr. 17lb. of fish, all edible; and I have had a letter from a gentleman who has been fishing at Appledore, who tells me that he and his man, fishing with fly rods and artificial baits, took in one year 3660 bass. I query whether he could have done this with a wire line.—Yours truly, Plymouth. WILLIAM HEARDER (B.S.A.S.).

SIR,—I notice in your columns a series of letters regarding the introduction of wire winch lines for sea fishing. Most of your correspondents seem to have entirely overlooked the fact that these lines are wholly and solely intended as winch lines for use with pulley tops on modern sea rods. Further, such lines have been introduced for one reason, and for one only, namely, to enable the sea angler to fish in deep water, where heavy tides prevail, with light leads. The reason why wire is a better material than either hemp, flax, or silk is twofold, viz., the specific gravity is infinitely greater, and the resistance offered to the rush of tide infinitely less.

The use of wire as a hand-line in the sea is not new, copper wire being employed for that purpose by the mackerel railers off Plymouth, and many foreign fishermen in the Mediterranean, off the Canaries, and other places. The objection hitherto existing to the use of wire line on the winch has been the liability that the first manufactured had to kink and then break. This most of us are of opinion has at last been overcome by the use of braided phosphor-bronze lines, and it would be as well if your correspondents who condemn wire lines were first to try one of these before pronouncing a definite opinion.

Some of them do not seem to have troubled to read what has already appeared on the subject. Thus "Viator," in your issue of Jan. 21, invites Mr. Parker to say how he likes wire used as a hand-line, an application which the latter gentleman has never recommended or, indeed, mentioned.

In return, I should like to ask "Viator" three questions:

1. What kinds of wire has he used?
2. How and where did he use them?
3. Has he troubled to try the new sixteen-strand braided phosphor-bronze winch line before condemning it?

The replies to these questions have no personal interest for me, but should be known to the readers of this paper, so that they may be able to form an opinion as to the value of "Viator's" letter.—Yours truly,

CHARLES S. PATTERSON.

DEAR SIR,—As one who believes there is a great future in wire lines, I consider that the writers up to date have not brought forward the real benefits to be derived from its use.

All sea anglers acknowledge that with flax lines (at certain tides) one has to use very heavy leads, and yet are unable to touch bottom. In company with Mr. A. W. Parker, I have tried the ginger beer wire, but found spring of same caused kink and breakage. During the last B.S.A.S. competition, while out with Mr. A. W. Parker in the Gull Stream off Deal, Mr. A. W. Parker using single phosphor-bronze wire, myself using fine cable flax line (at strong flood tide), Mr. Parker touched bottom easily with 2oz. lead; I experienced great difficulty with nearly 1lb. and most of line out. As I was sceptical of its value, having tried the other wire, Mr. Parker induced me to change rods, and I was converted at once.

Next day I called on Messrs. Ormiston, Old Street, E.C., and obtained ½lb. single phosphor-bronze wire, and following week visited Southend with Mr. Tucker, who, like myself, is very sceptical. After midday we fished off pier extension in a boat, with strong flood tide running. Mr. Tucker very soon had to give up fishing, while I continued with comfort (fishing with 2oz. lead), catching large pout and oodling. Result: another strong convert. On returning, I again called on Messrs. Ormiston, Old-street, E.C., and suggested the wire could be improved if we overcame the tendency to kink; and they recommended me the braided sixteen-strand phosphor-bronze wire, of which they made me 100yds. to test, and, up to the present time, I find it works splendidly. I would, therefore, urge all sea anglers to give the braided wire a trial; it makes fishing a real pleasure; there being no weight, does not hold water, line going straight down and up, and giving direct pull; only one must have a large wheel on rod top, say size of 6d., and, where possible, small counter sunk wheels along the rod, in place of rings, to save friction. Then, with ordinary care, they will agree that wire lines take most of the labour away from sea angling.—Yours truly, ARTHUR MIGNOT (B.S.A.S.).

SEA FISHING AT SOUTHEND.

DEAR SIR,—As a resident in Southend for many years, and ex-medical officer for the Borough, I should like to protest against the remarks of "Observer" in last week's issue. As to the fishing methods of your correspondent and his friends I know nothing, but I do know that the reports published in the *Fishing Gazette* both as to weather and fishing are absolutely correct, and I can further bear personal testimony to the care taken by your local correspondent to obtain the latest and most accurate information. Of course, anyone who knows Southend must be aware that the pier is not the best or nearly the best fishing station, and that although very good fish are often taken from the extension, the best come as a rule from the neighbourhood of the Low Way Bnoy. As to the basketing of immature fish, I am sure every sportsman will entirely agree with "Observer."—Yours faithfully, ALBERT MORRIS, M.R.C.S.

SEA FISHING AT SOUTHEND.

DEAR SIR,—Does your correspondent "Observer" mean to infer that Mr. Hussey's reports concerning fishing here are not correct. If so, I will venture to contradict him. I have known that gentleman for many years as an enthusiastic amateur sea fisherman, and know how carefully he inquires so as to get the information he sends you correct, no matter whether on pier or boat fishing. If you will insert this, you will oblige—Your obedient servant, FRANK MOORE (Boatman, Southend-on-Sea).

CAPTURE OF IMMATURE FISH.

DEAR SIR,—If anything could have given Southend anglers greater pleasure than "Dragnet's" visit, it is the fact that he has been good enough to testify in your widely-read columns to the manner in which so-called sportsmen basket undersized fish, or, as he humorously puts it, "dabs quite two inches in length." That in trying to put an end to this sport we should be assured of your sympathy and assistance goes without saying; but really it is difficult to see how such a desirable end

was to be attained, as ocular demonstration is necessary to realise the extent of the evil. A few, however good their intentions may be, could do little or nothing. Now that complaints have been made by "Dragnet" and "Observer" in your columns, and a personal appeal has been made to me in the matter, it has been decided, after consultation with Mr. Alderman Dennis, to formally approach the Mayor of Southend (F. F. Ramuz, Esq.) on the subject. That his worship personally will do all he can I feel certain, as he is a real good sportsman, but whether he and the corporation have power to interfere is another matter; the fact is, sir, we want a marine Mundella Act, or something of the sort, to deal with scandals of this kind. The damage done to sea fishing by line fishermen is, of course, trifling compared with that done by nets. On this subject I am collecting further information, which I hope to lay before your readers later on, but when one can buy soles at one penny per pair it is clearly necessary that the efforts which have been made in the past to prevent the capture of immature fish should be vigorously kept up if the next generation are to have any sea fish at all.—Yours faithfully,
CHARLES HUSSEY (B.S.A.S.).

THE STONE FLY, &c.

SIR,—I would be glad if you would allow me to say a few words re Mr. Malloch's letter, in your issue of the 21st inst., on the subject of the stone fly.

You may remember that in my letter to you of, I think, the 2nd inst., I wrote about the fly on its emergence from the caddis case. Now, at this period of its existence the fly is a helpless creature; true, it can crawl, but as for flying it is quite impossible, as its wings are not more than, I should say, a quarter of an inch long, and its body is heavy. Even at this early period of its existence as a stone fly, it is absolutely without cover of any kind. The fly remains under the stone, and does not emerge therefrom until it has reached maturity, but when it does come forth "on its own," it is difficult to recognise in the handsome creature the awkward and ungainly looking insect of a few days before. Now is the time it makes its way over the cobbles to the grass on the bank of the river, and when it gets there, if the weather is nice and warm, it is ever on the move.

I have watched it take to flight, which is in the direction of the wind, if there is any at the time; it takes this direction, I believe, not from choice always, but because it cannot help itself. Its flight is, as Mr. Malloch truly says, peculiar, sideways in fact. It does not appear to possess the power of changing the direction of its flight, always going in a bee-line; nor does its sight appear to be good when on the wing, for it meets with an obstruction it goes flop against it.

You will notice that Mr. Malloch in his letter does not introduce us to the fly until it has reached maturity, and so presumably he has yet to learn of its existence under the stones.

As to the statement about the back splitting and the fly crawling out, with all respect to Mr. M., the less said about it the better. I will only say I have at various times observed thousands of stone flies crawling about in the grass and up the stems, but I have never seen any back splitting going on, nor have I observed any covering on the insect at this stage of its existence, for the excellent reason its case had been left under one of the stones in the vicinity.

There is absolutely no affinity between the "creeper" and the stone fly, as, I submit, the results which I have already given you of my observations fully prove. I have a theory regarding the "creeper," but as it is only theory I withhold it.

You were therefore quite right in your statement regarding the larvæ of the stone fly, and I hope you will continue telling your readers, when necessary, that that larvæ is the caddis.—Yours sincerely,
J. HUDSON.

[Things are getting a bit mixed, so we hope to give in an early number illustrations of the Stone Fly and May Fly, and of their larvæ.—Ed.]

A CURIOUS TROUT.

SIR,—I think it may be of interest to your fishing readers, as well as to naturalists generally, to see some particulars concerning the 11lb. "trout" caught in Loch Tay on the opening day. The fish is bright, almost like a fresh run salmon. It is short in length, broad, and firm. The head marks on the cheeks, and absolutely straight tail, are distinctive salmon features, while the body has trout markings, and the fins are those of the "brown trout."

It seems to me to be a "hybrid"—perhaps someone can say whether this be so or not.—Yours truly,
Killin Hotel, Perthshire. ROBERT C. CLEPHAN.
[We see it stated in the evening papers that the fish was a bull trout.—Ed.]

FLAT FISH.

DEAR SIR,—There appeared in the *Fishing Gazette*, Jan. 14, p. 29, the outlines of a lecture upon "Flat Fish." Those dealt with were the most popular examples contained in two groups, those which have eyes on the right side, and those which have them on the left side of the head. The peculiar construction of the jaw was explained, both technically and in a manner likewise easily understood by the non-scientific portion of the audience by means of diagrams which the lecturer exhibited. The halibut was mentioned as being taken at great depths by long lines, and that the long, rough dab was like a turbot (halibut, if you please), but was distinguished from it by having fewer rays in the back fin. The turbot, "the pheasant of the water" (see pheasant, by the authorities), was of a tubby shape. One would have thought the

lecturer had before him the *Trigla hirundo*, the tubby, tubby, tubby, the sapphire gurnard. The brill, the lecturer informed the audience, resembled the turbot in every other particular except that the front of the back fin was not sloped down as in the latter, but stuck up like a cock's comb. It would have been far better to have shown the difference than the resemblance. The turbot being a round fish, smooth under surface, upper surface studded all over with osseous tubercles, and the whole fish totally free from scales; whereas the brill is an oval fish, the upper surface of the body is smooth, without any osseous tubercles, and dotted all over with beautiful pearly specks or stars, and both the upper and lower surface are a mass of scales. The dab and sole were next dealt with, instruction being given how to tell a true sole from a lemon sole. This sounds very scientific, seeing the difference in the two fish are so very positive, viz., the true sole in shape is an oblong oval body, thick and plump, all the upper side of the body is dark brown, scales edged with a deeper tint, the pectoral fin tipped with black, the under surface white. The lemon sole is wider in proportion than the common sole, but smaller in length, is nicely marked upon the orange-brown skin with spots of a rather pretty brown, some of a large size of ashy grey, and on the under side of the head some pretty blue spots; on the pectoral fin when spread out a black patch appears, looking like the wings of a butterfly. Our situation with regard to plaice is very cheering. All the large ones were not all caught as prognosticated in 1873, even if they do come from Icelandic coasts. That certainly was a remarkable and record catch those two founders by the lecturer—both the same weight, on the same day, in the same water, one being right and the other left eyed. In a former lecture it was stated that the bone of the garfish after being cooked turned green; it is naturally green, and seen best when the fish is fresh.

P.S.—Allow me to say, for and on behalf of myself and fellow "dabs," and others of the finny tribes, a word to those who feel so interested in our welfare inasmuch we should not be destroyed in our infantile days, that there is an Act, that appears to be unrepealed, on our behalf, it is the seventh section of the Act 1 Geo. 1, c. 18, where it is forbidden to bring to shore in England, sell, or expose for sale, or exchange for any other goods, any unsizable fish, that is to say: Turbot, 16in.; brill, 14in.; codling, 12in.; whiting, 6in.; bass or mullet, 12in.; sole, 8in.; plaice or dab, 8in.; flounder, 7in. I cannot ascertain whether this Act has ever been enforced, but we do hope all those who do object to us being taken so small will kindly keep these measurements to the front, and set the example by taking none of us less than the size set down for the future, as latterly there has been a deal of slaughter going on among our dear infants, and from remarks we hear made, with pleasure, when they change to another atmosphere.—Yours truly,
SMEAR DAB.

FISHING ON THE TORRIDGE.

SIR,—As I hope to spend a few days in April on the upper Torridge, near Shebbear, may I beg for some information? Is the trout fishing free, by ticket or by permission, and to whom must application be made? What flies are best in April, and are waders necessary or permitted? I should be extremely obliged for this and any other information.

I should also be very glad to know, on reliable authority, if Padstow is a good sea fishing station for August, and if at the same time salmon fishing can be worked.

In the all important matter of summer holidays "one who has been" to any given place is a better guide than "one who hears."—Faithfully yours,
H. F. DEVIS (B.S.A.S.).

THE MIDLAND COUNTIES' FISH CULTURE ESTABLISHMENT.

SIR,—As the rainbow trout has been brought before the public so prominently lately, the following may be of interest to your readers. A small chain of outlying ponds at the fishery here (not used as a rule) had trout placed in them some few months ago. The upper pond contained two-year-old *fario* and Loch Leven trout, the second *fontinalis*, the third rainbows about 7in. long, and the last three-year-old *fario*. Owing to the recent heavy rains, some sewage from an adjoining farm found its way into the upper pond through an old agricultural drain. The consequence was that of the trout in the first and fourth ponds many died, and the rest were removed just in time to save them. The rainbows and *fontinalis* do not appear to have suffered in the least; they feed as keenly as ever, and are thriving. This seems to suggest that there are many waters, which, owing to possible contamination, are unsuitable for our own native trout, yet might grow rainbow trout satisfactorily.

I may say my predecessor, the late Mr. Wm. Burgess, who was rearing rainbows here as far back as 1837, considered them well suited for stocking lakes and ponds.—Yours truly,
WALTER BAILY.
The Malvern Wells Fishery.

NETTING IN THE TRENT, NOTTINGHAM.

SIR,—I am sorry to say the case stated by your correspondent re the above, in your issue of Jan. 21, is only too painfully true. My society was formed some four years ago, one of its objects being to stop foul practices in the Trent, such as blowing up by dynamite, skull dragging, netting, &c. We give a reward of £1 to anyone giving information that will lead to a conviction of persons caught. Such reward was paid by my society to P.C. Bradbury, of Colwick, for taking two men blowing up fish in the water of the Colwick Park Race Committee; also to P.C. Marriott, of Lenton, for two men netting at

Beeston Bend—and we are still anxious to pay again for the conviction of these "spoilers"; but, sir, what are we to do if all anglers who observe these things, as "Working Man Angler" must have done, will not give the necessary information to convict these people? If your correspondent will make himself known to me I shall be much obliged to him.

I may say we are making full inquiries into the matter. Several letters have appeared in the *Nottingham Daily Guardian* upon the subject, one from Mr. Gaskell, president of the Wellington Society.

I may add that Mr. Eddowes, of the Trent Fishery Board, is only too anxious to prosecute if only proper evidence can be brought forward.—Yours respectfully,

HY. HOLLIS (Secretary Nottingham Anglers' Protection Association).

181, Denman-street, Radford, Nottingham.

THE LARGE TROUT FOR THE THAMES.

DEAR MR. MARSTON,—I laid the whole of the correspondence relating to the kind gift of trout, and placing of same in the Thames, before the executive of this society last evening, and I was instructed officially and formally to tender to you and Messrs. Corrie the best thanks of the society for the gift and the trouble taken to ensure the proper placing of the fish in their new home.—I am, dear sir, yours very truly,
H. W. HIGGINS
(Hon. Sec. Thames Angling Preservation Society).

Jan. 25.

FINS OF FISH GROWING AGAIN.

DEAR SIR,—Some time ago a friend and myself caught a number of small pike, spinning in private waters, and returned them marked in the following manner by cutting "one spine from the middle of the back fin," and have since then caught a large number from the same water, but never found one with the above mark.

Can you or any of your numerous readers inform me if you think it possible for the fin to grow together again? A reply through the *Fishing Gazette* will greatly oblige—Yours truly,
A. E. KEMP.

[There can be little doubt, we think, that the fins of fish which have been torn or cut heal up and grow together. We have a rather striking example in the shape of a small pike off which some larger relative had bitten not only the tail, but all the flesh and bones up to the dorsal and anal fins. Yet the wound had closed up, and a new tail was growing when the unlucky fish was killed by a heron. It was sent to us some years ago, and we had it carefully set up and put in a glass case. Dr. Günther, in his "Study of Fishes," refers to the power of fish to in some measure repair and even reproduce damaged or lost fins, and Dr. Francis Day, in his "British Fishes," says, "Fin rays, when broken, may again unite; if lost, they may likewise occasionally be reproduced, but often in an incomplete manner."—Ed.]

METHYLATED SPIRIT v. FORMALIN.

DEAR SIR,—In my letter of Dec. 17 I did not in any way disparage formalin as a bait preservative pure and simple. What I complained of was my inability, on repeated trials, to run pike with sprats preserved in it, although the baits themselves were in appearance everything that could be desired. I concluded something objectionable must be given off, which in some way caused the fish to fight shy.

Mr. J. Napier Sutton, in his interesting reply, put this down to the pike's uncertain times of feeding and its vagaries, and suggested the same result would have obtained if the order of baiting had been reversed. The motionless formalin bait deliberately seized and chewed under Mr. Sutton's observation supports this view, but I cannot accept it as conclusive.

I wrote in the hope that some of your readers had experimented after the fashion I did, and would give us their finding.

During the past twenty years I have used many kinds of baits, natural and artificial, and tackles of all descriptions, and I am satisfied that a medium sized sprat, preserved in methylated spirit, impaled on a good spinner (the Abbey Mills for choice) meets all the requirements, as a bait, of the pike spinner of the present day.—Yours faithfully,
ANTI-GORGE.

[Although we should not like to say it was the fault of the formalin, yet we thought it strange that when spinning for pike in a trout stream last summer, not a fish was taken with the sprat preserved in formalin, although it was tried for hours, and in water where we caught many pike with an artificial bait.—Ed.]

AVON AND ERME FISHING ASSOCIATION.

DEAR SIR,—The following notice will probably interest many of your readers who have fished in this part of the country.

At the annual meeting, held at Brent on the 13th inst., some of the rules were altered to the following effect:

On the motion of Mr. Hare, seconded by Sir Cuthbert Peek, Bart., it was resolved that day tickets should be abolished, that the price of weekly tickets be raised to 10s., of monthly tickets to £1, and of season tickets to £2, and that the number of season tickets (other than landowners' and occupiers' tickets) be limited to thirty, and that not more than two monthly tickets and five weekly tickets should be running at the same time.

It was also resolved that the present ticket holders of the association who apply to renew their tickets on or before Feb. 15 should be preferred to other applicants, and that all tickets should be issued by the secretary (C. E. Turner, Esq., Salcombe, Kingsbridge).—Yours faithfully,
F. HOWARD.

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NOTICE.

THE FISHING GAZETTE is published every Saturday, and can be obtained at Messrs. W. H. Smith and Son's Railway Bookstalls and of the principal Newsagents and Fishing Tackle Dealers in London and the Provinces.

Communications relating to the Literary Department, Fishing Tackle for Notice, Books for Review, &c., should be addressed to R. B. MARSTON, Editor of the FISHING GAZETTE, St. Dunstan's House, Fetter-lane, London.

Correspondents are requested to write on one side of the paper only, and give their real names and addresses, not necessarily as signatures to their letters, but as a guarantee of good faith. Unless this rule be adhered to no notice will be taken of such communications.

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The GAZETTE can be had by sending Postal Order or Stamps to Messrs. Sampson Low, Marston and Co., Limited, the Proprietors, St. Dunstan's House, Fetter-lane, London, to whom all money payments should be made.

For One Year, post free to any part of Great Britain and Ireland	10s. 6d.
„ Six Months ditto	5s. 4d.
„ Three Months ditto	2s. 8d.
To America and the Continent, annual subscription, including postage	12s. 6d.

Scale of Charges for Advertisements.

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Half Page	3 15 0
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TELEPHONE, No. 83 Holborn.

— The —

Fishing Gazette

WITH WHICH IS INCORPORATED

ANGLING AND CLUB GOSSIP.

SATURDAY, FEBRUARY 4TH, 1899.

SPRING SALMON LURES.

PROBABLY no subject occupies the mind of the early spring angler, next to that of where he is to fish, as that of what he is to fish with. Of course the fly is the lure of lures, and, in spite of all temptations to the contrary, still holds universal sway as the chief lure in the getting of salmon; but there are times and places when other lures can be substituted with more success, and he is very narrow indeed who does not recognise this, although from reasons best known to himself he may not practise it. That there are some keen sportsmen, and good all-round men to boot, who still stick tenaciously to the fly, and the fly alone, in season and out of season, goes without saying; but their ranks are thinning year by year, and in these later days have nearly reached vanishing point altogether.

It is very comforting to occasionally come across one of the very old school, and hear his affectionate eulogies on the supremacy of the fly, declaring his belief, confirmed by actual experience, that he can hold his own against all comers with the fly, and the fly alone, that he desires no other lure, and will have no other. We may not agree with him on the main question

even, but it is ours to listen and his to dogmatise; and when he breaks out on the demon of the minnow-can, the phantom and the Devon spinner, the prawn and the spoon bait fisher, he is really beautiful. What a field he has to tilt at, and how he does go at it! His arguments against his opponents' methods may be stale, may have been exploited long ago, may have been given up as untenable and one-sided, but in his mouth they are invested with a freshness which, if not convincing, is at least attractive, and commands a certain measure of sympathy.

As a rule the average up-to-date salmon angler prefers the fly, when the chances are in its favour, only calling in the services of the spinning rod as a rest, or under conditions which entirely put the fly out of court, such as a heavy water coloured deeply, or teeming with ice floes. When he does not interfere with his neighbour over the way, from the narrowness of the stream, or other cause, then he may suit himself; but, when a spinning bait disturbs the joint right in a common salmon pool, from the one using it and the other not, then it is only but courteous and sportsman-like, in the true sense of the term, to discard it and stick to the fly alone, purely out of regard to the other's sensibilities. Opinions on salmon and salmon angling lures will differ as long as the world lasts. There may not be much in the idea of disturbing salmon by putting a phantom over them, more than in disturbing them by jerking a large salmon fly after the same manner, as far as the salmon really are concerned; but as long as such an idea exists in the minds of gentlemen worthy of due respect, so long should such ideas be duly humoured by those sharing joint rights. We join issues with the dear old school thus far, and would urge upon all true sportsmen, when they find themselves thus placed, to stick to the line of least offence, and adopt the fly, and the fly alone, when there is any trouble likely to be caused in the opposite camp.

No better instance of the efficacy of the fly could be given than that which took place on a section of the Dee last spring. On the one side the Carlogie party used the fly, and the fly alone, and killed some sixty fish, most of them being got by Mr. Haslam, the lessee, and Mr. G. M. Kelson, his guest. The other side of the river was fished by three rods from "morn to dewy eve" with everything, yet they got little more than a third of the sport which Mr. Haslam's party secured, in spite of the persecution they were put to from the others "perpetually being in front of them with a shower of phantoms," as Mr. Haslam put it. That he was nettled in the extreme he did not try to hide, but he had to grin and bear, and take consolation from the fact that he was killing two fish to their one, in spite of their army of spinning baits.

This instance, without referring in the least to the merits of the case, is another proof that fish are not so easily scared as most anglers seem to imagine, and especially those who stick religiously to the fly, and the fly alone. It only shows that the fly was preferred to the phantom even in a small, clear water, and when dealing chiefly with potted fish, and that the prawn was nowhere (for it was also *en evidence*) under very favourable conditions for introducing it; and, above all, that neither the phantom, Devon, or prawn, used constantly by the one party, interfered much, if any, with the other's sport. It reminds us of the dictum of the late Mr. Fred Pickop (latterly Pickop-Dutton), a famous salmon angler of universal experience, wherever salmon were to be got, and money could purchase the right to kill them, that the popular idea of disturbing a salmon pool by fishing it with a spinning bait, or any other lure, was "bosh of the first water." He often put his belief into actual practice, and when the fish were "dour," and off the rise, he set his gillies to stone the pools to "stir them up," as he said, and was frequently successful in landing a fish within an hour of a good stoning. We have seen him at the job, and although we neither care to try it ourselves, nor recommend it to others, yet the fact remains all the same that Mr. Pickop rather liked disturbance than otherwise.

The number of spring flies is legion. If the apostolic 'plaint, that the making of hooks is a weariness of the flesh, holds good in the present age, truly the application of such a truism may without cavil be applied to the making of salmon

flies. Every district has its own *clientèle*, every river its own local patterns, and every gillie or keeper his own local favourites. Yet a goodly list of standard flies have held their own from time immemorial one might confidently assert, in spite of the eternal round of competition, and are universally adopted more or less wherever salmon are looked for. Of these, the best known are the Jock Scott, the Eagles (of various colours), the Akroyd, the Butcher, the Bumble, Childers, Druggist, Dunkeld, Durham Ranger, and other Rangers, Dusty Miller, Gordon, Highlander, Herons by the dozen, Jeannies, Jockies, and March Browns by the score; while the Popham, Rintoul, and the Doctors (silver, black, and grey) must not be omitted from any list; and white, red, and turkey wings will be found in almost every fly book, as they assuredly are in every salmon fly list.

There are over 200 named salmon flies known to Scotch anglers, and some forty or fifty of these more or less applicable to each of the more famous salmon streams, such as the Tay, the Dee, or the Spey; but we are confident that with an assortment of the various sizes, say, from 2 to 4/0 (half a dozen of each), of those named above, the early spring angler may risk going anywhere.

The same big patterns are not now so much in vogue as was once the case. At one time it was the current belief that nothing less than a 3in. or a 4in. iron would kill a spring salmon, and the idea of reducing the size of the lure as the temperature rose was little thought of. The general practice was to reduce the size of the fly as the season advanced; and with the advent of summer, or very small waters at any other time, to cease salmon angling altogether. Matters are better understood now at the waterside, and the season is not many weeks old till the smaller patterns are freely requisitioned. Of course, in frosty weather in heavy waters, and of an evening at all times, the largest patterns in the book or fly case must not be neglected.

In these northern altitudes there is a long twilight in the early spring time, called by some the "angler's chance," and very appropriately too, for it is often the only chance he gets in the round of the clock for days and weeks on end. Should he miss this last cast he misses the best chances of the day, and many experienced anglers will rather want their dinner for an hour than forego the opportunity of being at the waterside when the sun commences to dip into the western horizon, and for as long after as they can see to cast across the pool. It is then that a big Eagle (white), or a Gordon, or a Heron (with turkey wing) is requisitioned from amongst the largest patterns, in the book, and, betaking himself to the head of some favourite pool, he will carefully cover the dark and swiftly flowing current with just as much line as will reach over the fatal "lie." A flash in the growing darkness, a tug, and the bend of the rod proclaims to the expectant gillie that his prognostications of "a fish" are about to be realised. It is then that he forgets the relative positions of master and servant for the nonce, and assumes the command. It is then that familiarities are indulged in, nay, welcomed. The deepening gloom has whetted his local knowledge of the difficulties in the way; and the "keep up your rod here, sir," "mind your feet there, sir," "keep him off the other bank," "mind the kelpie-stone," "this side of it, sir," and so on, until the steel is home, and Sandy or Donald, knee deep, wades out with a wriggling, silvery beauty of 10lb. or so, and saves the day from another blank.

G. M.

THE LATE MR. WILLIAM BLACK.

"Not only by his novels did Mr. Black add to my enjoyment of life. He used to rent the Oykel for spring fishing, and invited me to go, weather permitting. The March weather did not permit; there was frost and snow. But heavy warm rain fell in Edinburgh, and I telegraphed to Brighton and went north, being joined by my host at Inverness. We had a week—delightful to me—together, in a little bleak lodge, separated from the road by the stream. She was in good order, and we actually caught salmon, shining from the Kyle whereby Montrose met his last defeat. Partly that I might have the best of it, partly

because he was rather languid from an illness, Mr. Black did not show much keenness. There was a gillie, as lithe, and nearly as long, as a salmon rod, who ran up to his cast as Mr. Kortright runs up to the wicket, and threw a monstrous long line. He could cover a swirl in the big pool which we could not dream of reaching, and always got a fish out of it. Mr. Black and I had one other difference: he was very light on a fish, whereas I believed in more strenuous measures, though never so hard on them as a lady of my friends, who drags a fifteen pounder forth with the scantest ceremony. The gillies sided with him, but in their hearts I suspected them of believing in the butt. That was one of the weeks which I should be glad to live over again."—Mr. Andrew Lang in *Longman's Magazine*.

BIG FISH IN AN OLD DUCK DECOY.

(Continued from page 56.)

FORTUNATELY I had a spare top joint to replace the broken one of the Captain's rod; so I fitted him up again with new snap tackle and a live bait, then left him to his own resources, and he was not long before he hooked and landed a 5lb. jack. My companion also was having sport; he had captured a couple of fair-sized pike, while I was trying round about likely looking pikey haunts with paternoster. My dace was very soon appropriated by what seemed to be a heavy fish, which, after some desperate trials to escape, giving me fine sport, I gaffed and landed—a fish of 17½lb., in perfect contour and condition. Thus we went on until past noon, when we saw coming across the park a lad with a basket on his arm, and an earthenware jar in his hand. This was our lunch, so we gave over fishing for awhile, and seated ourselves on the bole of an elm overthrown by winter storms, and enjoyed the meal sent us by the niece of the old Baltic captain.

Then followed the post-prandial pipe, with a "lubrication" (or two) of whisky, and we recommenced fishing. For more than an hour I tried the water alongside the sedges bordering the lake, when, on reaching the flood-gates, I got a fish of fair size. My companion meanwhile secured a couple just over the minimum weight, while the Captain caught nothing. Thus the time wore on until we were warned by a distant church clock that it was time to wind up lines, pack up rods, and return to our inn.

The close of the afternoon indicated a frosty night, and as we walked across the park next morning minute icicles glistened, gem like, amid silver traceries made by the hoar frost on the leafless trees. It was a fairy-like scene, dissipated all too soon when the sun gained altitude and diffused some warmth. Feeling sure that the big fish which had wrought such discomfiture to the Captain would most probably be somewhere near about where it had retreated on the previous day, I began fishing the deeps, and nothing would induce me to vacate the pool, where I fished on until noon, when, in the waters of my choice, I "struck ile," my roach was seized and savagely shaken, and the pike made for the island at a great rate. The fish went ahead without a pause until 60yds. of line were run off my reel, its automatic check all the while making that "music" so sweet to an angler's ears. Because of the partly submerged boughs and the sedges round the island I had to give the fish the butt and hold on, while my cane rod bent as if it must break; but it was made by Carter and Co., and it, with the salmon gut trace, stood the test stanchly. I ran along the bank, got a steady side pull on the pike, thus turning it, and then had it well in hand.

The fish made other but less impetuous rushes, and next a detour through the deeper waters of the lake, but I kept recovering and winding up line, and at length got a glimpse of the fish. I had hooked the monster pike the steward of the estate had previously told me of, which had many times been hooked, but always escaped by smashing his would-be capturers' tackles, so seeing the "tough customer" I had to fight and subdue, I played it with the tightest strain possible within the breaking strength of the line. This in time exhausted the fish, and I got it to the bank, when on leaning forward over the sedges with my gaff

it again made a desperate plunge to escape, but within another five minutes it lay, "dead beat," alongside the margin of the pool. It was much too beautiful a fish to disfigure by gaffing carelessly in its body, so I drew the point of the gaff into (but under) the pike's lower jaw, dragged it on to the green sward, "administered the priest," and laid the fish to rest among moss and ferns. Then my companions and I celebrated the capture by going through the usual ceremony, viz., "taking an observation" through the bottom of a tumbler, and I cared not for any more fishing that afternoon, but watched the others angle and capture some nice fish before we packed up rods and tackles. This big fish on reaching London weighed 30½lb. It was a female, in perfect condition, and for contour and colour the most elegant I ever saw. It measured 43in. in length, and 24½in. in girth. The "pikess" was preserved

SOME ILLUSTRATIONS FROM THE WYRESDALE FISHERY PROSPECTUS.

WE have to thank Captain Peter Ormrod, the very enterprising proprietor of the Wyresdale Fish Breeding and Rearing Establishment, near Garstang, Lancashire, for the loan of some very interesting illustrations from his New Price List and Prospectus of the Fishery.

Although the rainbow trout has been made a special feature of at the Wyresdale Fishery, we are glad to know, on the authority of Captain Ormrod himself, that the greatest attention is given to producing in large numbers our native trout of the best breeds. We notice in the price list, common trout, *Salmo fario* (the best trout in the world in our opinion) Loch Leven trout, sea trout, salmon, Windermere char, grayling, &c.; also



A VIEW OF THE LARGE LAKE, CLEVELEY.
(Wyresdale Fishery).

and set up by Messrs. Saunders and Son in their matchless way, and is acknowledged to be one of the best specimens that adorn anglers' club-rooms. It can be seen at the headquarters of the Serapis Angling Society, where also is a cast of it that was made by the late Frank Buckland, and painted to life by that clever artist, the late H. L. Rolfe.

ALFRED JARDINE.

BRITISH SEA ANGLERS' SOCIETY.

DR. C. S. PATTERSON will lecture on "Flat Fish" before the members and friends of the British Sea Anglers' Society on Wednesday evening next, Feb. 8, at their headquarters, Cannon-street Hotel.

the following coarse fish: Chub, roach, perch, and dace. So that all who are interested in fish culture, and have not yet seen this most interesting and admirably produced catalogue, should do so.

As a specimen of the illustrations we give a view on the large lake at the Cleveley Fishery, which is an extension of the Wyresdale Fishery. Certainly, Capt. Ormrod will have shortly, if he has not already, one of the largest and best equipped private fish breeding establishments in the world.

NATURAL FISH FOOD.

The following extracts and illustrations are also from the Wyresdale prospectus and price list, and give greatly magnified representations of minute forms of food which play an

immensely important part in the economy of fish life:

YOUNG TROUT:

HOW THEY FEED AND HOW TO STOCK THEM.

"Very little being really known about what constitutes the main food of trout and char fry and young trout up to, say, the first six months of their existence, a few remarks on this point may be helpful in finding out the times and places best adapted for the planting of the different trout kinds.

"Fishing hooks and fishcultural guides give far too large a place to the *Gammarus pulex* (the fresh-water shrimp shown in Figure 1) as a food for trout.

"It is perfectly true that it is readily picked up by small and adult trout of all sorts, but the very fact of its being so easily visible in the clear water of the typical trout stream and the shallow bottoms of some lakes has made us overlook the host of small animals that really stock the young trout's larder to a very much larger extent than does the *gammarus*.

"An investigation into their food will help us to realise the conditions under which the different species of trout, char, brown trout, and rainbow trout may best be planted.

"The range of the char is the most restricted. We find it in the very coldest spring water and deep clear lakes, in water showing little or no fish food to the naked eye, but under the microscope the brown frothy matter, which a very fine meshed silk muslin net will collect from

the newly laid egg. Single water-shrimps, if undisturbed, are supposed to produce some 13,000 millions of shrimps a year, but luckily the trout will account for some of these.

"The cyclops are less prolific, but whilst the shrimp stops laying eggs about June, the cyclops go on much longer; in fact, the warm summer days of July and August see them at their best, and 4400 millions is the usual estimate for one cyclops family during a summer.

"Very few trout fishers will have seen a cyclops, fewer still the allied kinds, Figs. 5 and 6 (daphnia and cypris), which are also at their best when water warms up in summer. They are not easily seen, being so small. (We give the fully-grown animal in natural size with each enlarged drawing.) Cyclops do not readily run into millions in cold brown trout water, but the lower reaches are full of them in summer time, and they appear in greenish clouds in the warmer ponds and reservoirs where the rainbow thrives."

ANGLING NOTES IN AUSTRALIA.

THE sport to be obtained by the angler in Australia is extremely varied, a number of different sorts of fish being met with, most of which are not found at home. To any fellow sportsman, who may contemplate a visit to these

town called Frankston, situated about thirty miles from Melbourne, which, we were informed, was a good locality for flathead. This is a fish somewhat akin to our gurnard, only its head is flattened and armed with two sharp spines, one on each side. The day we had chosen for our trip was not a pleasant one as regards weather, as there was a hot wind blowing, which makes one feel good for nothing. It was no use grumbling, however, as this was our only opportunity, so we had to make the best of it. On our arrival, we immediately proceeded to the pier, and after a little difficulty, it being a Bank Holiday, we managed to secure a boat. We knew nothing about the best places for fish, so, after sailing out a little way from the shore, we anchored.

It was some time before a bite was felt, and that came to my line, and proved to be a small skate. Then, after a long interval, a small shark made its appearance, which was speedily knocked on the head and thrown overboard. These small sharks are a great source of annoyance when ground fishing near the coast, and appear to be mostly of the man eating variety. Time was now getting on, and there only remained to us about two hours before the train left for Melbourne, and we had not been very successful so far. Noticing a boat sailing slowly, in which a man was catching flathead, we up with anchor and adopted the same tactics. This plan answered well, and we were soon hauling up flathead two at a time. In the excitement I got a prick from one of the spines of the fish which made my finger bleed considerably. My friend also was served in the same way. However, beyond the inconvenience, no after effects were felt, and presumably these spines are not poisonous. When extracting the hook it is best to place your foot on the head of the fish, for, if handled, it is almost certain to inflict a wound, which, if not poisonous, is at any rate troublesome for the time. When we abandoned operations for the day our catch amounted to three or four dozen flathead, and if we could have stayed longer we should have taken a lot more. For flathead the best lure is a piece of the same fish, and the boat should drift slowly over the ground, the baits just touching the sandy bottom. When cooked the next morning our fish tasted exceedingly nice, and flathead are really one of the best fish to be found in Australia from a culinary point of view. They average about 1lb. to 1½lb. in weight, but sometimes one weighing 4lb., or even more, will be met with.

Trevally is another fish which affords most excellent sport. Numbers can be had at the "Rip," a ledge of rocks near Queenscliffe, at the mouth of Port Phillip Bay. There are huge masses of long seaweed here, in the midst of which are open spaces of water. The boat is rowed into one of these pools, and made fast to the seaweed. The trevally may be observed swimming about in the clear depths, and are readily taken with hand-lines in large numbers.

In the Salt Water river, a tributary of the Yarra, large trout may be caught, and splendid specimens ranging up to 6lb. or 8lb., or even more, are occasionally secured. A phantom minnow is considered to be the most successful lure, and they will hardly ever look at a fly. Although I tried once or twice for these much valued fish, I never managed to get hold of one, and I fancy they are difficult of capture. At Healesville, an easy distance by train from Melbourne, some fly fishing may be obtained in the Watts river, and, besides being a beautiful place, should be well worth a visit by the angler.

In nearly all the rivers of Victoria there is to be found a fish called the blackfish. It is not unlike a trout in shape, but is darker in colour and slightly spotted. In some of the small creeks near Fern Tree Gully they abound, and may be caught easily on the roughest gear. A line such as is employed in worm fishing for trout in clear water will be found as good as anything. The still pools at the end of runs are the best places for catching blackfish.

I had occasion once to go on a prospecting tour to a distant part of Victoria, viz., Croajingo-long, a district little known as yet, but watered by some fine rivers. One day I determined to try a small stream of beautiful clearness, which was said to contain plenty of fish, though no one hardly ever took the trouble to fish there. The next question was how to obtain bait. Flies I had none; all that my kit contained was a few



Fig. 1.—*Gammarus pulex*.
Natural size. |——|

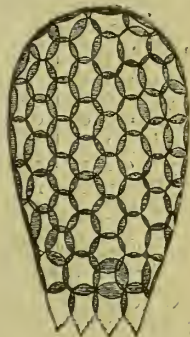


Fig. 2A.—The shell of the
Euglypha after death.

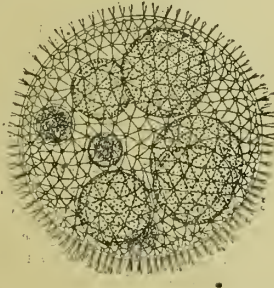


Fig. 4.—Flagellata (*Volvox*).
Natural size.

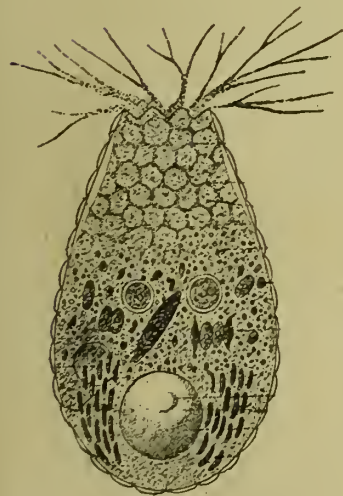


Fig. 2.—*Euglypha Alveolata*.

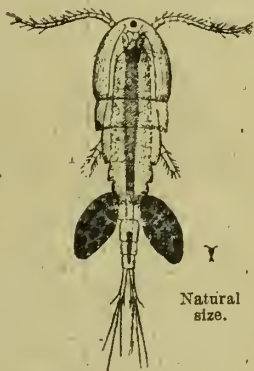


Fig. 3.—Cyclops.
Natural size.

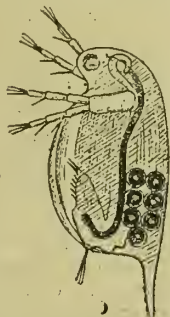


Fig. 5.—Waterflea (*Daphnia*).
Natural size.



Fig. 6.—Cypris.
Natural size.

such waters, dissolves itself into myriads of beings so small as to be practically invisible except under a powerful glass. Most of them are transparent, a few of greenish and brownish tint, all are of the most beautiful and regular shapes like tiny combs, beehives, or needles, and all rapidly moving; the large class of *Infusoria* and *Diatoms*, and may be classed as animal cells. They will live and multiply even in very cold waters and deep down in the lakes.

"Fig. 2 shows us one of their kind. They seem to form the staple food of the very young char, and serve in turn also as food to the cyclops (Fig. 3), whilst themselves living on decaying plant life and on forms of life more akin to the plant than to the animal kind. (See Fig. 4.)

"Brown trout fry do not seem to care for them much, but go from the beginning for coarser food, in the first place for the cyclops, to a smaller extent for the young *pulex* (Fig. 1). Both are very prolific, though the *gammarus* will not multiply rapidly till the beginning of May, when the waters of the lower reaches begins to warm up. Winter eggs of the *gammarus* can stand any amount of cold and great want of moisture, and in fact seem to thrive better after having been touched by frost. They do not produce the ready-made water shrimp, but only a kind of shrimp-larva.

"The summer eggs are laid every fourth day, and even every second and third day if the water warms up well, and ten days are sufficient to build up a fresh breeder from

far distant Colonies, an account of some fishing I have enjoyed there may prove interesting.

People in Australia have usually very little time to devote to the quiet pastime of angling, and it did not appear to be an amusement that was greatly indulged in. Their time is principally occupied in more exciting pursuits, such as horse racing and money making generally. However, for anyone who takes the trouble to look for it there is in most parts of Australia an abundance of fish inhabiting the sea and rivers. The harbour of Adelaide I am only acquainted with from stopping there a few hours on the voyage out, but there appeared to be plenty of fish here, and we caught a good many from the steamer without any trouble. Whiting, which somewhat resembled our own fish, and small mackerel principally made up our catch.

Melbourne is a very good headquarters for the fisherman. There is no necessity to bring out gear, every kind of tackle being readily purchased at the Melbourne Sports' Depot, or at Messrs. Chambers and Seymour's. I recollect one day journeying with a friend to a small seaside

hooks and line that I thought might probably come in useful. However, after a little digging, a worm was unearthed, which, without exaggeration, must have measured 2ft., and small pieces of this broken off lasted me all day. It was a charming stream, with lovely tree ferns growing along its banks, and the fish were entirely unsophisticated. By one o'clock I had eighteen fish, mostly blackfish, and they averaged about $\frac{3}{4}$ lb. apiece. Amongst my catch were two or three very delicate, slender fish, which I presume would be the Australian grayling; these, I believe, will sometimes take a fly.

Of course, in the larger rivers blackfish attain a much larger size, and they may be caught weighing 6lb. or more. As far as I know they will not take a fly, a worm being the best bait, though, no doubt, a grasshopper would also prove killing.

Many different species of fish inhabit the large rivers, the Murray cod being, perhaps, the most important. It grows to an enormous size—some weighing 100lb.—and quantities find their way to the Melbourne Market. But it is not a good fish from a culinary point of view, the flesh being insipid and possessing a muddy flavour. At Wangaratta, on the Ovens river, I remember catching one about 2lb., and several other sorts of fish; but the heat was intense at the time, and fishing could only be enjoyed in the cool of the evening. Even then the mosquitoes rendered life miserable. Good sized Limerick hooks should be used for Murray cod, and the line necessarily must be a strong one. As some of the rivers are very swift running, a lead is essential to keep the bait at a proper depth.

Sydney Harbour is not at all a bad fishing ground, many varieties of fish being obtained here. The black bream is one that is highly esteemed for its edible qualities, and in some parts of the harbour may be caught in numbers. One day I recollect spending two or three hours in a small boat near Mossman's Bay, a small inlet opposite Sydney. It was terribly hot, and we fished in our shirt sleeves, but still, we had excellent sport. There was hardly any cessation in the hauling, and as the fish were near the surface a yard or two of line overboard was quite sufficient. Our catch amounted to between six and seven dozen fish, consisting mostly of mackerel (identical with our own mackerel, but not so good to eat), and a few bream. Then there is excellent sport to be obtained outside the entrance of Sydney Harbour. A sort of fishing excursion steamer runs to the ground on a certain day, and tickets can be obtained for a moderate sum. A party of anglers is thus formed, who spend a pleasant holiday in this manner.

The steamer anchors on the proper marks, and strong hand-lines are used. The fish expected are schnapper, which attain to a large size, some of them weighing 60lb., and it is exciting work hauling up these monsters. Schnapper are grand fish, like a huge bream, and have a curious protuberance on the head which gives them a strange appearance. One of these fish, which possessed a larger bump than usual, I saw dressed up in a shop window in Melbourne with a pipe in its mouth, and it looked just like an old sailor who had imbibed too freely. They are considered a good fish for the table, and fetch a high price. In this kind of fishing sharks are again a trouble, and will often bite a fish in two before there is a chance of getting it safely into the boat. Large sharks are much dreaded, for they will frequently break the line, their sharp teeth soon effecting this. Fishing for sharks is carried on systematically in Sydney Harbour, which swarms with these pests. Fine but strong lines are used, and when a shark has been successfully hauled to the surface it is despatched with lances and dragged into the boat. A friend of mine caught one 8ft. long on an ordinary hand-line, and it was a long time before the fish was sufficiently played out to enable him to tow it to the shore. Any angler should be satisfied with such sport as this.

FAL., JUN.

The frontispiece of the February *Scribner* is a special portrait of Senator Hoar, taken a few months ago in his library at Worcester; and the other art features are illustrations by Yohn, Railton, Frost, Chominski, Child, and a discussion in the Field of Art of "Æsthetics in our Universities," by Henry Rutgers Marshall.

TROUT HUNTING IN THE FATHERLAND.

IN spite of the superscription, this is quite an ordinary fishing yarn, except that it is the real truth, and there is no intention in the choice of title of provoking comparison with the immortal Sir Walter by describing a hunt after the lesser *Salmonidae*, such as he tells of on the Solway in one of his histories, where the noble relation of the *Salmo fario* is pursued by a man on horseback and speared. The name should really be "Hunting for Trout Fishing in the German Fatherland;" but that is such a mouthful that I fear it would prove too large a fly for any accustomed to the *Fishing Gazette*. The way to the place is best untold; if the path to Paradise were made too easy everyone would be going there, and the place would be spoilt. You can ask Cook if you want to go, or any other agent; but they don't know—I have asked them! We (that is my better half and the baby and I) happened to have a friend in a great town celebrated for its beer, not far off, and we asked him if there were any trout in the rivers hereabout. He thought there must be, as he remembered eating some at various summer resorts; and, after due consultation of a map, advised us to go to a town where, according to its geographical representation, there were one or two rivers and a lake. This town is fairly well known to tourists, and seemed as likely a centre for our quest as any other, so we went there. We saw the lake, and so trusted that the map might also be right about the rivers. My wife, who can explain herself in German without having recourse to pantomime, interviewed the proprietress of the hotel. Of course, the landlady assured her that fishing was to be obtained in the neighbourhood when she heard we had come for that, and should not stay long unless we found some amusement in that way. However, it was getting late, and the question of dinner was almost as important for the time as the prospect of trout fishing. Daylight, however, renewed our search, and we requested more particular information as to fishing. We were informed that those who fished did so in the lake. We didn't. We had seen those, anxious rather to while time than while trout, walking sadly by the shores of German lakes, with tackle that looked like a movable warning to fish to beware. We heard of a miller who had a little bit of water on the brook which worked his mill. This sounded better, so we wrote down his name, and took some German children to show us the way. He was out, and the stream did not look very promising. However, it was better than nothing, and when we looked him up the next day he readily granted permission to fish, but told us there were not many trout. I only found one, and four weis fish, which take the fly better here than in Austria, and make more of a fight about landing when their passage is booked. They would not be so bad to eat if they had not so many bones, but these are apt to choke one off unless one is very hungry and time is no object. Well, this fishing wasn't good enough. Next we heard of an engineer who is constructing an electrical railway; he had the right of fishing in a good river. We were informed that he was an ogre, and that it would be idle to ask his permission. But feeling sure that even in the Fatherland the polizei would have no case against us if we ventured to ask for a day, we called on him and found a friend. He could not give permission, as his right was not transferable; but as there were no trout in the river he thought we should not mind. Then he kindly wrote down the name of a river two stations distant, which contained plenty of trout and grayling. We looked up a train, and were in such a hurry that I forgot to replenish my pocket, a fact which I speedily discovered at the station, some distance from the hotel. We only had about ten minutes before the train started, and, although I made a gallant offer to my wife to attempt a record of one a half miles in that time, I hoped she would say no. I am not so young as I was, and, she remembering the shortness of my breath and the infirmities of age creeping on, thought that I might do better with my watch than time my racing pace. As she is of prepossessing appearance and an open

countenance (N.B.—She is not so old as I am), she succeeded in raising a loan of 5 marks on it, and the station master pressed her to take more if she thought she would require it. So we took return tickets, and went. We did not know who had the right of fishing, but were directed to the proprietor of a sawmill. However, on asking at the mill where Herr H. might be, we heard that he was in Heaven. His widow, however, who held the right, readily granted permission when she heard that I would pay for any fish I wanted, and bring her any others that I might catch, for trout and grayling are duly appreciated in this part of the world, and sell at 4 to 5 marks per lb. Then we inquired where we could get lodging, and found she had two large rooms at either corner of the house with three windows each, in one of which apartments I am writing at present. I had not brought a rod, on the same principle that one carries an umbrella to keep off the rain. I thought if I took tackle with me my presumption might meet with its punishment in leave being refused; at all events, I find that if I make quite certain of landing a trout after he has been hooked, I am sure to lose him. So we arranged to begin our sojourn on the following Monday, but I made a note to come and fish on the very next day. Circumstances, however, remotely connected with foreign affairs, decided us all to commence our sojourn in the mill-house sooner than arranged. It came about in this wise. We had an impromptu dance in the hotel on our return, and when we did get to bed, hot and tired (for the floor was heavy, and the German girls not over light), some drunken boors, having carried on their bout until they were turned out of the wirthzimmer, continued a lively discussion on politics under our window till daylight was near, at which time my wife threw cold water on a proposal to annex the Transvaal, and the house dissolved in some haste, though some lively members resolved themselves into committee to discuss the question of whether the closure had been properly applied. Now this was very mean of my wife, for I had offered to supply the politicians with the contents of our jug at a much earlier hour, but she would not permit me to have recourse to such "common or garden methods," on the ground that it would bring disgrace on my countrymen. Then she waits till she thinks I have forgotten the idea, and enjoys all the sport of the members' discomfiture to herself. However, as this was by no means the first occasion on which our sleep had been broken and our rest had been marred, we decided to move on to our fishing tryst as early as possible the next morning. I was up at six, and really did a great deal of packing; but the luggage was not quite ready in time for me to take more than my creel, the fishing rods and tackle, and my wife's parasol, which happened to be done up in the same bundle. My better half, fearing that I should miss the train if I waited for any more baggage, most kindly undertook to bring it with her, and did not even ask me to take the baby. I was to explain in my best German that the rooms were to be prepared by the evening, and some food cooked; and after carefully preparing my sentences I think I mixed the two together in firing them off, and requested them to be sure and cook the bedclothes well and air our evening repast very thoroughly. However, the good people understood somehow. I asked for a boy to carry the fisch-lager and show me the way. This receptacle is a sort of elongated beer barrel, and is an inevitable requisition on German rivers, as the trout caught are kept alive until they are required for their true vocation in life, viz., the dinner table. As I fitted the light rod together, and got out my line and flies, I heard the boy remark to a friend that bigger hooks and worms thereon would be likely to do more execution. The mill race was the first place tried, and as the water was heavy I tried rather large flies and a medium cast, but soon discovered that I had under-rated the trout's intelligence, as the first one jumped over the line, and the second attempted to drown the fly before swallowing such a mouthful. A change to a finer cast with a Hofland's Fancy and a Dun dropper met with less ridicule, and an engagement was speedily effected, but the match was broken off, probably because the boy made certain of the engaged party landing, and filled the fisch-lager with

water for its reception. The gold tinsel did not do so much execution as the sober-coloured Dun, so a change was made, and with one or two losses and small fish returned to the brook, the first hour resulted in two brace and a half of bright, handsome fish, mostly very thick for their length. They are wonderfully game, and fight to the last, and as they have plenty of natural advantages in the shape of weeds, bushes, and wooden piles, to say nothing of an occasional snag of a fir tree, with the branches still on, their capture is by no means assured after they have taken the fly. Except where a rise was marked, I found that fishing downstream with a long line was quite as effective as the favoured dry fly from below the fish; but in parts of the stream, where it runs through a wood, there is plenty of opportunity of practising casting into difficult places under overhanging branches. One of the most curious incidents of the day was a rushing rise at the fly along the top of the water by a fair sized fish. He was half out of water for over a yard, and reminded one of the action of a duck that has been frightened. He repeated the performance when I tried for him again a little later, and on both occasions missed the fly, though, as far as I could judge, I gave him plenty of time. A fine grayling afforded an excellent bit of sport. He took the fly in the wood in a sharp running piece of water, with a weed bank in the middle, dividing the brook into two parts for about 25 yds. There was a small fir tree in front of me, which prevented my getting downstream after he was hooked. He bolted away, giving a beautiful sing to the winch, and I thought I must lose him. When he reached the end of the weed bank I checked his pace, whereupon he showed his displeasure by coming to the top and shaking his head violently, and then trying one or two leaps. Finding these ineffectual, he tried the other side of the weed bank, and I recognised that as I could not get down to him I must try and bring him upstream as soon as possible. Like most grayling, his first efforts were the best. He yielded to the strain, and came up the rapid channel more easily than I thought for. The sight of this beautiful fish and the heaviness of the fish-lager had by this time altered the boy's opinion as to the mode of fishing; his delight knew no bounds, and he made up his mind to put no more belief in worms. Another grayling joined the other just after, and as mid-day was sounding I returned to the house, for I thought the boy must be ready for his dinner, as they begin the day very early here. I picked out the smaller of the two grayling and a small trout, and asked my hostess to have them cooked for me in an hour's time. What a repast it made with potatoes boiled in their skins and the flavour of the grayling fresh upon them! "Thyme scented like Hymetus." After doing justice to these good things, and the beer of the Fatherland, which never gives a headache unless one drinks too much of it, I went with the miller's son in a boat on the upper part of the stream. The German schiff is flat-bottomed, like a punt, except that the sides are shaped so that only the stern end sits on the water. It is propelled by a paddle in the same way as a canoe of Canada, but the man stands to his work—and he has to work! This part of the river is entirely different from that below the mill. At places it broadens out into lagoons, with reeds standing high on either shore, and a carpet of strange sponge-like looking white weed, which my canoe-dler called moor. We put up a lot of wild duck. I say we, but mean he did, for all the work was done by him. I sat and smoked, and enjoyed the sun and the mirrored mountains in the blue water. At times we came on strange, deep holes, I do not say fathomless, as I promised a true yarn, but yards and yards deep, the colour of the water like the purest sapphire, and yet so clear that everything could be seen down to the coral-like growth on the bottom. I feel sure that most folk would find their faith in water sprites and Rhine maidens more easy after a visit here. When I took my wife there she remarked that it was difficult to believe that "The Water Babies" (C. Kingsley) wasn't a true story. We only saw one or two fish, and as I felt sure they had seen us, and as they were not rising, I declined to make any advances towards a closer acquaintance. After about an hour we came to the source of the stream, which bubbles out of the mountain

side quite a fair size, too big for an ordinary mortal to jump even if the land were not soft. It was a lovely spot; there was a rough chalet, where we found a couple of peasants, and the tinkle of bells on the necks of goats sounded pleasantly in one's ears. After a chat with the peasants we drifted down again, and I tried over one trout, but the boatman, being unused to long casting, got me almost on top of the fish before my line was out. The next essay met with success, much to my surprise, for the sun was bright and the water like glass. His capture was almost frustrated, however, by my too eager boatman, who wanted to get the boat down to him and net him at the first start. He would have applied my net to him (or the line) as it was lying on the bottom of the boat, but fortunately it is a folding joint and telescopic handle, which he did not understand, so the fish was saved. Another joined him almost immediately, just at the end of our trip. On returning to the mill I heard that my wife had come about two hours earlier than I expected. I was going to meet her by a train arriving at five, to make amends for my desertion in the morning.

As she had arranged to visit the lake in the watering-place we had been staying at, I thought she would not catch an earlier train. She was in the garden, and gave me whispered warnings not to awake the youngster, quaintly cradled in a clothes basket. Another brace below the mill ended the day's fishing, and a pleasant one it was, but each day leaves something more to be longed for, and in this case it was the right to fish the big river into which the Mühlbach flows. Whether that will also come I do not yet know, but we think of inquiring very soon, and if so I will write again. I fear the fish will not prove so fabulous in size as the miller's son says, but after seeing the caverns on the mill stream upper water I think I could believe in whales in the bigger river.

W. D. G.

THE REAPPEARANCE OF IZAAK WALTON.

BY "KRYPTON."

"TWAS on the banks of the silvern Lea, not far from Hoddesden, where I had been sitting for the better part of a warm August day endeavouring to lure the perch from their weedy fastness. The river was low and bright, and sport had been poor, but the beauty of the scenery amply compensated for lack of sport, whilst the glorious sun effects on the shimmering stream more than made up for the enforced idleness of my rod.

No bricks and mortar offended the eye there. 'Twas a pleasaunce of beautiful rurality, and barring an open-armed scarecrow in the field behind me the evidence of man's work was entirely missing. No one had passed me all the morning, and I fear an occasional doze had been indulged in, for the weather was sultry and sleepy.

At about two o'clock (I wish to be as precise as possible in this astounding narrative) I had put on another worm, and was seated upon a fallen pollard willow preparatory to relighting my pipe, when I saw a man approaching me, coming along the river bank. He was still some hundreds of yards away, and I took stock of his appearance, which was queer to say the least of it.

A man of medium height, more than average rotundity, and of cheerful countenance. He wore a Puritan hat with a broad flapping brim, which shaded his ruddy face; a flowing moustache failed to hide the smiling mouth, below which an imperial beard, barely turning grey, finished off his facial appearance. He was clothed in sad-coloured tunic, the dinginess of which was accentuated by a deep and snow white collar, which reached his shoulders and hung over his broad chest. The same sad-coloured knee breeches and grey stockings, finished off by stout leather shoes ornamented with great steel buckles. In his hand he carried a long willow wand, which I afterwards saw had a line attached to it. Evidently he was a brother of the gentle craft.

As he came up he saluted me politely, and I, of course, responded, and bid him good day. He made answer as follows:

"You are well overtaken, gentle sir! A good

morning to you! Are you intending to meet the pack of otter dogs of noble Mr. Sadler upon Amwell Hill?"

"No; it must be some one else," I replied. "I am not acquainted with Mr. Sadler."

"I am right glad to hear your answer," the strangely attired one said; "for, in confidence, to tell you the truth, I mistook you for a certain Master Venator, a young man with a long tongue, who grievously bores me with his puerile conversation!"

"No, sir; my name is Snooks—Richark Snooks, of Lincoln's Inn, at your service."

The gentleman bowed, and said: "My name is Walton—Izaak Walton." I started, and rubbed my eyes.

"Are you any descendant of the Izaak Walton?"

"Of whom do you speak, sir?" returned he, taking a seat beside me. "I am Izaak Walton, and know none other. I am by trade a fisherman—an angler, who, out of his poor store of knowledge teaches youthful scholars the art of the angle for a consideration. Is that your rod down there?"—indicating my "general," which lay unheeded below me—"for, sir, if it be your weapon, I have rarely seen a finer!" and he picked it up, wound in the slack line, and started a careful inspection.

"Some authorities there be who put their faith in a willow wand and a piece of twine, and, in truth, many fat fishes are caught in that manner. Are you disposed to exchange rods as a sign of mutual affection?"

He edged up to me as he spoke, and I started back with fear, for through his dull coloured tunic, through his portly form, I saw dimly the rod which was on the other side of him!

"Will you make the exchange?" he repeated, and I stammered out some excuse, something about it being an heirloom.

"Well said, master," replied my ghostly companion, "and truly thy line is so mixed that it also resembles a hair loom! Ha! ha! I thank thee for the opportunity. I see that you are using a gentle worm for a lure. Now, the way to treat this worm is as though you loved him, which truly I hope you do, for all things should love one another. Years ago I wrote a book on many things, but," said he, "the many publishers—a murrain on them—have so grievously altered mine own words that I am strangely unacquainted with all that I said therein!" and here Izaak Walton sighed deeply. "However, it will be a good beginning to your art to offer you a little advice as to the way to dress this worm. He is principally objected to not only for being full of small bones, but that he is waterish and that his flesh is tasteless. However, basted with nectar and good store of lavender water he is not to be despised!"

"Rubbish!" said I, pinching my leg hard to make sure that I was not dreaming.

"That is what all ignorant folk call this worm, but you will find him a much better dish of meat than you imagine."

"Where on earth do you come from?" I asked him, as he crouched over my rod, intently watching the red float amongst the lilies.

"I have just come over Tottenham Hill, and am weary with walking," he replied. "Now see; here comes a fine perch, or rudd as he is sometimes called, and see, I have him safe!" So saying, he hauled an over greedy gudgeon on to the grassy bank, and pounced upon it with most unghostly haste. "Come with me," he went on, "to an old milk woman I wot of, who lives with her fair daughter Maudlin, beyond yon primrose hill. She, I warrant me, will cook this fish as he should be to rejoice the hearts of two tired and hungry anglers!" And Izaak began to march off across the field.

"Stop!" I cried. "There is no house nearer than two miles away, and I'm not ready to start yet. If you are hungry I can give you a sandwich!"

"No house nearer than two miles away? Come, master, you are surely jesting?"

"No," I replied; "there is certainly no house the other side of that hill!"

Izaak Walton looked so mystified that I felt sorry for him. "There used to be a most pleasant hostel, where pretty Maudlin sang day and night," he said at last.

"Maudlin must be dead by this time," I replied,

for I remembered having seen the name in "The Compleat Angler."

"Poor Maudlin dead! Ah, well! Sir Thomas Overbury's wish came true! I hope, gentle sir, that she was buried with the good store of flowers stuck round her winding-sheet?"

"I should imagine so!" I ventured.

"Poor Maudlin dead!" the shade murmured, as he wiped a tear from his vapoury eye with the back of his nebulous hand. "She was a sweet singer. Well do I remember her sweet song:

I married a wife of late,
The more's my unhappy fate.
I married her not for love,
For her face could no man move,
But because of her worldly estate!
But, oh! her poor tenants
All left by the moonlight,
And then all her savings did fail.
But 'tis not so
With those who go
And insure, you know,
Against such a blow;
We didn't—and went to jail!"

Izaak did not appear pleased with his attempt. "There is something strange to me in those words!" said he. "Come, Master, cannot you remember the sweet song?"

I replied that I could not help him.

"Never mind!" said the ghostly angler. "Tis those cheap editions! Come now and listen, for I am sure that I both can and will tell you more than any common angler yet knows without he has read my writings. The perch is so called from his habit of roosting upon the branches of the water-lily, which so adorn yon stream: he is a fish of great reputation for his timorous habits, and is called the water-sheep on that account. Aldrovandus saith that there is a millstone hidden away in his body which will cure frost-bite and ague. The perch is born by the warmth of the sun's rays upon the moisture falling from the muzzles of drinking oxen! All this reminds me of Doctor Dun's verses on the art of the angle; they be these:

'Come fish with me, and pay me well,
For I know of a shady dell,
Where crystal sands and golden brook
Entice thy line and baited hook.

'There will the children whisp'ring run
A'throwing stones and making fun;
And so th' enamelled fish will pray
That you will drive those boys away.

'When thou wilt swim in that live bath
A hidden child will raise a laugh,
And seeing that you naked are
Exclaims "Rude man, I'll tell your ma!"

'Let others poach the river's reed,
And fill their toes and nets with weeds;
But you come to this lovely dell
And fish with me, and pay me well!"

"It doesn't sound quite correct," quoth the shade, with his cheery brow furrowed up with thought. "Tis in my book, but methinks 'tis different in the wording. There was great store of interest in all my work, but my memory sadly fails me, and my nerves have been much shaken by your news of the death of my pretty Maudlin! Before I go to meet my brother Peter I will, however, give you one song more, if I can recall it aright:

'Oh! the gallant fisher's life
Is the worst of any,
'Tis void of pleasures, full of strife,
And 'tis cursed by many
Stolen swims,
Neighbour's whims,
Soaking rains,
Worthless gains,
Losing trains,
Temper rise,
Language flies,
Catch a chill,
Taken ill,
Doctor's bill
Sums it up completely!"

The ghostly one looked vaguely at me, and I burst out laughing. He sorrowfully shook his head, and threw down the gudgeon; then, turning on his heel, walked deliberately into the river. I rushed to the bank, and saw the shadowy form proceeding along the bottom, passing through long ribbon weed without even bending it, and even saw a pike rush clean through his diaphanous head, and then the widening ripples chased Izaak Walton into ever-increasing circles! So he vanished from my view.

The dead gudgeon lay upon the bank, and the sun's rays caught its silvery side, which was un-

scaled where the master's ghostly hand had held it. I wrapped it carefully up, and put it aside on the grass; then took my rod to pieces preparatory to moving, when I became aware that someone was watching me from the opposite bank. It was a true Lea roacher, his box—slung on his rod—hanging over his stooping shoulders. He removed the clay from the corner of his mouth, and called, "That's a big 'un, mister," indicating my precious fish. "A mighty big 'un ter take sich care of!" Poor ignorant man! He little knew whose hand had taken it.

WARNER'S PATENT "HANDY" GUT-HOOK CASE.

MESSRS. WARNER AND SONS, of Hewell Works, Redditch, send us samples of their patent "Handy" Gut-Hook Case. The advantages claimed, and we think very fairly claimed, for this case are:

"Entanglement of tackle is rendered impossible, as each article is contained in a separate pocket.

"The saving of time and tackle is immense, as, when a fresh hook is required, the simple removal of the outer leaf *exposes only one*.

"The material of which the case is made is quite transparent; the contents can be seen without exposure or waste of time in opening, and it effectually preserves them against damp or change of temperature.

"Hooks and gut kept in these cases will be as good at the end of twelve months as the day they were purchased.

"Each case is plainly marked with the size and shape of hook, and strength and length of gut, and

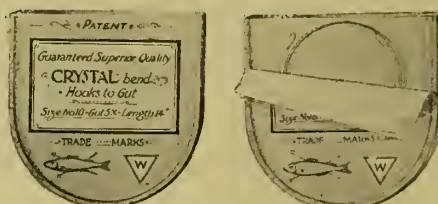


FIG. 1.—Shows the Case closed. FIG. 2.—Case with outer leaf partially removed, as in use. Illustrations one-third actual size.

is made to contain half a dozen hooks on gut, or other articles.

"The size and shape is such that it will fit into the pockets of any ordinary fly or tackle book.

"Tackle supplied in these cases costs no more than in the old fashioned so-called protectors, and the advantages are so many that when once used anglers will have no other form of package."

The fact that the gut and hooks are in damp-proof compartments is an immense advantage. We do not see why flies on gut should not be kept in the same way. We congratulate Messrs. Warner on their very simple and admirable little invention.

THE LOWER AND MID-THAMES: WHERE AND HOW TO FISH IT.

(Continued from page 56.)

By F. H. AMPHLETT.

BREAM.

The treacherous quill in this slow stream
Betrays the hunger of a bream.

—1st Ed. of "Walton."

BREAM fishing in the Thames is very precarious. Sometimes the angler will obtain good sport, whilst at others the fish do not appear to feed for several days at a stretch. They are generally to be found in deep holes in the river, and are to be taken as low down as Twickenham. They are, however, seldom taken in large quantities in the upper portions of the river, and it is difficult to account for this, as the water is eminently suitable for them. A 5lb. fish is a very good size for those of the Thames, but some years ago one of 7lb. was taken at Datchet. Mr. J. J. Manley, in his "Notes on Fish and Fishing," says that bream are a comparatively recent introduction into the river, and expresses his opinion that they originally got into the Thames from some overflowing of the Wey. "Not long ago," he says, "two consignments of fine bream were brought from the Bedfordshire Ouse, and safely deposited

in the Thames, in the deep water above Boulter's Lock at Maidenhead, through the kindness of the Bedford Angling Club." An average sized bream will afford very good sport, and as he must be taken on fine tackle, there is more charm in the catching of him. The same tackle as used for roach will do, but the bait should be well on the bottom of the river. The early morning is the best time to fish, and the bait should be the tail end of a lob. There are other baits which bream will take, but the one mentioned will generally be found the best for Thames angling. When bream take the bait, the float, as a rule, first lies on the top of the water, and then slowly disappears. The fish must, therefore, on taking bait, temporarily raise their heads, which lessens the weight of the shots on the float, and the latter consequently lies flat on the water for a second or two. For ground bait use lob worms, which should be cut up into fragments, and thrown in as for barbel fishing. In ledgering for bream use fine tackle, and a small hook, as these fish have small mouths.

CONCLUSION.

The dainty gudgeon, ruffe, the minnow, and the bleak, Since they but little are, I little need to speak. — DRAYTON.

The small fry, such as bleak and minnows, need scarcely any reference. They can be caught by almost anybody and almost everywhere in the Thames. Gudgeon are to be found in rather rapid waters that flow over a gravelly bottom, also in weir-pools and near bridges or camp-shedding. The Gibraltar swim below Great Marlow is perhaps one of the best portions of the Mid Thames. They are taken there in enormous quantities during the season. They are special favourites with the lady anglers in consequence of the easy manner in which they can be caught, and the charm of quantity is also another element that render them agreeable to the gentler sex. Roach tackle should be used, and they will take a small worm or a gentle. A rake is sometimes used to stir up the bottom of the river and attract the fish, which can be caught during any month of the season, though August and September are the best two.

The bleak is a small silvery fish, which is easily taken by whipping with a gentle, or using a small fly. They are to be found in the summer months near the surface of the water, and often cause disappointment to the dace or chub angler, who is fly-fishing, by taking a bait intended for the larger fish. They make excellent spinning baits on account of their brightness, and they are much used as live-bait for trout fishing, the Thames trout being particularly partial to these little fish. Their scales were once used in the manufacture of imitation mother-o'-pearl, and as this caused an immense destruction of fish it is matter for satisfaction that another substitute has been discovered. Minnows are interesting little fish, and are of most use to fishermen as bait for larger species.

The brief instructions given in the previous chapters are the result of considerable experience in Thames fishing, and though perhaps some of the minor points are omitted, the object in view, namely, to give hints to those who seldom visit the Thames, has, I hope, been achieved. The map of the Thames should enable the reader to discover, without any difficulty, where he will be best able to obtain good sport, and thus avoid waste of time in searching for suitable swims. The table showing the distances between the bridges and the locks will afford him the opportunity of determining whether he has sufficient time to spare to travel from one portion of the river to another, and the publication of extracts from "The Thames Fishery Bye-Laws," which in their revised state only came into force in 1893, will save him from the risk of committing any illegality. Taking into consideration the rapid increase in the number of anglers during the past few years, I do not feel called upon to render any apology for making this addition to the extensive collection of angling literature, more especially as it deals with a branch of the subject so distinctively important and interesting as the Lower and Mid Thames.

(To be continued.)

GRANT'S CHERRY WHISKY.—This attractive "pick-me-up" is a pleasant combination of Kent Cherry Juice and very soft old Scotch Whisky. This and Grant's Morella Cherry Brandy are sold by Wine Merchants.

THE FLY DRESSER'S LIBRARY.

(Concluded from page 56.)

BY VAL CONSON.

IN 1889 Mr. F. M. Walbran, a well-known Yorkshire angler, and editor of the 1883 edition of "Theakston," published the first series of "The British Angler—Salmon, Trout, and Grayling," with an excellent list of simple Yorkshire patterns and a selection of south country patterns.

In 1895 Mr. Walbran published another work, "Grayling, and How to Catch Them," with an extensive list of flies for the purpose. Unfortunately the proofs were very carelessly corrected.

In June, July, and August, 1896, Mr. F. M. Halford contributed a paper to *Baily's Magazine* on "The Hundred Best Floating Flies," in which he extended and modified, in the light of later experience, the list which appeared in "Floating Flies, and How to Dress Them." The features of this paper were the advocacy of hackled flies tied with soft hackles from birds other than poultry over cocks' hackles, the use of three hackles to a fly, and the discarding of floss silks in favour of dyed quills.

These papers were again, with other papers contributed to the *Field*, and much new matter, boiled down into "Dry-fly Entomology," published in 1897.

It is a monumental work, but in some particulars disappointing. The pictures of artificial flies, which, in "Floating Flies," were a help to many, being accurate in size and approximately so in colour, have here given place to enlarged pictures of the patterns, with a small outline drawing of the proper size of the fly. This does not, in my judgment, assist the dresser so much as did the old coloured drawings. Then the numerous pictures of natural insects are all so considerably enlarged that the angler loses the idea of the natural insect in the contemplation of a scientific diagram. The drawings were made by means of a microscope. This was no doubt necessary to get the full details required; but I for one should have been glad to see the diagrams reduced to life size while retaining the detail. There were printed of this edition 100 copies on large paper, and a second volume, containing the actual 100 patterns mounted in panels, forms part of this sumptuous edition de luxe.

A book by Mr. Charles Edward Walker, an ultra exponent of the exact imitation theory, with ideas on the lines of Hewett Wheatley, has lately issued from the Press. It contains some of the best plates in the literature of the subject, and is a work of some interest. It carries the exact imitation theory to greater lengths than does the work of any previous writer, and even if the angler be unable to accept the author's reasoning, he may be grateful for the really admirable illustrations.

This completes the list of books known to the present writer in connection with fly dressing. Obviously they are not all of use to the modern fly dresser. Many are obsolete; certainly the great bulk of them are of no practical service to the novice. What books precisely are of most use to the novice is a matter depending upon his opportunities. A man whose limit was the Yorkshire or the north country streams might content himself with Mr. F. M. Walbran's "British Angler,"—Salmon, Trout, and Grayling," or Mr. Pritt's "North Country Flies," for his list of patterns; and "Stewart's Practical Angler," and another work, say the second or third edition of "Pulman's Vade Mecum," for his practical instructions; and Ronalds' "Flyfisher's Entomology," or Theakston's "Yorkshire Angling Flies," for his entomology.

But the man who desires to obtain a complete mastery of the art of trout fly dressing in all its branches should not so restrict himself. Strange though the advice may be that is tendered, the novice is earnestly advised to begin at the most difficult end of the art, and learn straight off to dress floating flies. Having once fully mastered this, all other methods will come easily. But to ascend from the simple hackle fly to the double dressed floater is a slow and toilsome process. The use of patterns given in books, whether ancient or modern, is not to bind the artist. It is to set him free—to make him master of the medium he works in, to teach him the effects to be got from materials. Having acquired this mastery,

he can set to work, regardless of books, to imitate the natural insect in his own way, at first hand, and from his own observations.

To begin upon, undoubtedly there is no work equal to Mr. F. M. Halford's, whether one selects the original work, "Floating Flies, and How to Dress Them," or the enlarged and improved edition known as "Dry-fly Entomology." The latter is certainly more brought down to date, while the former contains particulars of methods which the author has since discarded in favour of better ones. But from either the beginner can teach himself to dress floating flies without the aid of any other instructor.

The next work to be recommended is certainly Francis Francis' "Book on Angling." The methods of fly dressing there described are indeed not brought down to date. But there is a list of flies, both natural and artificial, which was first rate when written, and is first rate now.

A good copy of Ronalds' "Flyfisher's Entomology" should, if possible, be secured for the sake of the coloured drawings of the flies, natural and artificial. Failing this, or in addition to it, if convenient, a copy of either the original edition, or Mr. F. M. Walbran's edition of Theakston's "Yorkshire Angling Flies" should be procured, for the sake of the illustrations and the descriptions of the natural insects.

Stewart's "Practical Angler" should also be secured, as illustrating the methods of fly dressing for Scotch brook fishing.

Webster's "The Angler and the Loop Rod" should be laid under contribution, for its excellent description of a type of fly dressing in use on the Tweed and the Clyde.

Mr. F. M. Walbran's "British Angler—Salmon, Trout, and Grayling," or Mr. Pritt's "North Country Flies," or both of them should be secured, as illustrating the modern Yorkshire and northern counties methods.

For Devonshire methods H. C. Cutcliffe's "Trout Fishing in Rapid Streams" should be carefully studied, whether the angler be going to fish Devonshire waters or not, for the little work is full of suggestions and instructions.

For Derbyshire methods David Foster's "Scientific Angler" is worth consulting.

For methods of dressing grubs, beetles, grasshoppers, moths, and large Sedge flies, as well as for a good selection of fancy flies, the work of Hewett Wheatley, "Rod and Line," ought certainly to be acquired.

The above short list forms a sound basis for a practical collection, and substantially it contains all that is really required.

But the angler who takes an interest in the subject will probably be tempted to go further, and acquire a number of other books. He will wish to have Jackson's "Practical Flyfisher," Bainbridge's 1816 edition, "Arundo's" little work, Blacker's 1854 edition, and a copy of Shipley and Fitzgibbon, and of the 1853 edition of Pulman. Next he will want a good illustrated copy of Bowlker's work, a copy of Jesse's edition of Hofland, a Wade's Halcyon, and "Ephemera's" Handbook.

"The Angler's Desideratum," by Capt. Clarke, is a curious little work the amateur should pick up if he can. A Stoddart's "Angler's Companion" also might be acquired with advantage, and an early edition of Best.

All other works are more of historical than practical interest.

The late Mr. George Currell contributed to the columns of the extinct *Angling*, in the late eighties, a series of papers on Itchen patterns, which were to have been published in book form, and no doubt would have been had he lived. They are of great interest, and comprise a number of unusual dressings and little known devices. Some highly interesting papers have also appeared recently in the *Fishing Gazette* over the signature "Athenian," the pen name of the late Mr. A. G. Maclelland, a young writer of immense promise, who, had he lived, would have done great service to the art. It is hoped that they will shortly appear in volume form.

But the curious will want a selected series of Walton and Cottons, including the edition of Baxter's, with its long list of patterns, Hawkins' edition, and Major's, or the 1889 reprint, which comprises a reproduction of Jackson's "Practical Flyfisher." They will secure a copy of Carroll's naive work, "The Angler's Vade Mecum," with

its coloured pictures of flies; Lakeland's confused jumble of patterns; Aldam's quaint treatise; "Salmonia"; Capt. Williamson's book; the Taylers, Salters, Scotcher, Rennie, and Mackintosh, Brookes, Shirley, and earlier and less known writers.

To the angler who is also an entomologist may be commended Pictet's "Ephemera; and Phryganida," and Eaton's "Monologue on the Ephemera." They are not angling works, but they deal with some classes of the angler's flies.

In conclusion, what strikes the reader in all the literature of fly dressing is the partial, the almost provincial, character of every work hitherto written on the subject. It remains to someone to write a complete and comprehensive treatise on all the styles, methods, and devices that remain serviceable and effective at the present day, compressing into one lucid and logically arranged volume the sum of all the science of all the ages upon this interesting topic.

THE FLY FISHERS' CLUB.

[Extracts from the fourteenth annual report, presented at the annual meeting of members on Jan. 26, 1899, the president, William Senior, Esq., in the chair.]

The committee beg to present to the members of the club the report and statement of accounts for the past year.

The hon. treasurer (Mr. R. B. Marston) reports a balance in hand on Dec. 31 of £176 11s. 7d., and the club has also an invested sum of £196 3s. 6d.

During the year twenty new members have been elected, but the losses by resignations and death have reached twenty-nine. The roll is now 280 as against 289 last year.

The committee regret to report the loss by death during the year of several old members, conspicuous among whom is Mr. William Black, the well-known author, who will be much missed by a large circle of friends and by the members of the club.

SPECIAL COMMITTEE ON FLY-DRESSING MATERIALS.

The special committee's report will be found a most interesting document, and we hope to refer to it later on.

The committee consider that the club is under very great obligation to these gentlemen who have devoted so much time, thought, and skill to their labours, and with so successful a result. To Mr. Skues especially must be credited the chief work of procuring and classifying the feathers and materials collected, while Mr. Ohlson has carried out the laborious task of mounting the entire collection. The time and trouble expended by them have been unstinted throughout.

THE ANNUAL DINNER.

The annual dinner took place at the Hotel Cecil on the 16th February last, and was presided over by the Marquis of Granby. It was a decided success.

THE CLUB LIBRARY.

The library has been enriched during the year by many new books which will be found in the appended report of the hon. librarian, and the committee are glad to know that the library is being increasingly used by members. Mention should specially be made of four exceedingly interesting volumes of MSS. dating from 1794, recently presented by Mr. Cholmondeley Pennell, a fuller description of which appears in Mr. Norris's report.

With a view to increasing the interest of members in the club Thursday evening meetings, the committee have under consideration arrangements for establishing periodical guest nights, on dates to be announced, when members will be invited to bring their friends, and may count on always finding company and good fellowship. It is also proposed to have, from time to time, the additional attraction of papers and discussions.

GRESHAM ANGLING SOCIETY.

THE annual general meeting of the society took place on Jan. 31, under the presiding hand of Mr. Arthur Heiron. The business of the meeting was preceded by that of an ordinary meeting, at which one new member was unanimously elected, and Messrs. Davies, Emery, Walker, and Fournay reported upon a visit to Chesham, describing the great number of trout in evidence, many up to 3lb. weight each. The business of the annual meeting was then taken. The notice convening the meeting having been read, the hon. sec. was called upon to read the report of the committee and the accounts for the year ending Dec. 31 last. These showed the society to be in a flourishing condition, and they were adopted unanimously. The election of officers then took place, and resulted as follows: President, Right Hon. Lord George Hamilton, M.P.; vice-presidents, Major the Hon. E. R. Bourke, Sir Edward Birbeck, Bart., M.P., Sir W. J. Richmond Cotton, Bart. (City Chamberlain), and George Chambers, Esq., J.P.; general committee, Messrs. G. Allen, C. S. Bentley, J. P. Connellan, Mark Davies, J. T. Emery, C. E. Fosbrooke, R. Snare, J. H. Walker, and F. A. Gray; entertainment committee, Messrs. F. A. Gray, R. Snare, J. H. Walker, J. T. Emery, G. Maull, G. Hoyle, J. Powles West, and C. Buckingham; honorary treasurer, Mr. W. Marshall; honorary librarian, Mr. F. W. Norman; honorary curator, Mr. J. B. Close; honorary secretary, Mr. Alex. Wright; delegates to the Anglers' Association, Messrs. J. B. Close and F. A. Gray, and to the Central Association, Mr. C. E. Fosbrooke. The delegates were

instructed to take all necessary steps for the obtaining of privilege tickets to as many stations as possible. Votes of thanks were accorded to the officials, honorary and otherwise, for their services during the past year. The usual toasts and a hearty vote of thanks to the chair formally concluded the proceedings. Members are reminded that a Bohemian concert takes place at the above address on Feb. 14, when members are expected to bring as many friends as possible. ALEX. WRIGHT (Hon. Sec.).

Extracts from the report of the general committee to the annual general meeting, held on Tuesday, Jan. 31, 1889.

"In presenting their annual report, the committee congratulate the members on the continued improvement in the position of the society. The accounts for the past year have been duly audited and vouched by a professional accountant, and can be seen at any time on application to the hon. secretary. The year 1898 commenced with a cash balance of £32 13s. 2d., and closed with a balance of £23 19s. The liabilities of the society only amounted to £3 18s. The value of the library and museum has increased since the last report, and the balance in favour of the society now stands at £270 15s. 10d. The gross income has again increased, the number of paying members at Dec. 31 last being 120. The amount expended on renting water has been considerably augmented, and the committee are endeavouring to find fresh waters for the use of the members. There are indications that the present year will be an improvement on the last, several gentlemen having already been nominated for membership. Strict economy in the expenditure will still be maintained. The waters at Kelvedon held on lease by the society are well stocked with fish. Further stretches have been secured, and the weeds out properly over the whole extent of the water at a considerable outlay, in addition to which one of the tenants has spent a large amount of money in taking out the mud, building up the banks, and generally improving the fishing, but owing to the great amount of care exercised this time, future weed cutting, it is hoped, will cost but little. A quantity of rainbow trout (*Salmo irideus*) fry (about 5000) have been promised to the society by the Royal Aquarium Company, providing they are turned into these waters and properly looked after. The offer has been accepted, and it is hoped that satisfactory results may be obtained from the experiment. The fishing on the river Chess (rented by the society) has fulfilled all expectations, a large number of trout having been taken with the fly during the season ended Sept. 30 last, some up to nearly 3lb. in weight. The wet fly is now permitted on the water from April 1 to June 30. But from July 1 to Sept. 30 the dry fly only is allowed. Arrangements have been made for the proper protection of the fish during the spawning season. An offer has been accepted from the Royal Aquarium Company to place 5000 *Salmo fario* fry in these waters during the next few months. The takes of fish, both fresh and salt water, have been fully up to the standard of previous years. A number of specimen fish have been captured. The most notable additions during the year to the museum are a case containing a grayling, presented by W. R. Reeves, Esq., weighing 2½lb., and several cases of artificial flies, &c., presented by Messrs. Goodwin and Hoyle.

Cups and medals have been awarded for specimen fish as under: Dr. Brunton's cup to Mr. W. R. Reeves, for perch of 2lb. 2oz., and grayling of 2lb. 1oz.; Dr. Ladell's shield to Mr. J. T. Emery, for bream of 5lb., and trout of 2lb. 10oz.; Deal challenge cup to Mr. E. C. Clements. Silver medals to Messrs. E. Hesse, for dace of 15½oz.; J. T. Emery, for trout of 2lb. 10oz. (Chesham); W. R. Reeves, for perch of 2lb. 2oz.; J. H. Walker, for grayling of 2lb. 4oz.; Wrightson, for pike of 15lb. 8oz.; J. B. Close, for trout of 3lb. 9oz.; E. C. Clements, for whiting of 2lb. 14oz.; J. Dryden, for cod of 14lb. 2oz.; and Dr. C. S. Patterson, for conger of 18lb.

The Gresham Inger, presented to the society in 1897, has been re-fitted, and is now stationed at Leigh for the entire use of the members. The library has been considerably added to during the past year by gifts from members, and by purchase. It is now one of the best and most varied collections of angling books and literature relating thereto, possessed by any angling society. A fund has been formed for the purposes of re-stocking. The programme for the period ending Feb. 28th, 1900, is in course of preparation, and will shortly be in the hands of the members. It will include maps of our waters at Kelvedon and Chesham, together with a quantity of useful information. The committee would be pleased to receive suggestions in writing for the purpose of making the programme as useful and concise as possible; also to receive the name of any gentleman who would volunteer to read a paper before the society. The meetings have been well attended during the past twelve months. Every effort is made to give the members pleasant, entertaining, and instructive evenings. Papers read by members, discussions, concerts, dinners, and other functions have all passed off in an eminently satisfactory and pleasurable manner. The subscription and entrance fee to the society was raised in May last, with regard to gentlemen nominated for membership after that date. The entrance fee is now £1 1s., and the subscription £1 11s. 6d. The society has contributed to general preservation work, and the re-stocking of public waters.

READING AND DISTRICT ANGLING ASSOCIATION.

The annual general meeting of the members will be held on Monday, the 6th of February, at the Great Western Hotel, Reading, at 6.30 p.m. The annual dinner will be held at the hotel at 7 o'clock on the same day. The president, James Simonds, Esq., in the chair. Great Western Hotel, F. BROWN (Hon. Sec.).

PISCATORIAL SOCIETY.

MR. FRANK WARD took the chair at Monday's meeting, but angling news was almost nil. Mr. A. R. Matthews and Mr. F. G. Bridgman had taken a few roach and a single chub, but beyond these reports river fishing appeared to have been considerably "off." So, too, with regard to salt water angling. Dr. Patterson and six friends had been to Leigh after flounders, but between them had caught but seven fish! Mr. R. C. Blundell suggested the idea of transporting May Fly to the new water at Uxbridge. He thought the experiment was worth trying. It might be done by collecting either the larvae before the fly emerged, or by catching the fly itself and putting it in suitable places on the Colne, so that it might lay eggs, which would hatch out later on. Mr. Bywaters mentioned that the grannom had been successfully introduced on the Kennet at Hungerford, and he did not see why the May Fly should not be brought in the same way to the Colne. Here is a grand chance for the angler-naturalist to distinguish himself! It was stated that some of the members were going to Ringwood for the opening of the salmon fishing, and a promise was made that if the visitors got a fish it should grace the table at next Monday's meeting. May this become a *fait accompli*! Mr. Horace H. Brown translated in his well-known humorous style, some very funny excerpts from the last number of the French Angling journal, *La Pêche Moderne*. The first story was to the effect that a certain M. Taillard had at one cast taken two pike weighing, 14lb. and 5lb. respectively. Mr. Brown, however, added that the cast was not made with a big "Alec," but with a cast net! M. Taillard, it appeared, resided in the Rue de Foclerie, a most appropriate street for a man to live in who went jack fishing with a cast net. Another item was that at Staffa, on Lake Zurich, a pike had been taken, evidently by fair means, of 41lb. The third tale related to the spoon bait and its prohibition in the Marne and Seine, probably on account of trailing. Notwithstanding this spinner being forbidden, a certain French angler fished with it "amid the applause of two thousand spectators who lined the banks, and to the accompaniment of the excellent band of Lagny and a fanfare of trumpets." The Gnard, however, seized the tackle, and the paragraph concluded as follows: "We await with interest the outcome of this historic day." (Much laughter.) Mr. Brown lastly called attention to the fact that there is to be a grand concours of Pêcheurs International of the Amicable Society of Pêcheurs à la ligne at Arras, on Sunday, Aug. 23 next. 1000 francs are offered in prizes, specie, medals, and *objets d'art*, with special prizes for banners, flags, and devices; open to all comers. There will also be prizes for singers, and a competition fanfare of trumpets, and for the *tromp de chasse*, which will take place on the same day, 2500 francs being offered in rewards. Truly, the French anglers have fearful and wonderful ideas of the way of running a competition. It was not, however, proposed that the Piscatorial Society should send a representative to enter the lists for any of the fishing, singing, or trumpet prizes offered!

The committee will meet early on Monday evening to settle the regulations and special permits for fishing the Uxbridge water. These will be forwarded as soon as printed to those members who have paid their current year's subscription of three guineas. The annual dinner will take place at the Holborn Restaurant as usual, the date fixed being March 20 next. M. G. E. DE C.

THE LISMORE FISHERY CASE.

At the Lismore (Ireland) Petty Sessions on Saturday, Jan. 28, judgment was delivered in the important Lismore fishery case. The defendants were the Duke of Devonshire and Messrs. C. and R. Foley, described as owners of the Lismore Fishery Weir. The plaintiffs were the Blackwater Fishery Conservators, who were represented by their inspector, Mr. Thomas Drohan. The charge against the defendants was that they had neglected to make a legal free gap at Lismore Weir, in the river Blackwater, in the county of Waterford. A formal order was made by the magistrates to the effect that "the defendants do pay for fine in respect of each day during six months such sum exceeding £5 and less than £50 as amounts, in respect of the total number of days, to the sum of £1000." And it was further ordered that in default of payment of the above sum that "there be a levy by distress and sale of the goods and chattels of the defendants."

A RESTORED WATERWAY.

THE REVIVED THAMES AND SEVERN CANAL.

WE drew attention some time ago to the work that was going on for the resuscitation of the Thames and Severn Canal. That work is now complete, and the first voyage has been made from end to end, a distance of about thirty-seven and a half miles. All but about four and a quarter miles of this canal has been closed for many years, and it had fallen into such a condition of decay that £15,000 or £20,000 had to be borrowed for putting it into navigable condition again. The work has been going on for the past three years, and the waterway is now navigable throughout for boats carrying thirty tons. It commences in the west by a junction with the Stood water navigation at Wellbridge, Strood, and from thence rises 241ft. to its summit level at Daneway, seven or eight miles from Strood. In this western section of the canal there are no less than twenty-eight locks. The high level section is eight or nine miles long, and it is here, of course, that the canal is fed by a pumping station drawing 3,000,000 gallons of water a day from a well sixty-eight feet deep. There is also a feeder from the river Churn, but the free supply from this source is limited to Sundays, owing to the legal rights of millers in the district. From this high

level at Daneway it drops down by another long series of locks to the Thames at Lechlade. Altogether there are in this famous canal no less than fifty-seven bridges and forty-four locks. In our previous notice of this work we referred to the remarkable tunnel through the Cotswold Hills. It is altogether 3808 yards long, and nearly a mile of it goes through the solid rock. This is one of the many remarkable works projected by Brindley, the famous civil engineer, who thought rivers were of little practical value, except to feed canals. It was originally constructed about a hundred years ago. In 1832, or thereabouts, it narrowly escaped being converted into a section of railway that of a scheme for connecting South Wales with London and Southampton, that would have competed with the Great Western. That scheme fell through, and then the Great Western seem to have set up a private syndicate to buy up the canal, and it was subsequently proposed to close twenty-six miles of it from the Thames. Mr. Mundella, at the Board of Trade, put his foot on this project, maintaining that the canals of the country ought to compete for traffic with the railways. After a good deal of negotiation, or attempts at negotiation, baffled for a long time by the difficulty of finding out who really owned, or controlled the canal—though everybody assumed that of course it was the Great Western—a public trust has been formed, and a spirited attempt is to be made to attract traffic between the Thames and the Severn through this restored waterway. The first impression must be that any competition between water and rail between London and the West of England cannot but be hopeless, and that the attempt to revive such competition is a setting back of the clock. Perhaps it will really prove so. But it ought not to be too readily assumed. It is thought that there are some classes of goods for which this waterpassage may prove a good deal cheaper than transit by rail. The cloth manufacturers of the West of England for instance, may find an advantageous way of getting down their supplies of wool from the London docks, and sending back their finished goods to places along the Thames. Years ago, boating parties used to make trips across from the Thames to the Severn this way, and now that it has been put in apple-pie order it is hoped that they may do so again. The headquarters of the management are at Wellbridge, Strood.—*Daily News*.

EAST LIVERPOOL ANGLING ASSOCIATION.

THE members of this association of followers of the gentle art dined together recently at the Bee Hotel, under the chairmanship of Mr. Cbantler, the president, Mr. P. Macmurdrow, being unable to be present. There was a large and representative gathering of members and friends, the guests including Capt. MacNab, president of the Liverpool Angling Association; Mr. Taylor, of the Nelson Anglers; Mr. Collinson, West Derby Anglers; Mr. Ross, Central Anglers; and Mr. Taylor and Mr. Bancroft, Warrington Anglers. After an excellent repast had been disposed of, the cloth was removed, and the chairman gave the loyal toasts, which were received with musical honours. Mr. G. Attwood then proposed the toast of "Kindred Associations," which was responded to by Mr. Bancroft, Mr. Taylor, and Capt. MacNab. The prizes were then presented. There were four special and twenty-one specimen prizes. Of the former a marble clock, presented by Mr. J. W. Wright for a roach, was won by Mr. G. Barratt; a silk line, presented by Mr. Parks for a trout, was won by Mr. J. A. Porter; case of carvers, presented by Mr. Stanbury for a tench from Meols Lake, was won by Mr. Wishart, who also carried off with the same fish a guinea rod, presented by Mr. Moore, Whitechapel, for the heaviest fish from Meols Lake. A capital programme was gone through during the evening. Mr. M. V. Clyto contributed a clever and amusing ventriloquial sketch with his figure of Ally Sloper; Mr. Williams, concertina solos; Mr. Gilbert, some capital coster songs; other songs being given by Messrs. J. E. Mawdsley, W. Sutton, P. Clyto, Keefe, and J. Williamson, and a recitation by Mr. Cross. Messrs. Freeman and T. Mawdsley accompanied. A branch of this association has been formed in the north end of the city, and is called the Bootle branch, of which Mr. W. Jones, the founder of the Liverpool Angling Association, has been duly elected the chairman; Mr. J. E. Pritchard, vice-chairman; Mr. Jas. Reynolds, secretary (*pro tem*); treasurer, Mr. G. Barratt. The second meeting was held on Tuesday last, at which several new members were elected, making just on twenty members all told. This can be considered very good, and there is every likelihood of there being twenty more during the next two meetings, the first of which takes place at the Victoria Hotel, Merandia-road, on Wednesday, at 8.30 p.m. The committee of the parent association will be held on Tuesday, at 8.30 p.m.

JAMES REYNOLDS.

NORTHERN ANGLERS' ASSOCIATION.

A MEETING of the executive council took place at Stockport on Saturday last. Representatives were present from Manchester, Bolton, Wigan, Blackburn, Liverpool, Atherton, Farnworth, Crewe, Stockport, Oldham, Ashton, and Stalybridge. In the absence of the Rev. C. P. Roberts, who was unable to attend, the chair was taken by Mr. George Sutherland, J.P., of Wigan. The minutes of last meeting having been confirmed, it was reported that the proprietors of the Shropshire Union Canal had been stocking the water with young fish, and the secretary was instructed to write to the manager for particulars. It was agreed that the members of unattached clubs be required to pay the levy to the Coarse Fishers' Defence Fund along with the yearly subscription for membership, and that all centre secretaries be responsible for the levies in their districts, the same to be paid in at next

meeting. The newly formed centres at Preston and Liverpool were accepted into the association. The date of the proposed grand fishing contest was fixed for Saturday, June 24, the match to be fished in three sections on Lancaster canal, viz., Barton and Broughton, Brock, and Garstangs. A sub-committee was appointed to arrange details and conduct the match, it being left optional for any member of the council to fish if he desires to do so. The entrance fee to be 1s. 6d. each, to include the canal bank fee. The match to be open to the public, and £30 to be offered in prizes. Every competitor will be required to produce his railway ticket when weighing, to show that he has travelled by the special trains guaranteed for the occasion, and no one will be permitted to fish in the canal previously to the commencement of the contest. The next meeting of the council to be held in April, at Farnworth. Several other minor matters of interest to the members were disposed of, the meeting lasting nearly four hours, broken only for a short period to enable the assembled representatives to partake of lunch, kindly provided by the Stockport Centre, to whom a hearty vote of thanks was tendered.

THOS. W. REDFORD, Hon. Sec.

REPORTS FROM RIVERS, LOCHS, &c.

River Reporters who want forms and envelopes should send a post card to the Manager of the FISHING GAZETTE, St. Dunstan's House, Fetter-lane, London.

Time of High Water in the Thames.

To find the time of high water in the Thames at any of the following places, to the time of high water at London Bridge given below.

30 min. for Chelsea.	55 min. for Kew.
40 " " Putney.	75 " " Richmond.
45 " " Hammersmith.	80 " " Twickenham.
50 " " Barnes.	85 " " Teddington.

EXAMPLE.—If it is high water at 2 o'clock at London Bridge, it will be high water at Teddington at 3.25, or 85 minutes later.

N.B.—A strong wind up-stream accelerates the tide very much, and one down-stream retards it.

TIME OF HIGH WATER AT LONDON BRIDGE.

	Morning.	Evening.
Saturday, Feb. 4	6.55	7.22
Sunday, " 5	7.52	8.26
Monday, " 6	9.7	9.54
Tuesday, " 7	10.41	11.25
Wednesday, " 8	—	0.6
Thursday, " 9	0.40	1.8
Friday, " 10	1.34	1.59

HIGH WATER AT AMBERLEY AND PULBOROUGH.

	Morning.	Evening.
Saturday, Feb. 4	7.35	8.2
Sunday, " 5	8.32	9.6
Monday, " 6	9.47	10.34

These times show high water at Houghton Bridge, Amberley. Pulborough will be 2h. 40m. later.

ENGLISH AND WELSH REPORTS.

Lower Thames.—GENERAL REMARKS.—The report at the weekly meeting of the Piscatorial Society, at the Holborn Restaurant, from my good friend, Mr. C. H. Wheeley, who is one of its most popular members, that he had recently seen, at Weybridge, a large shoal of bream gambolling about on the surface, reminds me of a conversation I once had, years ago, with the late Mr. John Harris, of the Lincoln Arms Hotel—and a grand old fisherman—when he told me the bream originally got into the Thames at Shepperton from the bursting of the Wey; but my recollection does not serve me now as to the great quantity he got in angling soon afterwards. But I think I have before remarked in the *Fishing Gazette* that Chertsey is indebted to Shepperton for the first introduction of bream there from the rod of the late Mr. Herelline, who I knew as a most successful angler and a thorough sportsman. The great take of bream at Chertsey, with James Haslett, of 147lb. weight in one day, must not be forgotten. When I was at Twickenham, on Tuesday, the water had much improved, and some punts were out, but up to then nothing much had been done. A fine specimen of the head of an "angler" fish was received on Saturday evening last by Mr. Charles Shore from a friend, which had been caught in the Bay of Biscay, and was on view at Messrs. Fisher and Son, 8, London-road (fishmongers to H.R.H. Duc d'Orleans), and attracted much attention. It weighed 40lb., and is being sent for preservation. At the preliminary meeting at the Black Dog Hotel, at Twickenham, on Friday evening last, it was decided to establish an angling club for the district, to be called the Twickenham Piscatorial Society, and upwards of a dozen members were enrolled—Mr. Garwood occupied the chair—and was adjourned for a larger meeting on Feb. 7. Mr. Ogden Smith informed me on Tuesday he had received some additional names to be enrolled as members, and there was every prospect of the society being made a great success. If it is carried on the same lines as the one at Kingston it cannot fail to be accomplished, and that one is due to the practical energy of Mr. F. H. Amphlett, who is entitled to the highest credit for the interest he has taken in the working of it.—B.

(Datchet).—River in first rate order. I have been out twice this week. Had a good bag of roach and perch with worm. Jack and chub might be sought after now with every prospect of success.—G. LUMSDEN.

(Hampton Court).—William Milbourne, on Tuesday, writes: "The water is now going down, and getting into better condition for angling, but there is still a heavy stream, as the weirs are only partly shut in. My son Thomas, jack fishing with a gentleman to-day, landed five jack, the three largest together weighing 14lb.; the other two were returned. The bank anglers

have been doing well with the roach the last two or three days, some of them weighing 1½lb. each. In the course of a few fine days, when the weirs are shut in the water will be in good order for all-round fishing.—B."

(Henley).—Feb. 2.—The water is now in splendid condition. It has felt to a good level, although a strong stream is running. Good sport has been had among the roach, perch, and jack, and are still well on the feed, although I can hear of no large pike having been taken. On the 27th and 28th ult., Mr. Escombe, out with G. Arlett, three jack and 20lb. of roach. On the 29th ult., Messrs. W. and S. Meyers, out with J. James, six jack, weighing close on 30lb., best fish 7lb. On the same date, Mr. Johnson, out with G. Arlett, seven jack, best fish 5lb. On the 30th ult., Messrs. Tod Pulling and W. Clisby, out with G. Arlett, four jack, best fish 4½lb., and a good bag of perch. On the 31st ult., Mr. Ward, out with G. Arlett, a nice bag of roach, perch, and a 6½lb. jack. On the same date, Mr. J. Harvey, jun., 20lb. of roach, best fish 1lb. On the 1st inst., a patron of J. James, four jack, best fish 3½lb., and a few perch; a patron of W. Vaughan, four dozen roach; Dr. Jeston, out with R. Young, of Medmenham, six jack, best fish 3½lb., and fifty brace of retainable perch; and Mr. J. Harvey, jun., two dozen roach, best fish 1½lb.; several other anglers having good bags of roach, perch up to 1½lb., and some jack up to 5lb.—STANLEY MEAD.

(Kingston).—John Johnson reports some fishing with Mr. Grimston, who creoled several nice bream. The water had gone down nicely, and is in good condition.—B.

(Lechlade, &c.).—The country around this district has been for a week past covered with floods for miles, and looking in some parts on rough days like a miniature sea. Angling matters have consequently been nearly at a standstill pending the abating of the floods and the water clearing. Some good sport should then be had with pike, perch, and roach during the remainder of the coarse fishing season. Barrelling items have been particularly quiet of late, these big fish being well down in their winter deeps, and the best time for them is practically over. The Thames and Severn Canal is again open for traffic from Inghesham Lock, about a mile above this town, right away through to Stroud and on to the Severn. The canal contains perch, roach, and jack, but at present they run small. Fine tench are met with in some of the sections, up to 3lb. each. Some Swindon gentlemen had sport with jack at St. John's Bridge on Wednesday. Water clearing fast.—RAMBLER.

(Teddington).—W. McBride, one day, with Mr. Hinton, three jack, the largest 5½lb. A few hours with Mr. W. H. Port, of Teddington, four jack, the largest 4½lb., and lost one of about 10lb. Half a day, with Mr. Stokes, two jack, weighing respectively 7lb. and 4½lb. In two hours, with Mr. Ben Giles, three jack, the largest 6½lb. The water is in splendid condition for jack fishing if the rains keep off.—B.

(Twickenham).—R. Moffatt, in three days, nine bream, the largest 2½lb., and three dozen of roach, the largest 1½lb.—B.

(Windsor).—Feb. 2. The water is now in first-class order, and anglers should lose no time in trying the jack and chub. For the first time this season everything is favourable for good bags of the latter being accounted for, the drawback all the season has been the want of enough stream to get a quick and clean swim down, which is absolutely necessary to secure a heavy bag.—CECIL HOWLETT.

Arun (Pulborough).—A fair muster visited here on Jan. 29th, who found the river in fair order considering the recent floods, though on account of frosts takes ruled small, and with the exception of Mr. W. H. Allan (St. Alban's) who took four bream, 3lb., other takes were very small. At the time of writing (Wednesday night) the river is fast righting itself.—W. G. HOLLMAN.

Barton Broad (Stalham).—Since Christmas the pike fishing has been very good, Mr. E. Rose, of Woodford, has taken a few nice fish up to 11lb. weight. Mr. Penny and friend, from Yarmouth, have had a good day, I should say one of the best this season, numbering several good fish; several other gentlemen have been fairly successful. Mr. M. H. Matthews, of Southtown, Great Yarmouth, had one of 14lb., and another on Monday last; he writes me to say prospects are good. I should say so, too. With fine weather some good fish could be taken; so far this has been a record season at Barton.—ALMA NICHOLS.

Bottisham Locks (Waterbeach, Cambs.).—The weather during the past week has been bright, with slight frost, and these have much improved the condition of the river. At present everything points to the angler for pike having good sport. Several had during the past two weeks. There is no doubt but near the waterfalls at the locks just now pike are numerous, and are working up stream. Roach fishing has been slow, having such changeable weather. The dace have been spawning the last month. Live baits on the spot. Present time of writing (Feb. 1) water in good colour, and bank angling clean. Wind W.—JOHN O. GEORGE.

Coln, Leach, &c. (East Gloucestershire).—The heavy and continuous rains we have had during January has put these trout streams bank high, and in many parts in flood—higher than known for several years. Generally on these streams this means a good spawning season, the dace being non-plused and not venturing nearly so much on the rapidly flowing streams. They can in several parts be seen contenting themselves at the water's edge or on the river banks. Reports generally speak of the big spawning trout as being unusually numerous on many of the lengths, due undoubtedly to liberal and judicious restocking with *farios* and keeping ducks off the water. The season will undoubtedly be an early one, and the 12in. fish will be in good condition by the opening of the season,

about Easter time. Have seen several March Browns, Duns, and Spinners on the water during the past fortnight.—PAN.

Dart (Totnes and District).—It is satisfactory to learn that something is to be done as regards the restocking of the river. It was announced this week to the members of the Angling Association that that body would have been prepared to devote money to the purpose if necessary. It seems, however, that the Fishery Association, who own the valuable net fishing at Totnes Weir, intend spending a considerable sum (probably £100) in restocking the river with trout, and in providing ponds for the rearing of salmon from the ova by various stages, it being proposed to do this on an extensive scale. This announcement will be hailed with satisfaction by all anglers. The question of the prohibition of the use of the minnow within 100yds. of Totnes Weir has again been brought forward, it being thought by many anglers that the regulation put in force by the Fishing Association a year or so since is a vexatious and unnecessary one. On the other hand, it is urged that if the rule is rescinded it would afford opportunities for "jigging" fish, and that probably the association's right of fishing at the weir would be cancelled.—DEVONIAN.

Devonshire Streams.—The Tamar and Plym Board of Conservators may congratulate themselves on their satisfactory financial position. Their total receipts last season amounted to £326, and they have a credit balance of £186. In all, 221 rod and line licences were issued, the average for the past seven years being 244; but rod fishermen experienced a very bad season. From observation of the spawning beds of the Plym and Meavy, it is thought that the rivers are stocked with a very fine lot of fish. In view of possible increased expenditure in acquiring additional rights, &c., the Exe Conservators are unable to recommend the expenditure of any money for restocking purposes. Last season 1961 salmon were caught by nets in the tidal portions of the Exe (a total weight of 21,571lb.) and 224 (weighing 3172lb.) in the inland waters. Rod fishermen secured 112 salmon, scaling 1101lb. in all.—DEVONIAN.

Exe and Canal (Exeter).—For the first time for four months we have enjoyed a whole fine week. Although it has been very keen, anglers have taken full advantage of the dry spell, and a number of pike have paid the penalty. The best fish of the week was a 13½-pounder, which fell to the rod of Lieut. Holland. Strange to say, this was the gallant officer's *début* in pike fishing, so that he is to be doubly congratulated.—RED PALMER.

Fen District (South Lincs. and Cambs.).—A change is apparently coming over the spirit of the angler's dream. Ten days ago roach were the feature of his basket; now, apparently, pike is to have a chance. The cold weather of last week is having its effect, and better water is said to be doing on the pike waters, especially the Forty-foot and the Welland. Several lots have been reported, but news of the big fish will come later on.—LIMPET.

Idle District (North Notts).—The frost last week deepened, until by the week-end many of the still waters were covered with ice. This damped the ardour of the canal fishers. What few anglers were out on Monday and Tuesday confined their operations to the running streams. A few chub and grayling were reported from the upper waters, whilst in the lower and Haxey way jack and pike had attention. Reports, however, up to date are very meagre.—L.

Lark (Icklingham and Lackford).—The river in this district is in very fair order for pike. Only a few rods, however, have been out. Messrs. J. Hedges and Brownfield, four pike on the 26th ult. Water in most parts is in a lovely condition for spinning. Mr. W. G. King had some good roach and dace with worm at Lackford last week.—A. E. KEMP.

Lea.—Last week I expressed the hope that in my next report I should be able to record some good catches, especially as regards the roach; but up to this (Thursday) morning I have heard of very little sport from the Lea. Generally speaking, the river has been in condition for all-round angling, and the only assumption is that the unsettled and changeable weather has affected the fish in regard to their feeding habits. The Rye House district appears to have yielded the best sport. Here I hear of a 10lb. basket of roach being obtained, and also of a pike of about 10lb. being brought to bank. A number of pike have been taken at St. Margaret's, one club angler getting three going 9½lb.; but dull sport is reported from Ware and Hertford. A few nice roach have been caught at Cheshunt, but little has been done among these fish in the Enfield Lock district. The Stort has once more disappointed anglers, the water having greatly varied. Upon one occasion parts of the upper river were coated with ice. No results worth recording are reported, but the water is in condition.—ISAAC WALTON.

Lugg and Arrow (Leominster).—Both these streams have gone down, and were on a fair way to clearing at the end of last week, when sharp frosts had frozen the water over the fields, and skating was brisk; a sudden thaw set in on Monday, followed by rain, and it has been threatening every day since, and there is little prospect of any fishing being done for some days. What is wanted is some good frosts, and then fishing would be good. The Pinesley is colonised.—GWYNNE.

Nene (Peterborough).—There is a considerable improvement in the condition of the river this week as compared with the past fortnight, the water, according to the gauge at the town bridge, having fallen about 2ft., and now it is assuming its usual colour, but no particular sport has yet been indulged in. The dredging of the river in the Wisbech district is just now the subject of much interest, the Corporation having decided to purchase an Eroder dredger at a cost of about £1800; but a memorial has been forwarded to the Local Government Board asking

them not to sanction the borrowing of the money for the purpose.—E. A. S.

Otter (Budleigh Salterton).—Trout fishing on the public water at this place, as well as on some reaches higher up the river, commences from to-morrow (Feb. 2). The Bicton water does not open until March 1. Sad to relate, the netters have already commenced dragging the public water, and will, no doubt, continue to do so without hindrance, as usual. The recent floods have thoroughly cleaned the bed of the stream, and have in many places created new runs. The public water looks very well for the angler. From all accounts, there are not so many sea trout in the river as usual, but as yet nothing certain on this head can be known.—HERON.

Ouse (Great Paxton, St. Neot's).—Jan. 31. This is the jack fisher's time. We have had three weeks' flood waters rolling down the river, which has driven the fish from the middle of the river into the corners and backwaters, and near the sides, where the force of the stream has been broken by weeds and reeds, or anything that broke the face of it. The fish, therefore, will be in larger numbers in less room, and good baskets ought to be made. The water is in perfect condition.—W. DUCKER.

Ouse (Holywell Ferry).—River in thorough good condition, and some very decent jack taken daily, largest since last week 8½lb., one gentleman yesterday taking six good fish. The water is a better colour than it has been all the season, so things look very promising. The frosts have sharpened their appetites a lot.—A. SCARD.

Ouse (St. Ives, Hunts.).—Chub up to 5lb, pike 9½lb., roach 1lb. 7oz. have been taken this week. Should we get no more rain we shall have splendid water for our annual match with the N.A.P.S. on Thursday, Feb. 9.—E. COLLINSON.

Ouse (St. Neot's).—Water clearing very nicely; it is now in very good condition indeed, and by Friday or Saturday will be about perfect. A gentleman has just caught three nice jack near my boathouse, in half an hour, two of 4lb., the other rather smaller. I quite think sport may now be depended upon, conditions all round being very favourable.—W.M. NASH.

Severn, Vyrnwy, Tanat, and Cain (Llanymynech).—After the recent boisterous weather we have now a complete change, and with sharp, frosty nights, followed by brilliant sunshine throughout the day, angling for grayling is now pursued under the most favourable conditions, and very good sport has been had in the Tanat with these fish. In the Severn and Vyrnwy capital sport is being had, especially with pike, and last Saturday some Liverpool anglers had a very good day's sport in the Vyrnwy, near Llanymynech, and returned home with upwards of 50lb. of pike and perch.—VYRNWY.

Stour (Bures, Suffolk).—The water has been in splendid condition for angling during the past week, and some good fish have been landed. Mr. George Root, on the 28th ult., had amongst others a roach of 1lb. 9½oz. Mr. Wilson, on the 29th, had a roach of 1lb. 12oz.; and Mr. Thatcher, of London, five pike, all taken at the Gasworks swim. A large number of anglers were out on that date, but the takes were mostly very small. On the 1st inst. Mr. Geo. Root had a jack of 4lb., and on the 2nd, 7lb. of roach, largest 1lb. 10z. The water is still in first-class condition, and with the colder weather we are now having some good bags ought to be made. Gentles or worms are the most killing baits.—W. T. BAINBRIDGE.

Sussex Rivers and Chichester Canal.—With a continuance of fine weather rivers have greatly improved, and are now in good order for all kinds of angling. From the Ouse numbers of small pike have been taken; and from the Cuckmere, bream weighing 2lb., and perch up to 4lb. A few pike have been captured from the Rother, principally with live snap; but the heaviest fish, weighing 6½lb., was caught on paternoster, baiting with gudgeon, a perch of 1½lb. taking the lower hook. The Adur is now at its normal height, and should fish all right by the 5th, as it is low tide. The canal at Chichester has been well patronised. Pike have fed fairly well, but the average fish run about 3lb. A nice pike of 6½lb. was caught in the lower water by a visitor on Saturday. Perch up to 2½lb., and bream of 1½lb. are among recent captures.—G. F. SALTER.

Taw (North Devon).—East wind for the opening day. Very few able to stand the cold, and the fish knew well where to keep. Few catches and small are reports up to six o'clock. I got only six, which a sick friend relished.—RUSTY GAME.

Teme (Ludlow).—The Teme in this part has gone down considerably, and all the water has run off the fields, but the weather has been very changeable. The frosts of last week froze the water on the fields, and made good skating; but a sudden change on Sunday melted the ice, and then rain threatened, and the weather has been very miserable. The water is still rather high and coloured, and out of order for fly fishing or bottom; and no anglers have been out for a fortnight, and there is little prospect of any fishing being had. The high water assisted the salmon to get up the little rivers to spawn, where they have not been for some years. They will soon begin to get back to the Severn. The Ony, Corve, Clun, and Ledwyche have all been running high and muddy; they have now gone down, but are still out of order for fishing, and little will be done before trout season begins.—S. LUDLOW.

Teme (Tenbury).—In this district the river is still running out of order for fishing. The sharp frosts at the end of last week caused the river to go down and begin to clear, and there was a prospect of sport being had this week, but the weather has again changed, and rain has been falling, and it is generally miserable, and no angler would think of running the risk of catching a cold instead of fish, as things are at present, and nothing will be done until the weather takes up and we have some good frosts.—WORCESTER.

Trent (Newark).—For several weeks the Trent has been almost unfishable, bank full, and of bad colour, but is now fining down, and fit for either pike or bottom fishing. During the past few days roach and chub have been taken with gentles and worms, though nothing special as specimen fish. Of pike, the best weighed 10lb., taken by Mr. W. Taylor from the Muskham Fishery, in which water pike fishing ceases on the 15th inst.—TRENTSIDER.

Witham, &c. (Mid-Lincolnshire).—The continued rains had up to the beginning of last week raised heavy floods on the Witham below Bardney. The volume from the Barlings stream contributing to this effect, angling reports, therefore, on the lower Witham were very scanty. The frost chilled the water a good deal, and on Monday it was reported that the river was running down nicely. About the only report worth mention was from Five Mile House, where some roach up to 1lb. had been taken. A few decent pike are reported from Brayford Pool, at Lincoln; and at Saxilby, on the Fossdyke, and at Torkey, at its junction with the Trent, a few roach have been taken with a worm and bran as ground bait. Sport is quiet on Boston drains.—LUCI.

Yorkshire Rivers.—THE YORE, SWALE, NIDD, WHARFE, &c.—The Hawes and High Abbotside Angling Association, who have the right of fishing the Yore from the Moorcock Inn, above Hawes, down to a short distance below the Yore Bridge, closed their waters yesterday, Feb. 1, for grayling fishing. In doing so, if the trout angling is to be kept up to its present excellence, I think they are making a mistake. It is evident the stock of grayling must be kept down to within reasonable limits, if not, they will, in a great measure, take the place of the trout! I have examined the stomachs of a lot of grayling I have caught during the past six weeks, and have given dishes to friends, asking them to make a like examination, and the result in every instance shows that the grayling were full of trout ova. The past grayling season in the Hawes Association water has been the best they have had for years, a lot of grayling have been caught, and J. Blades and other anglers have had good sport from the opening of the season up to its close, and not a single blank day has been recorded. Sport, too, in the Wensleydale Angling Association water has been good during the past week. All the fish caught in the Yore, Bishopdale Beck, and the Cover are still in fine condition, and according to their present appearance they will continue so until the end of this month, at any rate. Messrs. Dalton, Lupton, and Dent, of Harrogate, had good sport in the Yore at Aysgarth on Thursday and Friday, killing over sixty good grayling with the maggot and worm; and on Saturday Mr. Kitching, station-master of Aysgarth, and three friends had good creels from Bishopdale Beck, which joins the Yore a short distance below the falls. Sport lower down the main river has been generally of a satisfactory nature, Mr. J. E. Miller, the Rev. J. Murphey, Mr. Collinson, and others having frequently made good baskets. Mr. Riley Fortune, the well-known Harrogate piscator, had a good day on the Tanfield water on Friday, killing thirty-one good grayling. He says: "Most of my fish were caught with the gentle. I commenced with the worm, but after catching a few fish they would not take it at all, and I tried the maggot with success. Your practical Pennell tackle is excellent; I seldom lose a fish with it," and packed in Messrs. Warner and Sons' patent handy-gut hook case the saving of time and trouble is immense. The invention is a very cheap one, and one of the most useful I have seen for many years. Very few Yorkshire grayling waters will close until March 15, but the Costa Club close theirs on Feb. 23. Some nice pike have been caught in the Swale, and at Morton Bridge on Friday last three anglers from Harrogate caught over 30lb. of roach, dace, &c. Sport has improved on the Wharfe. At Newton Kyne, J. E. Miller, jun., and Mr. C. Leach had two nice pike. At Burnsall, Mr. Skerrington caught ten good grayling with the worm; and at Collingham, Mr. Pickersgill, of Leeds, had a good dish of twelve grayling. On Saturday he caught three grayling and half a dozen dace. Some snow showers have fallen to-day, and the weather is colder again. Prospects are, however, good for next week if the weather keeps favourable.—J. E. MILLER, Northern Anglers' Depot, 19, New Station-street, Leeds.

SCOTCH REPORTS.

Loch Tay (Kenmore, Perthshire, N.B.).—Kenmore, Loch Tay.—On the hotel water, on Jan. 25, Mr. D. Carson killed salmon, 34lb. 30th, Mr. W. Knight killed salmon, 20lb. Loch in good ply.—KNIGHT.

Loch Tay (Killin).—Jan. 26, Mr. Hodgson, one salmon, 18lb.; Jan. 27, Mr. Hodgson, one salmon, 18lb.; Jan. 28, Mr. Hodgson, one salmon, 23lb.—H. MAISEY.

Lyon (Fortingall).—Gentlemen fishing from the Fortingall Hotel had the following sport: Jan. 16, Mr. Edmund Berry, a beautiful salmon of 19½lb.; 19th, Mr. Philip Geen, one, 10lb.; 20th, Mr. Philip Geen, one, 30lb.; 21st, Mr. A. C. Johnson, one, 18lb.; 24th, Mr. Philip Geen, two, one 19lb. and one 20lb. There are lots of salmon to be seen.—MACPHAIL.

North-East of Scotland.—In another week the Scotch salmon fishing season will be in full swing. A check has been given to the series of big waters in the low temperature which has prevailed for the past two weeks, bringing with it frosts and slight snowstorms. This will be all the better for the general prospects of the opening season. On the Dee active preparations have been going on for some time, and anglers will be forward in force on the opening day. Mr. J. C. Haslam will fish the Carlogie section, Mr. J. C. Deverell (London) the Kincardine Lodge section, Lord Gairloch the Borrowstone waters, Mr. J. Drummond the Ballachie reaches, Major Davidson the Dees water, Mr. Duncan Davidson the Inchmarlo, Sir John Gladstone the Upper Blackhall, Mrs. F. Watson the Woodend, and Mr. and Mrs. Farley the Cairnton.

Mr. L. H. Croke has taken the Invercauld private water, and a number of rods will divide the Glentana for three months as formerly. The Ythan and Ugie do not open till the 25th inst.—G. M.

South of Scotland.—The extremely mild weather prevailing over the southern part of Scotland since Christmas gave way to a severe snap of frost last week, and curling was in full swing on a number of the lochs. A thaw set in on Sunday, and at the time of writing the ice is quickly disappearing. Except there is a renewal of the frost every trace of ice will have disappeared before the end of the present week. Since the season for the rod fishing closed, on Nov. 15, very few salmon have been seen on the usual spawning beds, where in former years they used to swarm. The keepers in the higher waters of the Solway rivers report that breeding salmon have been unusually scarce this winter. The opportunity for close observation has been a difficult matter for many weeks past, owing to the continual floods in the rivers. It may be said that all the rivers in Dumfriesshire and Galloway have been almost daily in flood since the new year. Happily, so far, only two diseased salmon have been seen this winter, and it is hardly likely there will be any serious outbreak this year. The Solway rivers will open their season for rod fishing in three weeks, but it cannot be said that the spring fishing is promising. None of the Border rivers give much spring fishing for salmon, although a few odd fish are generally accounted for. In the Annan a new fish or two have been seen ascending the river within the last fortnight. Salmon netting on the English side of the channel of the Solway opens on the 10th inst., and on the Scotch side, on the 25th. Rod fishing on the Nith and Galloway rivers likewise commences on Feb. 25. In the Dumfries court last week two men pleaded not guilty to a contravention of the Salmon Fisheries (Scotland) Act. After hearing all the evidence, the Sheriff said that, taking into consideration that both the accused had been previously convicted under the Act, a fine of £2 17s. each would be imposed, or the alternative of one month's imprisonment.—HEATHERBELL.

Tweed, Teviot, and other Border Rivers.—The main rivers in the Border district—the two first named—have been running in very good volume during the past week, and in nice colour; but to-day (Wednesday), the opening of the salmon rod-fishing on both rivers, the weather has been most capricious—the previous evening we had a slight shower of snow, then frost, and this morning more of the same, while during the afternoon and evening we were treated to heavy snow and sleet showers. Thus the opening of the salmon season was not a desirable one, and no rods were out in the Kelso district. In fact, the season will not, as a general rule, begin much before the end of the month. According to all accounts that at present can be gleaned from those who are supposed, and ought to know, there seems just now to be a scarcity of clean run spring fish in the Tweed; yet this is strange, as we lately had some splendid floods, running well on for several days, and giving clean spring salmon a grand chance to ascend to the high and middle reaches of the river. What the cause of this scarcity of clean fish in such a river as the Tweed is beyond the ken of fisherman on the Borders, and kelts seem to be in the same category as the clean fish. Trout fishing has not been very brisk during the last ten days, only a few old hands having been out, and their baskets have been light, ranging from 2lb. to 3½lb., and not a bull trout amongst the lot, but a few had some very nice grayling, all in capital condition. Salmon poaching, which is now very much done away with in the Kelso district of the Tweed and Teviot, is yet carried on to a small extent. The net salmon fishings begin on Tuesday, the 14th inst., when minnow fishing also becomes legal.—MAXWHEEL.

IRISH REPORTS.

Antrim Rivers.—The season opened on the Bush on Wednesday, the 1st inst., with the stream rather high for fly fishing. The weather is more favourable, as the frost has gone. The same day the season opened on the Lagan and the Glens of Antrim streams. As a rule trouting is not much good for the first fortnight on these rivers.—J. A. B.

Boyne.—Angling opens on the 12th inst. There is plenty of fish in the river above Drogheda.—J. A. B.

Bundrowes River (co. Donegal).—Angling began on this river to-day (Feb. 1). The river is at present in good fishing ply, and as a number of fresh run salmon have recently been seen passing through the river to the lake (Melvin), some good sport should be had on the river. The daily or weekly tickets to fish the Bundrowes river now can be obtained from the manager of the Bundrowes Fishery. Owing to the manner in which the Bundrowes river has been protected against poaching for the past two years, this should undoubtedly be a sporting spring amongst the salmon, both on the river and lake, as there has been upwards of a dozen keepers constantly on the river during this period.—M. ROGAN AND SONS.

Cork Rivers.—The accounts to hand of the sport on the principal rivers go to show that matters have not been up to anticipation, though fair sport was generally had. Spring salmon are arriving in better numbers on the larger rivers since Monday. All waters are now in good angling trim, and the prospects for the next few days are good.—T. J. D.

Kerry Rivers.—Comparatively little has been done among anglers on the waters where angling opened on the 1st inst. Spring salmon are reckoned numerous, but the weather conditions were not of the best. At time of writing, however, the weather has undergone a favourable change, and the prospects for the next few days, at least, are good.—T. J. D.

Killarney.—Sport has been generally of a dull description on the lakes, and fair on the principal rivers since the opening of the season. The weather at time of writing has improved very much, and as all waters are in

better order the prospects for the coming week are very materially improved.—T. J. D.

Lough Currane, &c. (Waterville, co. Kerry).—Angling opens here to-day (Feb. 1), but as this report must be posted in time for the mail, which leaves here at 3 p.m., no accounts of the angling were to hand, as the boats will not return until nightfall. The day is favourable, and the water in good condition.—T. C. D.

Moy, Loughs Conn and Cullen (Ballina, co. Mayo).—River in good order for opening on the 1st inst. Weather mild and warm. I have seen a few new fish show themselves already close to the upper bridge.—PAT HEARNES.

Shannon and Lough Derg (Killaloe).—The angling season for salmon and trout opened on the river Shannon to-day (Feb. 1), but the only rod I have seen out up to now was the Rev. Mervyn Archdall, chaplain to the Forces, Belfast, who has rented my reserved water above the bridge. I am glad to say that the floods are subsiding, and if all goes well salmon fishers should have a good chance of nailing a few heavy spring fish before many days are about. The pike fishing on the lake has improved. For instance, on Friday last, Mr. Richard Hope and Mrs. Hope, of Maidenhead, killed two of the handsomest pike I have ever seen. They were as bright almost as a June grilse, and comely withal. The heads of the brace were particularly handsome. Mrs. Hope's fish weighed 20lb., and Mr. Hope's 26lb. The brace have been sent to Mr. Williams, naturalist, Dame-street, Dublin, for preservation. It was curious that only ten minutes intervened between the capture of the two fish. The fortunate captors had fished steadily up to 4.20 p.m. without getting a "touch," but at that hour Mr. Hope's rod got a whack, and after fifteen minutes' splendid play it was brought to boat. Flasks of Gilbey's best Irish whiskey were soon in requisition, and scarcely were the lines out again when Mrs. Hope's rod was bent to the gunwale of the boat, and after about seventeen minutes' brilliant sport her beautiful fish was lying on the footboards. Bravo, and bravo again, Mrs. Hope! I had nearly omitted to say that the fair lady angler got, during the week, not a few other nice pike, ranging in weight from 6½lb. to 10lb. Mr. and Mrs. Hope were attended by Tom and Jack Grimes.—S. J. HURLEY.

Tyrone Rivers.—The Tyrone streams are all in flood. The first to open are the Ballinderry, Blackwater, and their tributaries on the 1st prox., and the Mourne, Roe, Derg, Glenelly, &c., on April 1. The spawning on most of these rivers was successful, generally speaking, although there was a decided falling off in the number of salmon on the redds compared with other recent years.—J. A. B.

SEA FISHING.

THE following table gives the nearest approximate tides for the use of sea anglers for the week ending Friday, Feb. 10. Tides decrease till Monday morning.

	Sat.	Sun.	Mon.	Tues.	Wed.	Th.	Fri.
	a.m.	a.m.	a.m.	a.m.	a.m.	a.m.	a.m.
Scarborough	9.26 p.m. 9.57	10.34 p.m. 11.16	11.59 — —	0.42 1.22	1.58 2.30	3.1 3.30	3.56 4.19
Yarmouth	1.53 2.24	2.59 3.35	4.15 4.55	5.36 6.18	6.57 7.30	7.57 8.22	8.47 9.12
Lowestoft	2.34 2.59	3.29 4.4	4.46 5.32	6.18 7.1	7.39 8.13	8.44 9.11	9.26 10.0
Aldeburgh	3.23 3.48	4.18 4.53	5.35 6.21	7.7 7.50	8.28 9.2	9.33 10.0	10.25 10.49
Harwich	4.45 5.11	5.40 6.14	6.57 7.45	8.30 9.13	9.51 10.26	10.55 11.21	11.46 —
Southend, Sheer- ness, and Leigh	5.37 6.4	6.35 7.12	7.55 8.41	9.27 10.10	10.48 11.20	11.49 —	0.15 0.40
Margate, Broad- stairs, & Ramsgate	4.23 5.4	5.34 6.8	6.49 7.37	8.25 9.7	9.46 10.20	10.50 11.17	11.42 —
Deal and Dover...	4.4 4.31	5.1 5.36	6.16 7.0	7.44 8.24	9.0 9.31	10.0 10.27	10.53 11.18
Hastings	3.45 4.11	4.41 5.16	5.56 6.40	7.24 8.4	8.39 9.11	9.40 10.7	10.33 10.58
Eastbourne and Brighton	4.13 4.39	5.9 5.44	6.24 7.8	7.52 8.82	9.7 9.39	10.8 10.35	11.1 11.26
Newhaven	4.7 4.38	5.14 5.56	6.44 7.33	8.20 8.59	9.30 9.56	10.21 10.46	11.9 11.33
Shoreham and Southwick	4.30 4.56	5.26 6.1	6.41 7.25	8.9 8.49	9.24 9.56	10.25 10.52	11.18 11.43
Portsmouth and Hayling Island	4.20 4.58	5.31 6.10	6.54 7.40	8.26 9.7	9.42 10.14	10.42 11.7	11.30 11.54
Plymouth	10.50 11.19	11.54 —	0.26 1.22	2.9 2.54	3.34 4.10	4.41 5.9	5.36 6.1

Ballinskelligs.—Pollack anglers continue to get good sport. Bottom fishing has not yet opened here. Spring mackerel are already arriving. Sea angling does not become general here until about April 15.—T. J. D.

Baltimore.—Anglers out after pollack have had good sport at and around this station since Saturday, the red rubber eel being the best lure.—T. J. D.

Darrynane.—Pollack anglers using red rubbers have generally had good sport since last report, chiefly in the Coomaconclane direction.—T. J. D.

Deal (The Pier).—Feb. 1. The weather has lately been so inclement, and the water so much discoloured, that scarcely a line has been netted during the past week. On the 29th ult. Messrs. Sweeting, Vaughan, Watson, Moore, and Henderson, together with several local anglers, patronised the pier for several hours, but only a few small

codling were taken. Monday witnessed two pier fishermen vainly tempting sport for the day, but not a bite was experienced. On Tuesday morning the pier was without a patron, but in the afternoon four rods turned up, the only return made being two small codling. Wednesday proved only a repetition of the preceding day, for Messrs. Waddell, Meacock, Bushnell, and Filmer fished the whole afternoon for a total catch of two codlings. A few sprats were taken by a Walmer boat this afternoon, and a few whiting may yet remain in the locality, but much clearer water than at present obtains would be needed for their capture.—J. RICHARDSON.

Deal.—Owing to the high winds and gales which have been blowing, and water very thick, nothing in the way of boat fishing has been done until yesterday (Tuesday) and to-day (Wednesday), and each day a few boats put out and landed some nice codling. If weather keeps moderate, in all possibility there will be sport with this kind of fish.—NED HANGER (B.S.A.S.).

Eastbourne.—Jan. 31.—During the last week the weather has become colder and finer, and should it continue so some good sport should be had within the next two or three weeks. High tide about 4.30 a.m. and 5 p.m. on Saturday next.—J. W. S. (B.S.A.S.).

Plymouth.—There is not much to report during the last week; the wind has been from the eastward, which is always bad for fishing. A few fish have been taken from the various piers, but the weather has been too cold for the general body of fishermen. I hear some good reports from the westward, and also from my Irish correspondents. Our regular trawlers and hooking boats have had a rough time of it, for the last time or two it has either been blowing hard from the south-west, with heavy rain, or the wind has been from the eastward and off the land, which throws up a nasty cross sea in the Channel. In the bay, however, and in the Sound, it is comparatively smooth; this is an advantage that we have in this port, being so landlocked. The list of edible fish for this month includes atherine (smelt), sprat, anchovy, ling, whiting, pouting, dab, mackerel, eel, tub, piper, red gurnard, trout, salmon, and all shell fish.—WILLIAM HEARDER (B.S.A.S.).

Southend and Leigh.—Feb. 1. There is but little to report from this neighbourhood. Wet and cold have been responsible for the paucity of anglers, but I have heard, nevertheless, of some nice fish having been taken. Flat fish are returning to their old love, the lug worm, but it is advisable to take some sprat when going angling. I hope all anglers will support the efforts which are being made to regulate more efficiently the fishing from the pier. Progress will be reported from time to time in the columns of the *Fishing Gazette*. Prospects for next week-end somewhat uncertain, but on the favourable side. Barometer 29.7 in., steady; wind, N.W., light; sea smooth. Weather misty, with indications of rain.—CHARLES HUSSEY (B.S.A.S.).

Valentia.—Pollack are giving good sport at time of writing within the harbour and also close to Beguish Island on the ocean side.—T. J. D.

Reports from Clubs

We beg to remind Secretaries that their Reports must reach us not later than **SIX o'clock on Thursday Evening.** Address "Editor, FISHING GAZETTE, St. Dunstan's House, Fetter-Lane, London," marked "CLUB REPORT" outside envelope.

Anglers' Association.—The renting and preservation committee meeting will take place on Monday evening next, Feb. 6, at 8.30.—R. GHURNEY.

Anglers' Association.—PRESERVATION WEEK FUND.—I beg to acknowledge with thanks the receipt of the following amounts: 10s. 6d., Isaac Walton; 10s. 6d., South London; 10s., Bermondsey Brothers; 10s., Waltonian; and 12s., proceeds of the Crown and Buckland concert.—R. GHURNEY.

Anglers' Benevolent Society.—Since my last report I beg to acknowledge with thanks the receipt of £1 7s., Stepey Angling Society's donation box. At the last meeting (Jan. 27) £24 was granted for four applications. The next committee meeting will take place on Friday, Feb. 10, at 8.30.—R. GHURNEY.

Anglers' Association (WESTERN DISTRICT) Visiting List.—On Tuesday last a most enjoyable visit was given to the Queen's Piscatorial. On the roll call thirteen clubs were well represented. The A.B.S. box contained the sum of £5 10s. 6d. The next visit will go to the Queen's A.S., on Feb. 16, at their clubhouse, the Latimer Arms, Latimer-road, Notting-hill, when I hope to see a good muster.—J. HARRIS.

Anglers' Association (No. 2 DISTRICT) Visiting List.—A most successful return visit took place on Jan. 31 at Islington Brothers A.S., and the room was well filled. Amongst the clubs represented were the Elgin and Allason United Brothers. Mr. Ghurney, of the Anglers' Association, was also present. The following fifteen clubs answered the roll call: Amicable Waltonians, Crown and Buckland, Clissold, Islington Brothers, North London, Original Clerkenwell, St. John's, Wenlock, Sociable Brothers, Elgin, Hoxton, Royal George, Great Northern, Walton and Cotton, Allason United. On opening the A.B. box I found £1 12s. 6d. I tender best wishes to all who were present. My next visit on the A.A. List (No. 2 District) takes place at the Original Clerkenwell A.S., Sutton Arms, Great Sutton-street, Clerkenwell, opposite Anglers' Association headquarters. Date of visit Monday next, Feb. 6. I hope to see a crowd.—BEN ABRAHAMS.

Anglers' Benevolent Society (WINDSOR COMPETITION), Committee Rooms, Queen's Arms, 1A, Chapel-street, Edgware-road.—The committee dinner and select concert takes place on Thursday next at the above house. Host Keene, our respected treasurer, will supply the same at 3s. Commence at 8 p.m. sharp.—BEN ABRAHAMS.

Albion Brothers' Angling Society, Frampton Arms, Wells-street, Hackney.—Our match on Jan. 29 was a success, four prizes being won out of six: Mr. Ramson, first; Mr. Osborne, second; Mr. Carey, third; Mr. Allen, fourth. Members also weighed-in for gross weight: Mr. King, roach; Mr. Arthur Smith, roach and bream; Mr. Alf Smith, roach and chub. Chairman for this month, Mr. Fenton; scalesman, Mr. Allwright. On Feb. 5, for the two remaining prizes, members go where they like.—J. A.

Allason United Brothers' Angling Society, Duke of Sussex, Uxbridge-street, Notting Hill Gate.—Several members had fish on Jan. 29, but the sudden change put a stop to the roach feeding. On Feb. 1 Mr. Wells caught several pike, and one a grand specimen 25lb.; length, 3ft. 6in.; girth, 25in. It was admired by all who saw it. The fish has been presented to our club, and sent to Mr. Anstias for preservation.—BEN ABRAHAMS.

Alma Angling Society, Coach and Horses, Portemouth Place, Lincoln's Inn Fields.—On Jan. 29 Messrs. Chambers and Montgomery weighed-in roach and dace. Members are requested to clear the books to make themselves eligible for the next outing.—J. CHAMBERS.

Amicable Excelsior Angling Society, Prince Arthur, Arthur-street, Battersea.—Our next match, fixed for Feb. 12, at Egham, from the Varnish Works to the Bells of Ousley; towpath only; to go first train on the morning. Since my last report we have had some fine shows of fish by the following: Messrs. Townley, G. Taylor, G. Pope, T. Fairclough, G. Rich, and Cooper.—J. R.

Amicable Waltonian Angling Society, The Fox and French Horn, Clerkenwell Green.—Plenty of the members were out on Jan. 29, but success did not seem to attend them, the following only having good shows of fish: Messrs. Payne, roach; Lambarth, roach and dace; Hutchinson, roach; Shurey, roach. On the 1st Mr. Fryett was made a working member.—G. MEERY.

Anchor and Hope Angling Society, Duke of Kent, Old Kent-road, S.E.—On Wednesday next we decide where to fish our February prizes. I hope all members will turn up, so that we may have a good muster.—F. W. MARTIN.

Battersea Friendly Angling Society, Queen's Hotel, Queen's-road, Battersea, S.W.—On Jan. 29 Mr. G. Mead weighed-in a nice chub of 3lb. 6oz. Other members out, but not very successful. A specimen jack, caught by Mr. W. Herant, and very creditably preserved by Mr. R. Wellman, was added to our collection. Members are reminded of roving match on Feb. 5; to go down on the morning; jack are barred.—A. JENKINS.

Battersea Piscatorial, Winstanley Arms, Winstanley-road, Clapham Junction, S.W.—Our visit took place on Jan. 30, when only six clubs were represented on the list and two off, being a very poor muster, as we attend every visit on the list. We fish a match at Feltham on Feb. 5. To go by the 8.27 a.m., and return by the 6.25 p.m.—T. TRINGHAM.

Bermondsey Brothers' Angling Society, Woolpack, Bermondsey-street, S.E.—The only member to weigh-in on the 29th ult. was Mr. J. Hobb, 12½lb. of roach. Mr. G. H. Shepherd weighed-in a splendid show of roach and chub from the Thames on the 1st inst., 38lb., two of the former fish weighing 3½lb. The competition for the February series of prizes will take place on Feb. 12.—ALF CONN.

Blackfriars Angling Society, The Imperial, Southwark-street, S.E.—Several members were out on Jan. 29. Mr. Merrygold, grand take of roach, chub, and dace; Messrs. Wheelhouse, Jones, and Whitey, roach, perch, and dace. Will members turn up in force next Wednesday to decide where we fish our February series of prizes? Mr. H. Heil (an honorary member) had a grand take of roach, several going 1lb. 12oz. Members in arrears kindly settle up.—J. WHEELHOUSE.

Bloomsbury Brothers' Angling Society, Rose and Crown, Broad-street, Bloomsbury.—On Jan. 29 Mr. H. Davis weighed-in jack; Mr. J. Taylor, roach and perch; and Mr. B. Daniels, dace. On Feb. 1 the balance-sheet was read and passed as satisfactory. The quarterly pegged-down match is fixed to take place on Feb. 12 at Ware, when we fish for three prizes, under the usual conditions.—T. PATERNOSTER.

Brompton Angling Society, D'Oyley Arms, Marlborough-road, S.W.—Mr. Cecil again saved us from a blank on the 29th ult. by weighing-in some chub, heaviest just over 3lb. I hope members will turn up in force on Feb. 5 to fish return snapper match, combined with sweepstakes competition with Snndial A.S.; saloon reserved by 8.40 ex-Paddington, all to start by signal from the "Lion," and to weigh-in there by 7 p.m. at the latest.—W. H. B.

Cambridge Heath Brothers' Angling Society, The Good Intent, Mowlem-street, Bishop's-road, Cambridge Heath.—On Jan. 29 twenty-nine members took part in a pegged-down match at Bures, result as follows: John Burgess, 1st; C. Hazard, 2nd; T. Benny, 3rd; E. Wright, 4th; A. Nicholson, 5th; H. Wright, 6th. The consolation prizes are to be fished for on Feb. 12, between Rye House Bridge and St. Margaret's Bridge; roving; start fishing at 9 o'clock, cease at 5 p.m. All to get out at Rye House, Steward, H. Deverill. Show fish at Rye House Bridge not later than 5.45 p.m.—P. E. LOFT.

Camden Angling Society, The Locomotive, James-street, High-street, Camden Town, N.W.—We had a good show of fish on Jan. 29 by Messrs. J. Andrews, W. Andrews, Whips, Adams, White, Cook, and Fowler.

We have another outing to Broxbourne on Feb. 19. On Feb. 5 we fish for the prizes remaining.—E. BOXALL.

Central Association of London Anglers.—The usual monthly meeting of delegates will take place at the Bedford Head Hotel, Maiden-lane, Covent Garden, on Monday evening next, 6th inst., at 9 p.m.

Central Association Visiting List.—The return visit on this list has been arranged to go to the Original Clerkenwell Piscatorialists, held at the Sutton Arms, Great Sutton-street, Goswell-road, on Monday evening, Feb. 6.—WADE.

Clapham Junction Angling Society. The Clarence, Winstanley-road, Clapham Junction, S.W.—Members are requested not to forget our match at Cookham on Feb. 5. On the 29th ult. Messrs. J. Thorn, 6lb. 6oz. of roach (four fish 3lb. 6oz.); A. Bowater, 3lb. 7½oz. of roach; Mr. H. Moore, one jack.

Clissold Angling Society. The Cricketers, North-wold-road, Stoke Newington, N.—On Jan. 28 we had the first blank this season. On Tuesday we received with regret the resignation of Mr. J. La Monde. The date of our A. B. S. smoker will probably be altered (see next week's *Fishing Gazette*). Another final outing has been arranged. Information at the clubhouse.—THOS. FAULKNER.

Cobden Angling Society, Kensal-road, W.—On Jan. 29 the following members weighed-in, Messrs. E. Baxter, roach, dace; W. Walker, roach. A Howland had a very nice show of perch from the Thames (one perch 1lb. 14½oz. 2dr.; one, 1lb. 10½oz.; one, 1lb. 3½oz.; one, 1lb. 1½oz.). Also weighed-in: F. Melville, roach and perch; T. Twyman, roach. Will members kindly attend next Tuesday to make conditions of match.—T. TWYMAN.

Convivial Angling Society, City of London, Sidney-street, City-road.—On Jan. 29 the following weighed-in: Mr. W. Humphreys, jack; Mr. W. Braxton, perch; Mr. P. Juchan, chub and dace; Mr. R. Juchan, perch and bream. On Feb. 1 two members had 20lb. of roach and one jack. We have an outing at Rye House to St. Margaret's on Feb. 19.—PHIL.

Covent Garden Piscatorial Society, King's Arms, Long-acre, W.C.—On Jan. 29 Messrs. Brink, Curtis, and Outbush weighed-in roach, bream, chub, and perch. On Tuesday Mr. Curtis had a good show of roach, bream, and perch.—W. MASSEY.

Crown and Buckland Piscatorial Society, Middlesex Arms, 35, Clerkenwell-green, E.C.—On Jan. 22 the following weighed-in: H. Haines, roach, 8lb. 12oz.; and W. Long and A. Anderson, smaller takes of roach. On Jan. 29 H. Haines, roach; and W. Long, roach. We fish for three prizes at Bourne End on Feb. 12; conditions at clubhouse. Mr. A. J. Pratt gives a prize for gross weight of all fish during February.—G. H. FRANKLIN.

Dalston Angling Society, Brownlow Arms, Brownlow-street, Dalston.—On Jan. 29 seven of the members journeyed to Cookham to compete for eight prizes. Result as follows: Messrs. H. Poore, 1st; E. Wild, 2nd; A. Morgan, 3rd; W. Thompson, 4th; S. Wood, 5th; J. Eagles, 6th; and T. Thompson, 7th. Members are requested to attend on Tuesday, Feb. 7, as I have some more prizes in hand.—S. MALBY.

Dibdin Angling Society, St. Martin's Tavern, Pratt-street, N.W.—Several members out on Jan. 29, but no fish were weighed-in. Wednesday's meeting. Mr. Snell's jack in case is now decorating the club-room, and was much admired. We expect many others shortly. Mr. Elton (our chairman) presented a new fish measure to the club, made by himself, which was received with hearty thanks by the members. Mr. West was made a working member.—JOHNNY EDWARDS.

Drayton Park Piscatorialists, Stanley Arms, Land-seer-road, Holloway-road, N.—The general outing on Jan. 29 was successful. On Feb. 1 several matters of importance were discussed, and another new member proposed. A vote of thanks was passed to Mr. Rowell, Railway Hotel, Kelvedon, for the excellent dinner he provided for the committee. Our weekly concerts have now commenced. Our new host is Mr. Joe Lea, and Mr. Brooker presiding at the piano. Members are requested to put in an earlier attendance on the 9th, when they will hear something worth hearing.—GREG.

Enterprise Angling Society, City Arms, High Cross-road, Tottenham.—On Jan. 29 Mr. Biggs saved us from a blank with a jack, 3lb.—W. LEFFRE.

Good Intent Angling Society, The Crown, Church-street, Shoreditch.—Mr. Thompson brought in some good roach and perch from Littleport on Jan. 28. The members will fish for eight prizes on Feb. 5, at St. Margaret's; all start by the 9.8 train. Our supper will take place on Feb. 14. Our caterer will be Mr. Mignott, of Hackney.—R. MURPHY.

Great Yarmouth Piscatorial Society.—At a pike and perch match, fished at Barton on the 26th ult., Mr. J. A. Williams captured three fish, weighing 26lb., 11oz., under the hour, taking first prize, and the rest of the day for him was a blank. Mr. A. J. Penny landed two fish, 13½lb., second prize. At the clubhouse, Mr. Williams weighed-in one of 10lb. 12oz. as a specimen. Mr. L. P. Garrett was the umpire, assisted by Mr. R. B. Thompson.

Harcourt Angling Society, Harcourt Arms, Harcourt-street, Marylebone.—We had a nice jack and some good roach on the trays on Jan. 29, and one of our members, fishing on Tuesday, had a nice show of roach. I trust the members will not forget Feb. 12, at Shiplake. Being almost the last match, I should like to see them all come.—A. E. PAYNE.

Hearts of Oak Angling Society, Ye Olde Crown, Brick-lane, Bethnal Green, E.—Mr. W. Ford saved us from a blank with some roach. Our prize outing on Feb. 5 takes place from Ware Bridge to Ware Park Mill; peg-down; start fishing at ten o'clock, leave off at half-past

five; one rod only allowed; live bait allowed with tight line only.—E. SMITH.

Highbury Angling Society, Globe Hotel, Upper Tollington-road, N.—Mr. West, in two outings, has taken two fine perch, 1lb. 9½oz. and 2lb. 3½oz. Others have had fish, but nothing noteworthy. Our billiard handicap was concluded on Wednesday, Mr. Wymer defeating Mr. G. West in the final.—E. W.

Holloway Angling Society, Holloway Station Hotel, 295, Holloway-road, N.—Our usual weekly meeting on Wednesday was again well attended. Fishing reports ruled small through the flooded state of the rivers. Mr. Caines, on Friday, had a day's jacking, but with poor results. Mr. Hawes, fishing at Shiplake on Saturday last, had one small jack. Our supper on Feb. 8 has every appearance of being very successful.—A. CLAYTON.

Hoxton Brothers' Angling Society, Spread Eagle, Kingsland Road, Shoreditch.—On Jan. 29 Messrs. J. Wiltshire weighed-in roach; H. Bailey, jack. A grand smoking concert, in aid of the A.B.S., will take place on Tuesday, Feb. 14; our president, Mr. G. H. Wood, will occupy the chair, supported by Messrs. G. H. Shepherd, W. Musgrave, sen., J. Jennings, W. J. Wade, and F. Newton, commence at 8.30. Our large room has been extended and will now seat fifty more.—JOHNNY.

Islington Brothers' Angling Society, Myddleton Arms, Canonbury-road.—The following weighed-in on Jan. 29: Messrs. J. Croker, roach and dace; Burwash, dace; Searl, roach; Howard, roach; and Heckford, perch. The return visit on No. 2 Eastern District List was fairly attended on Tuesday, 31st ult., Mr. Cuthbert in the chair, faced by Mr. Howard. The following contributed to the harmony: Messrs. J. H. Herbert, H. Gate, G. Moore, H. Stretch, W. Stretch, Nunn, W. Ellwick, Bridge, W. Croker, E. Hunt, Fred Hilton, &c. When the roll was called fifteen clubs responded. I wish to thank all the anglers and friends who gave us their support. The A.B.S. box was opened by Mr. B. Abraham, the contents being £1 12s. 6d. Match at Cookham on Feb. 5; 8.40 train, Paddington.—J. H. HERBERT.

Isaak Walton Angling Society, Old King John's Head, Mansfield-street, Kingsland-road.—As announced the members will compete for three special prizes on Feb. 5, on any part of the Lea or Thames (private waters barred). There are also three "specials" to be fished for on Wednesday next, 8th inst., on the Lea, between the Fish and Eels and Ratty's Weir.—H. B.

Jolly Butchers Angling Society, George the Fourth, Walnut Tree-walk, Lambeth, S.E.—Our match, Jolly Butchers versus Wellington, at Sunbury on Feb. 5; train leaves Waterloo 7.50 a.m.; all members to start fishing by the steward's whistle, and to cease fishing at 5 p.m. by the same; no live bait to be taken down; jack harred.—G. EDWARDS.

Jubilee Angling Society, Prince Arthur, Golborne-road, North Kensington.—Since last report we have had but few fish weighed-in. Messrs. Bence and Gilder weighed-in roach from the Thames on Jan. 29. I hope members will try and attend next meeting night.—J. BENCE.

Lady of the Lake Angling Society, Swakeley Hotel, Shepherd's Bush, W.—At a meeting held on Jan. 25, Mr. W. J. Jones was elected hon. secretary in place of the late Mr. Mason. Angling clubs to kindly note. An outing to Hampton will take place on Feb. 5.—W. J. J.

Lincoln Angling Society, Metropolitan, Winchester-street, Pentonville.—On Jan. 29, a few members were out, Messrs. Biggs, R. Watling, and J. Cook having a few roach. Our outing of the season will take place at Sunbury for seven prizes on Feb. 26, usual conditions, all to start on the morning.—W. WATLING.

Liverpool Angling Association, Bee Hotel, Queen-square.—The weather is fairly mild, but it is misty, and the frost has disappeared as quick as it came. Two of our members had a day in the Vyrnwy, at Lillanymynech, on Saturday last, and found the river in fair condition, and although in good volume, still had run down a good deal. Fifteen pike were run and ten hanked. One of them weighed 8lb., but was afterwards found to have a jack of ½lb. or more tightly jammed in its gullet. Two fine perch were also got, and one grayling, 1½lb., but in very poor condition, and evidently going off. The committee of the Liverpool centre of the Northern Anglers' Association met at the "Bee" on Monday evening last, when the election of officers resulted thus: Chairman, Mr. King (West Derby Association); vice-chairman, Mr. Wishart (member of three associations); treasurer, Mr. Woolfall; auditor, Mr. Hann (Central Association). Mr. Woolfall was asked to draw up some rules, and to call another meeting for considering them when ready. The next meeting to be held at 13B, Mose-street, the club house of the Central Association. Mr. W. H. Wright very kindly promised two guineas to the prize fund, and a hearty vote of thanks was passed to him for it.—R. WOOLFALL.

Lychnobite Angling Society, Ben Jonson, Shoe-lane, E.C.—The next competition is fixed for Feb. 11 at the Fish and Eels Fishery, Hoddeston private waters. Champion concert, March 25.—SID RAWSON.

New Albion Piscatorial Society, The Grove House Tavern, Camberwell-grove.—On Thursday next, Feb. 9, we hope to fish our annual match with the St. Ives and District Angling Society. Members are at liberty to go down overnight, and await those coming from London by the 8.40. We fish for a dinner and plate, 21s., for the heaviest one, two, or three roach caught by a member of either society. On our own side we fish for Mr. Wood's fifteen guinea challenge cup, with prizes of £2 2s., £1 1s., £1 1s., 10s. 6d., and a special prize of £1 1s. for the best roach of the day. All draw for companions, and fish from the bank, though a boat may be used for getting about. On Thursday, Feb. 16, Mr. W. J. Wade

has kindly consented to give his lantern lecture, entitled "An Angler's Rambles through Kent." Lecture at eight o'clock, followed by a smoking concert. All anglers are welcome.—A. E. BALDWIN.

North-East Brothers' Angling Society, Star and Garter, Green-street.—The remainder of prizes were taken by the following on Jan. 29 in rotation: E. Lamb, H. Hart, J. Richards, sen. H. Hart also won the 10s. 6d. prize for the largest roach, given by H. Collins. Feb. 8, special meeting. Feb. 12, outing.—A. LEWIS.

North London Angling Society, Tap House, Holloway-road.—On Jan. 29 several members were out, but only Mr. Pink was successful, he showing some good roach from the Lea, heaviest 1lb. 1oz. On Feb. 5 the members fish for six prizes at Ware. Pegged down above the cottages when I hope to see all present.—H. STRETCH.

Original Alexandra Angling Society, The Lamb, Three Colts-lane, opposite Bethnal Green Junction.—On Jan. 22 Mr. S. Orrow weighed-in 8lb. 4oz. roach; on Jan. 29 Mr. W. Madget weighed-in 8lb. 6oz. jack; Mr. S. Dulieu 4lb. 4oz. jack; Mr. G. Barra, 1lb. perch. Our concert on Jan. 30 was fairly well supported, but not so well as we wished it to be. Our next concert will take place early in March. On Feb. 7 our annual supper will take place at the clubhouse, snapper on table at eight o'clock. We fish for seven prizes at St. Margaret's on Feb. 5, boundary from Rye House Bridge to Hardmead Lock. Fish to be shown at Railway Hotel at six o'clock.—E. BROCKETT.

Original Clerkenwell Piscatorial Society, Sutton Arms, Great Sutton-street, Goswell-road.—On Jan. 29 only two prizes were taken: Mr. Hill, first, with roach and dace; Mr. Davison, second, with perch and dace. Remaining prizes to be fished for on Feb. 5; roving. Our visit on the Central takes place on Feb. 6, when I hope to see a good muster, as it is our first visit to our new clubhouse.—A. HILL.

Park Angling Society, Park Hotel, Park-lane, Tottenham.—Only two members weighed-in on Jan. 29: Messrs. Reitz and Tracey, each with three lots of perch. Our A.B.S. concert takes place Feb. 11. I hope to have a good muster.—W. S.

Phoenix Angling Society, The Tavistock, Stibington-street, N.W.—On Jan. 29, Mr. Bouffler, roach from the Thames; Nobby, pike from the Welsh Harp. On Feb. 12, match for three prizes at Bourne End; particulars next week.—R. C.

Prince Albert Angling Society, Prince Albert Hotel, Woodfield-road, Harrow-road, W.—Members are requested to attend on Thursday next to make final arrangements for outing on Feb. 12. We made another new member at our last meeting. Members who had fish on Jan. 29 were W. Fayers, roach; F. Hemiford, roach; and S. Slater, roach.—W. B. F.

Prince of Wales' Angling Society, Windsor Castle, Church-street, Edgware-road.—Messrs. Robins and Clish weighed-in a splendid show of roach each, and Mr. Whitford a small jack. At our meeting on Monday the auditors examined the books, and congratulated the society on its financial condition.—W. B.

Queen's Piscatorialists, Queen's Arms, 1A, Chapel-street, Edgware-road, N.W.—On Jan. 29 only three weighed-in: J. Winsby, C. Brett, and W. Shepherd. On Jan. 31 we had our return visit on the A.A. list, when thirteen clubs were represented, and the box contained the sum of £6 10s. 6d. There was plenty of talent, and Mr. R. Norman ably presided at the piano. I have much pleasure in being able to thank all those who attended. The next visit goes to the Queen's A.S., Latimer-road.—GEO. KEENE.

Richmond Angling Society, Sun Inn, Park Shot, Kew Foot-road, Richmond.—The above society have removed their quarters to the above address. We hold our first meeting at our new house on Feb. 2.—H. E. GAYNOR.

St. Alban's Angling Society, Rising Sun, Prince's-road, Kennington Cross.—Several were out on Jan. 29. The lapsed prize from the last match was won by Mr. Every. H. Allan also weighed-in bream. Our next match for four prizes takes place on Feb. 19 (roving).—H. ALLAN.

St. Thomas's Angling Society, Spread Eagle, Stangate-street, Lambeth, S.E.—We fish a match on Feb. 5 for six prizes. Hope the members will all turn up. Waterloo, eight o'clock, to Datchett; tow-path only. Return by five o'clock train. Mr. G. George weighed-in eight fine dace and roach on Jan. 29.—G. GEORGE.

Seymour Brothers' Angling Society, King and Queen, 1, Foley-street, Fitzroy-square, W.—On Jan. 29 a few of our members weighed-in fish, viz.: Messrs. W. North, roach, 6lb.; S. King, roach, 2lb. 11½oz.; Campbell, 3lb. 4½oz.; Ben Smith, 1lb. 2oz. On Jan. 21 a few of our members weighed-in sea fish, viz.: dabs, &c.: Messrs. North, 4lb.; Krillie, 3lb. 12oz.; W. Aldis, 1lb. 7oz.; Pennell, 1lb. 3oz. Our next outing will take place at Goring on Feb. 12.—W. ALDIS.

Silver Trout Angling Society, Bedford Head, Maiden-lane.—On Jan. 28 Mr. Smith had some nice roach. Next outing Feb. 26, at Hertford.—PELICAN.

South London United Anglers' Visiting List.—A return visit on the above list took place on Monday last at the Battersea Piscatorialists, Winstanley Arms, Clapham Junction, when only six clubs on the list were represented, which, I think, is a disgrace to the S.L.U.A.V.L. The next visit goes to the Peckham Brothers' A.S., Windsor Castle, Cator-street, Peckham.—ALF PAINTER.

Stockwell Angling Society, Old Queen's Head, Stockwell-road.—At a special meeting, held on Jan. 31, an entertainment committee was elected in conjunction with the H.A.C., their duties being to organise a series of entertainments during the fence months. The date of each item of the programme will be notified on notice board at clubhouse. Our next prize outing will take place at Datchett on Feb. 12.—THOS. LUCAS.

Stratford Angling Society, Dorset Arms, Leyton-road, Stratford New Town, E.—I wish to remind members that Tuesday next, Feb. 7, will be quarterly night, when I hope to see a good muster. It was decided at our last meeting that a match take place on Feb. 19.—G. F. WEAVER.

Sundial Angling Society, Plough and Harrow, King-street, Hammersmith.—During the week Mr. C. Brace weighed-in a chub of 2lb. 9oz.; and Mr. Lock, 5lb. 15oz. of roach and dace. Members going down to Bourne End on Feb. 5, to take part in the outing with the Brompton Angling Society, will go down by the 8.40 train from Paddington, and return by the 7.42. Also look out for reserve saloon carriage, and all members are to start by signal from the Lion Hotel. The scales will be closed for weighing-in fish at seven o'clock. Fish from tow-path only. Mr. King's cup and other prizes to the number of about nineteen will be fished for.—C. E. LOCK.

United Brothers Angling Society, Druid's Head Tavern, Deptford.—On Jan. 29 Mr. J. Payne weighed-in roach; J. Sakley, roach and perch; and C. Freak, perch. Other members were out, but returned with blacks.—H. TYLER.

Victoria Brothers Angling Society, Princess Victoria, Robert-street, Hampstead-road, N.W.—On Jan. 29 the following weighed-in good shows of roach from Thames and Onse: Messrs. J. Toothill, F. Griffith, and W. Bond.—W. H. B.

Waggoners' Angling Society, White Lion, Albert Embankment.—Since my last report the following have had fish: On Jan. 22, Mr. Clegg, dace; on Jan. 29, Mr. Allan, dace; C. Frith, roach; W. Powell, roach. We fish a match on Feb. 5, at Datchet; roving from Albert Bridge to old Windsor Lock; both sides of the cutting included; usual conditions; cease fishing at 4 o'clock.—H. C.

Walham Green and Chelsea Angling Society, Black Bull, Fulham-road, S.W.—Our meeting on Feb. 1 was poorly attended. Absent members please note that we travel down to Cookham on Feb. 5 by the 8.40 from Paddington. Mr. Duffield weighed-in a fine perch on Jan. 29, 1lb. 8oz.—W. BATCH.

Walthamstow Brothers' Angling Society, Essex Arms, Forest-road, Walthamstow.—The result of the January prize outing is as follows: First, Mr. W. Knight; second, Mr. W. Goddard; third, Mr. Poore. The February special prize outing will take place at St. Margaret's on Feb. 12.—H. WIGG.

Walton and Cotton Angling Association, Crown and Woolpack, 162, St. John-street-road, N.—Our members have had some fair takes lately of one jack, 6lb. 7oz.; eight jack, 3lb. 13oz.; one chub, 3lb. 8oz.; three chub, 5lb.; and 10lb. of nice roach, largest 1lb. 4oz.—M. CUDDON.

Walworth Waltonians Angling Society, St. Paul's Tavern, Westmoreland-road, Walworth, S.E.—We fish a competition on Feb. 5, for the lapsed prizes. I shall be at Vauxhall Station at 6.30 a.m. that morning, to meet my member who was not present this evening.—W.

West Green Angling Society, Black Boy Hotel, West Green-road.—The above held a tripe supper at their headquarters, the Black Boy, on Jan. 25. The room, which was beautifully decorated, was well filled, over forty members attending, besides visitors. Mr. Sparling, the president, occupied the chair, supported by Mr. Rand, the popular member for West Green on the District Council, and Mr. T. Williams occupied the vice-chair. The musical talent was all that could be desired. A collection was made on behalf of the T.A.P.S., amounting to £1 9s.—ALFRED G. HILL.

West Ham Brothers Angling Society, Coach and Horses, The Grove, Stratford.—Our members were out on Jan. 29, and the following weighed-in: Messrs. C. Miller, roach; Corley, roach; Molden, roach; John Newton, roach; Pethurst, roach; R. Lowther, roach. I hope our members will not forget our jack match at Hatfield Peveril on Feb. 12; all to go down by the first train that leaves Stratford on the morning (7.35 a.m.); and also our return visit on Monday, Feb. 13.—R. LOWTHER.

Westminster Angling Society, The Telegraph, Regency-street, S.W.—The above society's match, fished on Jan. 29, in the Lea, nearly fell through, Mr. Bean being the only member to weigh-in. He has taken the first prize.—S. J. H.

Wimbledon Piscatorials, 28, Alexandra-road, Wimbledon.—The match on the 29th ult. resulted as follows: Mr. Golding, sen., first with a fine pike of 7lb. 13oz., from club water; Mr. Salkeld, jun., second; and Mr. W. Bishop third with smaller jack. Mr. H. Golding and Mr. Thain also weighed-in perch from the Thames.—HON. SEC.

STOP PRESS.

WEATHER REPORT.

By TELEGRAPH.—FRIDAY, FEB. 3, 9.25 A.M.

DEAL.—N.W.; smooth.
DOVER.—N.; light; smooth.
RAMSGATE.—N.N.W.; smooth.
MARGATE.—N.; choppy.
HASTINGS.—N.; smooth.

A MONSTER concert will be held at the Champion Hotel on March 25, under the auspices of the Lychnobite Anglers, in aid of the Preservation and Re-stocking Societies. Miss Marie Lloyd has kindly consented to sing, as also have several other talented artists. The Lychnobites are good workers in a good cause; and it is confidently anticipated that the March 25 concert will be a "Champion" one.

Angling Fixtures.

February 5.

Albion Brothers: Lapsed prize outing.
Battersea Friendly: Roving match.
Battersea Piscatorials: Match at Feltham.
Brompton: Supper match at Bourne End.
Cambridge Friendly: Sweepstake match.
Camden: Lapsed prize outing.
Clapham Junction: Outing.
Good Intent: Match at St. Margaret's.
Hearts of Oak: Outing to Ware.
Islington Brothers: Match at Cookham.
Izaak Walton: Match.
Jolly Butchers: Supper match at Sunbury.
Lady of the Lake: Outing to Hampton.
North London: Match at Ware.
Original Alexandra: Match at Rye House.
Original Clerkenwell: Lapsed prize outing.
St. Thomas: Match at Datchet.
Sundial: Outing to Bourne End.
Waggoners: Match at Datchet.
Walham Green: Outing to Cookham.

February 6.

Anglers' Association: Renting and Preservation Committee meeting.
Central Association: Delegate meeting.
Clissold: Smoking concert.
Original Clerkenwell: Visit.

February 7.

Mildmay: Annual dinner.
Original Alexandra: Annual supper.

February 8.

Cardiff Piscatorials: Annual dinner.
Holloway: Supper.
Izaak Walton: Match.

February 9.

A.B.S. (Windsor competition): Committee dinner.
St. Ives (Hunts): Annual match with New Albion Piscatorials.

February 10.

Anglers' Benevolent Society: Committee meeting.

February 11.

Lychnobite: Competition at Hoddesdon.
Park: A.B.S. concert.

Feb.

12.—Allason United: Match at Langley.
12.—Amicable Excelsiors: Match at Egham.
12.—Bermondsey Brothers: Prize outing.
12.—Bloomshury Brothers: Match at Ware.
12.—Cambridge Heath Brothers: Consolation prize outing.
12.—Crown and Buckland: Match at Bourne End.
12.—Harcourt: Match at Shiplake.
12.—North-East Brothers: Outing.
12.—Phoenix: Match at Bourne End.
12.—Prince Albert: Outing.
12.—Seymour Brothers: Outing to Goring.
12.—Stockwell: Match at Datchet.
12.—Victoria Brothers: Outing to Bourne End.
12.—Walthamstow Brothers: Prize outing.
12.—West Ham Brothers: Outing to Hatfield Peveril.
13.—Piscatorial Society: Reading by Mr. H. Brown.
13.—West Ham Brothers: Visit.
14.—Golden Barbel: Roving match.
14.—Good Intent: Annual dinner.
14.—Gresham: Smoking concert.
14.—Hoxton Brothers: A.B.S. concert.
16.—New Albion Piscatorials: Lantern lecture.
16.—Queen's: Visit.
19.—Convivial: Outing to St. Margaret's.
19.—St. Alban's: Roving match.
19.—Stratford: Match.
20.—Piscatorial Society: Smoking concert.
26.—Lincoln: Outing to Sunbury.
26.—Silver Trout: Outing to Hertford.
March 20.—Piscatorial Society: Annual dinner.
25.—Lychnobite: Preservation concert at the Champion Hotel.

THE SEVERN FISHERIES.

THE annual report of the Severn Fishery Board, presented at its general meeting, held at Birmingham on Thursday in last week, cannot be regarded by those who are interested in the fisheries of the Severn and Vyrnwy as a satisfactory one, and the chairman, Mr. J. W. Willis Bund, who is responsible for its compilation, holds out little or no hope that matters will improve in the future. Briefly reviewed, the report set forth that the number of balliffs has had, through lack of funds, to be reduced by two, there being but fourteen only now employed; that in order to find so bad a salmon fishing season as that of 1898, it is necessary to go back to the year 1881; that the take of salmon in the estuary for the past season was very small; that all that can be said of the trout season is that it was an improvement on the previous one, but that the stock of trout in the river has largely decreased during the last few years, owing—in the opinion of the chairman—to the great facilities given for poaching; that coarse fish seem to be increasing in the rivers, particularly pike. Only with regard to salmon does the chairman endeavour to take an optimistic view of affairs, but he nevertheless candidly admits that the stock of salmon in the river is not so large as it should be. So long ago as April, 1860, two observant correspondents in a Shrewsbury newspaper, one a Shrewsbury resident and the other a gentleman writing from Montgomeryshire, complained bitterly of the excessive netting for salmon and other migratory fish, which was even then carried on in the Worcester and Gloucester district, of the consequent injury

being done to the fisheries, and the injustice from which the inhabitants of Shropshire and Montgomeryshire were thereby suffering. It was not until five or six years later than this correspondence took place that the Severn Fishery Board was formed, and, after thirty years existence, its members must perform admit that the position of the fisheries is now even worse than when their work commenced. Salmon fishing in the upper waters of the Severn and Vyrnwy is practically a thing of the past. There are now not half-a-dozen netting licences taken out above Shrewsbury. One of the licence holders who fishes in the neighbourhood of Llandrinio took but seventeen salmon during the whole of last season, where, as he states, he was wont to take about seventy. On the other hand, for the sum of about £600 in licence duty, the nets below Shropshire annually take from 15,000 to 20,000 salmon. Now, having regard to the bad state of salmon fishing in the upper districts, it might be thought that the conservators would have accomplished something on behalf of trout and other anglers in Salop and Montgomeryshire, from whom the board yearly receives over £300 in licence fees. Here, again, is a history of failure, for trout fishing in the Upper Severn and Vyrnwy was never so bad as it has been during the last few years, and, moreover, there is no promise of improvement. All that the board seems to have done so far as regards the upper water interests has been the collection and practically fruitless disbursement of many thousands of pounds. During the last fourteen years a total sum of over £15,000 has been spent, chiefly in the employment of bailiffs, and in return for so large a sum of money, to say nothing of the personal expenses incurred by the individual members of the board in travelling to attend meetings, &c., it is greatly to be deplored that the actual results achieved are of so unsatisfactory a nature.

Softings by the Way.

THE monthly delegate meeting of the Central Association will take place on Monday evening, Feb. 6, at the Bedford Head, Maiden-lane, Covent Garden. The chair will be taken at nine o'clock prompt.

LANTERN slides and literary merit were both of marked good quality in the paper on "Fishing in the Eastern Counties," which was read by Mr. T. Crumplen ("Old Izaak") on Monday evening last (Jan. 30) before the members and friends of the Anchor and Hope Angling Society at their very handsome and commodious headquarters, the Duke of Kent, Old Kent-road. The double object of giving pleasure to what proved to be a full and enthusiastic meeting, and of augmenting the funds of the Thames Angling Preservation Society, was certainly attained to an extent that must have been gratifying to the lecturer, who received a very hearty vote of thanks at the close of his paper, and had the pleasure of knowing that the society, of which he is such an active supporter, would benefit to the amount of £3 1s. 8d., the result of a collection in the room, made after the lecture (£1 of the total contributed by Mr. Simpson, of the Anchor and Hope). There would appear to be great scope for similar efforts in aid of Thames preservation. A very good concert followed the lecture. Mr. Elsmore (of the Friendly Anglers) was an efficient chairman, and was supported by four fellow members of the same society.

THE Castle Hotel Assembly Room, Hastings, was well filled on Monday night on the occasion of an interesting lecture by Mr. F. H. Amphlett on the subject of "The River Thames as an Angling Resort." The president, Councillor O. R. Travers, presided over the proceedings, and among those present were Mr. F. S. Foster (vice-chair), Mr. H. Dowsett (hon. secretary), Dr. G. Allford, Major Gooch, Dr. Deck, Dr. South, Dr. Trollope, Dr. Lough, Mr. D. W. Amore, and Mr. W. Payne Collier. The room was neatly arranged in a social fashion, and the lecture, which was illustrated by lantern views by Mr. A. Brooker, was of a most instructive character. The lecturer followed the course of the Thames from Southend right up to its source, introducing many amusing anecdotes. During an interval Mr. J. Baker Gny and Mr. Ockenden contributed some vocal items. Some good specimens of fish were on exhibition, including a 32½lb. pike caught by Mr. Foster. Three Thames trout, weighing 11lb. 2oz., 8lb., and 7lb. respectively, were also entered by Mr. E. Dangerfield, and a magnificent specimen of lamprey, captured in the Rother last summer by Mr. R. P. Smith. It weighed 1½lb. The lecturer also placed on view a fine 9lb. Thames barbel, caught by himself while roach fishing.

A PROMINENT upper water conservator of the Severn was one evening last week, in the presence of a goodly company, having a spirited argument with a droll Shrewsbury angler on the Severn licensing question. It was just after the great flood, and the angler referred to sought enlightenment on a curious point. He wanted the conservator to tell him whether the Severn Fishery Board would be justified in demanding of him a licence for fishing in the flood water, on a howling-green with which he was connected. "Certainly," replied the Conservator, "as you would be fishing in our water—in the district of the Severn Fishery Board." Smartly came the rejoinder: "What right have you to let your water come on our bowling-green?"

THE sad accident which happened off the Chapman Light the other day, by which two Leigh fishermen lost their lives, is clearly one of those which must be called

preventable. A boat with its gear down is helpless to avoid collision, and by every "rule of the road" all other ships should give way to it. The two young men who were lost, Noakes and Catgrove, were the sons-in-law of Mr. Robinson, the owner of the "bawley," and much sympathy is felt in the neighbourhood for him, his two widowed daughters, and their children. I am pleased to hear that this sympathy is likely to take a practical and tangible form.

Two sisters, widowed by the cruel sea,
Mingle their tears for dear ones now at rest.
May this their comfort and their children's be,
That whatsoever happens God knows best.

I RECENTLY came across an angling song in praise of the Norwegian salmon river Namsen. It is to be found in Parker Gillmore's most interesting book, "Leaves from a Sportsman's Diary." (Air obvious.) It runs thus:

THE LAST CAST OF THE SEASON.

Here's to the Namsen of rivers the queen,
Now to her boatman so thrifty;
Here's to the salmon of pounds just fifteen,
Though we'd rather hook one that weighs fifty.

Chorus.

The season is past, this throw is the last
I'll warrant 'twill prove an excuse for the cast.

In spring this fine stream is discoloured by snow,
Then the angler's disconsolate very;
But the water once fine, he forgets all his woe,
And kills lots of fish, and is merry.

Here's to P., who's the boy to kill fish of good size;
Here's to him who can rarely catch one, sir;
Here's to the muf who can scarce get a rise,
And to him who works all day for none, sir.

For let them he salmon or let them be peal.
So long as they take silk and feather;
The music we love is the click of the reel,
So as sportsmen we'll toast them together.

It is a curious fact that with his last cast the talented author of the above killed a splendid fish of 26lb.

I KNOW of no better digestive than a good hearty laugh, and I have had it. I have been reading "Pink Papers," edited by my "young friend" Nathaniel Guhhins, of the *Sporting Times*. The book is a collection of "wheezes" which have from time to time appeared in my rosy contemporary, and, to use the stereotyped phrase, "there is not a dull page from cover to cover." There is, as I have already said, much virtue in a hearty laugh, and, as a medicine, "Pink Papers" can give many much advertised nostrums a long start and a heating. Let us have some more wheezes, if you please, friend "Gub." I am afraid, however, that the editor must be a little bit colour blind, as some of the pink papers are distinctly of cerulean hue.

"J. A. B." writes: "Dear 'Drag.'—Last week I took the tip given in the *Fishing Gazette*, and 'sampled' the new Railway Hotel at Southend. The host is a real good sportsman, and he and his good wife vied with each other in their efforts to do me right well. That they succeeded goes without saying, and the moderation of their bill was a pleasing surprise. I can recommend the house strongly to my brother anglers. Owing to a prior engagement, Mr. Wagstaff could not accompany me on my fishing jaunt, but we have arranged to have a day together in the immediate future. Thanks once more to the *Fishing Gazette* for another good wrinkle."

It was the fighting potman of that well-known angling resort, yeelp "The Cat and Cockroach." He had not been to church all the year, his duties did not allow of it, but he got leave of absence to attend the last watch-night service, which, as everyone will remember took place on Saturday night. But "his nibs" had taken something besides exercise during the day, and once inside the church fell fast asleep. He was awakened by the church clock chiming midnight. He started up. "What's that?" he asked the man sitting next to him. "Twelve o'clock" was the reply; and then with the feeling of professional duty strong upon him, he more than astonished the clergyman and congregation by calling out in his most dignified manner, "Time, gentlemen, please!"

"LAST week," writes an old subscriber, "you gave us an Irish bull. Here is another: Some years ago, when I was staying in a Dublin hotel, the wall of my bedroom was decorated by a notice in the following words: 'Visitors are requested to lock the door on the inside before leaving the apartment.' Whether this was a genuine Hibernicism, or put there purposely for visitors to talk about, and so give the house a gratuitous advertisement, I do not know. Anyway, there it was."

I DO not know if the following is a "chestnut," but it will bear telling again. It was on a coach drive that the man who "wants to know, you know" was pestering the driver with questions. "Driver," said he, "what colour do you call your off leader?" "A flea-bitten grey, sir," answered Jehu. "Oh!" replied his interrogator, "and what sort of animal has been biting this one?" as he pointed to the near wheeler, which was a piebald.

MR. CHARLES HUSSEY writes: "Dear 'Drag.'—Owing to circumstances, to which you alluded so kindly in your last issue, it was impossible for me to see our Mayor last week, as I intended. But it will interest you to know

that on application at Messrs. Smith and Son's bookstall for a copy of the *Fishing Gazette*, to send to his worship, was informed by the genial and courteous manager of the stall that so much interest is taken in the local question raised in its columns that the paper is sold out almost as soon as received." Quite so; and I am pleased to know that Southend is not the only place where the *Fishing Gazette* is "sold out almost as soon as received," which is as it should be.

THE Cobden A. S. announce the capture of some good perch from the Thames. Mr. A. Howland had four fish of the following weights: 1lb. 14 $\frac{1}{2}$ oz., 1lb. 10 $\frac{3}{4}$ oz., 1lb. 3 $\frac{1}{2}$ oz., and 1lb. 1 $\frac{1}{2}$ oz. This does not look as though the Thames was depleted!

A NEW sportsman's song, "The Master in Red," from the pen of our river correspondent "Pan," is having a great run in the Midlands. Messrs. Gould and Co. are the publishers. I understand another new angling song, "The Angler in Brown," will shortly be brought out by the same gentleman. It is admirably suited for smoking concerts.

ONE of the stories told by a Burns's enthusiast down Ayrshire way last week, is as follows: "The man of whom the story was originally told, had been somewhat fond of the 'barley bree' (i.e., Dunriple). Through the good influence of a teetotal friend, however, he had been led to renounce the 'cursed drink,' and ultimately to become a Good Templar. As a brand plucked from the burning, the lodge was wonderfully proud of its new convert, and nothing would satisfy a few of the more enthusiastic spirits but that he should, at the first 'open' meeting, relate his experience for the benefit of those 'still without the fold.'"

"SOMEWHAT reluctantly the poor fellow consented, and the next 'open' meeting found him on the platform. His address ran something after this fashion: 'Weel, freens, I'll gie ye my experience since I joined the Templars. Before I joined I never had a broon bawbee tae my name. In three months I've saved as muckle as will huy me a coffin, an', freens, if I'm a Templar 'ither three months, as shure as anything I'll be in it.'"

I HAVE over and over again said I am no good at conundrums. The old, old fiend, "A Subscriber from the First," sends me the following puzzle: "If the earth revolves on its axis once in 365 $\frac{1}{4}$ days, how long will it take for a string of Harris's sausages to get at the bottom of a pail of pease pudding." Now, I don't profess to know everything, but this is a fair puzzle. I cannot make a rule of three sum of it, it is not practice or tare and tret, or, indeed, any of the rules of arithmetic which I learned in days "lang syne." Anyone who can solve the riddle will find that, on application at Messrs. W. H. Smith and Son's bookstalls, he can have the current *Fishing Gazette* at the very small price of twopence per copy.

ON Thursday next a most interesting match will take place on the Huntingdon Ouse between the members of the St. Ives and New Alhion Piscatorial Societies. They fish for a supper and plate and guineas. I hope they will have a real good time of it. Whether or no, I am certain that the supper will be a success. On Thursday, Feb. 16, at the home of the New Alhion's, Mr. J. W. Wade will give a lantern lecture (followed by a smoking concert), entitled, "An Angler's Ramble through Kent."

If the authorities of provincial cities and large towns followed the example of his Royal Highness the Duke of Cambridge as Ranger of Hyde Park, the Regent's Park, and possibly of St. James's Park, together with the superintendents of the People's Parks in London, in encouraging wild birds to become gradually domesticated, they would earn the gratitude of all naturalists. Early in the season as it is, a pair of ringdoves (woodpigeons) have built their nest (continues "Rus.") in a tree in the Dean's-yard, Westminster Abbey, near the Clerk of the Works' Office, and they have got a couple of young birds. Some country folk settled in London must indeed stare on seeing the numerous wood pigeons in the West-end parks being almost as tame as the house pigeons, and have been reminded, maybe, of happier days, when, earning much less wages, they had fewer wants than now, and some, perhaps, pine for the pure country air and the once familiar sights and sounds of calm village life.

The following is from the *Hatters' Gazette*: An old journal, dated January 16, 1797, gives the following amusing account of the wearing of the first silk hat in London: "John Hetherington, baherdasher, of the Strand, was arraigned before the Lord Mayor yesterday on a charge of breach of the peace and inciting to riot, and was required to give bonds in the sum of £500. It was in evidence that Mr. Hetherington, who is well connected, appeared on the public highway wearing upon his head what he called a silk hat (which was offered in evidence), a tall structure having a shiny lustre, and calculated to frighten timid people. As a matter of fact, the officers of the Crown stated that several women fainted at the unusual sight, while children screamed, dogs yelped, and a younger son of Cordwainer Thomas, who was returning from a chandler's shop, was thrown down by the crowd which had collected and had his right arm broken. For these reasons the defendant was seized by the guards and taken before the Lord Mayor. In extenuation of his

crime, the defendant claimed that he had not violated any law of the kingdom, but was merely exercising a right to appear in a head-dress of his own design—a right not denied to any Englishman."

THE Hoxton Brothers will, on Tuesday evening, Feb. 14, hold a smoking concert in aid of the A.B.S. Their clubhouse is at the Spread Eagle, Kingsland-road. Some splendid talent is promised. Chairman, Mr. G. H. Wood; vice-chair, Mr. G. H. Shepherd.

THE current number of the *Thames Angling News* is to hand, and is as bright and interesting an issue as I have ever seen of that go-ahead little sheet. The little "pome" anent the angler's wife is capital, and there are many other plums. How it is done for a halfpenny I do not know, and fortunately for me it is none of my business, but it is about the best "brown's worth" to be found.

THERE is one article in the aforesaid T. A. N. which deserves more than passing notice. It is entitled "Angling and Anglers," and is written over the signature of Marion Hobbs. Although Mrs. Hobbs modestly says she knows little of either subject, her writing rather gives the lady away, as no one can write a breezy, chatty, and entirely readable article like the one under review without knowing a very great deal of the sport and its votaries. Everyone, especially anglers' wives, should read what Mrs. Hobbs has to say on the important subject of which she treats.

HERE is a little gem from the article, which may shortly be quoted in full. "I have always said that a good son and brother makes a good husband. To this I must add if they engaged in the gentle art of angling they make especially good husbands, because as a rule, they are more patient and thoughtful for their women-kind. All the anglers of my acquaintance are most estimable husbands." Thank you, madam, we all of us, "likewise hows." If I were a letting man (which I am not), I would not mind laying a small wager that Mrs. Hobbs is as good a "sportsman" as our friend whom, with a shy humour, she calls "my better (?) half."

NOW I hope all my young lady friends will read, mark, learn, and inwardly digest the moral which Mrs. Hobbs draws from her own experience. When Prince Charming comes along and tells you the "old, old story," you should, before answering the most important question, ask another, "Are you a good angler?" If he says "No," have nothing more to do with him, and look out for some one who is. I should not have dared to give this advice "on my own," but now that it is given by a lady who evidently knows, it is with the greatest pleasure that I endorse every word that Mrs. Hobbs has written. Once more, thank you, madam.

"MALAPROPISMS," says the *Daily News*, "are not confined to either side of the Atlantic. An American technical journal prints some of the queer orders received by a Jersey City chemist in the course of his business. Here they are:

"This child is my little girl. I send you five cents to buy two sitless powders for a groan up adult who is sike."

"Dear Dochter, ples gif bearer five sense worse of Auntie Toxyn for to gargle baby's throat and oblage."

"You will pleas give the leetle boi five cents worth of epecac for to throw up in a five months' old babe. N.B.—The babe has a sore stummick."

"I have a cute pain in my child's diagram. Please give my son something to release it."

"My little hahey has eat up its father's parish plaster. Send an antedote quick as possible by the enclosed girl."

"I haf a hot time in my insides and wich I wood like it to be extinguished. What is good for to extinguish it. The enclosed money is for the price of the extinguisher. Hurry pleas."

MR. ARCHIBALD W. DANE (of the Piscatorial Society writes me from Torcross Hotel, Devon: "Dear 'Drag.',—I have had a week here, and found the hotel very comfortable and the feeding A 1; in fact, everything has been good except the wind, which has been E., E.N.E., and E.E.E.E. My hest fish is a nine-pounder, and one a little smaller; so to-day I tried for rudd and roach, but there was too much wind. However, I am finishing up my time with the capture of a few rabbits and wildfowl." [Good, Mr. Dane; but would you mind saying what bait you used? Also what hooks, and define the swims, so that some of our poor town-pent brethren could secure some specimens for "casing"?]

THE Drayton Park Piscatorials are, I hear, holding their Wednesday "Popular Concerts" at the Stanley Arms, Landseer-road, Holloway, N. Anglers "passing that way" will receive a hearty welcome. There are two pianists and ten professional singers amongst the members of this club.

DRAGNET.

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BRITISH SEA ANGLERS' SOCIETY.

The usual weekly meeting was held on Feb. 1 at the Cannon-street Hotel, a large number of members being present; Mr. W. Browning in the chair. Members present gave unsatisfactory reports of the sport of the past week. An interesting report was read on a non-tuberculated turbot, and also on two specimens coloured on both sides. Mr. Eldred then gave a very interesting and excellent paper on "Fish Hooks," of which the following is an abstract:

Mr. Eldred commenced his paper by saying that iron in a pure state is only found in the laboratory of the chemist, and he then deduced that as steel is produced from iron, it followed that impurities, such as carbon, sulphur, phosphorus, &c., were always more or less present in steel. He then showed that carbon, however, could hardly be considered an impurity, as the characteristics of steel depended upon this element. He next described the three principal methods of converting iron into steel, these processes being the Catalan, Cementation, and Bessemer, or decarburising process, illustrating his remarks by diagrams, &c., and showed that this latter had almost entirely revolutionised the older methods of steel production. From this he passed to the various operations necessary for converting the steel into a fish hook. Barbing by cutting and filing were treated of, the actual operations being performed by the lecturer. Bending and kerbing were similarly treated, the moulds and tools for which were kindly lent by Messrs. Alcock, of Redditch. He next took his audience through the hardening and tempering processes, which he again illustrated by actual experiments. Finishing, blueing, tinning, rust-proofing were all explained, and exemplified by reference to specimens. He exhibited, in connection with tempering, a bar of steel, which showed in a very beautiful and striking manner the colours, running from pale yellow to blue, purple, and black, due to the effect of cooling the bar at different temperatures. These colours, he explained, were the result of the combination of oxygen with the steel, and gave the result of Sir Humphrey Davy's experiments to prove the truth of his statement. The shape of the hook was next taken into consideration, and he argued that if the pointed or entering portion of the hook was much out of parallelism with the shank, its penetrative power was lowered. The barbing, he pointed out, was the part of the hook which necessitated great care in its manufacture, as this was generally the weakest portion of the hook. To illustrate this particular part of his paper he showed brass models which he had made to show good and bad forms of bending and kerbing. The shape and size of the eye were then discussed, and he illustrated his remarks by referring to the Norwegian hooks of Messrs. Ogden and Scotford as capital specimens. The methods of attaching hooks to gut were briefly touched upon, and he was very emphatic in saying that hooks for sea fishing should never be whipped on, the jam, Turle, or hitch knots being amply sufficient for the purpose. Regarding the quality of hooks, he quoted the following from Bickerdyke: "It is the worst of economy to buy cheap hooks." "Not only," he said, "will the best he found the cheapest, but will certainly be provocative of less bad language. He concluded his paper by giving the essential qualities of a good hook, which were: 1. Steel of the best quality; 2. Well tempered, the maximum of hardness consistent with elasticity; 3. Good penetration; 4. Good holding power; 5. Rust proof, if you can get them; 6. Well finished. Before sitting down he said he desired to express his thanks to the following manufacturers who had supplied him with such a variety of hooks and other material to illustrate his paper: Messrs. J. and P. Kirk, Sheffield; Alcock and Co., Redditch; Hardy Bros., Alnwick; Ogden and Scotford, London and Cheltenham.

An interesting discussion took place, in which Messrs. Minchin, Mignot, Parker, Matthews, Ive, Lane, Litchfield, and the hon. sec. took part. Mr. Minchin proposed, and Mr. Canton seconded, a very hearty vote of thanks to the lecturer. The hon. sec. stated that he had received a letter from M. de Gobart, our agent at Blankenburghe, in which he stated that he was awaiting the arrival of our members after April 1, that he might look after them. A hearty vote of thanks to the chairman closed the meeting.

CHARLES S. PATTERSON, Hon. Sec.

ANCHOR AND HOPE ANGLING SOCIETY.

The Anchor and Hope Angling Society (one of the most popular South London clubs) had a splendid gathering at their headquarters, the Duke of Kent, Old Kent-road, on Monday last, when their president, Mr. T. Cromplen ("Old Isaak") gave a lantern lecture, entitled "Fishing in the Eastern Counties." Mr. W. H. Elsmore (president Central Association of London Anglers) occupied the chair, supported by Messrs. W. Meakin and J. McDermott (Friendly Anglers), Mr. T. Cox (West London A.C.), Mr. A. R. Matthews (New Albion), Mr. J. Dunn (Collingwood), Messrs. W. Streton and P. Allum (South Bermondsey), Messrs. J. Smith and W. Kervell (Bermondsey Brothers), Mr. W. H. Lawes (Deptford), Messrs. J. W. Simpson, C. Watkins, H. Mallett, B. Booth, &c. The lecturer gave a brief account of the Lea, Stort, Storr, and other rivers to which the Great Eastern Railway gives access, and concluded with a rapid survey of the famous Broad of Norfolk, also places along the coast where sea fishing is chiefly to be had. Prior to the lecture some beautiful views of Pnborough, Amberley, and other angling resorts were shown upon the screen, and Isaak Walton and the famous fishing house upon the Dove also came in for attention. A number of illustrations of the Thames were equally well displayed. The lecturer gave some practical hints as to fishing, particularly on the rivers and broads of Norfolk and Suffolk, and jokingly remarked that when fantastic tackle was recommended, a lesson as to fishing fine might be gathered from Walton, who some-

times only fished with Cotton. Many of the slides shown were from original photographs, and all were much admired, the lantern being supplied and cleverly manipulated by Mr. F. Lee, of the Grange Angling Society, to whom, with the lecturer, hearty thanks were accorded. Some excellent snap-shots (taken by Mr. W. J. Wade) of leading members of the society and the Central Association, after which a collection was made for the Thames Angling Preservation and Re-stocking Society, which resulted in the addition of £3 3s. to the funds of that excellent institution. Mr. T. Cromplen then moved a vote of thanks to the chairman, which was carried by acclamation. Mr. Elsmore, in reply, thanked the members for the handsome contribution made to the good work of Thames preservation, and expressed his good wishes for the continued prosperity of the Anchor and Hope. A capital vocal and instrumental concert was carried out under the direction of Mr. F. W. Martin, with Mr. J. King as accompanist. The proceedings, which had been enthusiastic throughout, concluded, with the National Anthem and Auld Lang Syne.

Notes from the North.

THIS (Saturday) day week and angling will be in full swing on the bulk of Scotch waters. Most of the Dee waters will be covered on the opening day; but, of course, much will depend on the state of the weather prior to the opening.

A spell of severe frost has been experienced for some six days on end, the minimum readings not having been so low for some four years back. The streams have accordingly sunk to normal level and the run of fish partially checked. This is, on the whole, acceptable to all, the only dissentients, perhaps, being the far inland proprietors, who prefer open weather all through.

The Ythan opens on the 25th inst. It and the Ugie are late salmon rivers, but some splendid early sea trout angling is got on the tidal waters during the opening weeks and right on through the spring, till the smolts appear in the middle of April or beginning of May.

The summary of the decision in the reclaiming note in the Spey pollution case was given last week, confirming Lord Kyllachey's decision, and remitting the case back to him to proceed with. The inference to be drawn is that where pollution exists action should be taken at once, as there is little fear of the money being lost in raising such. As the law stands pollution in any shape or form may be put a stop to, especially if it has been created within recent years.

A most desirable little property on the right bank of the Ugie, near Peterhead, was bought last week by Mr. Garden T. West, Balmoor, Peterhead, for £9710 by public roup. The estate carries along with it excellent sea trout angling, with an occasional salmon and grilse after the nets are off in the autumn.

A monster skate was landed the other day at Fraserburgh, measuring 8ft. 2in. by 5ft. 10in., and weighing 2½cwt. It was purchased for the English market. Small skate are preferred in the north by housewives, especially the small brown skate.

The East Coast Fisheries Association, presided over by Mr. James Johnstone, of Montrose, has its little quarrel with the Scotch Fishery Board for being too stern and logical in the anti-trawling policy. Some of the fishermen themselves have been "trailing" nets along the bottom of the sea in the territorial waters and firms, and the board has put its foot down on their little game.

It is currently believed that Professor D'Arcy Thomson, C.B., will be offered the Natural History chair in Aberdeen University, vacant through the death of Professor Nicholson.

The Tay salmon fishing proprietors are up in arms against the proposed Highland Water Power Company, and the chiefs are shouting "claymore."

The netting stations on the east and north coasts commence operations on the 11th prox., when the bulk of Scotch salmon waters then open. As the eleventh falls on a Saturday, the nets will have only from twelve on Friday night till six on Saturday, when they will have to lift their leaders again for the weekly slap.

An assessment of 13 per cent. has been imposed by the proprietors of the Tay Upper Salmon District to meet the expenses of the current year in taking off the nets above Campsie falls. Lord Breadalbane's withdrawal from the combination has reduced the rateable value, and so increased the rate, in spite of a revision of many of the rentals, which have hitherto been absurdly low.

SPECIAL SCOTCH.

A GREAT INJUSTICE is very often done because some self-assertive people imagine it is next to impossible to make an error. Shakespeare must have made an analytical study of the human heart before he uttered those warning words, "Man know thyself, then others learn to know." This is a lesson we should all try and perfect ourselves in, and when this has been done we have to face the significant fact that unless we cultivate good health, prosperity and happiness cannot abide with us. Holloway's Pills will aid us to do this. The most eminent medical men agree that for the preservation of good health and cure of disease there is nothing to equal them.

Provincial Notes

FROM BIRMINGHAM AND DISTRICT.

The quarterly meeting of the Severn Fishery Board was held in Birmingham on Thursday, Jan. 27 last, when the chief business transacted related to the salmon and trout, and the claims of the coarse fish anglers were again treated with indifference. This is a state of things I am very sorry to see, as it is the wish of the coarse fish anglers to come to some terms with the board in order to get some kind of protection for this class of fish as is given for the salmon and trout. The opinion of all true anglers is that they are willing to pay a licence to fish for coarse fish, providing the board will observe a proper close time, and refuse to issue permits as they do for the taking of the fish during the close season. In the yearly report as just issued by the board, mention is made that since the Provincial Angling Association have taken up the cases of the members being summoned for taking coarse fish without a trout licence, it has induced certain people to go in for netting. Now, this is one of the great things which the association would not give their countenance to under any conditions, and would like to see such offenders punished. Our aim is to benefit the rod and line fishermen, and it is an insult to all true anglers to say that it is their fault that these netting operations have been brought about through their refusal to take out the trout licences for the taking of coarse fish. The board themselves are to blame for allowing the water to be depleted in such a wholesale manner, and I am sure the anglers would assist the board in trying to put a stop to such unsportsmanlike practices. Such statements as these are calculated to do more harm than good to all parties concerned. Messrs. Coles and Wingfield, the P.A.A. representatives on the board, spoke very strongly upon the matter, and moved a resolution that the matter mentioned in the report be struck out, but little or no notice was taken of the resolution, and so the breach still remains as wide as ever. I, together with many more, would like to see some settlement to the question we are so interested in, and that the coarse fish should come under the same restrictions as the salmon and trout. Until this is done the same unpleasant feeling will go on for ever. Messrs. Wingfield and Coles have again been elected by the Worcestershire County Council on the Severn Fishery Board. The newly formed Cradley Association have been visited by a representative of the P.A.A., and found in every way properly constituted. A list of stations that they require the privilege to travel to on the Great Western Railway Company will in due course be forwarded to the company. We have two more new clubs being formed in the Birmingham district, one at Erdington, and the other at the Salmon Inn, Severn-street. The latter is a good name and place for a fishing club. Several of our clubs are arranging concerts in aid of their prize funds. The Vine Unity hold theirs on March 21 and 28 next, at their clubhouse. The Queen's Head Club hold theirs at the Crown Hotel, Snow Hill, on Feb. 14; W. Butler, Esq., will take the chair. The St. Paul's Club will hold a open concert, on Feb. 21, at the Chapel Hotel, Great Charles-street. A committee meeting of the P.A.A. will be held on Saturday, Feb. 4, at the Drawbridge Hotel, Bristol. Chair taken at six o'clock.

FROM THE FEN DISTRICT (LINCOLNSHIRE).

Remarkably good sport continues to be obtained in the Fen district. The waters have now got into capital condition for trolling, and a large percentage of the rods out this week have been in quest of pike. Those who have patronised the Witham have done very well on the various lengths between Lincoln and Boston. Near Dogdyke, on Tuesday, one angler captured three brace, weighing 27½lb., and another, in the same district, landed two and a half brace weighing 19lb. The heaviest fish coming under notice was captured near Kirstead, and scaled just over 9lb. Trolling tackle has also been successfully employed on the Forty-foot, where fish weighing 6½lb., 5½lb., two of 4½lb., and 4lb. have been captured this week. The mild weather has again favoured roach fishing, and those disporting themselves on the minor drains in the Boston district and on the Glen at Surfleet have met with a good measure of success.

FROM HULL AND DISTRICT.

The river Hull and its tributary streams are in much better condition for angling this week, especially in the top stretches. Pike fishing has been pursued at the back-ends with a fair amount of success, but the fish taken have only run small. This class of angling still continues good on the Market Weighton Canal and the delphs and ponds in the immediate vicinity of Staddlethorpe Bridge and Newport; and as the river Ludd is reported in fair condition, the stretches between Firebeacon and Thoresby Bridge should be worthy of a visit. The ponds in the vicinity of the bridge, and at Tetney, are also well stocked with pike and perch. A few roach have been taken during the week above Hempholm Lock, in the Hull; but at the time of writing (Wednesday) we are having a fall of snow, which will, no doubt, put a stop to roach fishing for a time. The lower waters are still of a bad colour, and running in volume. Flounders and eels of good size continue to be taken with worms and shrimps in the Waine and Cicey district, and odd pike have been taken in this district, Mr. J. Cheesman taking four fish on Monday. The Wednesday Angling Society held their annual dinner at the Marrow Bone and Cleaver, in Fetterlane, on Wednesday evening, Jan. 25; Mr. Councillor Cooper occupying the chair, and being supported by Councillor Parrott and the president and officers of the society. The secretary's report showed the society to be in a first class position, both financially and otherwise. Mr. R. H. Barlow is the winner of the gold medal for most

points during the past season. On Monday evening next the members of the Derringham Angling Society dine together at the Botanic Hotel. Mr. George Cheeseman is the winner of this club's gold medal for the past season. On Jan. 25, before the members of the Hull Scientific and Field Naturalists' Society, Mr. H. M. Foster, ("The Angler-Naturalist") delivered a lecture on the "Structure of Fishes," which was much appreciated. At the annual meeting of the Old Senleates A.S., Mr. J. Arnold was elected president; Mr. J. Calvert, treasurer; and Mr. C. Brown, hon. secretary. The Victoria Angling Society decided at their last meeting to hold their annual open match at Dunsell, on the river Hull, on Saturday, April 29th; Mr. Alfred Wrightson has been re-elected to the presidential chair for this season, to be supported in the vice by Mr. B. Hill; Mr. C. Warr, treasurer; and Mr. A. H. Dahle, hon. secretary. On Feb. 9th the Alexandra A.A. will hold their annual *soirée* and hall; and at the Central Hall, on Monday evening next, the Hull Angling and Preservation Society will hold a like entertainment. On Jan. 23rd the North Myton A.S. held their second annual ball, when over 200 anglers and their friends took part in the proceedings, which were most enthusiastic throughout, and will, no doubt, greatly augment the funds of the society. The Waltonian Angling Society held their annual meeting at their new headquarters, the Station Hotel, Stepney, when the officers were elected, and other matters arranged for the season. From statistics just published for 1898, the fishing industry has increased enormously in Hull during the past ten years. For instance, in 1888 the quantity of fish

landed at Hull Billingsgate was 403,693cwt., value £304,892, whereas in 1898 the gross weight was 1,097,001cwt., value £875,151. This does not include salmon, herrings, and other foreign produce, of which large quantities are landed.

FROM LANCASHIRE.

The travelling cards of the Northern Anglers' Association for 1899 will shortly be ready for circulation, being now in the hands of the railway companies for authorisation. It is gratifying to note that the cards contain some 300 additional privileges, which the hard working executive have recently obtained for the benefit of the association. Mr. Pendrigh's promised lecture, descriptive of his last season's "Fishing Trip to the Donegal Highlands," is to be given at the headquarters of the Levenshulme Angling Society on Feb. 20. The subject speaks itself interesting, and the lecturer may be expected to deal with it in his usual capable manner. The travelling cards for 1899 of the County Palatine Angling Association are now ready, and contain some very valuable additional privileges. They are to be obtained from the treasurer, Mr. Peacock, or from the financial secretary, Mr. S. J. Higginson, 6, Northumberland-street, Hulme, to whom application should be made as early as possible. The Lancashire and Yorkshire match, which is to take place at Wyresdale next month, is exciting a great deal of interest, and already the applications for places on the teams far exceed the number required. Those responsible for the final selection have an arduous task before them, and in the end someone is sure to be disappointed.

FROM MANCHESTER.

Many of our clubs are still busy replenishing their private waters with mature coarse fish, calculated to afford good sport after the termination of the ensuing close season. The Moss Side Social Angling Society have recently been paying great attention to this department of club work, and received a few days ago a consignment of 600 very fine fish, some of which were perch of 2lb. and upwards each. Owing to exceptional care exercised in transit, these have been successfully turned into the society's private waters without loss, and to the general satisfaction of all concerned. The Good Intent Angling Society are rapidly coming to the front. The roll-call already registers twenty-four members, and more will shortly be added. A contest has been arranged to take place early in March, as a pleasant means of closing the present coarse fishing season. A fairly extensive programme is being arranged for the coming season, and with the idea of gaining reduced anglers' fares to popular resorts, as well as other privileges, the society have recently affiliated themselves to the County Palatine Angling Association. The Kingfisher Angling Society are noted for usual monthly business meeting at headquarters, the Crescent, Salford, on Tuesday evening next, 7th inst. The South-West Manchester Angling Society are sanguine as to result of existing negotiations for valuable private waters within easy reach of the city. A meeting was recently held (the first of 1899) to discuss this as well as other important items, and every hope is cherished that their efforts will meet with ultimate success. The meeting was well attended, and an extensive agenda disposed of.

ANGLERS' HOTELS, FISHING QUARTERS, &c.

FORTINGALL HOTEL, GLENLYON, PERTSHIRE.

8½ miles from Aberfeldy Railway Station and 2½ miles from Fearnan Pier, Loch Tay.

This new First-class Hotel is beautifully situated near the "Famous Pass of Glenlyon, with Mineral Well." Good spring salmon fishing on the River Lyon opens Jan. 15. Trout fishing free. Posting. Post and Telegraph Office two minutes' walk.

PAUL MACPHAIL, Proprietor.

SALMON FISHING ON LOCH TAY.

For Boats, apply to

H. J. MAISEY, Killin Hotel.

FOYERS HOTEL, LOCH NESS.

Re-decorated and most comfortably re-furnished throughout. Electric light.

THIS Hotel, which is most beautifully situated, overlooking Loch Ness, and commanding finest views of the Great Glen, has the right of Salmon Fishing on Loch Ness, which will be free to visitors staying at Hotel, also Trout Fishing on River Foyers, Loch Bran, Loch Garth, and Loch Farraline. Boats for use of visitors. Terms moderate. S. TILSTON, Proprietor

ROSSES WHITE AND BROWN TROUT FISHERY.

Croly and Loughanure Salmon Fishery. HAVING obtained a lease of above excellent SALMON FISHERY, and the sole rights of fishing, anglers can now fish the Croly and Loughanure. Splendid salmon and sea trout fishing can be had on the Croly and Owenatorr rivers as well as on Loughanure lake, three miles in length, and three miles from Dungloe. There are over 100 lakes in the Rosses Fishery alone, with about twenty boats and first class gillies. Sea trout run to 6lb. and brown trout to 4lb. Large numbers of Loch Leven and Rainbow trout turned out of hatchery every season. Dungloe, in the Highlands of Donegal, is centre of fishery, ten miles from Fintown railway station (Donegal Railway Company). Best fishing lakes within easy reach of the three hotels in Dungloe, where excellent accommodation can be had. Travellers can leave London at 8.30 p.m. and reach Dungloe at three o'clock next day. Mail and day car to and from Fintown station. Good sea fishing, rock pigeon and seal shooting. Telegraph office, bank, post office, &c. Fishing terms: Rosses Fishery, April 1 to June 30, 2s. 6d. daily; 12s. 6d. weekly; 30s. monthly. July 1 to Oct. 31, 3s. 6d. daily; 16s. weekly; 40s. monthly. Croly and Loughanure, March 1 to Oct. 31, 5s. daily; 20s. weekly; 50s. monthly; and 6s. per day man and boat, which holds two anglers. All information can be had from

S. HANLON, C.P.S., Manager and Salmon Licence Distributor.

HANLON'S PRIVATE HOTEL, DUNGLOE, CO. DONEGAL.

S. HANLON, Manager of Rosses Fishery.

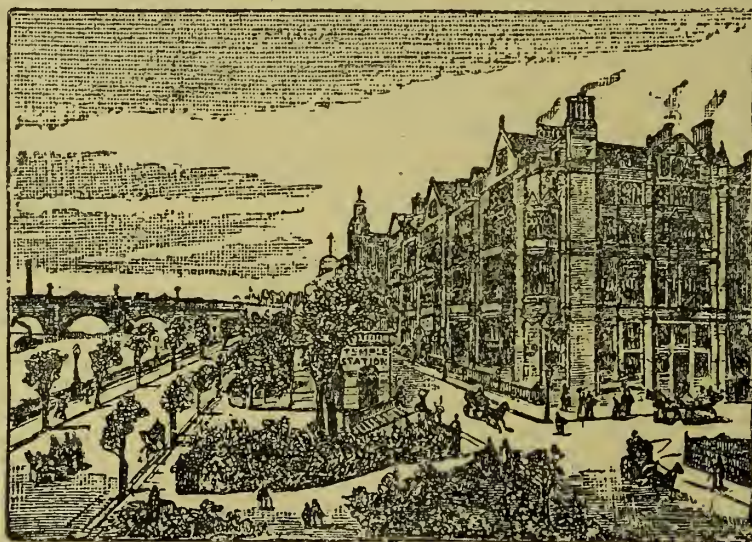
ROSAPENNA HOTEL, CARRIGART (Co. DONEGAL).

THIS Hotel, built in 1892 by the late Earl of Leitrim, is situated on the Rosagull Peninsula, midway between Sheephaven and Mulroy Bay. Tourists and Anglers will find superior accommodation at the above Hotel. It contains over sixty bedrooms, spacious billiard, drawing, and public rooms. Salmon fishing in the famous Glen Lough, Owencarrow and Lackagh Rivers, is free to Hotel visitors from Feb. 15 to end of July. Salmon licences can be had at the Hotel. Free access to numerous lakes and rivers on the estate for white and brown trout fishing. No charge for boats. Excellent sea bathing. Golf links, eighteen holes in a circuit of 3½ miles, encircle the Hotel. For terms and further information apply to the Manager.

"Among the best and cheapest Hotels special reference should be made to the Arundel."—Charles Dickens.

THE ARUNDEL HOTEL,

CLOSE TO THE TEMPLE STATION ON THE DISTRICT RAILWAY, THE LAW COURTS THEATRES, STRAND, THE RIVER, &c.



(HEAD QUARTERS OF THE FLY FISHERS' CLUB.)

VICTORIA EMBANKMENT, STRAND, LONDON.

One of the finest positions in the Metropolis.

BED, BREAKFAST, AND ATTENDANCE FROM 6s

LAKE VYRNWY.

Splendid trout fishing in the lake and rivers; fish average 4lb., and give grand sport. Easy of access. Every comfort and luxury provided in the Hotel. Good boats and steady boatmen. Splendid cycle track (twelve miles). Bracing climate, and magnificent scenery. Season begins on March 1. First-class Grouse Moors and Rough Shootings to Let. Railway station, Llanfyllin.

Post and Telegraph Address: "LAKE VYRNWY HOTEL, OSWESTRY."

SHANNON & LOUGH DERG, KILLALOE, IRELAND.

MOST reliable information as to Salmon, Grilse, and Trout Fishing in free and preserved waters, river, and lake, at this station; also as to accommodation and board in private cottages close to river. Expenses, shortest route from England and Scotland, on application to S. J. HURLEY, Killaloe, Co. Clare, Ireland. N.B.—The Green Drake season on Lake Commences about last week in May, when the big trout are about in thousands.

MAELOG LAKE HOTEL,

TY CROES, ANGLESEY (L.N.W. Main Line).

BRIGHT bracing climate; no east wind. Trout fishing: rivers and lakes open Feb. 1. Snipe, Duck, Wildfowl, and Rabbit Shooting till March 1st, excellent sport in dry and frosty weather. Capital Golf Links surround hotel, and adjoin sea coast. Furnished apartments in Private House for a large family. Moderate inclusive terms. Proprietor, T. J. COTTRELL.

THE FOX & HOUNDS HOTEL, Eggesford Station, N. Devon.

TWENTY MILES of FREE FISHING on the private waters of the Earl of Portsmouth and other gentlemen on Mid Taw and Little Dart to hotel guests only. Rivers recently re-stocked. Moderate inclusive tariff.

R. PORTMAN MARSHALL, Proprietor. Season commences March 1.

SHIP HOTEL, LEIGH, ESSEX

Local Headquarters of British Sea Anglers' Society.

THIS Hotel, which is now under entirely new Management, can offer high class accommodation at moderate charges to Gentlemen visiting Leigh for Fishing or Commercial purposes.

F. HOMEWOOD

(Agent B.S.A.S.), Proprietor.

Boats and men engaged on receipt of wire or letter.

TORCROSS HOTEL,

Near Kingsbridge, S. Devon.

GOLF, GAME and RABBIT SHOOTING, SEA FISHING. Fishing for Pike, Perch, Roach, and Rudd. Billiards and Tennis. Dark Room for Photography. Five Coaches leave the Hotel daily.

W. VICKERY, Proprietor.

GOOD FREE

PIKE and GENERAL FISHING

EVERY ACCOMMODATION. HOME COMFORTS. Baits and all requirements. Punts free to visitors. Moderate charges. Wire or write:

A. SCARD, FERRYBOAT INN, HOLYWELL FERRY, HUNTS.

30 Miles Preserved TROUT FISHING

Free to the guests of the HOTEL DES ARDENNES, Diekirch (Luxembourg). Opening day April 1.

For all particulars about hotel and fishing write for the illustrated prospectus, sent post free. Inclusive pension terms 4s. 2d. a day. Proprietor, A. HECK.

FROM NOTTINGHAM.

The weather has been more favourable, and the Trent has fished down considerably. Pike fishing has engaged marked attention at Kelham and Averham, above the railway bridge, and amongst others taking fish mention may be made of the names of Messrs. Herbert Baker, T. Essex, W. T. Hodgson, H. Ridgard, F. J. Lindley, H. Jorxon, W. Foulds, R. Fryer, G. Clarke, and W. Rayson. In private waters Mr. Jas. Lee, of Beeston, has killed a roach of close on 20lb. At Shardlow, Messrs. E. Saywell and J. Greaves have done well. Pikeing here closed for the season on Tuesday night, and the campaign was understood to be at an end as regards the Kelham stretch. On his great quantities of pike have been secured since last September. At Staythorpe, on Thursday, Mr. R. Grainger creeled a handsome lot of roach with the cock-pur worm; and since my last numerous remarkably fine roach have fallen to the rods of subscribers to the Wilford and Clifton fisheries. Sport amongst roach has also improved at Beeston and Trent Lock.

FROM SHEFFIELD.

The weather during the past week has been much more favourable for fishing, and with the frosty weather continuing, better sport was obtained. Sheffield anglers went out in larger numbers, and, generally speaking, secured air sport. Satisfactory sport has been obtained in the Hathersage and Chatsworth club waters, several brace of heavy fish having been taken, and these waters are looked upon as being amongst the most fruitful in Derbyshire, as complaints are being made that fish are getting scarcer every year both in the Derwent and the Wye. One or two Sheffield anglers did fairly well during the middle portion of last week in the private waters near Matlock Bridge, a few nice heavy grayling being taken by means of brandling worms. Bottom anglers who have visited the neighbourhood of Ambergate, Holmesford, and Whatstandwell, have had moderately good sport amongst roach, worms being the most successful bait, whilst grayling have also been fairly well on the feed. The Trent is just now in first-rate order for fishing, the river having run down considerably, and fishermen have taken full advantage of their opportunities. At Beeston roach have been well on the feed, and several fishermen have accounted for heavy takes, in addition to a goodly number of perch. At Laneham Ferry several nice roach have been secured. In the Boston district roach have provided the staple amount of sport, and in the Mount Pleasant drain any number of these fish have been taken, with worms as bait, whilst at Saxilby some decent sized roach have also been killed. A little pike fishing has been carried on at Brayford pool near Lincoln, but very little sport has been found in the Lower Witham, although the Sincil Dyke has been visited with a fair amount of success. The river Bain has furnished some first-class roaching, maggots and the tail ends of dew worms having been used with the best results. The officials of the Sheffield Trout Anglers' Association still continue their endeavours to improve the condition of the waters they rent, and a week ago 400 healthy two-year-old brown trout, from Milton Fishery, Burton-on-Trent, were turned into the Amber at Wingfield. The fish were in excellent condition, averaging from 8in. to 12in. in length.

FROM WORCESTER AND DISTRICT.

The flood has passed a way, and the rivers nearly down to their winter level again. The weather being so mild, a number of anglers have been out since Saturday trying their luck in both Avon and Severn. Some good sport has been had among the pike, and some good fish up to 14½lb. were taken; and some excellent dace and roach have been had, maggot, worm, and paste being used as baits. Chub not on the feed yet. Salmon fishing commences on the 2nd inst., that is, legally; but some of the fishermen, knowing the Severn Fishery Board has no bailiff within miles of Worcester to look after the fishing, have been busy with their nets for some days, or rather nights, on several of the draughts, and no doubt has some fish ready for the market to-morrow morning; but it is a practice that should be stopped. Some members of the District Angling Association watched these fellows at work two nights, and know who they are, but on account of the pronounced antagonism of the Severn Fishery Board to the anglers' interests they refuse to take any action towards bringing these fellows to justice. This I much regret. The Malvern Club have had their annual meeting. There was a good attendance of members. The hon. secretary (Mr. L. F. Higgs) gave in his report of the past season, and the balance-sheet, which shows this popular club is in a very satisfactory condition, and likely to have another year of prosperity; the officers were elected and the committee appointed, and everything looks promising for the coming season. The "Good Intent" (Worcester) had their annual meeting at their new headquarters, the "Gloucester Arms," Copenhagen-street, on Friday evening. There was a good few members present; Mr. Reynold occupying the chair in the absence of Mr. Jackson, who was unable to be present until late in the evening. This club is in a good position financially, and likely to make headway in their new quarters. Mr. R. Wingfield, secretary Worcester and District Association, was present, and gave an account of the meeting of the Severn Fishery Board on the day previous, and stated that the unhappy estrangement between that board and the anglers was by the board increased and not healed, which was regretted by all. He also gave information respecting additions made to association rules, the issue of travelling cards, and other matters. A collection was made towards the "Coles' Testimonial." The Crown Inn Club had their annual dinner on Monday evening last, the room was full; the president, Stephen Smith, Esq., in the chair. The secretary, Mr. A. Attwood, had everything in excellent form and the balance-sheet

reveals the fact that they have a nice little nest egg to commence the present season with, although the expenses of the past year were unusually heavy. A capital spread was put on the table by Host Attwood, which was heartily enjoyed; the usual toasts were duly honoured, and a capital variety of songs and recitations were given in excellent style during the evening and the end came all too soon, and the company dispersed after lustily singing the National Anthem.

FROM YORK AND DISTRICT.

Attention of anglers just at present is directed to the various club and association meetings which usually take place about this time of the year. At the Middledale Club meeting, on the 25th ult., an increased membership was reported. There had been moderate sport during the past year, and several good baskets of trout were taken. The question of stocking the river with young trout was discussed, the chairman (Mr. Passavant) remarking that until they, as a club, tried to improve their river, they could not expect help from the Yorkshire Fishery Board. On the 28th ult. the annual meeting of the Esk Fishery Association was held at Whitby. Mr. Rastell, on behalf of Mr. C. Marks, moved that no wading, except for the purpose of crossing the river only, be allowed on the Egton Quarry Pool before Aug. 31. The motion was lost. It was resolved to raise the annual subscription from £2 2s. to £3 3s., and the entrance fee from £2 2s. to £3 3s. The rivers have run down considerably during the past week, and angling prospects in consequence have much improved. The few frosty and sunny days experienced towards the end of last week were delightful, and the conditions have been well suited for pike and grayling fishing, chub, roach, and dace also affording nice sport. Anglers may well hope that they have seen the last of the heavy rains and floods which have prevailed more or less for three months. Notwithstanding such conditions the prospects of trout fishing are encouraging. Not only are nearly all the club waters well stocked, but the fish are in excellent condition.

Correspondence

[We do not hold ourselves responsible for the opinions expressed by our Correspondents.]

RE FLIGHT'S FANCY.

DEAR SIR,—We thought this matter had been "threshed to death," since some weeks have elapsed since our last had appeared, and no response had been made. It appears, however, there is one writer so "hard up" for a subject that he takes pen in hand to produce and send a belated contribution—which adds nothing whatever to what has already been said on this matter—to your last issue. He trots out the same three books, and gives the same quotations as we have had before, and—nothing more! But stay! There is one little item of intelligence for which we stand indebted to him, viz., that the fly is not claimed by the present representative of the family of the name of Flight. Well, now, when one makes a protest against any unwarrantable claim or other, the most that one expects to get in response is a repudiation, and we, having got that, are now content, since that is all we wrote for, and, indeed, more than we expected to get, and we tender our apologies to the present honourable head of the house of Flight, though there was need—but through no cause of his—for our protest.

The next edition of the "Scientific Angler" is already printed, therefore it is too late to eliminate our protest from the eighth edition of this standard work; but after the avowal we have had from Mr. Flight, we promise to do this from subsequent editions.—Yours obediently,

W. H. FOSTER.

P.S.—If Mr. Skues will take a cue from me, he will not waste powers of such strength of originality as are his upon such a hair-splitting "Tweedledum and Tweedledee" matter as is this. He talks of "breaking a fly upon a wheel" (!) Where's the use of throwing "pearls to the pigs"? He's had his smack at the fly (or was it a wasp?), but I think he'll admit that he hasn't squashed it.

GRAYLING EAT TROUT EGGS.

DEAR SIR,—Please accept the inclosed dish of grayling, part of a basket caught in the Yore this afternoon. Kindly, before giving them to the cook, dissect their stomachs, when I think you will find them full of trout ova and dew worms, the trout spawn, however, predominating. This has been my experience with a large number of grayling caught during the past week. It is therefore clear you cannot have a good trout and grayling river combined, and if any of our friends wish for a good trout river they must discard grayling. Of course, the ova of the grayling is well developed, but they will not spawn here until April or the beginning of May. They are in capital condition for the table, and will continue so for some time to come.—Yours truly,

J. E. MILLER.

P.S.—Our people cook them with their jackets on. Serve hot. You will find them fine.

[We are much obliged to Mr. Miller. We examined the contents of some of the stomachs of the grayling, and found many trout eggs, many larvae of different kinds, and many worms, also a few spiders and odds and ends. It was astonishing to see so much food in small grayling of 8in. or 9in. at this time of year. We never had much doubt about grayling eating trout eggs, but after this display the question is settled. Doubtless the trout take their revenge in April, when the grayling spawn. The grayling eggs were well developed, and slightly larger in diameter than the O in VICTORIA on a penny. Many of the trout eggs were alive and perfectly healthy, so they could not have been swallowed long before the fish were caught.—Ed.]

FISHING ON LOUGH MELVIN, &c.

DEAR SIR,—By the time this note appears in print Lough Melvin and Bundrowes river will be once again released from their legal fetters. Twenty-five years ago the above lake and river were famous for salmon fishing—perhaps second to none in Ireland—but for the past few years, owing to disinterestedness and bad management on the part of parties responsible, its name, once famous for salmon fishing, has come down almost to half mast.

That very prolific and remunerative box and net fishery, rented and worked by Carty and Cleary for past twenty years, is now purchased and owned by Mr. Singleton, an enterprising London gentleman. He intends to work it now in the interest of sport; fishing neither nets or boxes; letting all fish up to the river and lake.

He proposes to issue daily and weekly tickets of leave to fish the river at a very moderate tariff considering the sport likely to be had. He is also expending perhaps £1000 on the preservation of lake and river, where heretofore £30 was not expended. So, from an angler's point of view, forecasts for lake and river looks very promising. Good fishing can be had on the river any time after Feb. 1. Fishing on the lake will probably be in full swing after March 1.—Yours truly,

P. GALLAGHER.

Rossfriar, Kinlough, co. Leitrim,
Jan. 27, 1899.

TROUT FISHING WANTED.

DEAR SIR,—I want to have some good trout fishing at Easter, and I am not at all particular what distance within the British Isles I go for it. Where would you advise for really good sport for about a week?—Yours, &c.,

TROUT.

SALMON FISHING.

DEAR SIR,—Will any of your readers kindly recommend me where to go the end of the second week in April for three weeks' really good salmon or sea trout fishing? A reasonable sum would be paid.—Yours faithfully,

SALMO SALAR.

JOHN KIRBY.

DEAR MR. MARSTON,—The *Sporting Magazine* of his day credits John Kirby with being a celebrated angler and keeper of Newgate Gaol. No mention of hooks. His patrons, no doubt, wished they could "sling their hooks."—Faithfully yours, JOHN HOBSON.

Leamington.

A PRIZE QUERY.

DEAR SIR,—A prize was offered at a meeting of the Kingswood Blackhorse Angling Society for the largest scale fish caught before Dec. 31, 1898, by any member. A bream weighing 3lb. 6½oz. was weighed in by one member, and a pike weighing 4lb. 13oz. by another. Which do you think is entitled to the prize? Your answer in next Saturday's issue will greatly oblige.—Yours truly, W. ORCHARD (Hon. Sec.).

[Unless the pike was a freak of nature and had no scales why not give him the prize? We never saw a pike without scales. Some people think eels have not got scales, but they have. If Mr. Orchard means which fish is the best specimen fish, of course the bream is.—Ed.]

THE FLY DRESSER'S LIBRARY.

SIR,—Through the courtesy of a correspondent I have had an opportunity of reading the 1860 edition of John Younger's book, "River Angling for Salmon and Trout." This edition was intended to be a recast of the 1840 edition, and the author had got as far in rewriting the book as p. 75 when his death intervened. This was a calamity, as pp. 76 and 77 contains the author's method, not very perfectly stated, of dressing trout flies. It is noticeable that he used upright split wings, and even had the idea of pairing the wings from corresponding feathers of the two wings of the same bird; but this he calls an "extreme nicety." Hackles, apparently, he did not think necessary, though the hooks he used—6 and 7 Adlington, round bend—are large enough to justify the use of hackles. It would have been an advantage if he had restated his method with the added knowledge and experience of the years which had elapsed since the previous edition. His list of trout flies is a very short one, comprising five winged flies, and a hackled pattern of one of them. There was a further edition in 1864.

VAL CONSON.

FLY-TYING SILKS.

DEAR SIR.—In last week's publication of the *Fishing Gazette*, where "Val Conson" has under review the past works on angling, he alludes to a very valuable book, published by the late Mr. W. H. Aldam in 1876. It was a very large and elaborate work, the price being four guineas. One feature of the book was the standard makes of the best known killing flies—these flies lying in small sunken recesses in cardboard.

"Val Conson" deplores the fact that Pearsalls and others do not produce to-day these beautiful imitations of colours. We, however, beg to mention that Mr. Aldam was a life-long friend of our late Mr. Geo. Davenport, who supplied Mr. Aldam with all the silk he required for dressing flies. Mr. Davenport himself being an expert angler and fly dresser for upwards of half a century. These excellent silks we are supplying to-day, and whether for fineness, strength, or colour cannot be excelled.—Yours truly,

Hope Silk Mills, Leek.

[We reprint here notices of these silks, which the *Field* and the *Fishing Gazette* gave fifteen years ago.—Ed.]

Mr. Wm. Senior ("Red Spinner"), piscatorial editor of the *Field*, says: "I was so struck with the excellence of your fly-tying silks that I took the samples you gave me down to the club, and there happened to be present

three of the best amateur fly dressers in the country. They pulled it off the reels, handled it, examined it closely, and were loud in their admiration of its strength and fineness. The lasting quality of the colours was testified to years ago by the veteran Aldam. The silks are really of the very highest quality."

Vide Fishing Gazette, Oct. 25, 1884: "Mr. W. H. Aldam, of Chilcomb, Winchester, has a quantity of these silks, in all colours, the best that ever were made, specially manufactured to his own instructions by a personal friend at Leek, viz., Mr. Geo. Davenport; and the silks cannot be procured from any other manufacturer, so strong, yet so fine, and with fixed lasting colour."

WIRE LINES.

DEAR SIR,—I have very little to add to what I have already mentioned in previous letters, except that it ought to be apparent to your readers by this time that the wire lines I have introduced are different to those mentioned by some of your correspondents, theirs being complete failures and mine a great success, as many reliable and representative anglers can now substantiate. It seems absolutely absurd for gentlemen to advance theories to prove these wire lines worthless when practical tests prove the reverse to be the fact.

If, as Mr. Hearder affirms, I did not originate these lines, I have, at least, shown anglers the tackle necessary to add to their rods to enable them to use them with comfort and success. It took me over seven years to induce the Gresham Angling Society to adopt sea fishing, by the reading of papers, example, and general recommendation; but although wire lines have only been before the public a few months, they are now being bought up as fast as they can be made, and it is a case of first come first served. They just suit the taste of the members of the B.S.A.S., who are ever on the look out for refined tackle of every description.

In conclusion, I should like to remind your readers that I am not attempting to make anything by these lines.

The only question that remains to be settled is the size best suited for the different fish and modes of fishing. The lines now being made are composed of sixteen strands of fine phosphor-bronze braided wire. There are three lines now being used. They are numbered 5, 4, and 4. The strands of No. 5 are the largest, and No. 4 the smallest. No. 5 can be purchased at 1½d. per yard; its breaking strain is 28lb. No. 4½ costs 1½d., and breaks at 24lb. No. 4 costs 1d., and breaks at 22lb. Another line will shortly be produced. It will be numbered 8, and consist of eight strands of No. 4½ strand thickness. Its breaking strain will be 11½lb. It is calculated that these lines, with due care, will last about seven years. Braided wire lines are really very fine tubes of wire, and are consequently elastic—50yds. will stretch about 1yd., and thus counteract the effect of sudden strains. I find the Thames Conservancy have adopted stout phosphor-bronze lines for plumbing the depths, and I understand they are perfectly satisfied with them.—Yours faithfully,

A. W. PARKER.

WIRE SEA LINES.

DEAR SIR,—In reply to Dr. Charles S. Patterson's three questions: Firstly, as to what kind of wire lines—I have used annealed copper wire, wire of the make used for hanging pictures; bottle wire; and the more up to date 39-thread three ply bronze wire, sample of which I inclose for your inspection. I used a heavier make than that inclosed, but have used it all up for binding oars, gaffs, &c., for which it is much more suited than for reel and hand lines.

Secondly, as to where I have used wire lines: On the coast of North Wales, mostly in eight to twelve fathoms, and four to five knot tides, over 18ft. rise and fall; Le Havre, France, mostly in shoal water, fairly swift tides; the Baltic, which is no great criterion as regards tide, &c., I used the wire lines as reel lines for bass, &c., the hand-lines for conger, cod, and pollack. (I also tried them for trolling for pike without leads on the Danish lakes.)

Thirdly, as to weather I have "troubled" to try the new sixteen strand braided phosphor-bronze lines.

I have received new samples since my last letter. I do not like the way they run on reel and through the rings, but am trying them as reel and hand-lines very soon.

I would remind Dr. C. S. P. in answer to his other remarks, that we are discussing the value of wire sea lines and not merely wire reel lines.—Yours truly,

"VIATOR."

[We have sent the samples "Viator" sends to Dr. Patterson.—Ed.]

BIRDS OF PREY AT BATTERSEA PARK.

SIR,—Some time since I was informed that "penguins" were abroad in Battersea Park, and were devouring the fish in the lake wholesale. Information received, however, caused me to fix a visit for Sunday last, and in drizzling rain, accompanied by Mr. H. Archer, a fellow member, I made a circuit of this well-known "Paradise for the People." And "paradise" it is, for the powers that be (John Burns, I believe, in particular), have amply fulfilled their promises in every respect, and nothing appears to be wanting to give the people of Battersea real recreation and genuine amusement.

After a deal of wandering we came across the aforesaid "plunderer," but the "penguin" turned out to be a "cormorant." There are two of them, and in my presence one of them caught and devoured about three dozen fish, roach and dace, I believe, in about forty minutes.

But we were afforded a little amusement at the finish in rather an unexpected manner. Hundreds of young sea gulls appear to have made the park their rendezvous for the winter months, and three of these birds were intensely interested spectators of the "cormorant's" performance,

Watching an opportunity as the fisherman emerged from the water, they one by one swooped down, and managed to snatch from him five or six decent-sized fish.

The cormorants have only quite recently been introduced into the park, and are part of a very beautiful collection of foreign species well worthy of a visit, but when we come to consider that many places (Wimbledon Park, and even homely Clapham Common, for instance), owe part of their stock to these waters, the question naturally arises: "Should not this kind be put a stop to?"—I am, sir, faithfully yours,

HON. SECRETARY
(Lychnobite Angling Society).

A LARGE LAMPREY.

DEAR SIR,—We had on view at Mr. Amphlett's lecture on Monday last a lamprey weighing 1½lb., captured by one of our committee (Mr. R. P. Smith) in the Rother—Robertsbridge, Sussex—last autumn. It attracted a great deal of attention, and was considered of rather exceptional size. Can you inform us as to whether lampreys grow much larger than this?

This one has been snaped in a large glass cylinder containing methylated spirit, and is in excellent preservation.—Faithfully yours,

HV. DOWSETT
(Joint Hon. Sec. Hastings Angling Society).

[Buckland says the average size of lampreys which come into the London market is from 1½lb. to 3lb., and Dr. Day says specimens up to 5lb. weight have been taken.—Ed.]

ANGLERS' ASSOCIATION RE-STOCKING FUND.

DEAR SIR,—Since last report I beg to acknowledge receipt of 5s. Brunswick Brothers, and 10s. 6d. from Izaak Walton Angling Society.—Yours faithfully,

ALEX. WRIGHT, Hon. Sec.

AN ANGLING SOCIETY FOR NICE.

To the Editor of the *Riviera Daily*.

DEAR SIR,—While there are clubs and societies in Nice representing almost every form of sport and recreation, I find that there is no local angling association. This is somewhat remarkable, as there are a fair number of anglers in the town, and admirable opportunities are given both by river and sea for obtaining magnificent sport. At very little trouble and expense some of the streams in the vicinity might be stocked with trout, and converted into valuable properties, while there are other waters which would well repay re-stocking with coarse fish. I should, therefore, be glad to hear from any anglers, French, English, and American, who would join with me in forming an angling association for Nice. Such an institution might be carried on on the lines of the British Sea Anglers' Association, and become one of its corresponding branches. In this way much valuable information might be obtained in regard to the fish of the Mediterranean.—I am, yours, &c.,

G. EDWARDS.

Hotel Française, Rue d'Amérique.

SEA FISHING AT SOUTHEAD.

SIR,—In reply to Dr. Morris and Mr. Frank Moore, all I can say is that it was wholly on account of the Southend report, published in *Fishing Gazette* of Jan. 14, which reads, "Splendid sport has been enjoyed with the flat fish, which are just now very large," that I journeyed thither on the 15th, hoping to obtain a share of the above sport, but was entirely disappointed. I am aware that it is often the case when nothing may be doing at the pier-head, outside the boats are having sport both fast and furious. Hence I qualified my remarks by saying, "unless report simply applied to boat fishing," which I came to the conclusion it did. I may say I noticed that my experience was borne out by "Dragnet's" remarks in *Gazette* of 21st, as he states, "Ben Abrahams was getting an occasional dab, not many, not very large."

Of course, I no doubt should have noticed that Mr. Hussey's report was retrospective, as fishing changes so much from day to day it is not in mortal man to tell us our luck to-morrow. And it being Sunday, perhaps the fish, the larger ones especially, pay greater regard to the day than some of the fishermen.

I am pleased, indeed, to see that Mr. Hussey has taken up the matter of immature fish in such an energetic manner, and wish him (as I am sure every sportsman will) every success.—Yours truly,

OBSERVER.

A CURIOUS TROUT.

SIR,—Under the above heading I see an inquiry in your paper of Jan. 28 regarding the 11lb. trout caught in Loch Tay on the opening day. The trout in question was not a "hybrid," but a very fine specimen of the common loch trout. One side was much brighter than the other, but that was owing to the fish lying for some time in the bottom of the boat or among damp grass, probably the former. As for its tail, I did not see any difference between it and the tails of other trout of the same size.—Yours truly,

ORANGE HACKLE.

FINS OF FISH GROWING AGAIN.

SIR,—With reference to the question of the fins of fish growing again after injury, I should like to state the following instance which has come under my personal observation.

In January, 1895, three out of four gold fish, which I had then kept—two since 1889, and two since 1890—developed fungus upon their tail fins. I did not know of any reliable remedy for the disease, but, still, was unwilling to

lose the fish after keeping them for so long. I therefore determined to operate upon the tails. This I did by cutting away so much of the edge of the fin as was affected, and which, in the case of the smallest fish, amounted to nearly the entire lower lobe of the fin.

Turning to a few rough notes which I kept about my aquarium, I then find this entry: "May 28th, 1895. By now the cut tails have grown to their normal shape and there have been no more signs of S.F." I may add that the fish which underwent the severest operation is at my elbow at the present moment, and that the lower lobe of his tail perfectly resembles the upper one.—Yours, &c.,

C. A. C. JEFFCOCK.

THE DESTRUCTION OF TROUT AND SALMON IN NORFOLK STREAMS.

To the Editor of the *Eastern Daily Press*.

SIR,—The failure in Norfolk of the Birds' Protection Acts is notorious, and judging by what happens in certain parishes hereabouts, the laws for the protection of fish are treated with equal contempt.

I have just seen a salmon taken out of a little brook which was full of spawn, and measuring 27in. in length and 15in. in girth. Two years ago I heard of two salmon being taken, one weighing 11lb. and another 9lb., and in 1893 I am told one was taken weighing 13½lb. Ignorant of the crime I was committing, the first winter I was in North-West Norfolk I assisted at the capture of two trout weighing 5½lb., and I bought another freshly caught one weighing over 3lb. for a few pence. I also hear that some visitors from London to a neighbouring parish captured many trout and salmon in the spring of 1897, and I have more than once bought trout weighing from ½lb. to 1lb., in March, by the half pailful. There has been no secrecy about the catching of these fish. All have been caught in broad daylight, within sight of public ways; some of them in water next to the highway, or even running underneath it. The brook I specially allude to is partly fed by our well; it averages about 18in. in depth, and the fish are easily driven into its shallower parts, and then taken. As the winter caught fish are caught while they are seeking to lay their spawn, the damage done by their destruction is incalculable. The March fish are taken by beating the water and so driving the fish into pole nets.

I do not know if similar occurrences take place generally in Norfolk. If they do, we need not wonder at this increasing scarcity of fish in our streams, but, on the other hand, we may wonder at the exclusive attention bestowed upon game birds and beasts by landowners, policemen, and magistrates.

There is little doubt, from what I have heard, that if the streams in these parts had one-tenth of the protection bestowed upon them that is bestowed upon every little spinney and rabbit burrow they would abound in game fish, and so give this corner of the county quite a distinctive character, and also afford both profit and sport to those living in the neighbourhood.

On this ground, if on no other, I venture to call the attention of those concerned to the means which the law provides for preventing the cruel, foolish slaughter of fish that goes on at this time of the year.—I am, sir, yours obediently,

ROBT. C. NIGHTINGALE.

Beechamwell Rectory, Swaffham, Jan. 24.

GUT CASTING LINE DAMPER.

SIR,—Every angler has experienced the difficulty and annoyance connected with getting his casting lines into a proper condition for casting when commencing to fish. The lines have been wound in a coil, are dry and kinky, and obstinately refuse to get into the straight, and it takes a good deal of straining by hand, and then several minutes' immersion in the river before the lines are safe to fish with; the usual course, mors especially with beginners, being to commence casting though the lines are in corkerew fashion. If, however, a salmon or trout takes the fly while the tackle is in this dry and brittle state, the chances are you lose your fish, and your line into the bargain. This simple invention is the idea of Mr. James MacKenzie, of Dublin, an angler of considerable experience and success, and quite gets over the difficulties and annoyances referred to. When you start off in the morning for your day's sport—or the night before—you place in the damper the lines which you are likely to require during the day, and when you are ready to mount them they are in a nice soft, pliable condition, and your first cast falls on the water with the line as outstretched as if you had been fishing all day. Mr. MacKenzie has applied for a patent, and the invention is thus described in his provisional specification: "A flat box of tin or other material, having a circular compartment; outside this circular compartment is a lining of felt for the purpose of holding moisture to soften the gut casting lines which are placed therein. Inside the circular compartment is a dry pad of felt, in which the fishing hooks and flies connected with the lines are placed, so that while the lines are damped in preparation for angling, the hooks and flies are preserved from injury by moisture." Hitherto any attempts in this direction have failed, owing to the want of a dry compartment to keep the flies and hooks from suffering by being shut up in the damp.—Yours faithfully,

J. MCKENZIE.

[We certainly years ago have seen combined cast and fly boxes which exactly answer to this description.—Ed.]

Several letters unavoidably held over.

TO SPORTSMEN—Burberry's, of 20, Haymarket, London, are now offering, at half price, their 1898 model and stock sporting garments, in gabardine, combination, and rain-proofed tweed; shooting coats, 26s. 3d. and 31s. 6d.; breeches, 15s. and 21s.; Burberry capes and long overcoats, 31s. 6d.; farmers' overcoats, 15s.; Scotch stockings, 2s. 9d. Sent on approval on receipt of cheque covering.

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NOTICE.

THE FISHING GAZETTE is published every Saturday, and can be obtained at Messrs. W. H. Smith and Son's Railway Bookstalls and of the principal Newsagents and Fishing Tackle Dealers in London and the Provinces.

Communications relating to the Literary Department, Fishing Tackle for Notice, Books for Review, &c., should be addressed to R. B. MARSTON, Editor of the FISHING GAZETTE, St. Dunstan's House, Fetter-lane, London.

Correspondents are requested to write on one side of the paper only, and give their real names and addresses, not necessarily as signatures to their letters, but as a guarantee of good faith. Unless this rule be adhered to no notice will be taken of such communications.

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The Fishing Gazette

WITH WHICH IS INCORPORATED

ANGLING AND CLUB GOSSIP.

SATURDAY, FEBRUARY 11TH, 1899.

SPRING SALMON LURES.

SPINNING for salmon is now a recognised art in the world of sport. It was not always so; and the time is not so far distant when it required not a little nerve on the part of the younger generation of sportsmen to defend their position when killing salmon with anything short of the orthodox fly. Probably, much of the opposition met with was the direct outcome of the reckless use of the spinning rod at all times—in season and out of season—when it was first introduced into the rivers and streams in the north. It caught on like wildfire among the younger and keener spirits on the Dee some fifteen years ago, and for a season or so there was nothing seen but the spinning rod and the minnow can on almost every other reach in the hands of these freer spirits. Their sole object was to kill fish, and that speedily; and the advent of the live bait seemed a veritable God-send to them at the time.

There is no denying but that it was phenome-

nally successful when first introduced. At a time when few fish were being got to the fly, the news that two Englishmen, on the Dee, with live minnows were killing eight, ten, twelve, and even fifteen fish daily, could not but have had an electrifying effect on these hot bloods eager for sport at all hazards, and the result was that the minnow boom went up by leaps and bounds. It was minnow here and minnow there, minnow above and minnow below. The best sorts were imported from southern lakes and ponds then, as they are now; and while the boom lasted the supply was nothing equal to half the demand. Mr. Garden, tacklemaker, Aberdeen, would have a score of telegrams any day before nine o'clock in the morning, asking for minnows by the thousand, which he could not meet by fifties or a hundred, at most, to his most favoured customers, while the trade otherwise were equally harried to partially meet the demands of their patrons. Every burn and streamlet where a minnow of acceptable size was known to breed was scoured to augment the supply, and yet the cry was still for more.

It was no wonder then that the angler of the old school felt his back hair rise whenever he caught side of the hated minnow can, and reeled up in disgust when splash in front of him, sometimes under his very nose, came the hated minnow. The ill-feeling then engendered has not even yet subsided in the breasts of not a few, and although they may not object to the minnow *per se*, they cannot get over the very unsportsmanlike manner in which it was so freely used, and the rough-shod way in which their sentiments were trod on when objections were raised against it. From whatever cause, the live bait craze in a season or two spent itself. Some say that the phenomenal success attending its first introduction was due to a series of favouring circumstances—a combination in fact only met with now and again, viz., fine fresh waters and a continuous run of small shoals of fresh spring fish, and that when these favouring conditions disappeared the phenomenal catches also melted away. Another theory put forth was that it was all very well on these reaches where the fish saw the minnow for the first time for the lucky anglers to run up a big record, but when minnow fishing became general all over the river, and the fish had minnow presented to it in every second pool it entered on its way upstream, that it got "educated," and so fought shy of a lure which had become so common. Much may be said for both theories, and, like most other matters pertaining to salmon angling, there may be a grain of probable truth in each.

The result, however, was that the fly did not pass into oblivion as a defunct salmon lure, in spite of the prophets of evil who were so cocksure of its speedy ruin. It weathered the storm bravely, and probably occupies a more prominent place in the army of lures to-day with the expert spinner even than ever it did before, and is preferred by him above all others as a sportive lure of the first water whenever and wherever he can reasonably give it the preference. The true sportsman prefers to kill his fish to the fly, as certainly giving more sport and requiring more skill to manipulate; but he will not disdain other lures when the chances are all in their favour; and so the "minnow can," although it has now taken a back seat compared with its former prestige, is still *en evidence* at the waterside, and the phantom, the spoon, the Devon, the prawn, and the worm all have their turn when the fly is out of it, and, *ceteris paribus*, sport would be a minus quantity without them.

The native minnow has been used as a salmon lure from time immemorial. It was used in big summer waters (a time of the year when it is most easily obtained in its best condition) to lure grilse, and in the autumn for back-end fish; but it never seems to have been artificially bred and kept for spring fish. That luxury is quite a modern discovery. It was impaled on a very large salmon hook, usually an old one stripped for the purpose, and worked over the pool much after the manner of a large salmon fly. Some old anglers still delight in having a go with the phantom after this ancient fashion, and Mr. Wm. Blacklaws, sen., who has fished the Dee for nigh the allotted span of man's lifetime, and is probably the oldest angler on the water to-day, for he never misses the opening, prefers it to all other methods, and is more successful with a 3in. phantom at the end

of his 18ft. greenheart, worked after the manner of a large salmon fly, but with a shorter line, than others alongside of him with the best of spinning rods and the latest up to date tackle.

The silk phantom is probably next to the fly as a standard salmon lure. In a rising water there is nothing like it for getting a fish; and, again, in a very low temperature, and when working among icefloes, the phantom stands supreme. Spun with 30yds., or 40yds. of line, little thicker than a good lint thread, from the Malloch reel, it gets in between the cakes of ice where the fly would be useless, and searching the pool or "lie" proves an irresistible attraction.

In a small spring water again, or in a rapid at any time, the phantom is always a very safe change from the fly. Most anglers have their spinning flight always in readiness, and, as a rule, when the pool or stream has been well covered with the fly the heavier fly rod is handed to the gillie and the lighter wand takes its place. It is a welcome change, either in fishing a heavy water or on an otherwise hot day, when too much exertion becomes a pain.

In working the phantom, or other spinning lure, for that matter, of the same order, the angler should strike on the first contact with the fish. While it may not be always necessary to follow this rule, and while the fish may be as fatally hooked by its own initiative on the triangles of spinning flight as ever it was on a fly hook, yet the most experienced spinners find it to their profit and their chances of sport to reply at once to the proffered invitation. If there is but a slender hold the hook will come away at once, often bringing tangible proof of the contact in the shape of a scale or bit of skin, and better a parting sooner than later; while, on the other hand, a sharp reply will send the barbs well home, and make "certain doubly sure."

An expert fly fisher was asked why he never tried the phantom when in a flooded water he was all out of it with the fly.

"So I have," he replied, "but I always lose my fish after the first rug or so. I have accordingly discarded it altogether."

"Perhaps you do not strike when you get the pull or feel the fish," replied his friend.

The remark was a revelation to him. He had treated all invitations alike up till that time, but he at once saw where his weakness lay, and now there is no more successful phantom spinner on the Dee.

Many improvements (*sic*) have been tried with the phantom, but as yet none find so much favour as that of the original pattern given to the angling world some thirty years ago by the inventor, the late Mr. Brown, of Aberdeen. It is a phantom in reality, for the fish gets nothing but a mouthful of hooks when it seizes its prey.

Mr. Brown never patented his phantom, although others have from time to time patented improvements on it, and contented himself in his day and generation with the chance profits on the work which his invention brought to his own counter. He was professionally a tackle maker, and a keen angler to boot, and the stories of the wonders wrought by the phantom when first introduced into northern waters by Mr. Brown or any of his many angling friends and patrons are still current on the Dee, Don, and other streams.

The rubber phantom introduced by a London firm runs the silk phantom a very hard race for supremacy as a taking lure at times, as it certainly does many of the "makes" now on the market as a lasting lure. The rubber phantom has the advantage of being easily loaded with shot or the opposite, and from its duller texture is more acceptable in certain changes of the water than the brand new silk phantom, whether in blue or brown. The red rubber phantom—an imitation of the prawn—has never taken on in the north. I cannot say what the success of others may have been with it, but I fished it off and on for two seasons and never struck a single fin. Some of my friends have had even more patience than I had, but with a like result. Some other forms of the phantom have been more successful, but none of them have come near to the universal popularity and success which has constantly attended, in all conditions of weather and water, the original invention of old Brown, which still holds the field against all comers by whatever firm it may be made.

G. M.

A FEW LAKELAND NOTES.

THE following notes are suggested by the entries in my diary, and relate to a few days spent by the writer at the lakes during the past season.

The water fished extends from Lakeside to Newby Bridge, and is the river Leven, which forms the outlet of Windermere Lake. Below the bridge is a weir, and after that streams and pools abound. This water is strictly preserved. All my fishing was done in the open water above the bridge, except one day, as will appear.

June 11, 1898.—Arrived at Lakeside by train, 11.15, and took the Swan Hotel 'bus to Newby Bridge. (Note.—If there is no 'bus at the station, don't hire, but get a boatman at Lakeside to row you down the river to the hotel, distant about a mile. It is much pleasanter, and cheaper, as I once found.) By 12 o'clock I was fully equipped in waders and mackintosh, and commenced operations immediately opposite the hotel. The rain was continuous until four. Flies were scarce, but fish were stirring freely, or rather bulging, as I frequently saw a big back fin above the water. Not knowing what fly to try, I put up a March Brown (Holland's dressing) and fished it dry. I did this because the wind was blustery and a small fly would soon have been swamped. My first satisfactory cast to a rising fish came off, and a merry fight ended in the trout escaping the net. The fly did not float very well, and soon became waterlogged. I put up another March Brown, well paraffined, and was soon into another fish. A gamier fish I never pricked. He made for every obstruction and weed bed possible, but eventually reposed in the net, a good 1lb. 8oz. About 1.15 a strong hatch of Iron Blue Duns came out, and the fish had a merry time. I tried every shade of that fly in my box, but could not suit the fish. One rise only rewarded me, and that I missed. After an hour of such sport I retired into the Swan for a hasty lunch, returning to the attack with a March Brown. The Iron Blues were still abundant, and were being taken. The March Brown, however, answered, and another good fish, better than the first, was added to the basket. At 4.30 I finished, having caught four trout, weighing 5lb., and having put two small fish back. Dined at the Swan and took train. Missed my connection at Carnforth, and had seven miles' walk in the wet. Note.—A visitor at the hotel took, after I left, a 2lb. 9oz. trout in the evening with spinning minnow.

June 18.—Fished from twelve to five. Weather overcast at times; wind from south, strong; water low and very clear. Flies on, little yellow May Dun, a few Olives, and an occasional May Fly. Tried all these and many others, including the March Brown. Got four fish, all on the March Brown. One fish turned the scale at 1lb. 8oz., the others a little under 1lb. average.

June 20.—Got to the water at twelve. West wind, very strong at times. Water very low. Rain after 2 p.m., continued all day. Fished hard until six, and got two fish (about four o'clock), weighed 1lb. 6oz. Fish again showed freely throughout the day, but could not tell what they were taking. The Silver Sedge captured the two. Back fins very conspicuous. Stayed all night, intending to go out trolling for lake trout, but the incessant heavy rain discouraged me.

June 21.—Out at 6.30; lovely morning. Saw two trout on the shallow where the boats were beached. They were smutting, so offered the nearest a Black Gnat Hackle, No. 000. Hooked, and lost after two or three lively runs. Found another fish rising, result as before; the third I got. After breakfast plenty of smuts about, but the trout were not on feed. At twelve I got a can of minnows, and crossed to the island opposite the hotel, and tried live baiting in the hole at the end nearest the bridge. Got three small perch. Went to the upper end and spun with a minnow, getting three jack from the edge of the weeds, average weight 1½lb. Tried fly again in the afternoon, when rain came on. Two trout again fell victims to the March Brown.

June 27.—Water high and slightly coloured; wind north and strong; sun bright; wading very bad. By the courtesy of Mr. Bigland I had a ticket for the club water, so went below the bridge and tried wet and dry fly by turns. Could get nothing but small fry. Returned to the open water and

got two ½-pounders in quick succession with Silver Sedge. After luncheon commenced with artificial minnow below the weir, but only small fish came. As the water was so high, and wading so very difficult in the coloured water, I decided to return to the hotel and have an early meal, so that I should get the evening rise. At 5.30 I resumed fishing. The wind had fallen entirely, and the water was both clearer and lower by many inches. From the weir I saw a fish feeding on the flat above it. Offered him a Sedge, which he promptly took. I thought he was a moderate fish only, but found that after the first rush I could really do nothing with him. I thought that he must have hung me up, so solid did he feel. Getting well below him, I put on as much pressure as I dare, and then he came very slowly. Before I had gained many feet of line away he went again upwards to the bridge, as though he would go through. Again the utmost pressure was put on, and in less than a minute the game was up, for a limper, tamer fish of ½lb. never came into a net. On handling him I found the explanation of his strange behaviour. He was bleeding from a very deep gash on both sides. He had been tackled by a pike after being hooked. Going below the weir, I tried the "white water" under the apron with the Devon minnow, fetching out in quick succession three good trout, and breaking in a fourth. Fish were rising lower down, so I put up a Sedge, which accounted for another three. The last was a very game ¾lb. fish, and gave me some trouble to net, as he got into the rough water below. The water bailiff had been a silent and unknown spectator for the last half hour. He had been standing knee deep in the rushes at the side of the river. He then asked me to try a cast of his flies, which he gave me. They were decidedly large, and seemed in the half light to be Snipe Hackles. He advised me to try the higher water. I did, and the result was something I shall remember. I could not see the flies, but the fish could. I had, therefore, to trust to feel entirely, and by letting the flies drag across and down stream I got several fish. Many were small, but an occasional ½-pounder or ¾-pounder was taken. Landing these fish in the bad light was anything but easy work, and not much to my taste. As the fish seemed to be going off, I gladly abandoned the sport, and joined the keeper on shore. At the hotel we emptied the basket and weighed the contents, which were: Sixteen fish, weight 10lb. 2oz. Stayed all night.

June 28.—Out at 6.30 a.m. Water lower, and very clear. A few fish smutting. Got one and lost two on Black Gnat. After breakfast no signs of fish to be seen, so got a boatman to row me up to Lakeside to meet a friend coming by train. Took trolling rod and baits and fly rod. Opposite the late Col. Ridehalgh's house hooked and lost a good fish with fly and secured a small fish. After meeting my friend, and despatching him by steamer to Ambleside, I returned to my boat and put out spinning tackle. Halfway between Lakeside and the Swan we had a short run, and then, 50yds. astern, we saw a noble trout leap high out of the water, and away he went *liber et exultans*. No doubt he was only lightly hooked—the hooks being, in my opinion, too large. In this opinion my boatman, Millray—an experienced hand—did not agree. I resumed the fly rod after luncheon, and although flies were plentiful the sport was poor. Two trout were placed to my credit by five o'clock, both victims to a March Brown.

July 4.—My last day. Fished from twelve to three near the Swan. Weather fine, hot, and slight breeze. For two hours did no good. About 2 p.m. I saw a good fish rising at the head of the island, and covered him with an alder hackle. He rose, and I missed him through casting too long a line. Nothing further being visible, I sat down on a seat by the water and had a pipe and chat with a visitor at the hotel. Presently, immediately opposite, below the island we saw a grand rise, which was quickly repeated. Entering the river near the bridge, after putting up my favourite March Brown, I carefully made my way up the middle of the stream. It was deep wading, and many a nasty stumble occurred before I got into position. At last I made my cast, and the fun began. There was a quiet, deliberate rise, and my fly disappeared before it had drifted 6in. As I struck my Moscrop reel gave off line and

music. At first the fish did not seem to realise the situation exactly, and I gradually gathered in line and retraced my steps until I reached shallower water and better foothold. Then as I continued to bring him towards me he came in sight, and his tactics were changed. He rushed all over, jumped and plunged by turns, and eventually was landed in view of a number of visitors, who enjoyed the sport. My thanks were certainly due to a young lady who very kindly got me a larger landing net, as mine was decidedly too small to negotiate with safety an active trout of 2lb. 4oz., which he scaled. An offer of a drive with friends to Grange was accepted, and thus closed my angling at the Lakes for 1898.

It will be observed how partial these trout are to the March Brown. As I never saw one of these flies on the water, I can only assume that they retained some memories of the fly from the early spring. I am told that it was very plentiful early in the year. During my visits I never saw anyone try with a fly for these fish. The visitors were content with spinning in the evening, and I know that at times they had good sport. One fish of 3lb. 6oz. was taken, and another, much bigger, was lost through a novice reeling up his line until he pulled the gut through the top ring, when the knot stuck and a smash ensued—and language. Many fish this water from a boat, but I prefer to wade. Trousers are necessary for this, and even then the fishable portions are limited. The May Fly season is the best, but I was too late for it. The Swan is a thoroughly comfortable hotel, where a good table, obliging attendants, and a courteous host and hostess combine to make a visit very enjoyable. B. E. F.

MORE JOTTINGS OF AN AMATEUR FLY DRESSER.

WHY the pike scale Black Gnat should have so bad a reputation as a hooker it is difficult to imagine. Complaints are general that trout taking the Black Gnat constantly get away owing to the insecurity of the hold, and these complaints come from sportsmen who think nothing of landing a 2lb. trout on a double cypher hook with a short shank, and most pike scale Black Gnats are dressed on the same wires. I am inclined to think that it must be connected with the way in which the fish takes the Black Gnat. I have been on a bank and watched three or four fish within a few feet of me taking down Black Gnats, and anything more dainty and leisurely it would be difficult to conceive. The surface was scarcely broken, and the fly was sipped into a scarcely open mouth by the current produced by the expansion of the gills. A fly thus taken can be rapidly rejected, and the extreme hardness of the pike scale Black Gnat is liable to lead to its rapid rejection. Hook body and scale wing, all are hard. I am inclined to think that the wing, which "Athenian" recommended for Red Spinners, made from the outer skin of the root of a rook's quill feather, would, cut down, be an improvement on the pike scale because it softens so readily when wet. A soft body with the requisite brilliancy is, I fear, beyond the art of the fly dresser at present. Ostrich herl would not do. The Black Gnat, so called, with starling wing and ostrich herl body, with or without a black hackle, is a purely conventional pattern, and is not much use when the fish are smutting, whereas the pike scale Black Gnat will frequently be taken.

BEETLES.

Beetles have long been made for fly fishing, but for some reason they are not popular with fly fishermen. I have had excellent sport with a beetle dressed thus: *Body*—Copper-coloured peacock's herl and ostrich herl mixed. *Hackle*—Black. *Wing case*—Brown partridge tied in at the tail and fastened down and cut off at the head. It killed on Coquet and Tweed and tributaries, and in reservoirs. Another version is to have the wing case of the mottled feather of a guinea fowl dyed deep pinky red. The white spots, standing out conspicuously, give a very attractive effect. Another neat device is to suggest that the beetle is folding his wings by adding a short tag of palish starling or landrail feathers.

In 1849 Hewett Wheatley, in "Rod and Line," gave high commendation to beetles as lures, and directions and illustrations how to make very elaborate coleoptera are contained in that ingenious little work. The old firm of Chevallier and Co., which had a shop in Bell Yard before the Law Courts were built, had a musty collection of beetles of various hues some eighteen or twenty years ago. Their successors, Messrs. Bowness, I believe, still make some of them.

Mr. Geo. Holland, of Winchester, is another maker of beetles. I have dressed with orange and yellow floss a representation of the long soldier beetle that haunts the flowers of umbelliferous plants in summer and autumn. The hackle rendering of this is the Soldier Palmer, and when the insect is in flight its resemblance to a Soldier Palmer is astonishing. In like manner the Coch-y-bondhu is really an admirable imitation of the Marlow Buzz in flight. But as the trout seldom see either insect in flight, and never in flight in the water, it is difficult to see why the fish should take either the one or the other buzz patterns for its natural prototypes.

In the interesting article by "Blackbeetle," which occurred in the *Fishing Gazette* of Jan. 14, 1899, there is an excellent description of a simple method of dressing blackbeetles. But why does he wind the hackle after he has tied down the wing covers? Surely, the simplest and most natural course would be to wind the hackle after tying down the body, and then to tie down the wing covers over all.

Limerick hooks and round bends are not good shapes for beetles. Snecks or Kirby's, with shortish shank and good gape, seem the most useful shapes.

While he sticks to facts I can go with "Blackbeetle"; but when he soars into the realms of imagination, and suggests that the Alexandra and the Zulu are taken for their likeness to beetles, have not wings to follow him.

Mr. Charles Walker's Corixa is not, it is true, a beetle, but it is of beetle-like shape and action.

The worst of the beetle is that it is apt to fall on the water with rather a smack. It should, therefore, be cast a little behind, or at the side of the trout, or it is apt to scare him. In lochs, reservoirs, and cauld pools, where there is enough wind to produce a ripple, this is not very material.

FLIGHT'S FANCY.

Mr. Foster, of Ashbourne, writing lately in the "Correspondence" columns to claim for his father, the late David Foster, the invention of this pattern, made one observation on the subject of this pattern with which I agree, namely, that it is an error to call it a fancy fly. Mr. Halford, in "Dry Fly Entomology," though he keeps the ancient name of Flight's Fancy, classifies the pattern under the heading of "Imitations of Natural Insects." But why, then, did he put the No. 1 Whitchurch, the very best imitation of the small Light Olive of May, June, and July, among the fancy flies.

FANCY FLIES.

Mr. Halford is so clear a thinker that one hesitates to infer that there can be any confusion of thought in his grouping under the head of "Fancy Flies." Yet here we find, along with the Wickham, the Pink Wickham, and the Golden Dun (not Mr. Foster's pattern), such flies as the No. 1 Whitchurch, the Badger Quill (an undoubted Dark Spinner), Saltoun, and Greenwell's Glory. It seems to me that the logical course is to make two divisions of this group, and to call fancy flies such flies as the Wickham, which are not referable to any known insect whatever, and such flies as are adorned with some eccentric addition such as a topping or a tag of golden pheasant's tippet; and to call such flies as the undyed Red Quill (which, curiously enough, Mr. Halford omits altogether), Greenwell's Glory, and any other flies generally typical of a class, general flies. I suspect, indeed, that a great many of our standard patterns are in truth general flies.

VAL CONSON.

TO SPORTSMEN.—Burberrys, of 20, Haymarket, London, are now offering, at half price, their 1898 model and stock sporting garments, in gabardine, combination, and rain-proofed tweed; shooting coats, 28s. 2d. and 31s. 6d.; breeches, 15s. and 21s.; Burberry capes and long overcoats, 31s. 6d.; farmers' overcoats, 15s.; Scotch stockings, 2s. 9d. Sent on approval on receipt of cheque covering.

GRANT'S CHERRY WHISKY.—This attractive "pick-me-up" is a pleasant combination of Kent Cherry Juice and very soft old Scotch Whisky. This and Grant's Morella Cherry Brandy are sold by Wine Merchants.

THE DARENTH IN JANUARY.

FLY FISHERS who only see the Darenth in her gorgeous summer dress of green and gold would hardly recognise their favourite as she appears, attired as for a ball, in white and diamonds. This winter the effects have been less brilliant, as snow has been absent, but white frost has sometimes almost supplied its place.

When this has melted, and the water, swollen by recent floods, runs sullenly between bare banks, lined with the ungainly forms of leafless pollards, the Darenth certainly is less attractive than when rejoicing in her summer beauty.

Yet, to the angler, a walk by the riverside always has charms, especially if he can see signs that copious rains have at last partially restored the level of the depleted springs.

I am far from sure that this is the case, and can only suggest that there is at least good hope of some improvement in the condition of this over "water-company'd" river. It is, of course, chiefly in the lower reaches of the stream that



OLD TWEED

mischief has been done by sinking wells to tap the springs which help to feed the river.

From the appearance of water at Hawley and below, there must be a certain amount of pollution still going on, but if the supply of water were ample this would not be so serious.

With regard to stocking, it is likely to continue on most parts of the river; and our old favourite, *Salmo fario*, is the breed selected, Loch Levens and rainbows being considered inferior for the purpose. Some years ago a large number of the former were introduced, and proved free risers; but as soon as floods occurred they made their way downstream, and were only heard of in the neighbourhood of Dartford, where occasional specimens were caught.

The spawning season having been an open one, and the floods not very heavy, a good lot of fry will probably be seen in May, and a few may survive the voracity of the young jack, which are far from being exterminated at present. In the course of my walk I climbed the hill beyond South Darenth, and saw the boys in "The Home for Little Boys" at work at boot-making, and noticed the admirable arrangement of the schools, and

playgrounds with their giant-strides and swings, and the football ground. It seems to me that on a non-rising afternoon the angler, while waiting for the evening rise, might well pay a visit to this well-managed institute, which is certainly well worthy of any support he may care to give it. Charities like these, which help the helpless to learn to earn their bread, are among the most deserving; and this in particular, which has the Princess of Wales among its patronesses, is quite above all suspicion of abuse or inefficiency.

J. PAUL TAYLOR.

SOME OLD TWEED SALMON FLIES.

THE illustrations of salmon flies given herewith are copied from the coloured plate in "Stoddart's Angler's Companion," published more than fifty years ago.

A FAMOUS SALMON FLY.

THE MAJOR.

WE give an illustration of this famous salmon fly, taken from "Jones's Guide to Norway," published in 1848, with the original dressing, viz.:



THE MAJOR (original dressing).

Tail.—Golden pheasant topping.

Tip.—Silver twist and crimson silk.

Body (in patches).—Pale blue, orange, and claret pig's wool (or seal's fur), and dark blue ditto under the shoulder.

Legs.—Claret hackle.

Throat.—Guinea hen and bustard.

Ribbed.—Silver twist and gold twist.

Wing.—Two golden pheasant tippets, two claret hackles, two snipe feathers, sprigged with bustard and Argus pheasant feathers; two golden pheasant toppings over, and a dyed yellow hackle surmounting the whole.

A standard favourite on the Namsen according to Jones.

JOHN KIRBY.

In noticing the portrait of "John Kirby, the celebrated angler," in a recent issue of the *F. G.*, we mentioned that it was from a scarce little book, "The Angler's Museum," which was, we thought, not mentioned in the "Bibliotheca Piscatoria." Among some old angling books advertised as for sale by Mr. Wm. Brown, 26, Prince's-street, Edinburgh, in his catalogue No. 125, we notice "The Angler's Museum" by

Thomas Shirley, offered for 18s. On turning to S. in the "Bibliotheca Piscatoria," we find a full account of the book as by Thomas Shirley, with a note that his name was omitted from the third edition, the one we have; and another to the effect that John Kirby was "Keeper of Newgate, and died in 1804, aged 80."

THE LOWER AND MID-THAMES: WHERE AND HOW TO FISH IT.

(Concluded from page 74.)

By F. H. AMPHLETT.

TABLE OF DISTANCES.

LOCKS AND BRIDGES ON THE LOWER AND MID THAMES.

This table shows the distances of the various locks from Teddington, and bridges from Richmond:

Locks.	Distance from Teddington.	Bridges.	Distance from Richmond.
	M. Fur. Ch.		M. Fur. Ch.
Molesey ...	4 6 5	Kingston ...	4 3 5
Sunbury ...	7 6 3	Hampton Court ...	7 2 4
Shepperton ...	11 3 8	Walton ...	12 0 3
Chertsey ...	13 3 3	Chertsey ...	15 7 8
Penton Hook ...	15 3 7	Staines ...	19 7 4
Bell Weir ...	18 2 0	Albert ...	24 4 9
Old Windsor ...	21 1 4	Victoria ...	26 0 8
Romney ...	24 1 4	Windsor ...	27 2 2
Boveney ...	26 4 0	Maidenhead ...	33 6 5
Bray ...	29 5 4	Cookham ...	37 0 4
Boulter's ...	31 6 4	Marlow ...	41 0 0
Cookham ...	33 7 1		
Marlow ...	38 1 3		

THE TIDAL WATER OF THE THAMES.

To find the time of high water in the tidal portion of the Thames at those places where the best fishing is to be obtained, one must first ascertain the time of high tide at London Bridge, and then add fifty-five minutes for Kew, seventy-five minutes for Richmond, eighty minutes for Twickenham, and eighty-five minutes for Teddington.

EXAMPLE.—If it is high water at 2 o'clock at London Bridge, it will be high water at Teddington at 3.25, or, eighty-five minutes later.

N.B.—A strong wind up-stream accelerates the tide very much, and one down-stream retards it.

EXTRACTS FROM

"THE THAMES FISHERY BYE-LAWS." 1893.

ILLEGAL OFFENCES.

Trailing.

"No person shall allow any rod and line, or line to which any bait or hook, natural or artificial, is attached, to be drawn or trailed from any vessel on the River Thames."

Live and Dead Gorge Fishing.

"No person shall fish for pike with any device or tackle that does not admit of the pike taken therewith being returned to the water without any serious injury."

Snatching or Snaring of Fish.

"No person shall use any rod and line, hook, wire, snare, or other device, either alone, or in connection with a rod and line, or in any other way so as to take fish by means of foul hooking, snatching, or snaring in any part of the River Thames."

Night Lines and Fixed Hooks.

"No night hook, night line, nor fixed hook or line shall be used in the River Thames above London Bridge."

Illegal Device.

"No spear, gaff, strikehawl, or other instrument of a like nature, or any other device used in the manner such instruments are usually employed, shall be used in any part of the River Thames, provided that this Bye-law shall not apply to any person using a gaff, or auxiliary to angling for pike with a rod and line."

Illegal Possession of Fish.

"Any person who shall have in his possession, on, near, or adjoining the River Thames, any fish of less dimensions than those specified in the last preceding Bye-law shall be deemed to be guilty of an offence against such Bye-law, unless he

prove to the satisfaction of the court before which he is tried that he was lawfully in possession of such fish."

Obstruction of Fish.

"No person shall put down in any part of the River Thames, at the mouth of any brook, creek, river, or back-water, communicating with the River Thames, or running into the said River, or at any mill, sluice, race, or branch of the said River, any net or device whatever to stop, catch, or hinder any fish, spawn, or fry of fish from coming into, or going out of the River Thames."

Fixed Nets.

"No net in any part of the River Thames shall be fixed or attached to the soil, or made stationary in any way, and a net held by any person or persons in a boat or boats, that is or are moored or anchored, shall be deemed to be a fixed net for the purposes of this Bye-law."

INFORMATION TO ANGLERS.

Sizes of Fish.

Pike or jack (all extreme length), 18in.; perch, 8in.; chub, 10in.; roach, 7in.; dace, 6in.; barbel, 16in.; trout, 16in.; bream, 10in.; carp, 10in.; tench, 8in.; rudd, 6in.; gudgeon, 4in.

Close Season.

"In that part of the River Thames as is situated above London Bridge, no person shall fish with or use any rod and line between March 15 and June 15, both inclusive, except a rod and line for taking trout, and fished with an artificial fly, or with a spinning or live bait."

"No fish found in the part of the River Thames above London Bridge may be taken between March 15 and June 15 following, both inclusive, except trout, and roach, dace, gudgeon, bleak, and minnows, taken as herein provided, as bait for trout."

Season for Trout Fishing.

From April 1 to September 10 inclusive.

Bait for Anglers.

"Roach, dace, gudgeon, bleak, or minnows, for use as bait, provided that no person shall be entitled to have in his possession, or under his control, more than fifty of such fish for use as bait at any one time, or to take by himself, his servants, or agents, more than fifty of such fish, on any day."

Limit in the Number of Rods.

"No rod and line shall be used except when fished with either a natural or artificial bait in a proper manner, and no person shall fish with more than two rods and lines at the same time."

Nets allowed to Anglers.

"The following nets and no others may be used by all persons, for all fish: a minnow net, a landing net, and a hand or well net."

"A LANDING NET by a person angling, or by an assistant to a person angling, and as auxiliary to angling with a rod and line, to land fish hooked on a line by the person fishing."

"A MINNOW NET by a person angling, or about to angle, or his servant, or agent, for the purpose of providing minnows for bait, to be used for angling in the River Thames."

Use of Bait Net.

"A CASTING or BAIT NET may only be used by Assistant River-keepers, in obtaining bait to be used by persons for angling in the River Thames."

Night Fishing Limited to Bank Anglers.

"No person shall fish for, take, or attempt to take, by any means whatever, in that part of the River Thames as lies above the City Stone at Staines, nor from any vessel in that part of the River Thames as lies between the City Stone and London Bridge, any fish between the expiration of the first hour after sunset, and the last hour before sunrise."

GENERAL.

Taking of Fish for Scientific Purposes.

"Nothing in these Bye-laws shall prevent any person, provided he has the previous consent in writing of the Conservators under their common seal, from obtaining fish for the purpose of artificial propagation, and other scientific purposes, from any part of the River Thames, or from having in his possession salmon roe or trout roe

for any of these purposes, or from taking, or attempting to take salmon or trout when spawning or near the spawning beds."

Abolition of Netting.

Section 9 provides there shall be no nets used by the netsmen, "except in that part of the River Thames as lies between Isleworth Church Ferry and London Bridge."

Penalties.

"Any person acting in contravention of the foregoing Bye-laws, or any of them, shall, for every such act be liable to a penalty not exceeding £5, and may, on the direction of the Court, forfeit any net, engine, device, apparatus, or fish, found in his possession or control. Every such penalty shall be recovered in manner prescribed by the Summary Jurisdiction Act, and shall be applied in manner directed by the Thames Acts 1857 to 1885

Rewards

Will be given by the Thames Angling Preservation Society on the conviction of offenders.

CONCERNING DACE, &c.

MANY anglers often go to considerable expense and waste much valuable time in fishing for dace at certain periods of the year in swims they do not frequent. At the opening of the season, and all through the summer, anglers may often be seen fishing for dace in eddies from 8ft. to 9ft. in depth; comparatively quiet eddies, which would be excellent swims for winter fishing with the float, and baiting with the tail end of a well-scoured maiden lob, "cockspur," brandling worm, or a small bunch of gentles, according to the state of the water. At the commencement of the season dace will be found for the most part in swift currents, in rather shallow eddies, in close proximity to sharp streams from 3ft. to 5ft. in depth, near where two streams join, or where the under current causes the water to dimple as it gurgles and swirls along, by broken banks and bends of rivers, and swift runs from weirs and mill pools, where the purest water can be found. Having for certain discovered the habitat of dace, they may frequently be captured by either ledgering with or without a float. In the former case the run should be a moderately fast gravelly swim or scour about 4ft. or 5ft. in depth, baiting either with caddis grubs, gentles, or worms. In the latter style, the bullet should be just large enough to enable the angler to feel and keep a hold on the ground, with a hole as wide as possible to reduce the resistance in striking; and to prevent the line from being frayed the sharp edges of the aperture should be rounded off with a penknife. The fine 2ft. gut tackle should be without weight, and the only split shot used should be one nipped on the fine line about two inches above the loop of the gut on which the bullet should rest. If a pellet of ground-bait be squeezed round the bullet, it should always be made stiff and adhesive enough to remain on the bottom for a few minutes, so that the swim may get the full benefit of it. By using a No. 1 plait line the angler can feel and keep a hold on the ground with a comparatively small bullet with a tolerable length of line out, even in rather sharpish streams. The fine line offers very little resistance to the current, so little, in fact, that on many occasions I have had capital sport both with roach and dace when pursuing this style of ledgering. The bullet should be cast gently downstream with a regular, even sweep of the rod, where one wishes the bait to be held, where one knows from past experience that it can be held, and where a fish can be struck from the firmly skidded reel. It requires considerable skill to strike, say, a roach, from 20yds. to 30yds. from the rod tip when using a bullet with a small bunch of gentles. Let him strike how and when he likes, I need scarcely tell the novice that a rod too whippy is an absolute nuisance. Harking back to fishing for dace with the float, as described above, if the rod be sufficiently stiff to enable the angler to strike a dace very quickly at the slightest bob or twitch of the float, nothing more need be said; but I have sometimes heard an angler say, "The rod I use for bottom fishing for roach and dace weighs only 8oz., 9oz., or 10oz.," as the case may be. More often than not a 12oz. rod is recommended, and very proper too; but it was

only the other day I read of someone advising anglers to use an 8oz. rod. Very well, I wish all those who use similar rods joy of them. Personally, I prefer a rod possessing a little more backbone for the job. I have frequently seen an angler using a rod so whippy that, on striking, the point has dipped forward so sharply that slack line ensued, and it was impossible for him to strike his fish. In other words, the rod was not stiff enough to enable the angler to send the hook home in a moment. With respect to hooking fish successfully, either when ledgering or floating, an angler should be able to tell from the feel and action of a rod whether it possesses the exact rigidity required or not. If he cannot, he might just as well use an 8oz. fly rod for the purpose mentioned.

Pegging.—When holding a 6in. or 7in. thin porcupine float still in a moderately fast current, with the butt of the rod pressed in the left groin, and the rod held straight out from the surface from 2ft. to 3ft., with the nose of the float standing out like a snag, and no other portion of it can be seen, with the two lowest shots resting on the bottom, with the bottom shot ten or twelve inches from the hook, the angler should strike directly from the reel with his left hand at the merest pluck, dip, or bob of the float with a sharp twitch of the rod top upstream. Not an upward stroke as in ordinary angling, but with the rod held almost level. Everything required should be ready before commencing this "pegging" business—landing net, basket, ground and hook baits—and the angler should remain seated as low down and out of sight as possible, until he finally leaves the swim. Unless one is very clever at striking, many fish will be missed. On the other hand, striking can be done with such ease and quickness that, when one is even dozing, fish can sometimes be struck from the feel alone. I say, use a long thin porcupine float, because not only does it extend the slope or slant of the line and tackle better than a short stubby float, but offers much less resistance to the current, and enables the angler to strike more successfully. By adopting this method, and sitting very still, not only dace, but several sorts of fish can be caught from 5yds. to 8yds. in a clear, and from 2yds. to 3yds. from the rod in a discoloured water. Of course fish can be caught at longer distances, but from 5yds. to 8yds. is a good length for all practical purposes. In this style of fishing the novice should not forget that the further off the float is held the more difficult it is to hook his fish. Carefully take the depth, and fix the float so that, say, the two lowest shots rest on the bottom, for you must understand that the gut and hook below the lowest shot have nothing to do with forming the true slant from the bottom of the float to the shot, lead, or weight resting on the bottom. What I mean is, if the novice fixed the float, say, 15in. or 18in. deeper than the water in a fastish stream, from the uppermost cap to the hook, instead of to the lowest shot, he would find this not sufficient, and have to increase the distance; on the other hand, the float should be anchored as lightly as possible, not only to allow the current to play on the tackle and bait, and thus reduce the resistance in a fish taking it next to *nil*, but also to enable the angler to be at them in a moment.

The bait may be allowed to go downstream any distance the novice pleases by casting out into the deeper water, but when the reel is stopped the float will soon make to the side, until nineteen times out of twenty it will, or at any rate should, remain with its nose out like a snag in a direct line with the rod top. Ledger tackles can be constructed from a single barleycorn to a heavy Thames lead, to suit almost any swim, but this method of ledgering with a float is admirably adapted for straight level runs of water, with a sandy, gravelly bottom, from 4ft. to 6ft. in depth, where the angler can sit close to his swim and hold his float as described, and where the best fish can often be caught, either in a discoloured or gin-bright water; but it should be remembered that dace have a knack of ripping up worms, and also biting off any loose hanging ends without being caught, and a tyro will be surprised to find what a number of fish may be missed on this account, and act accordingly. For this reason he should not forget to let his worms be well scoured and as tough as possible.

OLD ANGLER.

THE FLY FISHERS' CLUB.

THE annual dinner of this club took place on Wednesday evening at the Hotel Cecil, and was most successful in every way, thanks in no slight measure to the admirable arrangements of the hon. secretary of the club, Mr. T. B. Vernon.

Sir Samuel Montagu, Bart, M.P., presided, the vice-chairmen being Mr. William Senior (president of the club), Mr. R. B. Marston (hon. treasurer), Mr. Hedley F. Norris (hon. librarian), Mr. Basil Field, Mr. Frederic M. Halford, Mr. D. Wilson, and the hon. secretary, Mr. T. Bowater Vernon.

The committee was also represented by Mr. Reginald E. Booker, Mr. C. H. Cook ("John Bickerdyke"), Mr. Henry Fennell, Mr. Arthur N. Gilbey, Mr. H. E. Gribble, Mr. T. P. Hawksley, Mr. N. Lloyd, Rev. G. E. Mackie, Dr. G. H. Orton, Mr. Arthur Price, and Mr. G. E. M. Skues; and among the members present were: Mr. W. C. Allen, Mr. Harold Ansdell, Mr. L. W. Bangs, Mr. A. B. Blythe, Mr. J. J. Bolding, Mr. C. G. Burrow, Mr. G. J. Chatterton, Mr. J. W. Collingham, Mr. G. L. Dickinson, Mr. W. J. Donbavand, Capt. R. Dymond, Mr. W. Edmonds, jun., Mr. A. E. Franklin, Dr. E. C. Frend, Mr. A. Godwin, Mr. Henry G. Green, Mr. H. W. Higgins, Mr. H. H. Holt, Col. W. W. Hooper, Mr. A. Gwynne James, Rev. F. G. Johnson, Mr. A. C. Kent, Mr. D. E. Laurie, Mr. W. F. Laurie, Mr. W. B. Leaf, Mr. Montagu Luff, Mr. D. Mackintosh, Mr. F. R. Ohlson, Mr. John Paterson, Mr. C. A. Payton ("Sarcelle"), Mr. W. H. Pope, Mr. C. G. J. Port, Mr. E. J. Power, Capt. T. Burnett Ramsey, Mr. P. St. Quintin, Mr. R. S. St. Quintin, Dr. W. J. Seward, Mr. B. W. Smurthwaite, Mr. J. P. Taylor, Mr. A. R. Ticehurst, M.R.C.S., Mr. N. F. Ticehurst, Mr. Charles Walker, Mr. R. W. Walker, Mr. E. Williamson, Mr. Johnson Watson, Mr. H. D. Willock, Dr. J. Young, &c.

The visitors and guests present included Sir Thomas Wardle, Louis S. Montagu-Franklin, Lt.-Col. H. J. Robbins, Mr. Kennedy Jones, Mr. E. P. Marston, Mr. Alfd. Holcombe, Mr. H. Malins, Mr. G. H. Howard, Mr. P. Budy, Mr. A. E. Bennett, Mr. E. P. Landon, Mr. F. H. Gould, Mr. W. A. Hawkins, Mr. R. J. Forrest, Mr. J. Attenborough, Mr. A. Williams, Mr. A. R. Matthews, Mr. H. M. Thin, Mr. L. Davis, Mr. L. B. Rawling, Mr. C. Schofield, Mr. Dalgety Henderson, Mr. G. E. Nathan, Mr. C. Mackintosh, Dr. Fox, Mr. A. Matthews, Mr. W. Tatham Hughes, Major Cumberland, Mr. R. M. Montgomery, Mr. W. A. Cockerell, Mr. W. B. Tegetmeier, Mr. Neil McNeil, Messrs. A. and C. Nuthall, Mr. G. E. Nathan, Mr. P. St. Quintin, Mr. Mark Morton, Mr. H. C. Willock, Mr. W. J. Mills, Mr. S. Knight, Mr. S. Allcock, Mr. J. Watson, Mr. W. Russell, Mr. W. M. Colles, Mr. R. A. Hewat, Mr. C. Collette, Mr. R. Cuthbert, Mr. J. Bremner, M.D., Mr. G. J. Leslie, Mr. W. Jesser Coope, Mr. O. Hicks, Mr. H. L. W. Godwin, Mr. T. Plummer, Major Hon. W. Coke, Mr. C. A. M. Skues, Mr. W. H. Haslam, Mr. R. O. Smith, Mr. T. M. Hawksley, Mr. H. J. Lyall.

The programme was illustrated with portraits of the chairman of the evening, and of the president of the club, Mr. Senior. On the back was a copy of the excellent group of fish from Stoddart's "Angler's Companion," lent by the editor of the *Fishing Gazette*.

Grace having been said by the Rev. G. E. Mackie, an excellent dinner was served, and at the conclusion, "For these and all Thy mercies given" was sung.

THE CHAIRMAN, who was received with loud applause, said: Mr. President and Gentlemen,—I have the honour to propose the "Health of Her Majesty the Queen and the Royal Family." (Applause.) It is a pleasure to us to know that so many members of the Royal Family are fly fishers. I have recently heard that the Duke of York—our future King—has taken to fly fishing, and he will make none the worse a King for that. (Loud applause.) But perhaps you are not aware of the fact that Her Majesty in olden times took an interest in salmon fishing. (Hear, hear.) Her Majesty and Prince Albert honoured by a visit Mr. Thomas Fleming, the former owner of the place I have in Hampshire, and she and the Prince went to what is now my salmon pool and witnessed the capture of a salmon, Her Majesty graciously accepting the fish. (Cheers.) I feel

sure some of the descendants of that fish still inhabit the pool, and I am sure they would sacrifice their lives—at any rate, I am sure their lives would be sacrificed—(laughter)—for the service of Her Majesty. I am sure you will all join with me in expressing our sympathy with the Royal House in the loss that they have just sustained, and trust that they may sustain no further bereavement.

The toast was loyally received, and the National Anthem sung.

THE HON. SECRETARY read a letter from the Marquis of Granby, much regretting his inability to be present, and announced that similar letters of regret had been received from many other members, among whom were the Hon. Sir Ford North, the Rev. G. Glover ("Cotswold Lays"), the Rev. H. G. J. Veitch, Lieut.-Col. H. Murray, Major Traherne, Major Turle, Mr. Archd. Young (who had sent the club a present of his recent book, "Summer Sailings by an Old Yachtsman"), Dr. Wyman, Mr. Arthur Batchelor, Mr. R. E. Brandt, Mr. J. A. Nicholas, Mr. J. T. P. Pechey, Mr. W. Pingo Horton, Mr. R. H. W. Leach, Mr. Alfred Roscoe, Mr. H. S. Thomas, F.R.S., and Mr. J. T. Hodson.

THE CHAIRMAN then proposed the toast of "The Fly Fishers' Club," which was received with loud cheers. He said: Mr. President and Gentlemen,—I am glad that we have now begun to smoke, because if I should make a slip a puff or two will serve to restore my balance. (Laughter.) I have now to propose the principal toast of the evening, "Success to the Fly Fishers' Club." (Cheers.) In doing so let me explain in a few words how it comes to pass that I preside for the first time in my life at a West-end banquet. (Laughter.) Perhaps one reason may suffice: that I have never been invited before. (Laughter.) At all events, I have never been invited to anything in a similar line. I have been invited before, but it has always been to a charity dinner, and I have contented myself by sending my mite and sparing the charity the cost of the dinner. (Hear, hear.) I have always considered it a barbarous idea to think that you must fill a man's stomach before you can empty his purse. (Laughter.) In this case there is no such purpose and no such waste. It is simply a gathering of sociable men, and would be perfectly enjoyable to me if I occupied a less onerous position. Your hon. secretary kindly sent me a report of all the speeches of my predecessors. It was done with a kindly intention, but I found them very painful reading. (Laughter.) In looking through them I was filled with despair, only modified in one respect, because the speeches were commendably brief. I found all my best points were anticipated, and had to cast about to try to find some bye-path of my own. Several chairmen lamented their inexperience in public speaking, but my position as a member of Parliament cuts off even that excuse, although there are in both Houses many silent members, and also members who cannot speak and yet do so. (Laughter.) Well, I will honestly say I am glad that my speech precedes that of your President, Mr. Senior, who is a born orator and a mighty angler. (Applause.) I was very much impressed on one occasion when I heard him return thanks—I think, for the Press—and I recognised his skill as an angler when he hooked me, I think, eighteen months ago. (Laughter.) That was a long cast up the river of time, but from his point of view it was successful. I do not know whether it was so successful from yours—(laughter)—and he landed "a fifteen stunner," whom you see at the present time. (Laughter.) I suppose I was hypnotised and gave my acceptance recklessly, like the spendthrift who, when he gave his acceptance, said, "Oh, that matter is finally settled!" (Laughter.) You may have heard of the Sultan who wanted to get rid of a minister, and with that object commanded him to teach his dog to speak. The minister, or I should say grand vizier, agreed to teach it, but asked for a year for the purpose. His friends reproached him for undertaking such a task, but he said, "My friends, a year is a long time; before the end I may die, the Sultan may die, or, what is still more likely, the dog may die." (Laughter.) Now, your President, Mr. Senior, appears to me to be very much alive, and quite as well as eighteen months ago when he sought me out.

He made one omission. He did not prohibit my introducing my fads. He did not prohibit my introducing the two things with which I have been most associated, bimetallism and decimal weights and measures—(loud laughter)—and having been forestalled in so many points by my predecessors, I assume I am at liberty to introduce those interesting subjects. (Renewed laughter.) All anglers, in my opinion, ought to be bimetallists. They think a lot, and are men of moderate means, and rely on silver for their daily expenditure. They like their sport to have a silvery appearance, and prefer the clouds to be silvery rather than golden, except, perhaps, at lunch time. (Laughter.) Let me tell you a story about a fish. When the bimetallic controversy was at its height in the House of Commons, it was about the time that I sent a salmon to my near neighbours, including Sir William Harcourt at Malwood. I sent him a fine fish about twenty pounds in weight, and he wrote me in reply: "Dear Montagu,—I have received your bimetallic fish. It is as bright as silver, and worth its weight in gold." (Laughter.) Now I will leave bimetallism for decimal weights

and those stories frequently contain exaggerations as to the number and weight of the fish which they have lost. (No, no.) I do not think that as a rule those exaggerations are premeditated—they are natural exaggerations. (Laughter.) Disappointment acts like alcohol, and tends to increase the vision, and so to increase the number and weight of the fish that have been lost. It is asserted that in all countries there is a similarity in the evolution of fables and folk-lore, and even in Japan there is a proverb that the fish is larger in the water than it is on land. (Laughter.) Possibly water has a magnifying effect. At any rate, it would be most interesting if you gentlemen here could tabulate the natural exaggerations of fish that are lost and afterwards recaptured. If you were to do this, and strike an average, we might easily rectify the weights given of fish lost. If I were pressed to fix a figure which would indicate the natural exaggeration in that respect, I should say a third. (Laughter.) The actual weight of the fish lost, if tested, would prove about two-thirds of the imaginary weight. If a friend said he had lost a 6lb. fish I should put it down at 4lb., and if he

the gratings and the bank, by which it was evident they had escaped and gone up the water. We searched with a cast net, and got some hundreds of fry, which we put back, and the process of fattening went on. I was very proud of these fish, but my pride had a fall. Mr. Andrews paid me a visit, and I showed him, with great glee, these fish which I was fattening, and what do you think he said? You will never guess. He said they were sticklebacks; we call them in the North "jack sharps." (Laughter.) After that display of ignorance on the part of my keeper—(laughter)—I gave up all attempts at pisciculture. If I am not boring you, I should like to tell you one more story. I have told it to some of you already, but I trust to their altruism to allow me to give it again to-night. I call it the story of my "political fish." In a non-political gathering like this wild horses would not drag from me the name of the party to which that fish properly belongs. It was in 1892, after my third political contest. I was worn out, and took the best course, you will say, to recuperate by going to fish in Hampshire. It was a miserably fine day—sunshine and no wind



SIR SAMUEL MONTAGU, BART., M.P.

(Chairman at the Annual Dinner of the Fly Fishers' Club on Feb. 8, 1899).



WILLIAM SENIOR, Esq.

(President of the Fly Fishers' Club for 1898-99).

and measures. I am sure these weights should be recommended to anglers, who like to be most accurate in the weights of the fish they capture. (Laughter.) Therefore they should use centigrammes and millimètres in giving the weight and dimensions of the fish they capture. I take this opportunity of expressing my gratitude to the Scottish fishermen, because the Scottish Fishery Board is the first Government department to use the metrical system in dealing with fish. Now, let me turn from my fads and come back to my toast. The success of the Fly Fishers' Club depends a great deal upon your having a clubhouse of your own. (Hear, hear.) I myself would hardly like to live in a flat. I prefer a dwelling-house with a street door of my own, and I feel sure you think so too. (Hear, hear.) But all this has been said before, and unless you keep pegging away nothing will be done. I have a neighbour who would be willing to become a member if you had a 'clubhouse of your own—I fancy he will not wait for that, but still it is a most desirable improvement. Now, anglers, as a rule, enjoy more than any other people the stories of their fellow anglers,

said 9lb. I should put it down at 6lb. I will give an illustration of that theory. A friend of mine, who was an expert fisherman—and he must have been expert because he hooked a fish in my salmon pool—(laughter)—insisted on my playing it. I could not resist the temptation to let the fish take the line freely off the reel, and it got off with half my friend's cast line. He had caught sight of it, and said, "Oh, you have lost a grand fish. It weighed at least 9lb." Shortly afterwards we netted the fish in the pool, and we found one with the fly in its mouth, and we found it was a grilse, and weighed about 5½lb. (Laughter.) One of my predecessors in this chair spoke about fishculture. Allow me to give you an account of my first and last attempt at fishculture. The late Mr. Andrews, whom many of you knew, presented me with ten thousand sea trout. I had a suitable place prepared in the river, with fine gratings above and below, and my keeper said it was necessary to feed them on mincemeat, to which I consented. After a few days we found they had all disappeared, and my keeper showed me a small space between one of

—and I did not get a touch the whole day long. About seven o'clock I thought I would give up and go home and dress for dinner, but, like other disappointed anglers, I thought "One more brace of flies!" I opened the book, and my eye was attracted by a bright blue fly. I had never heard of such a fly taking a fish before; but blue was my election colour, and I thought, "I won with the colour yesterday, why not try it?" I put it on the tail, and then I thought I ought to give my opponent a chance, and I put on a red fly for him. I got a pull almost at once, and after twenty-five minutes or half an hour landed an 18½lb. fish. Gentlemen, there is not an ounce of exaggeration there. I wish I had centigrammes, to give it you more exactly. I landed it with the blue fly. I told my constituents that that colour was successful both on land and water. But the story has a sequel. I afterwards ungratefully discarded the blue fly but kept the red. I saw a sea trout jump for that fly, and it laid hold of my opponent and took him off. (Laughter.) He could not stand, and the event was prophetic, because he has never been able to stand since that

time in 1892. (Laughter.) Now I must bring my remarks to a close. I would have liked to speak to you, if there had not been the statement about speeches being commendably brief, about those two enemies of fly fishers—pollution and pike. (Hear, hear.) I could tell you how I fought against pollution almost single-handed at Eastleigh and Stoke. I was told that the effluent would be pure enough to drink, but I did not believe it, and made them carry it down several miles by pipe to the tideway. I am told it is coming out so black that I would not wish my worst enemy to drink it. (Laughter.) I tell you that to show that many of you can resist single-handed the pollution of the rivers in which you wish to catch fish. As for pike, they occasionally take a fly, but they are very unlikely fish, and I think you will agree with me their absence is better than their presence. (Hear, hear.) Mr. Senior and others have been good enough to reduce their number in my river, and I wish they would vanish altogether. Allow me, in conclusion, to wish prosperity to the club, and as fishing is my only sport, and I am told by an all-round sportsman that there is nothing so delightful as having a fish pulling at your line, I wish prosperity to the club, and each and all of its members, both in their club house and on the river-side, where they can get health and pleasant enjoyment. (Loud cheers.)

The toast was honoured with unusual heartiness, and

The PRESIDENT (Mr. William Senior) responded. He said: I must first thank the chairman of to-night for the very kindly way in which he has spoken of me as president of the Fly Fishers' Club, and I think a little explanation is necessary. The hon. baronet described what I am sure you would all imagine as a scene in which I, while making a cast for a trout or a salmon, or something of the kind, hooked him by the ear. (Laughter.) Allow me to tell you that Sir Samuel was speaking in parables. I have often thought I should like to write a book in my declining days on "Chances I have Missed." (Laughter.) But please let there be no mistake; if it were my good fortune to hook with a good salmon hook a wealthy banker of the City of London whose word was his bond, he should not get away until there was ransom talked about. (Laughter.) Unfortunately, that is one of the chances I have missed. What Sir Samuel Montagu means is this—that two years ago the committee of the Fly Fishers' Club decided to ask him to be our president for last year. You do not often hear our chairman's takes of fish proclaimed through the Press—(laughter)—or on the housetops, but the committee knew perfectly well that, both as an angler and as a riparian owner, our chairman was the man we wanted to preside over one of our annual dinners. Mr. Peachey (who, I am sorry to say, is absent to-day on account of ill-health) and I were appointed as a deputation to wait upon Sir Samuel in his solemn sanctum in the city and ask him to honour us. Well, he could not do so at the time, but he so expressed his sympathy with the club, and his admiration of certain members whose names modesty forbids me to mention at present—(laughter)—that we elicited a sort of promise from him that he might possibly preside this year, and so it was that we cordially invited Sir Samuel to take the chair to-night. (Laughter.) He is here in body and spirit, and I venture to say that the speech he has made to us shows, first of all, that the committee were perfectly right in inviting him two years ago—(applause)—and also that the committee were right in repeating the invitation. I thank Sir Samuel personally for the kind things he has said of me as president of the club, and I thank him on behalf of all fly fishing members and sporting guests present for the admirable tone of the speech he has made. (Applause.) It must strike you as a very curious thing that this is the first of our annual dinners during the fourteen years of the existence of the club that the toast of the club itself has not been responded to by our dear old friend, who is practically the founder of the club—Mr. R. B. Marston. (Cheers.) I got into great trouble two years ago for making a speech out of the programme. It was voted a dreadful breach of discipline, and I insisted that my offence should be recorded on the minutes in excellent hand-

writing. (Laughter.) But, as president to-night, I can assure you that no serious or criminal consequences will follow if you insist on friend Marston telling you all he has to tell about the finances of the club. (Applause.) I am not a financier myself, and my only knowledge at present is that we have a good balance in hand, and that I have paid my subscription, although I have not got a receipt for it. (Laughter.) It has been said before at this gathering that the Fly Fishers' Club is like the country which has no history—it is happy; and, after fourteen years of existence, it is really a matter for honest congratulation that such a society, without the usual advantages of a clubhouse, having no fishery of its own, and being kept together by nothing more tangible than sentiment, should be able to boast of a membership of 280, a financial balance on the right side, and a cohesion of enthusiasm as freshly sympathetic as ever. (Applause.) The wonder is, with its somewhat unexceptional character, especially remembering that it is only at the annual dinners there is any considerable muster of members, not that the club has lost a small proportion of its old members, but that the roll-call is so good as it is. (Hear, hear.) I do not say that we should not endeavour by every possible means to add to the numbers; on the contrary, we ought to, and we mean to try our hardest to do so. All I wish to urge to-night is that we meet once more with every right to congratulate one another upon increased prosperity. (Cheers.) Our country members will like to know that there are this year two special points for congratulation. They will be found set out in the annual printed report; and the first is with reference to the conclusion of the labours of the Special Committee on Fly-Dressing Materials. Mr. Marston, who has been Chairman of that Committee, could tell you much more than I can of the interesting history of the work done by Mr. Skues, Mr. Ohlson, and Mr. Hedley Norris, and their report will, I think, be found to be one of the most valuable documents ever presented to the club. (Cheers.) The collection of feathers and materials for fly making has been to these gentlemen a labour of love for years, and now they rest from their labours. "Something attempted, something done, has earned a night's repose." Better than that—their works do follow them, and the handsome cabinet in the club-room, in which the collection is classified for the service of fly dressers, is the monument of their services. Their report is a very modest one, very modest for these days, when no man who is not his own trumpeter is living up to the spirit of the times, but we shall all be in one accord as to the final sentence of the report: "They commend their work to the kind judgment of the club in the earnest hope that it may be of service and interest to more than one generation of fishers with the fly." (Cheers.) Then there is the library, which, thanks to the increasing exertions of our librarian, is becoming more and more valuable. We have now an excellent collection of angling books, new and old, and already it is an invaluable and permanent reference for us all. The bulk of these works are acquired by purchase, and few will say that a better way of disposing of our modest surplus funds could be devised. Some of our most precious objects of the bookshelves are, however, gifts from members and friends, and the present company surely will not be offended if I turn beggar for the nonce and declare that the smallest contribution will be thankfully received. (Cheers.) This is a sentiment worthy of the applause you give it, but let me remind you of the story told on the missionary platform by way of stimulating the collection. A certain gentleman ran through his property, sank lower and lower, and at last was discovered by an old brother officer selling pies in Drury-lane. Much shocked, the latter expressed his horror at the plight of his once fashionable comrade. "By Jove, old fellow, I am sorry," he said, "this is very sad; I assure you you have my full sympathy." To which the other replied: "Oh! 'cuss your sympathy; buy a pie." (Laughter.) Now, gentlemen, we don't 'cuss your sympathy, but buy a pie—send us any books or specimens you can spare. Even rare MSS. would not be refused; and, indeed, one of the most interesting presentations of the year has been a very curious MS. diary of four volumes, compiled a hundred years ago by James Williamson, and given to the

Fly Fishers' Club by Mr. Cholmondeley Pennell. It is thus described by our librarian in the new catalogue, which you will have sent to you: "Not only do these diaries contain neatly written tables showing the weight and number of fish caught on specified dates in specified places, but they also set out the exact details of expenditure on the various fishing tours, and every item of clothing and paraphernalia taken with him by the angler, from 'four shirts (one spare),' down to 'one pocket compass.' The four volumes embrace the following subjects: 'Notes of Fishing Excursions,' 'Notes relating to Authors on Angling,' 'Extracts from and relating to Works on Angling,' and 'Notes and Notices of Works on Angling.'" In the making of books on angling there is verily no end, and it is matter for pride that many of the best modern makers are of our own household. I will not for a moment suggest that if there had been no Fly Fishers' Club the world would not still have had the benefit of their experience, and technical and literary skill, but it is not to be doubted, I think, that they have received, besides fraternal and cordial appreciation, stimulus and encouragement from association with the club. This is neither the time nor the place for comparison between the angling books of past and present, yet I cannot refrain from quoting a bit of preface, reprinted by Mr. Norris in the catalogue from a little fishing book published in 1714, and entitled "The Whole Art of Fishing." Many people accuse us of being a little forward in these days, but what do you think of this slice from this nameless gentleman's preface? "This treatise is a collection of all that has been writ upon the subject of fishing, digested in a better method than any before extent, and cleansed from all superfluous and useless observations, for very few writers on this head have forebore some favourite impertinences of their own, which they generally stile curious." (Laughter.) In a club of this character there must of necessity be divers opinions amongst the members upon the principles and practices of their sport. Although it is a club which writes "Fly fishing" upon its banner, there are probably few who are able to boast that they have never used, and never will use, anything but a fly rod; some of us take our angling as we can get it; if the opportunities do not run to salmon, trout, and grayling, then the humbler pursuits of the coarse fish are not disdained. I must confess that I am not laying any such charges against our masters in the dry-fly Israel; nor, in truth, have I ever seen "Detached Badger" sitting on a campstool handling a roach pole, and with eagle eye following the monotonous swim of the trembling quill; nor his 'once pupil, Lloyd, now a Gamaliel on his own hook, raking up the bottom for gudgeon. (Laughter.) Yet, as I say, some of us continue the pleasures of our youth, and reckon all fair fishing as legitimate sport. Our discussions and conversations are, therefore, of a miscellaneous character, and there is always charm in their variety. But it has become a question whether we might not add to the attractions and value of the club—which we must nevertheless not forget is distinctly of the social class—by establishing some sort of system by which these interchanges of opinion may be made something more than a mere chat around the fire. If only we could strike a happy mean between this and the cut-and-dried formality of papers or lectures, it is worth considering. This we know to be the opinion of many members; and in the report which was adopted at the annual meeting on the 26th January, there was a clause which was intended to meet the existing feeling. It was this: "With a view to increasing the interest of members in the club Thursday evening meetings, the committee have under consideration arrangements for establishing periodical guest-nights, on dates to be announced, when members will be invited to bring their friends, and may count on always finding company and good fellowship. It is also proposed to have from time to time, the additional attraction of papers and discussions." (Hear, hear.) It was hoped that this clause would have been fully discussed, but, owing to an unfortunate combination of accidents, a number of members who are generally present were kept away. I may, however, take this opportunity of stating that the annual meeting was adjourned for the election of president, and at the meeting fixed for this purpose, on the 23rd of this month, these subjects

may be fully debated; and it is much to be hoped that all who really have the interests of the club at heart will come to the club room and fully and freely offer their suggestions to the general good. One of our country members, an angler of the very first order in all respects, for example, has been thinking over a scheme for the formation of a national society for placing all matters relating to our fresh-water fisheries upon a practical footing which has never before been attempted, and that might be laid before the meeting. Then, at our annual meeting, another member introduced the subject of stocking the Thames with salmon, and I hope he will be present to place his views before the club. It may not seem as if all these matters would be in order on the election of President; but each member with a question to raise can argue that the president should be a man who will influence the club for good by supporting this, that, or the other proposal. (Laughter.) As president of the Fly Fishers' Club—a very poor president (No, No)—whose will to serve the club has been much greater than his opportunities, I have to thank you for listening to the longest and prosiest speech I ever inflicted on you, and I have only this to repeat: After fourteen years of existence the Fly Fishers' Club, as a mere glance at this company will show, is a society to which any fisherman may be proud to belong—(cheers)—a club over which any gentleman of any class or rank might be proud to preside. But the old figures are gradually fading away into the distance, gentlemen, and we want the new members of the club, the strong and willing juniors amongst us, to come forward and take the reins in their own hands and continue and go on increasing the success, the truly gratifying success, which has attended the work of the club up to the present time. (Loud cheers.)

Mr. R. B. MARSTON said,—Mr. Chairman and Gentlemen: After speaking at fourteen of these annual entertainments I had hoped that I should not have to inflict any remarks upon you, but Mr. Senior has called upon me, and therefore, with your kind permission, I will detain you for one or two minutes. You want to know how the club stands in regard to its finances. At the end of the year we had in the bank £106 lls. 7d. and £196 invested in the funds, and in addition to that we have a collection of books on angling which are certainly worth a great deal more than we gave for them. (Hear, hear.) If our assets were totalled up I think they would amount to a very fine sum indeed. Mr. Senior mentioned that we have now this collection of materials for trout fly making. I can assure those who have not seen it that it is quite the finest collection ever got together in the world. (Cheers.) We must cordially thank those members who have assisted in preparing it, more especially Mr. Ohlson, Mr. Skues, and Mr. Norris, for the time and trouble they took to bring the collection together. It is a unique collection, which I do not think could possibly have been got together except by a society like this. I congratulate myself that it was I who in 1894 suggested that we should have such a collection, and I am glad the proposal has been so successfully carried out. There was another proposal which I made at the same time, that we should have a collection of feathers for salmon flies (hear, hear). I hope that those members interested in salmon fly fishing will come forward and assist us to make an equally good collection of materials for salmon flies. (Cheers.) We all want to do what we can to increase the attractions of the club, and as we have so many country members present I would like to make another proposal which was suggested to me by one of our country members. We have a great many volumes in our library which we all wish to read, but at present country members are debarred from making any use of the collection. Town members can walk in, take away a book, and bring it back in a fortnight, and I want to propose to-night—I hope our librarian Mr. Norris will not think I am trying to put too much work upon him—I want to suggest that country members should be able to write to him and ask for a book, and that he should send it to them by post. I hope that country members will support me in urging that this would be a good thing. (Hear, hear.) Although we have a large collection, it might be necessary to duplicate the books most in demand, but there would be no difficulty in

doing that. As an instance of the way the concession would be appreciated, I may tell you that the country member I have already referred to, said to me, "I could get you six new country members if you would carry that suggestion out." (Hear, hear.) If we can say that any member can have a book by writing, it will be an incentive which will bring new members at once. I hope before our next annual dinner we shall be able to say to members in the country that they may have the books, but in that case we must make some arrangement to give our honorary librarian help. I am sure the step would do a great deal to increase the interest our country members feel in the club and secure new ones. (Cheers.)

Mr. BASIL FIELD said: Mr. Chairman, Mr. President, Vice-Chairmen, and Gentlemen,—Happily for you all—and no less happily for me—the toast entrusted to my hands needs no artistic seasoning to make it palatable to the most fastidious taste. It is the health of "Our Guests." Now, sir, it has often struck me that those visiting us on these occasions may, broadly speaking, be divided into two classes—the "curious" and the "sympathetic." Of those who have been induced by sympathy to join us to-night, and by their presence to add brightness to our gathering, I need say but little. They are our younger brothers—fly fishers in the embryo or immature stage. The warmth of our welcome and the gentle current of our converse, babbling of "troutful brooks and gravelly shallows" will soon perfect their development as yearlings of the club; but of the visitor who has been tempted by mere curiosity—by the passing whim to learn what manner of men these fly fisher-folk may be—these so-called "Brothers of the Angle"—as yet known to him only as the butt of sneering jest and scornful tale—of him I would say it is exceeding well he is here. For let him turn where he will he can hardly fail to note that the angler, bereft of his dropical waders and prodigious brogues, stripped of creel and trappings, shorn of that crown of glory—his felt hat with its halo of fur, feather, silk, and steel—(laughter)—the angler, to be brief, in "muft" is not very unlike that well-known animal, the common or domestic gentleman of everyday life. When he has got over the first shock of this discovery, he may be tempted to pursue his investigation a little further. He may examine the roll of our members; and what will he find there? Variety. Infinite variety, locally and socially. Men from every known climate and country; men of every known profession and calling—and some whose profession or calling is unknown to all, save possibly to themselves. (Laughter.) He will find the army mustering in force. Generals, colonels, majors, and captains holding commanding positions on every page. It has been suggested to me that this may be accounted for by their perfect familiarity with every variety of *line* manœuvre. But I repudiate the frivolous explanation. No, sir, I love rather to think of these brave men of blood and war—who in time of need have stood between us and our country's foes—quietly reverting to their boyish taste for our peaceful craft; cheerfully renouncing the proud flutter of their colours on the field for the soft rustle of flags on the riverside; the angry boom of cannon for the gentle boom of humble bees; to think of them kneeling in a "wilderness of sweets," welcomed by the friendly twitter of swallows, and showing as much tact and strategy in dislodging an old trout from a bed of weeds as they would in driving a pestilent "sniper" from his cover in the bush. But with this difference, mark you!—they are much more nervous over the fish than over the foe. (Laughter.) Of naval officers we have few, and the reason, I venture to think, is not far to seek. They have another and a better audience elsewhere. If they have a choice fish story to relate, they naturally "tell it to the marines." The Church, he will find, sends us some of her noblest sons, earnest yet modest withal, loving our peaceful craft next to their sacred calling, and making us the more gentle by their sweet companionship. The name of "Cotswold Isys," the Poet Laureate of those that go down to the rivers with rods, will rise unbidden to the minds of all; that many-gifted man—a happy blend of piety, poetry, and piscary—speaking as a fly fisher, I should perhaps rather link his name

with angling literature; but I have no heart to speak of literature at all since the sad death of William Black, that charming writer, who took us captive to the wild west of Scotland with her silent lakes, her brawling rivers, her mountains wreathed in mist and clad in purple heather, and held us there with as light yet firm a hand as that with which he drew the struggling salmon to his gaff. Happily his memory lies with us still; and happily there lives with us still his close friend and constant companion—William Quilter Orchardson, that grand painter, honoured by his Queen and country and beloved by all—whose successes on the line at Burlington House in oil are all but equalled by his successes on the line in water not a hundred miles from Dartford. (Cheers.) But perchance our inquiring guest is growing weary! Let him borrow of our proverbial patience, and search but a little further. He will find a learned judge, whose decisions on the bench are as sound as his judgment on the banks of the Spey; doctors of medicine who, in spite of skill in the healing art, find fish must be killed before they can be cured; engineers who learn with surprise that in fishing the "catchment area" is by no means always co-extensive with the watershed. (Laughter.) And lastly he may even find a modest lawyer, who, as an angler, lays aside instead of laying down the law, and gives as little law as may be even to a troublesome and unruly fish. Upon these discoveries a new light will flash across his brain—a new world hitherto undreamed of will be revealed to his delighted senses. What was at first but idle curiosity will become serious interest. Interest is rich in promise of sympathy, and if sympathy be but once awakened, his lot is cast. He will soon come a humble suitor for admission to the portals of that glorious palace of truth—"The Fly Fishers' Club." (Great laughter.) In full assurance that such will be the case, I venture to give the toast in this amended form: Our present Guests—Our future Members, and with this toast I have the happy privilege of associating the name of Mr. Spence, of whom I need say nothing, as he is here to speak for himself, and to speak for "Our Guests."

Mr. E. F. SPENCE responded to the toast, and said:—When my friend Mr. Cook announced to me to-night that I should have to have the honour of responding for the guests, I must confess I thought for the moment he was taking a rise out of me, not the kind of rise this club rejoices in, but the kind the fish does not rejoice in. (Laughter.) However, it proved to be a fact. I listened to the graceful speech of Mr. Field in the hope of discovering, and did discover, somewhat to my surprise, what was the qualification I possessed for responding—the fact that I am a modest lawyer. (Laughter.) I may admit in confidence that I never suspected myself of modesty, and did not think any of my friends ever suspected me of it either. (Laughter.) But that is the qualification in virtue of which I am responding for the guests—the army men, the navy men, the engineers, and even for the church. I did suspect from some questions that were indiscreetly put to me that it was for the Press I was to respond; but, after the remarks we have heard, I suppose it was thought indiscreet to refer to the possibility of any pressman being present. I am proud of being a member of the Press as well as a lawyer. It secures for me an amount of prestige. When I tell a story and say, "I have been a solicitor, I am a barrister, and write for the Press, and I go fishing," why, the credibility of the story is beyond dispute. (Laughter.) In responding for the guests I might have said something about fishing; but, although my ignorance of the subject would not deter me, being a modest lawyer, I have on the whole a feeling that it is not a discreet subject of discussion. There are two particular qualities which result from fishing—one a charming sense of fellowship among fishermen, and the other a prodigious combative instinct that is aroused the moment one talks about the subject. When you go fishing with a man you are the best friends in the world, but also the fiercest combatants. We all have theories, and those theories never seem in harmony with the theories of anybody else, and the curious thing is that though we fish with diametrically opposed theories we all manage to catch fish—sometimes. (Laughter.) It proves something, although what

it proves I don't know. It proves to me that I, the most ignorant of all, should say nothing about fishing. I should like to say something about fellowship as one of those who go fishing merely for the distraction and to secure relief from overwork of the brain, and whose fishing is a source of amusement to his fellows. Apart from the catching of fish, which is often irrelevant, there is a splendid sense of fellowship. We come here not animated by a feeling of death to the fish, which some of us drink when we go fishing, but by the fellowship that arises from the pursuit. On behalf of your guests whom I have the honour to represent without their desire or consent, allow to me to say that we have had a very charming evening, an excellent dinner, and charming speeches, which have diffused amongst us in the inexplicable fashion of great meetings the sense of fellowship, and which has given us the greatest pleasure. We thank you, the members, most heartily for your hospitality, and assure you that we have had a delightful evening. (Cheers.)

SIR THOMAS WARDLE then proposed the health of the Chairman. He said he was not accustomed to addressing such a gathering as that, and must ask their kind indulgence while he tried to do as much justice as he could to the toast. He had the pleasure of having three friends who came down into his part of the country to fish, and one of them had written asking him to propose the toast, so he would do his best to obey. He was proud of seeing those friends down in a country dear to him, the country of Walton and Cotton. Mr. Senior was one of those friends, the one whom he was trying to obey by proposing the toast. Mr. John Bickerdyke was another, and he hoped that gentleman would not be offended if he (the speaker) had his little revenge on him for what he wrote about something that occurred during the visit. A great part of what occurred was purely imaginary. It was a magazine article headed "Walton and Cotton's Country," and in it appeared the following passage: "Almost at the end of my visit to this beautiful and interesting country, occurred an incident which Walton would have loved to describe, and Cotton would have enjoyed, though perhaps in different fashion. Nearly at the end of my friend's fishing, a stone bridge carried across the river that road which leads to Alsop-en-Le-Dale. I had pushed ahead, and was standing on the bridge experimenting with Yorkshire trout flies on three very shy fish which were rising in the pool beneath me, when I saw my friend, the luncheon hour being near, coming to join me, his rod over his shoulder, and May Fly waving in the air. Just then there came over the bridge, in a farmer's dog-cart, a pretty girl in cream-coloured attire—(Oh, oh, and laughter)—with a blue ribbon round her neck. Now, what should that erratic wind do—assuming the wind was altogether to blame—but carry my friend's May Fly just under her chin, and hook her full and fair in the bow at her throat. The youth who was driving, and who, maybe, hoped to hook that fair fish himself some day, scowled as he pulled up his nag. The maiden blushed, as maidens will, and still more rosy did she become as my friend's fingers played about her neck in the vain endeavour to extract the barbed hook from the blue ribbon. It was a pretty scene; the rosy-faced girl leaning over the side of the cart, her face, surely needlessly close to that of the angler, who seemed to have lost his usual dexterity of finger. The river splashing down the valley overhung by alders and aspens and ash, and the woodland background. Finally, the youth scowling ferociously, my friend standing on the dogcart steps, in desperation pulled out his scissors, and in a moment the fly was released. Now, there were three witnesses to this scene, other than the parties more particularly interested, to wit, two gamekeepers and myself. And it is a significant fact that my friend bought of one gamekeeper a dozen flies, which, admittedly, he had no use for; treated the other to an extraordinarily stiff glass of whisky and soda; while upon me he pressed his choicest cigars during the rest of the afternoon. Corruption notwithstanding, the story leaked out, and was in due course enlarged and amplified, as is customary among anglers—even fly fishers. After dinner that evening, my friend, who had been for some time pensive, quietly remarked: 'Talk-

ing of paradoxes, for forty years I've fished the Dove, and yet to-day I made my maiden cast.'" (Loud laughter.) That story, like much of the work of those who wrote poetry and fiction, was almost pure imagination. The young man did not scowl ferociously, but smiled, and the maiden did not blush. (Loud laughter.) And the author of that story was the friend whom he had cured of a dangerous attack of influenza (Laughter.) It was wonderful how some people showed their gratitude. The other friend was a distinguished literary man, who had been very hospitable to him (the speaker) in India. Some years ago he was asked to go to India on Government service, to report on the silk industry of Bengal and other subjects. He was sent into the jungles of Western Bengal to visit a missionary interested in silk culture, and he suggested to that gentleman that it would be a very good thing if longer lengths of the silkworm gut were obtainable. Two years afterwards the missionary sent him a collection of gut which absolutely astonished him. From two species of worm there were lengths of 15ft. to 20ft. (Hear, hear.) He had arranged the specimens in a little book, and would be pleased to present them to the club. (Cheers.) Since that time attention had been given to the subject, with very good results, and instead of having ordinary silkworm gut about a foot long, they could obtain lengths of over two feet. He had mentioned this visit to India because it was then that he met the third friend of whom he had spoken. That was the gentleman whom Mr. Senior and Mr. Cook met at his little cottage, and they all had a delightful time. This third member of the party was a man versed in literature and poetry—Tennyson and Herrick, especially Herrick. Now, the little fishing cottage was at the foot of a steep hill on the river Manifold, and to break the sky-line he had had a castellated turret put up, hardly big enough to hold a thimble. And this was the sort of thing that his friend had written about the little turret on the cottage:

THE LADY OF WARDLESTEIN.

Oh, say, have ye heard of the gay Sir Thomas,
And, say, have ye been at his hall so fine;
And have ye heard aught of the lonely ladye
That dwells in his castle of Wardlestein?
Where Manifold steals amid caverns darksome
Till he rises again in the arms of Dove,
On the mountain crest, like a falcon's eyrie,
There stands the bower of a ladye-love!
Oh, a hazel nut in the autumn season,
A blue-ribboned damsel of Beresford Dale!
When a gallant knight hooks a winsome maiden—
'Tis easy to reckon how runs the tale!
So pass on your way with eyes averted,
Nor seek such a valiant knight to cross;
For a dungeon drear and a vengeful dagger
Await him who enters the lonely Schloss!

(Laughter.) In conclusion, he asked them to drink to the health of their chairman, whose name and fame were deservedly held in honour among fishermen. They wished him long life and prosperity, and that he might successfully fish for his bimetallic salmon and sea trout for many a long year to come. (Loud cheers.)

The toast having been enthusiastically honoured,

The CHAIRMAN said: Brother Anglers—I thank you heartily for your reception of this toast. I remember hearing of two men who had been to a meeting talking about the collection, and one of them said, "When the plate went round I got half-a-crown out of it. What did you get?" (Laughter.) Well, out of this entertainment I have got a very good dinner. I came recklessly prepared to pay for it, but am prohibited by your Hon. Secretary; and I had not only the dinner, but the hearty and pleasing reception you have given me. (Cheers.) I am the last person to return evil for good, and after all the kindness you have shown me, I do not intend to inflict another speech upon you. I suggest that you should go on having these annual entertainments, and selecting other chairmen for thirty-three years, and on the thirty-fourth, when I hope to reach my hundredth birthday, ask me again. (Laughter and cheers.) I hope to be still a fly fisher, and I will tell you all particulars of the fish I have caught and those which I have lost in the meantime. (Cheers.)

Shortly afterwards the Chairman had to leave on business, it being after eleven o'clock, and the

chair was then taken by the President, Mr. Senior, loud cheers being given for the departing Chairman. Mr. Senior, in taking the chair, remarked that they might well register that as one of their successful nights, and he again expressed the hope that the younger members would take up the reins and see that the club should never sink below the splendid level they had maintained for the past fourteen years. (Cheers.)

The musical programme was arranged by Mr. Dalgety Henderson, and gave great satisfaction, the following being among the artistes: Mr. Dalgety Henderson, Mr. Charles Colette, the Troubadour Glee Singers (Messrs. Shiner, Marriott, Vincent, and Dearth), Mr. Mel. B. Spurr, Mr. John Saunders; Mr. Arthur Fagge making an excellent accompanist.

MENU.

Huitres.
Consommé Paysanne. Crème Palestine.
Turbot Sauce Hollandaise.
Blanchailles.
Poulet Sauté Chasseur.
Mousse de Jambon au Champagne.
Selle de Mouton à l'Infante.
Pommes Rissolées.
Faisan rôti.
Salade. Céleri à l'Italienne.
Poires Siciliennes.
Bombe Cecil.
Gaufrettes Parisiennes.
Pailles Parmesan.
Dessert.
Café.

THE ROACH.

THE roach forms a frequent topic for writers on piscatorial matters; but though a common subject in this respect, it is by no means a trite one. Commonest amongst the fish that give sport to the fresh-water angler—and now that sea fishing has taken such a vigorous existence one must begin to use distinguishing expressions between the two kinds of anglers—the roach and its habits form a matter of study to most members of the angling brotherhood, and hence the frequent recourse of writers to a subject that otherwise one would have thought had been discussed to exhaustion. The facts of the case are not so, however, and he would be a bold man who should assert that he had nothing to learn even with respect to a fish that may engross all his attention as a sportsman. The purpose of the present article is to present a few remarks on the roach inhabiting still, or comparatively still, waters, as distinct from the fish of the same species to be found in waters with strong currents.

There is a very distinct difference between the methods to be adopted in the two cases, and it can fairly be said, without likelihood of dispute, that the habits of the roach when living in still water and the differentiating factors in the two cases are such as to render the taking of this fish a more skilful undertaking in one case than in the other. First, then, to discuss some of the differences to be borne in mind. Usually the volume of water in the quiet stream is a much more limited quantity than in the reverse case. This has one great bearing on the fish that should be fully appreciated. It is, that the shoals of this gregarious fish must necessarily be more limited in the number of individual fish comprising them. Hence, to take a dozen fish from a smaller shoal is to commit a greater proportionate havoc than to take the same number from a much larger one. Now I have often heard an angler boast of sticking to a "shop" the whole day through, fish or no fish; and to look with contempt on the brother who is wise enough to change a spot after a reasonable stay, is usually the accompaniment of the boast. If one has committed what I have termed as havoc after remaining in a spot for a length of time, surely it is much more wise and reasonable, when the inevitable lull in the sport has set in, to change quarters rather than to continue in that spot to "stick it out," simply because it has yielded its full quota of sport. Yet the "sticking it out" view is by no means uncommon. One would have thought it an obvious fact that the fewer the remaining fish must be, the more thoroughly must they be alarmed at the dis-

appearance of their comrades. Then, too, the mere taking of a fish in quiet water creates such a comparatively large amount of disturbance that that fact alone would cause a wise man to be content when the sport declines, and to consider that his interests would be better served elsewhere. If no fish are being taken, or only one at long intervals, the stronger the argument for a change. I would, therefore, commend this to the thoughtful roach angler as worthy of practical consideration, and especially would I do so to the "sticker."

Another observation that I would wish to make as characteristic of the quiet water, is that the roach there becomes an extremely localised fish. It has long been my opinion that he is no traveller or explorer, and observation has confirmed, as it founded, the belief. Even when on the feed I am convinced that his movements are most limited, although they may at the same time be active. A good illustrative case occurred to me three weeks ago when fishing in the Lea at the Angel Road end of the long length into which the fish taken from the East London Company's reservoirs in the summer were deposited. I had selected a spot after some minutes of careful observation up and down the banks in the immediate neighbourhood. Twenty minutes of fishing did not produce any tangible result, but it confirmed me in my choice, for at the end of that time a roach rose exactly over the spot I was fishing. Fully another twenty minutes elapsed before I found my first fish; but I had been well on the *qui vive*, for I was confident that my labours would be rewarded, and I was not disappointed. A couple of hours of perseverance found me in possession of ten fish. The evidence of that rising fish was sufficient for me to be satisfied that there were fish in that spot, and fish, too, likely to repay the attempt at capture, for I am convinced that a rising roach is a good omen to the angler who is fishing that spot nine times out of ten. But the case in question is stronger evidence in support of my theory. During those two hours I had possessed myself of further observations. A fish or two had risen both a few yards above and a few yards below me, the second and succeeding fish in the two directions rising within a couple of yards of the first. My conclusions were that there were two distinct shoals of fish in those two places, besides the intermediate shoal on which I was engaged. This knowledge I put to practical use when at length I deemed that sport would be better served by a change of place. I moved to the lower spot, and presently found myself into a fish. Four more followed at intervals, though not so quickly as in my first place. I had already done very well for an afternoon's fishing on a short day, and was making up my mind to finish the rest of the available time in this spot rather than begin at the top shoal of fish I had marked out, when a nice fish rose over my original position. That decided me. I was satisfied that whatever state the remaining fish there might have been in when I left them, they at least had no fears now. I accordingly returned to finish up some half hour of remaining daylight, and when I finally packed up, three more fish had been added to my take, the three being of about 14oz., 11oz., and 6oz. respectively. A week later I went to Angel Road again, and, considering that I had sufficiently depleted the spot from which I had obtained the bulk of my fish the week previously, I did not even try it. Many men would have gone straight to it, as though the possibilities of the place were inexhaustible. Instead, I went above it, and when it was time to change I moved to the spot below. The total at the end of that afternoon was thirteen fish. During the fishing I marked yet another spot higher up for a future occasion, the tell-tale being, as before, the repeated rising of a fish within a little of the rising place of a previously moving fish. On the other hand, I did not observe a single rise over the spot I had intentionally avoided. A fact, I take, which confirmed the wisdom of my conduct.

I have attached great importance to the story to be deduced from a rising roach in still water fishing, and also on the wisdom of not remaining too long in one place. Let me now give my views on these two points a little more exactly. As I have said, the roach is no traveller. With this observation as an hypothesis, I build my theory. It is a most interesting question to enter upon—

this localising of the fish. Why, when to all appearance the favoured places are widely different, should one place be accepted by the fish to the absolute exclusion of all others? Personally, I cannot give a satisfactory reply, though I have had the matter under careful observation for a long time. It is generally accepted that the roach prefers a quiet, secluded retreat. There are, to my mind, as many exceptions as cases which support this. My own observations are that in one place a clear gravelly bottom is the apparent cause of the preference; but against this I can set off many cases in quiet waters of my experience where the reverse conditions prevail to a marked extent—mud, or mud with the usual accompaniment of freely growing weed, being the most evident characteristic of the chosen habitat. Sometimes a flow of pure water from some side stream will apparently be the accountable cause, but in that I have not much confidence. I have found it a common idea amongst some anglers that in winter the fish are especially favourable to such a spot. I have not found any decisive proof of this, though I have had some waters under close and continuous observation for years. In some cases the alterations of depth seem adequate to account for the preference, while, it must reluctantly be said, other places are most certainly chosen because of the influx of sewage or impure matter. Altogether, it seems to me that no one cause is adequate to account for the extreme differences of locality which roach will select for permanent occupation. I am inclined to think that the question of food is really at the root of the problem; but when one finds a continuous length of gravelly bottom inhabited in one part and perhaps fishless in another—such, for instance, as one may find in parts of the Lea—the problem is all the more difficult of solution. In two cases a change of locality occurs. In the spawning season the fish seek haunts as free from molestation as possible, and in deep winter they prefer the quieter of two sides of water when barge traffic, if such occurs, would otherwise compel them to move from one side to another. For this reason it is always best in mid-winter fishing to choose the uninterrupted side of the water from which to fish. To return. A rising fish, on the hypothesis already advanced, must then indicate the habitat of a shoal of fish. What, then, is the practical lesson to be drawn from this? Surely the obvious one that such a spot should at once cause the angler to set to work there if he is looking out for a place, and if not so doing to make a mental note of the occurrence for a future necessity. Further, I quite believe that if any fish are to be taken, rising fish indicate a favourable activity amongst them. I am convinced that if an angler cannot succeed when and where fish are rising, he must look to himself for the cause, and not complain of the fish. One cannot be always fishing one piece of water, and the prime difficulty when making the acquaintance of a new water is to know where to fish. Better than to trust to the evidences of former anglers having selected any spot is to look out for the tell-tale of a rising fish. If none such can be seen, then other considerations must avail. First and foremost for one's own comfort when fishing, preference would then be given to a clean, gravelly looking spot, independent of any opinion as to such being a likely habitat. If, after a reasonable trial—say, anything over an hour—a fish is not forthcoming, my advice is to shift. The time will be more profitably spent in making observations whilst deliberately moving along the bank. It is a grand motto for the angler to "make haste slowly" to catch fish when first making the acquaintance of a piece of water. Another useful hint in selecting a spot is to take into consideration the varying volumes of water in different parts. It will often happen that, owing to an expansion in width, one spot will have in it double the amount of water that obtains in a corresponding length along another part. If increased width does not lead to a long expanse of shallow water from the bank outwards, then such a spot should most certainly be tried. If, however, wide and shallow is the case, then the spot would be better avoided, for although there is increased width there is no proportionate increase of volume of water; and though roach, as I have said, are no travellers, yet they show a partiality, which seems to me natural, for places

with increased volume of water—that is, *ceteris paribus*. A useful caution, too, is not to be influenced by the charming appearance of this or that part of the banks. I do not, of course, mean that you should have no soul above the mere capture of fish. Far, indeed, from that! Foster the sensitive mind of the poet in yourself; let Nature appeal to eye, and ear, and heart; soliloquize as deeply and inconsistently as Jacques; feel yourself a little better man from the inspiration of noble thoughts that the loveliness and solitude of the waters must ever engender; have a musician's ear for the mellowing overtones in the song of the thrush, and the marvellous strength of the carol that such a microscopic glottis as the lark can produce; have an artist's eye for the picture contained in that flowering iris nestled amongst those rushes over there with that background of willow and hazel—but with all that observe a due proportion amongst so many delights. Think of the undisturbed reverie you can have as you regretfully, yet happily, wend your way home in the gloaming with the peace and rest settling all around. Think of this, I say, and relegate to that hour, so far as you are able, those thoughts and feelings that may otherwise seduce you from your primary purpose. How often have I sat down in a most unlikely spot for successful fishing, too captivated with the charms around to be any cause of terror to unwary fish! And have not you, reader, done the same, and will do the like again yet, despite this warning? Yes, we admit it is folly from the angling point of view, but we do it. I think Schubert must have been a fisherman, or he could never have so perfectly drawn that masterpiece of analogy as is to be found in his setting of Goethe's words in that too rarely heard "Chorus of spirits floating over the waters." But this is digressing.

When you have used all your judgment in choosing a spot that is most likely to favour your purpose you have still to catch your fish. And but too often to some "there's the rub." Anglers who would approach the bank on bended knee if fishing for trout will forget that, in its way, as much respect is necessary to allure the wary roach. Elementary amongst elementary principles in the practice of the gentle art, how often have I seen its practitioners most utterly ignore it! There is some extenuation to plead for the casual stroller along the bank, who, seeing you land a fish, forthwith innocently stands on the extreme edge of the bank to watch for the success to be repeated, though, in effect, to prohibit it for the next hour! But in an angler such acts are barbarous. Then bear the moral in view whenever you have intentions against fish. Sit down, whatever you are doing, or else get away from the bank till you can proceed about your business without the necessity of being in the standing position.

Let your ground-bait suit the hook bait—on this point I must regretfully be brief though it is vital—and do not cross bait. If you think you will be likely to change the kind of bait, then begin with that bait which can be correctly followed by the bait to which you will change. For example, you can quite correctly follow potato or bread fishing with gentles, but to reverse the order would be monstrous—that is if you had been using your gentles as you should have been. Then be very judicious on the amount of ground-bait you use. It must not only suit the hook bait, but it must also be used more or less sparingly according to the character of that bait. Further, you would not think of always using the same amount of ground-bait to the same hook bait, surely! You would, of course, distinguish between the requirements of a gravelly bottom and a muddy or weedy one, as you would also if your spot was raked over by passing craft or was undisturbed. Other considerations, that I cannot even mention here, would also meet with their due regard from you.

And now let me say a few words on tackle and manipulation before drawing this long article to its close. Whatever style you adopt, you must fish "light and fine." And I mean what I say. Unless under exceptional circumstances, you are ruining all your chances of success, and all your other judicious actions will avail you nothing, if your tackle does not end with the finest drawn gut, or if it is shotted, at the outside, with more than two of the smallest shots. Many times have I had a show of fish when men who could

manipulate their tools as well as myself had only blanks, simply and entirely due to the coarseness of their tackle and the weight of their shooting. And now comes the grand distinction between roach fishing in strong and in still waters—ninety-nine times in every hundred you will succeed best in still water fishing by laying your bait and resting your shot on the bottom. I leave the odd case as a reserve against the opinion of any who differ from my experience. FOSSDYKE.

REPORTS FROM RIVERS, LOCHS, &c.

 River Reporters who want forms and envelopes should send a post card to the Manager of the FISHING GAZETTE, St. Dunstan's House, Fetter-lane, London.

Time of High Water in the Thames.

To find the time of high water in the Thames at any of the following places, to the time of high water at London Bridge given below.

30 min. for Chelsea.	55 min. for Kew.
Add 40 " " Putney.	75 " " Richmond.
45 " " Hammersmith.	80 " " Twickenham.
50 " " Barnes.	85 " " Teddington.

EXAMPLE:—If it is high water at 2 o'clock at London Bridge, it will be high water at Teddington at 3.25, or 85 minutes later.

N.B.—A strong wind up-stream accelerates the tide very much, and one down-stream retards it.

TIME OF HIGH WATER AT LONDON BRIDGE.

	Morning.	Evening.
Saturday, Feb. 11	2.23	2.45
Sunday, " 12	3. 8	3.29
Monday, " 13	3.49	4.10
Tuesday, " 14	4.31	4.51
Wednesday, " 15	5.11	5.29
Thursday, " 16	5.43	6. 7
Friday, " 17	6.23	6.50

HIGH WATER AT AMBERLEY AND PULBOROUGH.

	Morning.	Evening.
Saturday, Feb. 11	3. 3	3.25
Sunday, " 12	3.48	4. 9
Monday, " 13	4.29	4.50

These times show high water at Houghton Bridge, Amberley. Pulborough will be 2h. 40m. later.

ENGLISH AND WELSH REPORTS.

Lower Thames.—GENERAL REMARKS.—One of the greatest difficulties for some time has been to gather anything of interest in the form of news as to the grand old river in reference to matters piscatorial, and I can say with truth, after a lengthened experience, I cannot remember a period when a similar dearth prevailed. Some few intervals have, however, relieved the monotony, and the items at the end of last week from Mr. McBride, of Teddington, came as a great relief, and his successes amongst the jack inspired one with the hope that jack fishing had made a good start, and getting well on the feed. The idea of feeding reminds me of the Friendly Anglers' dinner at the Hotel Cecil, at the end of last week, when, as reported in one of the sporting newspapers, some one was heard to remark across the table I was referred to as being the hero of one thousand dinners. It is now some time since I was designated as the "hero of five hundred dinners," and I think I remarked at one of the club dinners I considered it was something under the mark. I do not think I can make the same remark now as I did then. The weather still continues in a very unsettled condition, and it is difficult to speculate as to its future character. According to the veteran William Milbourne's report, on Monday last the river was in good order, and had been for some days, affording the best evidence there would be some good perch fishing, as those fish were well on the feed. In my angling days perch fishing was my favourite sport, and I have had many successful days amongst them. It will be a matter of great satisfaction to find the perch are giving sport to the anglers, and the good old days of angling for them have again returned. For the last three or four years there has been some evidence they were still in the river, and some have been taken of a good size. There was a time when they could be found in all portions of the river, and the take of the late Mr. James Forbes, fishing for a couple of hours at Borough Head, Laleham, I do not think will ever be eclipsed as regards the character and quantity of fish, and I had the pleasure of seeing them.—B.

—(Datchet).—John Keene, one day, with Mr. G. Shepherd, seven dozen of roach and four chub (many of the roach weighed from 1lb. to 1½lb. each; the largest chub, 3½lb.); another day, with Mr. Phipps, 30lb. of good roach; another day, with Mr. Jones, 20lb. of fine roach; and another day, with Mr. O'Dowd, three brace of chub and two dozen of roach.—B.

—(Datchet).—No sooner does the river get in good trim than down comes the rain. To-day, the 8th, the river has risen 4ft. since the 5th, and every prospect of it being still higher.—G. LUMSDEN.

—(Hampton Court).—William Milbourne at the beginning of the week writes: "The water is now in good order for all fishing, but I am afraid if we get much more rain it will put it out of order again. The perch are well on the feed, and one day in the middle of last week Mr. Gann creelred eighteen of them, from ½lb. to ¾lb. each. Thomas Milbourne, fishing with a gentleman for two days, landed seven dozen of perch, of which only forty of the best were kept. The private boats have been all doing well with the perch. The bank anglers have done well amongst the roach."—B.

—(Hampton).—Mr. and Mrs. Palmer, of London, fishing one day with J. Langshaw, creelred 35lb. weight of

perch, the largest weighing 1½lb.; there were six brace weighing over 1lb. each, and over three dozen were returned to the river again. Langshaw says both perch and jack are well on the feed, but is in want of anglers to come and get amongst them.—B.

—(Henley).—Feb. 8.—Owing to the heavy rain of the last few days the river is again quite out of condition. Marsh Weir is drawn. A very heavy stream running, which is rising fast. I do not think it will even be fit for bank fishing by the end of the week, there being a lot of snow in the water. Sport continued good while the frost lasted, but little has been done since. On the 2nd inst., Mr. S. Meyers, out with J. James, took four jack, the best two fish weighing 10lb. On the same date, a patron of G. Arlett, ten jack, best fish 6lb., and a few perch. On the 3rd inst., Mr. J. Harvey, jun., five jack, best fish 8½lb., and six brace of perch; Mr. A. E. Hobbs, out with W. Vaughan, four jack, best fish 6½lb., and twenty perch weighing just over 10lb.; best perch 11h. 7oz.; Mr. Woodhouse, out with G. Vaughan, five jack, best fish 4½lb., and six brace of perch, best perch 1½lb.; Mr. W. Clisby, jun., out with J. James, twelve brace of perch, best brace 3lb.; Dr. Jeston, fishing with Boh Young, at Medmenham, took thirty brace of retainable perch, besides returning fifty of the same fish, best three perch weighing just over 3lb. On the 4th inst., Mr. Hawes, fishing the Loddon, accompanied by W. Vaughan, secured a nice pike weighing 13lb., and another 4lb. fish. On the same date, Messrs. Coborn and Jones, out with G. Arlett, a bag of roach, perch, and four jack weighing 12lb. On the 5th inst., Mr. W. Meyers, out with J. James, three jack, best fish 5½lb. On the same date, Dr. Riley, out with W. Vaughan, three jack, best two fish 10lb.; Messrs. Coborn and Jones, out with G. Arlett, twelve dozen roach. On the 6th inst., Mr. Goodwin, accompanied by J. James, braved the stormy weather, and succeeded in taking three jack, the best fish weighing 4½lb. Bank anglers have had some fair takes of roach up to 1½lb. A tench of about 2lb. has been taken while roach fishing with red worms. Feb. 9.—The water is bank high this morning.—STANLEY MEAD.

—(Kingston).—John Johnson during the week has been doing fairly well with the bream; J. Knight, one day with Mr. Wells and friend, four dozen of roach and dace, and during the week he has had similar sport; J. Jennings has been creelred some fine roach, one of them weighed close on 2lb.—B.

—(Richmond).—Job Brain reports he has been getting a nice lot of bream.—B.

—(Staines).—The only report I have received from this district is the water has been very high and a good stream, but the anglers have managed to get a few roach.—B.

—(Sunbury).—Messrs. T. and A. Stroud report there are plenty of fish but a great scarcity of customers, and if they will only come they are sure to make some satisfactory results, the perch and jack being on the feed. The bank anglers have been creelred some fine roach.—B.

—(Twickenham).—Mr. Ogden Smith says: "The river has been rising fast and the water thickening. Several bream have been taken, also roach and dace. Lee, fishing with two clients one day, landed 275 roach and dace. Mr. Barrow and friend got twelve brace of good perch." R. Spong, in three days, twenty bream and 10lb. of roach and dace. R. Moffat, twelve dozen roach and dace and eight bream. The other fishermen in raking have been getting a good quantity of dace.—B.

—(Windsor).—Feb. 8. Just as we were getting the pith and brains prepared, and seeing that the live bait were in good order, all our plans were upset by the rapid rise in the river, which is now in flood and still rising rapidly, and should the rain continue for the next two days nothing can prevent the river overflowing its banks, "not even the watchful eye of Mr. Stoneham and his floods committee." During the few days the water was in order good sport was had. Mr. Carey had several good shows of roach; Mr. W. Giles had a nice dish consisting of twenty-one fish on the 7th; Mr. Paice good perch, several over 1lb.; Mr. F. Sharratt, of Surly Hall Hotel, has been taking about three dozen roach each day after his mid-day repast; R. Gray had eight jack on the 5th; and on the same day Mr. T. Saunders, of Bray, had four in Surly Hall pool, the best fish turning the scale at 7½lb. I hear Lumsden left his favourite haunts at Datchet for a couple of days last week, and came up and sampled our water, and succeeded in taking back some good perch. James Bunce has had some good chub and roach with his patrons, and Franks, the obliging lock-keeper at Romney Lock, has creelred several jack during the short leisure time he has at his disposal.—CECIL HOWLETT.

Anchorage District.—There is not much coarse fishing going on. The Market Rasen Trout Club is progressing vigorously. They have three fine rearing ponds at Millingham, covering a total of about two and a half acres. The lower one contains two-year-old fish, the middle one yearlings, and in the top one they have this week turned out 10,000 fine trout fry. The fish already therein have done remarkably well. The bottom pond last year contained fish well up to 1½lb.—THOMAS FORD.

Arun (Pulborough).—Feb. 8.—Only a few anglers visited here on the 5th, who experienced a cold, wet day. Mr. Wigley, Bermondsey Bros., took 8lb. bream and roach; Mr. Woods, St. John's, 5lb. roach and dace; Mr. Brelsforth, Amicable Waltonians, a 2lb. roach; Mr. Salfeld, Silver Trout, a 3lb. 13oz. bream; Mr. R. Smith, same club, four bream, about 8lb.; Mr. Burt, ditto, two fair-sized roach. Since Sunday it has rained almost incessantly, and at the time of writing (Wednesday night) the river has already overflowed, and as the water is rapidly rising and still raining there will be another flood. I advise anglers not to visit here on the 12th, as bank fishing will not be possible. THURSDAY, NOON.—Almost incessant rain. Land under water for miles, and water still

rising. Fishing out of the question on the 12th.—W. G. HOLLMAN.

Cefni River (Anglesey).—To prevent disappointment, this river is not open till the 1st of March. After such a mild winter sport should be good in Anglesey.—W. H.

Dart (Totnes and District).—In conversation with one of the keepers I ascertained that in spite of the severe floods recently experienced the spawning (in the lower waters at any rate) has been fairly prolific. The fish have also spawned well in the Hems and Harbourne, two tributaries well patronised by anglers. Altogether there is every prospect of a good season, the run of fish having been greatly facilitated by the new passes which have been provided at Totnes and Buckfast by the conservators at great expense. Although last season's salmon fishing by rod and line was considered poor, yet, when compared with many other Devon streams, sport on the Dart seems to have been about the best obtained.—DEVONIAN.

Derwent (Malton, Yorks.).—The water still keeps running high and very thick, with no sign of improvement, as we have had a fall of snow. Two otters were seen sporting a few days ago close to the town, a good sign as to plenty of fish being about.—H. S. HARLAND. (Feb. 6.)

Devonshire Streams.—Although a good deal of damage has been done to the spawning beds by the heavy floods, yet reports from many rivers are more favourable than would have been anticipated. Fly fishing on some rivers opened last week, but the preserved portions of the Otter will not open until March 1. Fly fishing on the waters under the Up-Exe Association commences on Tuesday next; minnow and worm fishing opening on May 1 and June 15 respectively. No trout under 7in. are to be retained.—DEVONIAN.

East and West Cleddau (Fembrokeshire).—The salmon season (rod) opened on the 2nd of this month. We hear that a great many salmon went up the rivers during the recent heavy floods. No sport as yet. The forthcoming trout season should be good, owing to the mild winter we have had.—H.

Exe and Canal (Exeter).—The rainy period has again resumed its sway, rendering the rivers quite unfishable. Prior to this several pike of small size were killed, a catch of four (largest 5lb.) falling to the rod of Mr. A. J. Roberts, on Thursday last. Our anglers are now anticipating the opening of the trout season, which, on the two lower association waters, will be on Tuesday and Wednesday next week. Following a mild winter and tons of water a fair opening is confidently expected.—RED PALMER.

Fen District (South Lincs. and Cambs.).—Sport on the Fen waters was gradually on the wane owing to the deepening of the frost. On Saturday there was more talk of skating than fishing. Then came the snow of Monday and its thaw. Present appearances indicate work for the week-end. Up to the closing of the waters sport was fairly good, particularly among pike.—LIMPET.

Idle District (North Notts.).—The cold has had an effect on fishing on the Idle. Some anglers on the waters below Retford failed to raise a fish, and the snow this week will not improve the outlook. Some few dishes of grayling were obtained from the higher waters, whilst odd reports are to hand of roach and dace from the lower districts. Trout fishing opened on Thursday according to law, but it will be a month at least before anything is done worth recording.—L.

Lark (Lackford and Flempton).—The river is in good all round order, though only a few have been trying their luck, in consequence of the cold east winds prevailing all last week. Mr. W. G. King, out on the 2nd inst., killed five roach weighing 3lb.—A. E. KEMP.

Lake Corron (Bodorgan, Anglesey).—This lake opened on the 1st inst. for trout fishing, but the presence of ice kept anglers away. Now all traces of it having disappeared, good sport may be anticipated.—W. H.

Lugg and Arrow (Leominster).—Both these streams have been running out of order for some weeks, but had gone down and cleared at the end of last week, and there was a prospect of fishing being had until Saturday afternoon, when snow began to fall, and this was followed by falls of sleet and rain, and the snow was soon all rushed off the hills, and came down into the rivers, and they are now running high and muddy and bank full, and quite out of all order for fishing, and will be so for some time. The Pinsley is running high and muddy.—GWYNNE.

Lugg, Arrow, and Pinsley (Kingsland).—A little more than a fortnight since we had the highest flood recorded for forty-seven years. It was running down nicely, and just getting fishable, when on Sunday and Monday heavy snowstorms prevailed, followed on Tuesday by rain, the effect of which is that the rivers are now overflowing their banks, and at time of writing (6 p.m. Wednesday) they are still rising. This will settle the grayling fishing, and can only look forward to the trout, whose season commences March 2. Am much afraid that, owing to the long continued swollen state of the rivers, the fish will rot in as good condition as usual.—R. T. WILLIAMS.

Maelog Lake (Tycroes, Anglesey).—This lake and adjoining Crygyl river are now opened. I would strongly advise anglers to stick to minnow fishing rather than fly for a month. A Brown Devon tait is as good a killer as any pattern.—W. H.

Nene (Peterborough).—The pranks of the weather must be held responsible for a large share of the petty annoyances of our everyday life; but, of course, the disciples of Izaak Walton are prone against this kind of thing. However, their particular sport is interfered with to such a degree that they may very well be pardoned for now and then losing all patience. Since last week, when I was able to report an improvement in the river, matters

have again taken a backward course, and at the present time (Wednesday evening) the water is a foot higher than it was last week, with every likelihood of a further rise. Yet, notwithstanding this, I noticed two of our old anglers out in their boat this morning near Peterborough Bridge, and they were doing fair execution by landing some good specimens of roach.—E. A. S.

Ouse (Budleigh Salterton).—Trout fishing on the public water here, and on one or two reaches of private water higher up the river, opened on last Wednesday, the 2nd inst. The river was in good order for the fly, but there was a very sharp frost and bitter north-east wind, and consequently few anglers were out. A few fish moved in the warmest part of the day, about 1 p.m., and one rod took two brace. They were not in very good condition. The Ouse is certainly a very early river, but February is really too early to begin fishing. Since the opening day the sharp weather has quite disappeared, and heavy rains have fallen, and at present time of reporting (Wednesday, Feb. 8), the river is in flood.—HERON.

Ouse (Denver).—Angling in this locality has been of a very indifferent character since the autumn, the rodsters having been very few, and those far between; but the past snap of frost has apparently put them upon the warpath once again, several being out last week with very fair success; the pike running well in the Ten Mile river, where several decent fish were secured. There was a slight fall of snow on Saturday night, with some heavy rain since, particularly so on Wednesday morning. Notwithstanding this, the water appears to be in good condition, and those by the riverside, and in a position to do so, say that capital sport should now be forthcoming.—WATER WAGTAIL.

Plymouth.—We shall soon now have the commencement of the trout and salmon fishing, and we certainly cannot complain of a scarcity of water through the spawning season and winter, in fact, I am told that on some of the rivers the bed has been literally changed, so that we shall have to look for fresh fields and pastures new, instead of our old pools which we could almost find in the dark. Everything bids fair for a good season, although I have no fault to find with the last.—WILLIAM HEARDER.

Severn, Vyrnwy, Tanat, and Cain (Llanymynech).—Angling visitors in this neighbourhood have had a very bad time, owing to the floods and unpropitious state of the weather, which has been most unfavourable. Rain, hail, sleet, and snow have been in the ascendant, but it is somewhat comforting to know that a few days ago another pike was captured in the River Vyrnwy near Llanymynech which weighed 8lb., and more gratifying still to find that on being dissected there was found inside him another baby pike, 2lb. in weight, only partially digested. What cannibals pike must be.

Stour (Bures, Suffolk).—Sport has been very slow in this district during the past week, snow water being in the water no doubt being the chief cause. Several anglers were out on Feb. 8, but nearly all had blanks. A few roach up to 1lb. each have since been taken by local anglers, but fish are not in good biting humour. On Wednesday night we had a heavy fall of rain, and the river this morning (Thursday) is running thick and strong, and, whatever weather happens, will be running with plenty of colour on Feb. 12.—W. T. BAINBRIDGE.

Stour (Christchurch, Hants).—Mr. F. G. Lloyd, fishing Newlyn's subscription section, had the following sport with pike, catching on Feb. 3, 16lb., 14lb., 11lb., 11lb., 5lb., 4lb., 2lb.; and on Feb. 4, 2½lb., 16½lb., 14lb., 9lb., 5lb., 5lb., 4lb.—HENRY NEWLYN.

Sussex Rivers and Chichester Canal.—The sudden break up of the frost, with a heavy fall of rain, has quite upset rivers, which are now high and thick. A few small pike were taken from the Ouse early in the week in the Barcombe district, and a brace of 5lb. fish from the Fletching portion of the river. Sport before the break up of the frost was fairly good in the Rother. Two anglers from Brighton secured a brace of pike, weighing 5lb. and 4½lb. respectively, and some smaller fish averaging 3½lb., all taken with paternoster. A perch of 1½lb. was taken with worm. The Adur on the 5th was unfishable. The canal at Chichester was frozen over in parts at the end of the week, but the hope of skating was dispelled by the rapid thaw. A few pike have been secured with live bait, but nothing exceeding 4½lb. has come under my notice. The board of conservators of the Ouse have decided to spend the sum of £50 this year towards re-stocking the river. With the myriads of bream, perch, roach, and pike in Chichester Canal, a few could well be spared, and permission, doubtless, granted to net the water.—GEORGE F. SALTER.

Teign (Newton Abbot).—The Lower Teign Fishing Association and Mr. St. Maur, who owns a good deal of water, are, unfortunately, at cross purposes. The latter, in terminating the arrangement which has existed between himself and the association for an exchange of waters, wrote that he was tired of the methods of the association, and should retain the whole of his water for the future, or rent portions of it to private individuals, but never again to the association. He further stated that he had arranged to rent the fishing on a good deal of the river formerly held by the association. The result of a meeting of the association was that Mr. St. Maur has been informed that they considered he has been treated with every courtesy, and characterised his conduct, in renting water previously theirs as very unsportsmanlike. The association also denies the allegation that they have done nothing towards "clearing" the banks. It is now reported that Major-General Mackay-Heriot and Mr. J. Webster have withdrawn from the committee of the association in consequence of the undignified action in writing to Mr. St. Maur in such terms as that body did. The rod fishing report of the board of conservators shows that only nineteen salmon, averaging 10lb. each, were caught by rods last season.—B.

Teme (Ludlow).—The Teme in this district was running in fair order by the end of last week, and the weather showed signs of being suitable for anglers to get out; but on Saturday snow began to fall, and on Sunday and Monday rain, snow, and sleet fell at intervals, and the ground was covered to a depth of several inches. Rain fell on Tuesday, and in the night a very heavy fall of rain washed all the snow away, and caused the rivers to begin to rise, and they are now in a flood and bank full, and full of snow water, and there is not the least prospect of any sport for at least a week. Friday last was the first time the river was in any order for fishing, and an angler took a few roach, which have been the only fish landed in this district for weeks. The water is still rising, and is getting out over the fields. The Ony, Corve, Clun, and Ledwyche are all bank full and muddy, and are quite out of fishing order, no fishing being done in them for some time.—S. LUDLOW.

Teme (Tenbury).—The Teme in this part has been subject to several changes of late. Last week it was getting in fair order for fishing by Friday, but snow fell on Saturday evening and covered the ground, and on Sunday there was some rain and sleet, and rain has been had every day since, and the water is now running very high and muddy, and quite out of order for fishing, and there is a quantity of snow water in it, and it will be some days before there will be any prospect of any fishing, and little will be done before trout fishing begins.—WORCESTER.

Trent (Newark).—Down to Wednesday the Trent remained in good condition for bottom fishing, and some good roach, ranging up to 1lb. 5½oz., were shown at the Piscatorial Club-room, taken chiefly with the tail end of a dew worm, but a flush of Leicestershire water has again brought about a disappointment, and the present is one of the worst experienced for years. Previous to the change of water pike were taken, live-baiting; several from the Muskham and Holme lengths, though nothing heavy.—TRENTSIDER.

Usk and Tributaries (Senny Bridge).—Our trout season commences Feb. 15; at present there is every prospect of good sport this season again. The present floods will most likely take all the late spawning salmon back. The best flies for the beginning of the season are March Brown and Dark Blue.—D. POWELL.

Witham, &c. (Mid-Lincolnshire).—Reports from the Witham district have fallen off considerably of late. Little was done last week. Prior to the hard frost there was roaching on the Sincil Dyke for the Lincoln anglers between Bardney and Five Mile House. Some specimens up to 1lb. each were obtained. Snow will doubtless have affected the river, but better things are expected towards the week-end. Pike fishers had a pretty good time of it about Kirkstead and the lower lengths, and a specimen fish taken reached 10lb. or 11lb. A visitor, besides roach, caught two and a half brace (his best 11lb.). Other districts are very quiet.—LUCI.

Wye (Builth Wells).—Feb. 8.—Salmon fishing commenced on Feb. 2, but none have been caught yet, though there are many fresh run fish up. The spawning season was very good. The number of pike killed was over 230, from 1lb. to 13lb. in weight. River high with snow water; weather mild.—W. B. ROBERTS.

Yorkshire Rivers.—THE YORE, SWALE, WHARFE, NIDD, AIRE, OUSE, AND OTHER YORKSHIRE RIVERS kept in good trim for grayling, pike, roach, and other fishing up to yesterday, and sport continued very fair during the week-end, although ponds and lakes were coated with ice in many places and prevented some of our friends indulging in pike fishing; in some instances as many as fifteen degrees of frost were registered during the nights, but the temperature rose considerably in the daytime, making grayling fishing in the bright sunshine very enjoyable indeed. No fresh-water fish is so susceptible to atmospheric changes as the grayling, and an approaching storm caused a falling off in sport on Saturday; and Mr. J. Blades, fishing at Aysgarth and Askrigg on the Yore, did not make a dish up to his usual standard, and he found many of the pools icebound. Lower down the river was clear enough from ice, and I made a nice basket of grayling in the streams between Wensley and Middleham; at Danby the Rev. J. Murphey also met with fair sport. At Masham, on Friday, Mr. Dent caught twenty-three grayling, and Mr. Dalton fifteen, but the dish of the week was the one made by Mr. R. Fortune, of Harrogate, who, at Ripon, in two hours' angling, caught fourteen grayling weighing 12½lb., all were taken with the cockspur worm, on my practical Pennell Tackle. The best dish caught on the Wharfe to my knowledge is the one basketed by Mr. Pickersgill, who on Friday last had sixteen good grayling at Collingham. At Ilkley sport was not good on Saturday. Only meagre accounts of sport reach me from the Swale, the grayling fishing in the neighbourhood of Catterick being reported as moderate; this will apply to the Codbeck. Few anglers have been out on the Wike; and members of the Black Ox Club and others, fishing the main river in the neighbourhood of Morton Bridge, only return moderate takes in the way of roach fishing. Complaints are made of the depredations of otters in this neighbourhood, and anglers hope Mr. Wilkinson will again pay the Swale a visit with his pack of otter hounds when the season for hunting comes round again. Bottom fishing in the Derwent was fairly successful up to Saturday last, and a few pike were caught by spinning and live baiting. Nothing particular comes to hand from the Nidd up to closing this report; and the best takes of roach, &c., made in the Aire have fallen to anglers using bait and gentles. Sport last week, both in the upper part of the Ouse and lower stretch of the Yore, in the neighbourhood of Boroughbridge, is reported as good, anglers returning with a nice show of pike, not remarkable for size, but in

fine condition. The weather changed on Sunday, the north-east wind being bitterly cold. On Monday snow fell the whole of the day, and on Tuesday and Wednesday fogs and rain prevailed. Angling, therefore, this week, so far, has been practically nil, and this evening all our rivers are running high with thick snow water the colour of road scrapings.—J. E. MILLER, Northern Anglers' Depot, 19, New Station-street, Leeds.

By TELEGRAM.—The weather although moderating is still wild and showery, and all our rivers are bankfull this morning, and the water is very thick. It will be Monday, even if it keeps fine, before there is any chance of angling.—MIDDLEHAM.

SCOTCH REPORTS.

Deveron (Banffshire).—Anglers look forward to a most favourable season on the river Deveron, and that not only on the lower reaches of the river, but throughout its entire course. The circumstance is due to the recent removal of the cruipe dyke at the Rack on the Duke of Fife's section of the water, which, combined with the exceptionally mild nature of the winter season, has allowed most of the clean fish to ascend to the upper reaches, and there is no accumulation of fish in the lower pools, as was always the case before the removal of the dyke. The fact, of course, will reflect on the fortunes of the net fishing, but it is understood that when the change was made there was a modification of rental, so that the lessee is in very much the same position as before. Grilse were very scarce last summer, and the circumstance will probably react on the number of fish got during the first month. On the spawning beds fish were numerous, especially in the upper portions of the river, the number seen on the lower fords being somewhat fewer than usual. Fish are quite healthy, and few dead or diseased have been seen. The excellent angling prospects—the best for many years—seems to be a complete justification of the large expenditure in buying up the Duke of Fife's right of the cruipe. The net fishing on the river and along the coast will commence to-day (Saturday). Preparations are going on for the opening, and the lessee of the fishing has secured about 400 loads of ice.—H. W.

Loch Tay (Kenmore, Perthshire, N.B.).—On the hotel water, Feb. 1, Mr. H. Buchanan killed salmon, 16lb.; Mr. Knight, one salmon, 22lb. 2nd, Mrs. Knight, one salmon, 19lb. 3rd, Mr. Harry Tangye, Remoney, killed salmon, 19lb.; keeper, on the reserved water, killed salmon, 16lb.—W. KNIGHT.

Loch Tay (Killin, N.B.).—On Feb. 3 Mr. Sloan had a nice salmon, weighing 18lb.; Feb. 7, Mr. Timbrell, two fine salmon, weighing 14lb. and 20lb.; Feb. 8, Mr. Timbrell, one salmon, 18lb.—H. J. MAISEY.

Lyon (Fortingall).—Mr. Philip Geen, fishing from the Fortingall Hotel on Feb. 1, landed a beautiful salmon of 23lb.; on the 2nd, one, 20lb.; on the 3rd, one of 19lb. The river is now in good ply, and lots of salmon to be seen.—MACPHAIL.

North-East of Scotland.—To-day (Saturday) the bulk of Scotch salmon angling waters will be freed of the legal close time—some eighty odd rivers and streams. A few late streams will be some weeks later still. The Scotch netting stations are also open for the first time to-day, even where angling has already begun. The prospects of the opening are on the whole fairly hopeful, although they have often been much brighter. There has been a scarcity of fish on the east coast since the new year, but they are again showing signs of their presence, and with anything like open weather fairly good sport should be got during the opening weeks. Her Majesty the Queen will not in future include the north bank in her waters, having declined to renew her lease from the estate management of Invercauld, the rent having been advanced from £900 to £1500. She has still the Balmoral, Aberfeldie, and Birkhall waters on the south side. Mr. H. L. Crake has taken the private Invercauld waters, and will get good sport as the spring advances. Mr. Biistow will fish the Ballater waters for February and March, and Mr. Tyingham and Mr. Grauville the Cambus O'May waters, which they rented last year. Sir Wm. Brooks, Bart., has again let the Glentana waters for the early months, and Mr. Sandison is full up for the most of his Aboyne waters. Sir John Gladstone has taken the Woodend and Comonty section, in addition to the upper Blackhall, for the first two months; and Hon. W. A. Orde-Powlett, Yorkshire, and Mr. R. B. Wilson, Cornwall, have the run of the Blackhall Castle waters, which they are to fish right off from the start. Mr. and Mrs. Farley will be in at the opening on the Cairnton water. Mr. Davidson has let the Sluie section, and will fish his home beats of Inchmarlo along with Capt. Gaskell. Mr. Baird and party retain the Durris waters; while Mr. George Davidson, of Mellwood, will open the season on the Park water; Mr. Perry on the Drum; Sir Duff Gordon, on the Maryculter; Mr. Kinloch, on Altries; and Professor Cash, on the Kingcausie water. The prospects on the Don are better than has been the case for many years back, and a good few fresh fish are expected to be got about Kintore and Inverurie during opening weeks. Disease has been comparatively absent from the Dee during the close time. Anglers have been arriving by every train during the past week.—G. M.

South of Scotland.—A heavy fall of snow occurred on Monday over the south of Scotland. The wintry weather of last week, with ice-bound lochs, has now changed. To-day (Wednesday) the temperature is mild, and more like angling weather. The ice on the lochs is not yet melted, and it will be the end of the week or the beginning of the next week before it disappears. The melting of the snow on the hills has discoloured the rivers, and to-day they have a milky-looking colour. The salmon netting on the English side of the Solway opened on Friday (yesterday), 10th inst. The prospects are not very bright for the nets. On the Scotch side of

the channel the nets do not come into play before the 25th. On the latter date angling on the Border rivers will be open for the season.—HEATHERBELL.

Tay.—On Friday, Mr. R. Thomson, out from Fishers' Hotel, Pitlochry, landed two nice salmon of 13lb. and 19lb. On the same stretch Mr. Praed, on Saturday, killed one fish of 22lb. On Mr. Leaf's lower Delvine water, on Tuesday, the boatman had a fish of 16lb.; and on the upper water, on Wednesday, the same boat had another of 17lb.—A. M.

Tweed, Teviot, and other Border Rivers.—Weather prospects piscatorially in the Border district have during the past week been very unfavourable to the angler. We have had some days of very heavy rains, then clearing away to frost, hence again mingled with snow showers, and to-day (Wednesday), between 5 o'clock in the morning and 7, a perfect deluge of rain occurred. At 4 o'clock this afternoon, both the main rivers were flooded, the Teviot being mud red, while the Tweed was of a "snow broo" colour; and the Tweedometer at Kelso Bridge registered a flood of fully 2½ft. The conditions of the other Border rivers and tributaries are in much the same state. Since the opening of the rod angling season on the 1st inst., a few rods have been out, but up to the present time my reports only account for one baggot salmon having been landed on the Hendersyde water, which, of course, was at once returned to the river. Salmon anglers in the Border district seem, in the meantime, to think that the clean run fish which have come up the river with the recent floods have gone to the higher reaches, while those who are now making their way up from the sea have not as yet got to the middle casts, but there is yet time enough for a spring salmon to be caught, and there is "luck in leisure." On the whole, however, there does not seem to be a very great amount of clean spring salmon in the Tweed and Teviot as yet, but matters are bound to improve very shortly in this respect. Seeing how well the rivers in the middle and upper districts, as well as the tidal mouth, of the Tweed, have been preserved and looked after by Superintendent Smith, of the River Tweed Commissioners, and his officers and men, it is on all hands thought that the present salmon angling season will turn out a good one before its close. As to trout fishing, baskets have not been heavy during the past week, the average weight being just about from 2½lb. to 3½lb., although one dish of 8lb. was killed on Tweed; but this included three grayling weighing 2½lb., and one bull trout of 2½lb. Two or three of the pike fishers have been out here lately with the spoon bait, but their efforts resulted in coming home with a "clean creel." What trout were killed were, for the season, in capital condition, and should we now have a spell of good weather I am certain that large baskets will shortly be made. All the legal trout anglers are getting ready. They begin here when the net salmon fishing opens, 14th inst., they having observed a trout close time since the middle of October, and some from Nov. 1, although they could have been fishing all the year long. But it's always the same with them. Their shout is, "Get us a five months' close time for trout, and we won't at all grumble." Of course, there are others who would not for the world have any closetime at all, and snarl at those who uphold the preservation of the fish which, in season, give sport and food to hundreds.—MAXWHEEL.

IRISH REPORTS.

Bandon River (co. Cork).—This river does not open for salmon and trout fishing until the 15th inst. The water is most suitable for fish to pass up, and good sport should be had on the opening day. The outlook for trout anglers is most encouraging, as the river, especially near Innishannon, is reported splendidly stocked, and some of a very large size.—WILLIAM HAYNES AND SON.

Blackwater (co. Cork).—Fishing in this district opened on the 1st inst., but with the exception of the first two days the river has been in high flood, and very little sport has been had, nor can it be expected until the water settles down; a good run of fish are reported. Trout anglers on the Bride, Fanecheon, and other rivers, have had fair sport, but the fish are not yet in good condition.—WILLIAM HAYNES AND SON.

Boyne.—The season opens to-morrow, the 12th inst., and just now the prospects are very good. Mr. Fletcher has rented the lower Blackcastle water, and Mr. Ley the upper Blackcastle water. In the past season some 350,000 salmon ova were placed in Blackcastle hatchery, and the first batches have come out well, and over 10,000 trout ova have been hatched. A supply of *S. irideus* is also in the hatchery for experimental purposes.—J. A. B.

Bundrowes River (co. Donegal).—In consequence of a severe frost, which set in in this locality on 2nd inst. and continued to 5th inst., when a change took place, and some heavy snow and sleet showers fell, accompanied by a strong north-east wind, and intensely cold, no fishing of any note has been done since last report. At time of writing the weather is more settled looking, and prospects of sport better.—M. ROGAN AND SONS.

Caragh Lake.—The fishing has been rather disappointing this past week, very few spring salmon running. Major Corbett took nine white trout on the lower Caragh on the 2nd inst., and one and a half dozen on the 4th inst. The prospects for the coming week are better. The hatchery at the Southern Hotel is well stocked with salmon and trout ova this year.—G. C.

Cork Rivers.—Sport has been very poor on all the Cork rivers where angling has opened. The waters are in fair order, though high, and better sport is expected next week, as the weather is improving, though still unsettled.—T. J. D.

Corrib (Galway).—The season of 1899 opened on the Corrib on Wednesday, the 1st inst., in fairly favourable state of water and weather—the water being rather high

—but up to date very little has been done. Spring fish are dilatory in putting in an appearance. The past spawning season was pretty successful, and most of the kelts have gone seawards. This week the weather is moist and foggy.—J. A. B.

Kerry Rivers.—Sport continues dull on all the Kerry rivers open for angling in consequence of bad weather and thick and full waters. Salmon are reported fairly numerous on the majority of the rivers however, though they do not appear to be yet up in anything like big numbers anywhere.—T. J. D.

Killarney.—Sport has been poor on the Killarney waters, but the prospects are improving at time of writing, as the conditions are more favourable, though still far from being good.—T. J. D.

Lee (co. Cork).—Salmon and trout fishing in this district opened on the 1st inst. under rather unfavourable circumstances, the continued north-easterly wind of the previous three weeks having run the river down to almost summer level, and stopped the run of spring fish. However, the weather changed on the 4th inst., and since then the river has been in flood, and a magnificent lot of fish have been passing up. The entire river must be very well stocked, and when the river settles down into fishing order good records are sure to be made. The kelts are not all cleared out yet, in fact, they are most numerous. The following fish have been taken on Mashonaglass, rented by officers of 60th Rifles: Mr. W. H. Allgood, one, 20lb., on Ashton water; Col. Rooke, two, 18lb. and 15½lb., on Oak Grove water; Mr. G. M. Gevers, one, 11lb., on Farran water; Mr. Maurice Lyons, one, 14lb., on Castlelynch water; Mr. James O'Brien, two, 7½lb. and 16lb.; and Mr. John Sullivan, two, 7lb. and 9lb. On other portions of the river a few good fish were taken, including Mr. Ned Murphy, one, 10lb.; Mr. J. H. Gribble, one, 9lb.; Sergt. Grey, R.I.C., one, 7lb.; Mr. J. McAuliff, two, 7½lb. and 10lb.; R. Dunscombe, one, 10lb. The numerous trout anglers have been doing well, but the fish are not yet in good condition.—WILLIAM HAYNES AND SON.

Lough Currane (Waterville, co. Kerry).—Sport has been very bad since the opening on Feb. 1, only two salmon having been had up to time of writing, viz., one of 15lb., had on Feb. 2 by Mr. Smith, and another of 18lb., had on the 5th by the same gentleman, who fished with Tim McCarthy. The weather since the start has been unfavourable, and is getting worse at time of writing (Tuesday), so that the chances of sport are not improved. Spring salmon continue to come up in average numbers, as is evidenced by the numbers being got at the weir on the river.—T. J. D.

Lough Mask (Clonbur, co. Galway).—The spring fishing on Lough Mask and its tributaries began on Feb. 1. Local anglers are making nice baskets. One English gentleman here, Mr. Smith, of Worcestershire, caught a grand trout, turning the scale at 6lb. The year promises well on Lough Mask, as the rivers were well preserved during the spawning season.—J. A. J.

Moy, Loughs Conn and Cullen (Ballina, co. Mayo).—Heavy frost here for the most part of the week has prevented fish from rising to the fly. Mr. John Garvey, on 3rd, tried for few hours; hooked two kelts. Mr. J. H., on 4th, lost a spring fish after fifteen minutes' play. They have had some beauties at the salmon weirs, ranging from 12lb. to 20lb. Trout anglers on the lower part of the river are making good baskets.—PAT HEARNES.

Shannon and Lough Derg (Killaloe).—Mrs. R. Hope, of Maidenhead, whose grand exploits among the pike in the lake I recorded in last week's *Fishing Gazette*, has this week followed up her great success by killing the largest trout ever angled at Killaloe, so renowned for the size and beauty of both brown and gillaroo trout. Mrs. Hope's magnificent specimen was a genuine brown one, and thumped the scale down at 14lb. 1 Congratulation to the amiable lady on this great achievement. The fish is now in the hands of Mr. Williams, Naturalist, Dame-street, Dublin, for preservation, and will make a glorious addition to the two big pike which Mrs. and Mr. Hope killed here—20lb. and 26lb. respectively—and which, as I stated last week, have also been entrusted to the same gentleman for preservation. I should have mentioned in my last report the measurements of the 26lb. pike which Mr. Hope landed. Here they are: Length, 44½in.; girth, 21in.; length of head, 12in. The dimensions of Mrs. Hope's big trout are as follows: Length, 31½in.; girth, 17in.; width of tail, 8½in. During their three visits to Killaloe Mr. and Mrs. Hope very kindly entertained many of the inhabitants with their gramophone and splendid collection of over 100 records of songs, dances, recitations, solos, band pieces, &c. No spring salmon have yet been taken—water too high. The Rev. Mervyn Archdall, fishing my water on Saturday, landed a gorgeous brown and yellow trout of 6½lb.—S. J. HURLEY.

STOP PRESS.

WEATHER REPORT.

BY TELEGRAPH.—FRIDAY, FEB. 10, 9.57 A.M.

DEAL.—S.W.; moderate.
DOVER.—S.W.; moderate.
RAMSGATE.—S.W.; smooth.
MARGATE.—S.W.; smooth.
HASTINGS.—S.W.; moderate.

Mr. F. H. AMPHLETT telegraphs as we go to press that the Thames is again in flood. The water is exceedingly thick, and a very heavy stream is running. Prospects of sport look very poor.

SEA FISHING.

THE following table gives the nearest approximate tides for the use of sea anglers for the week ending Friday, Feb. 17. Spring tides. Highest on Sunday.

	Sat.	Sun.	Mon.	Tues.	Wed.	Th.	Fri.
	a.m.	a.m.	a.m.	a.m.	a.m.	a.m.	a.m.
Scarborough	4.41 5.3	5.24 6.4	6.4 7.4	6.44 7.4	7.25 8.31	8.8 9.20	8.65 9.20
Yarmouth	9.41 10.3	10.25 10.47	11.8 11.29	11.48 —	0.8 0.27	0.46 1.6	1.26 1.47
Lowestoft	10.23 10.45	11.7 11.29	11.50 —	0.11 0.31	0.50 1.9	1.28 1.48	2.7 2.29
Aldeburgh	11.12 11.34	11.56 —	0.18 0.39	1.0 1.20	1.39 1.58	2.17 2.37	2.57 3.18
Harwich	0.11 0.34	0.56 1.18	1.40 2.1	2.22 2.42	3.1 3.20	3.39 3.59	4.19 4.40
Southend, Sheerness, and Leigh	1.3 1.26	1.48 2.10	2.31 2.51	3.10 3.29	3.48 4.7	4.26 4.46	5.8 5.32
Margate, Broadstairs, & Ramsgate.	0.5 0.27	0.49 1.10	1.31 1.52	2.13 2.34	2.53 3.11	3.29 3.49	4.10 4.33
Deal and Dover...	11.43 —	0.7 0.30	0.53 1.15	1.36 1.56	2.16 2.36	2.56 3.16	3.57 4.0
Hastings	11.23 11.47	— 0.10	0.33 0.55	1.16 1.36	1.56 2.16	2.36 2.56	3.17 3.39
Eastbourne and Brighton	11.51 —	0.15 0.38	1.1 1.23	1.44 2.4	2.24 2.44	3.4 3.24	3.45 4.7
Newhaven	11.47 —	0.11 0.34	0.57 1.19	1.40 2.0	2.20 2.40	3.0 3.20	3.41 4.3
Shoreham and Southwick	11.43 —	0.8 0.32	1.23 1.40	2.1 2.21	2.41 3.1	3.21 3.41	4.2 4.24
Portsmouth and Hayling Island	— 0.16	0.39 1.2	1.24 1.45	2.5 2.24	3.2 3.1	3.21 3.41	4.2 4.24
Plymouth	6.30 6.54	7.17 7.38	7.58 8.17	8.36 8.55	9.12 9.28	9.45 10.3	10.23 10.44

Ballinskelligs.—On a few favourable days good sport was had at pollack near Horse Island, on the ocean side. Spring mackerel are now coming in, and should give good sport when the weather gets more favourable.—T. J. D.

Baltimore.—Sea angling has been suspended here since last report in consequence of strong winds and a generally rough sea.—T. J. D.

Darrynane.—On a couple of days fair sport was had at pollack and gurnard within the headlands, but at time of writing (Tuesday) angling is suspended owing to strong southerly winds.—T. J. D.

Deal (The Pier).—The few visitors on 5th inst. were Messrs. Handley, Preston, Gardner, Wood, Vaughan, and Croft Handley, and though the day was fairly fine, and the water much clearer than has lately obtained, yet their united efforts for the day only resulted in the capture of nine small fish, among them being a five-bearded rockling, which fell to the rod of Mr. Vaughan. Monday morning opened with a strong south-east wind, and not a single angler put in an appearance during the entire day. Mr. Bushnell and Mr. Cooper each fished for three or four hours on Tuesday, the former taking one small codling and the latter one pouting. The wind blew strong from the south-west, with heavy driving rain, on Wednesday, which caused the pier to remain vacant for the whole day. Angling prospects for the near future are anything but bright.—J. RICHARDSON, B.S.A.S.

Plymouth.—In this month dabs and flat fish are in their prime, and they continue so through March and April. There is a great difference in the appearance and taste of a dab, whether it is eaten in the above months or later on during the year; they spawn, as a rule, in May and June, and after that they become very flabby and tasteless. In this month also mackerel begin to make their appearance; in fact, they have come in so early this year that one of our boats last week lost a whole fleet of nets valued £100 through so many fish being meshed. The tremendous weight took the nets to the bottom and parted the warp. These nets, of course, will never be recovered. In addition to the nets being lost, there must be some tons of mackerel. Another of our boats, fishing for herrings, had shot several nights and scarcely made enough to find provisions for the crew; on Thursday night last they took so many in the nets that they also lost them by the weight of fish taking the net to bottom.—WILLIAM HEARDER (B.S.A.S.).

Southend and Leigh.—Feb. 8. There is not much to report here. Fish are scarce and shy, and but little success has rewarded the few anglers who have been out. Unsettled weather with rain is probable, and prospects for the week-end are not of the brightest. Barometer 29.55in., steady; wind S.W., light; sea moderate; weather clear.—CHARLES HUSSEY (B.S.A.S.).

Valentia.—Sport at pollack continues good though the weather conditions have been unfavourable. Mackerel are reported numerous already, and some of the mackerel fishing fleet are already assembling in the harbour.—T. J. D.

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Angling Fixtures.

February 12.

Allason United: Match at Langley.
Amicable Excelsiors: Match at Egham.
Anchor and Hope: Outing to Wraysbury.
Battersea Friendly: Lapsed prize outing.
Bermondsey Brothers: Prize outing.
Blackfriars: Outing to Datchet.
Bloomsbury Brothers: Match at Ware.
Brunswick Brothers: Outing to Ware.
Cambridge Heath Brothers: Consolation prize outing.
Crown and Buckland: Match at Bourne End.
Earlsfield: Outing to Byfleet.
Harcourt: Match at Shiplake.
Hearts of Oak: Lapsed prize outing.
Islington Brothers: Lapsed prize outing.
North-East Brothers: Outing to Shiplake.
Peckham Brothers: Match at Pulborough.
Phoenix: Match at Bourne End.
Prince Albert: Outing.
Seymour Brothers: Outing to Goring.
Stockwell: Match at Datchet.
Victoria Brothers: Outing to Bourne End.
Walthamstow Brothers: Prize outing.
West Ham Brothers: Outing to Hatfield Peverel.
Wimbledon Piscatorialists: Outing.
Ye Olde Clapham Rovers: Prize outing.

February 13.

Piscatorial Society: Reading by Mr. H. Brown.
West Ham Brothers: Visit.

February 14.

Golden Barbel: Roving match.
Good Intent: Annual dinner.
Gresham: Smoking concert.
Hoxton Brothers: A.B.S. concert.

February 16.

New Albion Piscatorialists: Lantern lecture.
Queen's: Visit.

Feb. 19.—Amicable Waltonians: Outing to Shiplake.
" 19.—Convivial: Outing to St. Margaret's.
" 19.—Drayton Park Piscatorialists: Outing.
" 19.—North London: Outing.
" 19.—St. Alban's: Roving match.
" 19.—St. John's: Outing to Shiplake.
" 19.—Stratford: Match at Hatfield Peverel.
" 19.—White Hart: Lapsed prize outing.
" 20.—Cambridge Heath Brothers: A.B.S. concert.
" 20.—Piscatorial Society: Smoking concert.
" 26.—Clapham Junction: Outing to Windsor.
" 26.—Coborn: Match at Henley.
" 26.—Elgin: Match at Henley.
" 26.—Lincoln: Outing to Sunbury.
" 26.—Silver Trout: Outing to Hertford.
" 28.—Peckham Brothers: Visit.
March 2.—Stockwell: Lantern lecture.
" 20.—Piscatorial Society: Annual dinner.
" 25.—Lychnobite: Preservation concert at the Champion Hotel.

Reports from Clubs

We beg to remind Secretaries that their Reports must reach us not later than **SIX o'clock on Thursday Evening**. Address "Editor, FISHING GAZETTE, St. Dunstan's House, Fetter-Lane, London," marked "CLUB REPORT" outside envelope.

Anglers' Association.—The monthly finance committee will meet on Monday evening next, Feb. 13, at 7.30, and the general committee at 8.30.—R. GHURNEY.

Anglers' Benevolent Society.—Since my last report I beg to acknowledge with thanks the receipt of £ [amount not stated in report] from the Islington Brothers' A.S. donation box.—R. GHURNEY.

Anglers' Association (No. 1 EASTERN DISTRICT) Visiting List.—The next return visit on the above will be to West Ham Brothers A.S., Coach and Horses, The Grove, Stratford, on Monday next, Feb. 13. I hope we shall have a good meeting.—G. MANNING.

Anglers' Association (No. 2 DISTRICT) Visiting List.—The return visit on 6th inst. was a great success, and a crowd of anglers and friends were present, including the veteran secretary (Mr. R. Ghurney) of the above. At 11 p.m. Mr. Wade called the roll, and thirty-three societies responded. Ben Abrahams also spoke re the A.B.S., and their A.B. box was well responded to. I will announce my next return visit later.—BEN.

Albion Brothers' Angling Society, Frampton Arms, Wells-street, Hackney.—On Feb. 5 several members were out for the remaining two prizes. Messrs. C. Osborne, good perch and fine roach; Jagot, sen., perch; Worsfold, perch; but were too late for weighing-in for prizes. On Feb. 8 it was decided to go where you like for the remaining two prizes. Another new member proposed. All members please note business of great importance on Feb. 15, which is quarterly night. Please don't fail to attend. Also note fish for special prizes must be at the clubhouse before ten o'clock.—C. J. KING.

Allason United Brothers' Angling Society, Duke of Sussex, Uxbridge-street, Notting Hill Gate, W.—At our last meeting we elected another working member, A. Campion, who offers 5s. worth of tackle for largest dace, any waters, S.O., P.S.O. Our pike match is off, there not being many who care to enter. I am awfully sorry, as I thought several were going to try for that big 20-pounder which is about the vicinity of Langley A.A. waters.—BEN ABRAHAMS.

Alma Angling Society, Coach and Horses, Portsmouth Place, Lincoln's Inn Fields.—On Feb. 5 the following weighed-in: Mr. Drew, roach, 4lb. 12oz.; Mr. Boothby, roach and perch, 3lb. 10z.; and Mr. Montgomery, roach. Mr. Drew, jun., showed two chub, heaviest fish 2lb. 6oz.—J. CHAMBERS.

Amicable Waltonian Angling Society, The Fox and French Horn, Clerkenwell Green.—The following weighed-in some good shows of fish: Shurey, roach; Hutchingson, roach; Lambarth, roach. Messrs. Millin and Hulme also had shows of roach. The next outing has been arranged to take place at Shiplake on the 19th, for six prizes. At our last meeting Mr. Drooker was proposed as a working member.—G. MERRY.

Anchor and Hope Angling Society, Duke of Kent, Old Kent-road, S.E.—Our match for the February prizes will take place at Wraysbury and Datchet on Feb. 12, when I hope all members will attend. A special meeting is called for Wednesday, Feb. 22, to consider supper and other business.—F. W. MARTIN.

Battersea Friendly Angling Society, Queen's Hotel, Queen's-road, Battersea, S.W.—In our roving match of the 5th inst. Mr. W. Hersant was the only successful member—taking 1st prize. The remaining prizes will be fished for on Feb. 12, same conditions. Mr. G. Mead had a capital take of chub and roach on the 5th inst.—A. JENKINS.

Bermondsey Brothers' Angling Society, Woolpack, Bermondsey-street, S.E.—On the 5th inst. Mr. J. Martin weighed-in 10lb. of roach from the Thames. The competition for the February series of prizes will take place on the 12th in the Thames, at Datchet; radius from Albert Bridge to end of lock cutting. Members not to leave London until the first train on the morning, and to return by the 5.5 p.m. from Datchet. The prizes are five in number.—ALF CONN.

Blackfriars Angling Society, Imperial Hotel, Southwark-street, S.E.—Several members were out on 5th; Mr. Merrygold, chub and roach; Mr. Wheelhouse, jack. We fish our February series of prizes at Datchet; starts, 8.15 Waterloo; return, 5.5 from Datchet. Start by signal from Albert Bridge to Bells, Ousley.—WHEELHOUSE.

Blackwater Angling Society, Welcome Sailor, Maldon.—We had a fishing competition on Jan. 22 and 29 (peg-down). Mr. W. Wiggins took a beautiful rod (presented by Mr. Dennis) as first prize; Mr. H. Cuthbe took second prize, and Mr. H. Howlett third prize. The members kindly presented the secretary with a nice table-lamp on his recent marriage. The secretary would be pleased to see a better muster at the fortnightly meetings.—J. J. YARKER.

Bloomsbury Brothers' Angling Society, Rose and Crown, Broad-street, Bloomsbury.—On Feb. 5 Mr. J. Taylor weighed-in jack, perch, roach, and dace, 8lb. 24oz., one jack weighing 5lb. 14oz.; Mr. F. S. Pavett, roach. The quarterly peg-down match takes place on Feb. 12 at Ware, when we fish for three prizes under the usual condition.—T. PATERMASTER.

Bomore Angling Society, The Britannia, Clarendon-road, Notting Hill, W.—Since my last report Messrs. J. Weeks, H. Dagworthy, and Mr. A. Lowe (a member of the Queen's, Latimer-road), out on the 4th, all had a splendid catch of roach and dace from Uxbridge. Members not in attendance last meeting night please notice change of clubhouse to the above. Trusting members will show up in great force next Tuesday, meeting night, as there is a lot of business to be got through.—H. DAGWORTHY.

Brunswick Brothers' Angling Society, Cherry Tree, Brunswick-road, Bromley-by-Bow, E.—Some of our members were out on Feb. 5. Messrs. Bissell and Kelley weighed-in roach. A prize outing to Ware is arranged for Feb. 12, when I trust all members who are able will compete.—F. RANDALL.

Cambridge Heath Brothers' Angling Society, The Good Intent, Mowlem-street, Bishop's-road, Cambridge Heath.—On Feb. 5 Messrs. Baines weighed-in roach; R. Hubbard, jack; Jao, jack; T. Benny, bream and roach. A consolation roving match takes place between Rye House Bridge and St. Margaret's Bridge, on Feb. 12, for those members who have not won a prize this season; start fishing at 9 a.m., cease fishing at 5 p.m.; show fish at Rye House Bridge not later than 5.45 p.m.; steward, H. Deverill; all to get out at Rye House on the morning. A smoking concert takes place at the above house on Feb. 20, on behalf of the Anglers' Benevolent Society; ladies invited, and all anglers and friends.—P. E. LOFT.

Central Angling Association (Liverpool), Original Prince of Wales Hotel, 13B, Moss-street.—On Feb. 2 a meeting of this association was held, with a good muster of members. The most important matter under discussion was the amount of levy that should be paid towards the Coarse Fishers' Defence Fund which is being raised by the Northern Anglers' Association. It was decided that each member pay a levy of 3d. for this purpose.—GEORGE W. HANN.

Collingwood Angling Society, The Lord Nelson, Nelson-square, Blackfriars-road, S.E.—Our match at Hampton Court on Jan. 25 resulted as follows: Mr. Ball, first, with perch; Mr. Beames, second, bream; Mr. Jarrett, third, perch. On Feb. 5 Messrs. Jarrett and Ball weighed-in bream and roach from the Thames. A vote of thanks was given to Mr. Ford, the retiring secretary, for the services he rendered the above society. Will members muster next Wednesday evening for important business.—W. H. STAFFORD.

Covent Garden Piscatorial Society, King's Arms, Long-acre, W.C.—On Feb. 2 Mr. Curtis had a good show of roach. On Feb. 5 Messrs. Cuthbe and Curtis weighed-in roach, dace, and perch.—W. MASSEY.

Clapham Junction Angling Society, The Clarence, Winstanley-road, Clapham Junction, S.W.—On Feb. 5 we

fished a competition at Cookham, when the following were successful in taking prizes: Messrs. Bowater and Ward. Our next day's outing will take place on Feb. 26, at Windsor, for six prizes. Boundary from Eton Bridge to boathouse (Surly Hall); train from Clapham Junction 8.27, return from Windsor 8.45. Any member losing the first train, and coming by the second, will be eligible to fish in same on reporting himself to one of the committee.—G. T. JAMESON.

Clerkenwell and District United Visiting List.—A successful visit was paid to the Royal George A.S. on Feb. 4, Mr. Holder in the chair, the following nineteen societies being well represented, viz.: Crown and Buckland, Eustonian, Amicable Waltonian, Bloomsbury, Alma, North London, Camden, Phoenix, Royal George, Mitre, Queen's Piscatorialists, Prince of Wales, Didden, Harcourt, Brompton, Islington Brothers, Original Clerkenwell, Sociable Brothers, and Westminster. The next visit will be to the Queen's Piscatorialists, at the Queen's Arms, Chapel-street, Marylebone-road.—F. CASTELL.

Glissold Angling Society, The Cricketers, Northwold-road, Stoke Newington, N.—On Feb. 5 another blank, but I hope to see a better result on the 12th. The date of our A.B.S. concert is unavoidably held over until the committee meet next week, as we intend to make it a success. Secretaries who have been notified please observe.—T. FAULKNER.

Cobden Angling Society, Kensal-road, W.—On the 5th the following weighed-in: E. Baxter, 21lb. roach; W. Walker, 6lb. roach and perch; E. Haddock, 6lb. roach; A. Howland, 5lb. 12oz. roach and perch, one perch 1lb. 74oz. and one 1lb. 64oz. On Feb. 26 a roving match will take place from Henley Bridge to Hambledon Lock; towing-path side only; to go down by the 9.3 from Westbourne Park, and return by the 8.10 from Henley; two rods; all fish to weigh; each member to catch his own live bait; to register names in saloon, and register fish not later than 7.15 sharp at Ye Lion, in Friday-street and Queen-street Corner.—T. TWYMAN.

Drayton Park Piscatorialists, Stanley Arms, Landseer-road, Holloway-road, N.—Concert very successful. Outing on the 19th.—GREG.

Dibdin Angling Society, St. Martin's Tavern, Pratt-street, N.W.—Wednesday's meeting; nothing of importance to communicate. All out on Feb. 12.—JOHN EDWARDS.

Eagle Angling Society, Red Lion, Tottenham.—On Feb. 6 Mr. W. Denton, sen., had a nice show of roach, best weighing 1lb. Mr. Denton, jun., had over 6lb. roach and dace, and some nice perch. Members are reminded that there are many prizes to be fished for by March 15.—W. J. PRICE.

Earlsfield Angling Society, Half-way House, Earlsfield, S.W.—Our outing on Feb. 5 resulted in the first prize only being taken. The attendance of members at the outing was very small. Mr. Fulton secured the major prize with two nice jack, weighing respectively 64lb. and 63lb. Messrs. Mathews and Hulbert had several runs, but did not succeed in landing a fish. The outing for the silver challenge cup has been arranged for Feb. 12, at Byfleet, Park Bridge to Wisley Bridge, all fish to weigh. Members leave Clapham Junction at 8.40 a.m. and return from Weybridge at 8.25 p.m.—A. S.

Elgin Angling Society, Blenheim Arms, Blenheim-crescent, Notting Hill, W.—Several of our members were out on Feb. 5. Messrs. Carroll, Wilson, and Ryell had a good show of roach and perch from the Thames, and Mr. Bayliss had three fine pike from the Welsh Harp. The concert in aid of the A.B.S. is fixed for Tuesday, Feb. 21, to commence at eight o'clock. The chair will be taken by Mr. J. Harris, and the vice-chair by Mr. B. Abrahams. I hope all angling friends will try and give us their support on this occasion. Our last match of the season will take place at Henley on Feb. 26. All members to go by first train from Westbourne Park.—G. KING.

Enterprise Angling Society, City Arms, High Cross-road, Tottenham.—The following members weighed-in on Feb. 7: Messrs. Harne, dace and roach, 3lb. 2oz. (one specimen dace 104oz.); Pheasey, dace, 1lb. 124oz. Other members were out, but had poor sport. We have decided to hold a return visit on Wednesday, March 1, at the above.—W. LEFEVRE.

Forest Piscatorial Society, Rose and Crown, Hoe-street, Walthamstow.—We were saved from a blank on Feb. 5 by Mr. G. Beaumont weighing-in two nice roach.—H. TISLEY.

Good Intent Angling Society, The Crown, Church-street, Shoreditch.—Our members fished for eight prizes on the 5th inst., at St. Margaret's. They were all taken, Mr. T. Hanson being first. Our snapper takes place on Tuesday next, the 14th inst. Mr. J. Williams will be chairman; Mr. A. Coker, vice. Our caterer will be Mr. Mignot, of Hackney.—R. MURPHY.

Harcourt Angling Society, Harcourt Arms, Harcourt-street, Marylebone.—We had a nice show of roach on Feb. 5, one member weighing-in 15lb. 74oz. I must remind the members that outing takes place on Feb. 12 at Shiplake, when I hope to see them all.—A. E. PAYNE.

Hearts of Oak Angling Society, Ye Olde Crown, Brick-lane, Bethnal Green, E.—At our outing to Ware only one prize was taken (by Mr. Smith). We fish for the remaining prizes (roaming) from Rye House to St. Margaret's Lock, commence fishing on arrival of first train, show fish at Rye House not later than 6.30, all to get out at Rye House in the morning.—C. SMITH.

Highbury Angling Society, Globe Hotel, Upper Tollington-road, N.—Our outing to Sandy is fixed for Feb. 19; dine at the Greyhound 4.30 after fishing; will members intending to go down overnight please let me

know at latest by next Wednesday. Not much has been done this week, Mr. Saunders having two jack, largest 7½lb.; Mr. West, roach and perch; and myself, jack, roach, and perch, largest of the latter 11b. 7½oz.—E. W.

Hoxton Brothers' Angling Society, Spread Eagle, Kingsland-road, Shoreditch.—On Feb. 5 Mr. H. Bailey saved us from a blank with jack. On Feb. 14 we hold a grand smoking concert in aid of the A.B.S. Our president, Mr. G. H. Wood, will occupy the chair, supported by several well-known anglers. As our last series of concerts were such a success, I have been asked if this is to be a ladies' night; anglers please note this is only a smoker, our next will be the ladies' turn.—JOHNNY.

Islington Brothers' Angling Society, Myddleton Arms, Canonbury-road.—Our match at Cookham was not a success. Only five of our members turned up. The result was a blank. The only members weighing in were Mr. Holden, roach; and Mr. Burwash, roach. The prizes will be fished for on Feb. 12 at the same place; 8.40 train from Paddington. I hope to see a good muster, and that we shall be more successful.—J. H. HERBERT.

Isaak Walton Angling Society, Old King John's Head, Mansfield-street, Kingsland-road.—Only two of the three prizes competed for on Feb. 5 were taken, Messrs. Martin and Hayward being the winners, and only one of the three "specials" competed for on Wednesday last was secured. Some interesting business will be placed before the meeting on Wednesday next, when I hope there will be a good muster.—H. B.

Jolly Butchers Angling Society, George the Fourth, Walnut Tree-walk, Lambeth, S.E.—Our match took place at Sunbury on Feb. 5—Jolly Butchers versus Wellington Angling Society—when the Jolly Butchers were the victors by 10z., nearly all competitors having fish. We heartily thank Mr. Wilson for acting as steward on this occasion, also in the way he carried out the same, giving utmost satisfaction to both sides.—G. EDWARDS.

Jubilee Angling Society, Prince Arthur, Golborne-road, North Kensington.—Since my last report we have had two shows of fish weighed in by Messrs. Bence and Harris. I hope members will try and attend next meeting night.—G. BENCE.

Junior Piscatorial Society, Rosemary Branch, Lewisham High Road, S.E.—Owing to the very unpropitious weather on Feb. 5 very few members took part in the competition, which resulted in one fish being taken. Under the change of proprietorship we are coming forth as the lion from his den, with leaps and bounds; four new members being proposed last Thursday.—J. R. F.

Lincoln Angling Society, Metropolitan, Winchester-street, Pentonville.—On Feb. 5 Mr. Biggs saved the club from a blank with a few roach. I must request members in arrears to turn up next week to make themselves eligible for our outing on the 26th, at Sunbury.—W. WATLING.

Liverpool Angling Association, Bee Hotel, Queen-square.—Several members fished the Dee on the 2nd, but although the river had run down to almost its normal level the sport obtained was very poor, only a few small fish being obtained. The heavy fall of snow on Saturday last, and again on Monday, would spoil river-fishing for some days, and we must wait until the snow-broth has disappeared before fish will freely feed again. A couple of members quietly dropped off to the Vyrnwy on Friday evening last, to try for pike the next day, but I have not heard how they got on, though I should imagine not as well as they did the previous week-end. Trout-fishers should now be preparing for their campaign, as there are a good few streams open, and the relative merits of Match Brown, Blue Dun, Red Spinner, &c., as best killers, can be put to the test once more. A competition is arranged to take place in the Dee on the 16th, and one of the prizes is a silver-mounted fly rod, presented by that far-famed Isaac Waltonite, Mr. H. Wood, who also gives another prize on this occasion. Good old Harry, he is always about, and is a very useful man for any angler to make a friend of. One of the two members who went to the Vyrnwy writes: "Have had another week-end with the pike at Llanymynech—this time with small success—the river being very low and gin clear, and, I fancy, impregnated with snow water; managed, however, to bag four fish weighing in the aggregate 20lb., the largest turning the scale at 7lb. Heavy snowstorm put a stop to further operations, and I should say the stream will not be in good order for fishing again for at least another week.—R. D. WOOLFALL.

Liverpool East End Angling Association, Court House Hotel, Commutation Row.—Angling in this district remains very quiet, only a couple of anglers turning out, who have reported that the Dee is dead off. This is generally one of the best months for that river, but if the present weather continues good sport may be expected during the following week. A matter which is causing great interest, and which is a item which should be understood, is how long has the Provincial Angling Association had a centre in Liverpool? This question has caused proof to be obtained, and which is now in the hands of the representative of the centre, that the centre was established in the year 1837.—JAMES REYNOLDS.

Maldon and Meybridge Angling Society, White Lion Inn, Heybridge, Maldon, Essex.—The competition for the cup given by Mr. Ben Lees, of the Brunswick A.S., was finished on Saturday last, and Mr. S. Vince was the winner with 6lb. 10½oz. of roach, and T. Springett second with 3lb. 13oz. of roach. During the past fortnight very few fish have been taken. The Langford waters have been disappointing, owing to the cold winds. Anglers have had a few fish from the tidal waters at Beeleigh. One angler secured a sea trout; on the 5th inst. some dace were taken. At the time of writing there is a better prospect of sport. The weather being much milder and the water a bit coloured, should be suitable for roach fishing. The time of high water at Beeleigh on the 12th

inst. will be at 2.8 p.m., suitable for afternoon fishing. Anglers may fish the Langford waters at 1s. per day or 3s. up to the end of March. Tickets may be obtained from F. Keen, 26, Spital-road, Maldon, Essex.—F. KEEN.

Mildmay Angling Society, Clarendon Hotel, Mildmay Park, N.—The fourteenth annual dinner of this society was held at the Clarendon Hotel, Newington Green, on Tuesday last, when close on forty members and friends sat down to an excellent repast admirably put on by Mrs. Courtin, the hostess. The chair was occupied by Mr. J. A. Strachan (president); vice-chairman, Mr. Harold W. Lane; these gentlemen being well supported by several well-known people in the angling world, notably Messrs. J. Starkey, A. Howes, Capt. Payne (Dobb's Weir), T. Wigginton, J. Hobinstock, A. R. Matthews, &c. A short interval after dinner was occupied by the company in inspecting the many fine specimens of fish which adorn the club-room, after which harmony reigned supreme until the wee small hours of the morning. Amongst those who assisted at the really excellent concert were Messrs. Ernest Skerten, E. Banks, Percy Bell, H. W. Lane, Fred Wilson, Prof. Crannis (ventriloquist), J. Wells Wood, J. Trieber, W. Goodwins, &c. Accompanist, Mr. Albert Jordan; musical director, Mr. H. Biddlecombe.

North-East Brothers' Angling Society, Star and Garter, Green-street.—Outing to Shiplake on Feb. 12; all to start by the nine o'clock train from Paddington; all fish to be Thames measurement, and fish from bank only. A fishing rod will also be added to prizes for most weight of fish during match.—A. LEWIS.

North London Angling Society, Tap House, Holloway-road.—On Feb. 5 the members fished for six prizes at Ware, only one prize being taken, by Mr. Hayes, with roach. The remaining prizes will be fished for on the 19th. Conditions to be arranged next meeting, when I hope to see all members present to settle the same.—H. STRETCH.

Original Alexandra Angling Society, The Lamb, Three Colts-lane, opposite Bethnal Green Junction.—On Feb. 5 we had a fair show of fish from the Lea. Seven prizes were fished for and won as follows: Messrs. S. Dulieu, first with one jack, 11lb.; A. Birch, second, one jack, 3½lb.; G. Barrs, third, jack and dace, winning two prizes; J. Franks, fourth, perch; S. Orrow, fifth, roach, winning two prizes. Messrs. Page also weighed in one jack, 9½lb.; W. Madgett, one jack, 4½lb.; D. Seal, perch; R. Brockett, perch. Our annual supper took place at the clubhouse on Feb. 7, thirty members and friends partaking of an excellent repast, provided by Mr. J. H. Bennett, 81, Finsis-street, Bethnal Green. The cloth removed, the remaining part of the evening was spent in harmony and booking prizes for the coming season, the latter being well responded to. Twelve o'clock brought a very enjoyable evening to a close.—E. BROCKETT.

Original Clerkenwell Piscatorial Society, Sutton Arms, Great Sutton-street, Goswell-road.—Our visit on Feb. 6 was a decided success, thirty-three clubs being represented, chair being taken by Mr. Bouffier; faced by Mr. Harvie, vice. Messrs. Stretch, Mike O'Leary, Hilton, James Roberts (cornet soloist), Owen, Fennell, and a host of others kindly supplied the harmony of the evening. Mr. Ben Abrahams made a few remarks on behalf of the A.B.S., and Mr. Wade gave the members of the club some good advice, and also stated that the next visit goes to Peckham Brothers on the 5th. Messrs. Widmer and Hunt had roach and jack, winning the remaining prizes.—A. HILL.

Ormonde Angling Society, Royal George, Carlisle-street, Westminster-road.—In our prize outing on Feb. 5, at King's Langley, the following proved successful: Mr. W. Lawrence, first prize; Mr. W. Turner, second prize. Will members kindly attend on Wednesday, Feb. 15, to decide outstanding prizes.—A. H.

Peckham Brothers' Angling Society, Windsor Castle, Cator-street, Sumner-road, Peckham, S.E.—The return visit on the Central and S.L.U.V. Lists comes to the above club on Feb. 28. It being the first visit we have received from the Central List, I trust the clubs will rally round and give us a bumper on that occasion. Our next match takes place at Pulborough on Feb. 12. Mr. Childs had 12lb. of splendid roach on Feb. 5.—GEO. ETHERINGTON.

Phoenix Angling Society, The Tavistock, Stibington-street, N.W.—On Feb. 5, Messrs. Austin and Bouffier, had roach and perch from the Thames. Members are requested to catch the first train, on Feb. 12, to Bourne End, as a saloon has been engaged. Three prizes, bank only, one rod, all to go down on the morning, no entraining.—R. C.

Prince of Wales' Angling Society, Windsor Castle, Church-street, Edgware-road.—There was a capital show of roach, perch and jack contributed by Mr. Robins, Whitford, Clist and Haynes; Mr. Whitford having amongst his take 16lb. of perch. Members are requested to show up early on Monday next for important business.—W. B.

Queen's Piscatorials, Queen's Arms, 1A, Chapel-street, Edgware-road, N.W.—On the 5th inst. only a few members weighed in. Will members please make an appearance on Tuesday next to consider outing before the season is over.—GEO. KEENE.

Royal George Angling Society, Queen's Arms, Bateman-street.—On Feb. 5 the following returned with fish: Messrs. Webber, Pope, and Burrell, each gentleman showing an excellent tray of fish. On 2nd Feb. we took a visit on the C. & D.V. List, and it proved an unqualified success, nineteen clubs being represented. The following artists appeared on the occasion: Messrs. Steptoe, King, Desmond, Bean, Chambers, Heckit, and Frankling. I wish to thank all clubs for their attendance at our last visit.—J. GIBBONS.

St. John's Angling Society, The Empress, St. John-street-road, Clerkenwell.—We have arranged an outing to Shiplake on Feb. 19, for four prizes. There is also a special prize for the gross weight of roach for the month. Full particulars at clubhouse.—F. THORLING.

Stockwell Angling Society, Old Queen's Head, Stockwell-road.—In the event of flooded banks, our match at Datchet will again have to be postponed to Feb. 19. Same train, 9.44 Vauxhall. Mr. W. J. Wade (Central Association London Angling Clubs) has kindly consented to give a lantern lecture in our club-room on Thursday, March 2, entitled, "Fishing and Holiday Trips by the South-Eastern Railway," in aid of the T.A.P.S. Anglers and their friends will receive a cordial welcome.—THOS. LUCAS.

Stratford Angling Society, Dorset Arms, Leyton-road, Stratford New Town, E.—We fish a match at Hatfield and Peverel on Feb. 19. All to leave Stratford on the morning. Conditions to be the same as last match at Ware. Cease fishing at five o'clock, and dine at Sportsman at 5.30 p.m. On 5th, Mr. T. Sandilands saved the club a blank with a bream, 3lb. 8oz.—G. F. WEAVER.

Sundial Angling Society, Plough and Harrow, King-street, Hammersmith.—Our outing with the Brompton was a success, although the weather was cold. All the prizes were taken, viz., sweepstakes. First, Mr. Quilter; second, Mr. E. Briggs; third, Mr. Hare. Private prizes were taken by Messrs. Quinn, Quilter, F. Briggs, E. Briggs, and Halt. Club prizes for Sundial members, Mr. Quilter, first; Mr. Hare, second; Mr. Halt, third; Mr. F. C. Gerrard, fourth; Mr. Lock, fifth. The gross weight for the sides were: Brompton, 12lb. 14oz.; Sundial, 10lb. 12oz. Members are requested to attend next meeting, as there is very important business, also to arrange for the next outing.—G. E. LOCK.

Twickenham Piscatorial Society.—An adjourned meeting of this society was held at the headquarters, the Black Dog, London-road, on Tuesday evening last, for the purpose of electing officers, formulating rules, &c., and enrolling members, which was presided over by Mr. George Barrow, and there was a good attendance. Mr. Garwood was elected treasurer, and Mr. John Marsh Brougham as hon. secretary. A committee of seven members was also formed, with power to add to their number. The hon. secretary was requested to draw up the rules, and submit them at the next meeting. A sportsmanlike standard of the sizes of fish to be weighed in was adopted, the perch and roach being 9in.; jack, 22in.; and Thames trout, 17in. Nearly forty members were enrolled, and it was agreed to affiliate the society to the Central Association of London Angling Clubs.

United Brothers Angling Society, Druid's Head Tavern, Deptford.—Several members were out on Feb. 5. Mr. J. Payne, roach (best fish 11b. 5½lb), and Mr. J. Oakley, roach. Other members were out, but returned with blanks.—H. TYLER.

Waggoners' Angling Society, White Lion, Albert Embankment.—We fished a match on Feb. 5 at Datchet, with the following result: Messrs. Allen, club and dace, first; J. Clayton, roach and dace, second; Clegg, roach and dace, third; J. Clayton, jun., dace, 4th. Our usual weekly meeting took place on Tuesday last, but was poorly attended. I have some special business to bring before the club on Tuesday next; all members are requested to attend.—H. C.

Walham Green and Chelsea Angling Society, Black Bull, Fulham-road, S.W.—Our snapper outing on the 5th inst. was a complete success. Fishing ceased at 5.30 p.m., after which we adjourned to the White Hart, Cookham, where Mr. Cocking very ably supplied us with a good leg of mutton supper, to which our members did ample justice. He also promised us a prize for some future outing. Mr. Templeman was first with a fine show of perch, 7lb. 4oz.; Mr. Glass, second, with roach and dace, 4lb. 3½oz.; Mr. Haydon, third, with 4lb. 1½oz. roach and dace.—W. H. BATCH.

Walthamstow Brothers' Angling Society, Essex Arms, Forest-road, Walthamstow.—On Feb. 5 Mr. Moore weighed in a nice jack, 5lb. 6oz.; Mr. Ecott, jack, 4lb.; Messrs. Knight, Skelsey, and Thompson, perch. On Feb. 12 we have an outing to St. Margaret's.—H. WIGG.

Warrington Anglers' Association, Roebuck Hotel, Bridge-street.—A meeting of the committee of the above association was held on Feb. 2 at the headquarters. Nine new members were accepted. A very fine roach, scaling 2lb. 4ozs. 6dr., was caught by one of our members, Mr. N. Hamblett, on Feb. 5, whilst fishing in the River Gowy at Mickle Trafford. On its being shown to our chairman, Mr. J. Lyon W. Little, he had it at once forwarded to Manchester in order that it might be set up. It will, in all probability, eventually be placed in the local museum.—FRED J. EMSON.

West Ham Brothers Angling Society, Coach and Horses, The Grove, Stratford.—Our members were out on Feb. 5, but sport was very bad, for Mr. W. Burling was the only member that weighed in fish, saving us from a blank. I hope our members will not forget our match on Feb. 12, at Hatfield Peverel; all to go down by the first train that leaves Stratford at 7.35 a.m.; and I hope all clubs on the No. 1 Eastern District Visiting List will not forget our visit that takes place at the above house on Monday, Feb. 13, at 8 p.m. sharp.—R. LOWTHER.

West London Angling Club, Dartmouth Castle, Hammersmith.—The members of this club had a large attendance at their social supper on the 2nd inst. Covers were laid for fifty and with their friends sat down to a capital repast, provided by their host Mr. Dean. The president, Mr. W. H. Elsmore occupied the chair and Mr. C. J. Carter the vice chair, both gentlemen doing their duty in a very able manner. Mr. Carter weighed in 5lb. 7oz. of dace, taking second prize in the match, and Mr. Martin, 3lb. 12oz. taking third prize. Mr. Elsmore

also weighed in 3lb. 6oz. The fish were displayed on the supper table. A long musical programme was got through with the assistance of the company present, and Mr. Martin with his friends contributed towards the evening's amusement, by selections with their string band. Mr. Cox, jun., weighed in for the match on Feb. 5, 4lb. 5oz., taking third prize. Mr. Peart, 1lb. 15oz. taking sixth prize, and Mr. Warrington also weighed in 1lb. 1oz.—J. J. HUNTER.

Westminster Angling Society. The Telegraph, Regency-street, S.W.—On Feb. 5, Mr. Eccarius weighed in roach, largest 1lb. 2oz. On Wednesday Mr. Robinson weighed in roach and Perch.—S.H.

White Hart Angling Society. The Volunteer, Chesnut-road, Tottenham.—On Feb. 5 a few members were out. Mr. Butler saving us from a blank, with a good show of roach. Will members please note we fish for three prizes on the 12th, the same not being taken on the 5th?—W. E. BEAUMONT.

Wimbledon Piscatorialists, 28, Alexandra-road, Wimbledon.—The usual fortnightly outing will take place on the 12th inst. on cluh water; usual prizes, train, and conditions.—HON. SEC.

Ye Olde Clapham Rovers' Angling Club, The Windmill, Clapham Park-road.—Having completed our arrangements for the end of the season, after having some good meetings, we intend having a prize outing to Woking (8.40 from Clapham Junction) on the 12th for three prizes, when we hope all members that can will compete.—N. LINDEN.

Toffings by the Way.

THE Fly Fishers' Club annual dinner on Wednesday evening at the Hotel Cecil was a record one. Under the chairmanship of that well known sportsman, Sir Samuel Montagu, Bart., M.P., and the vice-chairmen, W. Senior, R. B. Marston, H. F. Norris, Basil Field, and F. M. Halford, the function passed off in the most delightful manner. A good dinner, excellently served; good wines and cigars; speeches such as only anglers indulge in—full of anecdote and business. A programme of music provided by that well known angling tenor, Dalgely Henderson, was a feast for the gods. I am not a fly fisher, but I wish the Fly Fishers had two dinners a year instead of one, and that my chief would invite me, as he has done for years past.

THE honorary secretary, Mr. T. Bowater Vernon, is to be congratulated (as also are the entertainment committee) for the really admirable manner in which the whole of the arrangements for such a grand dinner had been carried out. The programme was an illustrated eight-pager. Elsewhere will be found what the dinner consisted of. The horse's doovers, as my little girl calls it, was just in my particular line (huitres)—oysters I call them. (Ask Dr. Patterson and Mr. J. W. Zaehnsdorf how many we can "arrange for" at Craig's!) I was to have dined at Cardiff on the same evening, but my doctor would not allow me to travel so far during this changeable weather. I hope they enjoyed themselves at Cardiff as much as I did at the Cecil. The motto on the first page of the F. F. programme was "By this rose maketh money—only contentment." Like Sir Samuel, I made no money—and spent none—and was more than content.

THIS arrived on Thursday afternoon, and was sent by "Ben" Abrahams: "Dear 'Dragnet,' are you going to favour us with your presence at our A.B.S. dinner to-night? Never mind your evening suit or long-sleeved hat. I know you are busy, but come and have a jolly good feed—soup, chickens, jellies, &c., &c. Come on your bike or motor, anyhow you like, but come." Thanks, "Ben" and Co., but I never go out on Thursdays; besides, did I not have a good dinner on Wednesday evening at the Cecil? Surely one good dinner a week is sufficient for any honest angler?

THAT go ahead, up-to-date corporation, the Great Eastern Railway Company, has issued a little book, entitled, "Marsh Leaves from the Norfolk Broad Land." It is written by P. H. Emerson, and, like all the other works which have come from the pen of that genial artist, sportsman, and litterateur, shows the keen observance of men and things for which Dr. Emerson is famous. It contains a series of short articles on country life and manners, and is just the book to read on the way to the "breamy Broads," or anywhere else for that matter. Its moderate price (gratis on application at Liverpool-street) places this altogether charming book within the reach of the most modest purse.

WHEN I first read this book I must confess that I was not altogether pleased at the thought of how much it will popularise the dear old Broad land, that every one who has been there loves so well. But after all, such a thought is a selfish and unworthy one, and why should we not desire to share our pleasures with others, even if we do not always give away our best swims? So I hope that the G.E.R. will reap all the benefit that their enterprising policy undoubtedly deserves, and if we find the Broads more popular and crowded year by year, as they assuredly will, we must put up with it and rejoice that others as well as ourselves can, owing to *fin de siècle* enterprise enjoy that sweet piece of "nature unadorned."

Mr. Cecil Howlett writes: "Mr. Bob Plummer, of Monkey Island, is, like his late father, a keen observer in

all matters where the interest of anglers is concerned, and he informs me that in several places he has noticed perch spawn deposited on the boughs at this early period. It is therefore to be hoped, in the interest of all, that anglers taking any of this class of fish will at once return them, and thereby help the preservation societies to carry out their desire to get a good stock of these fish in the river again. One of our greatest enemies is the dab, which has increased in large numbers during the past few years. 'Boh' succeeded in catching two of these sinners in his landing net last week, one of which he has still alive on the island."

Mr. JOHN BICKERDYKE has just completed a romance entitled "The Passing of Prince Rozan." It is to a certain extent a story of the sea, and will have some interest for yachtsmen, but the author has utilised some of the revelations in recent bankruptcy proceedings. It will be published in New York by Messrs. Putnam's Sons, and in London by Mr. Thomas Burleigh.

A BOHEMIAN Concert will be held at the home of the Gresham anglers, Masons' Tavern, Masons'-hall-court, on Tuesday evening next, Feb. 14. Mr. Gray has the programme in hand, and some first-rate talent will be provided. Ladies are specially invited. A most enjoyable evening may be looked forward to.

WELSH anglers will learn with delight that Mr. R. J. Edwards, North and South Wales Bank, Holyhead, the champion angler of the island, has been appointed on the Commission of Peace at the recommendation of the Lord Lieutenant. Mr. Edwards is to be complimented on acquiring the deserved dignity, and I feel sure "that wce betide" the Alaw salmon poachers who may appear before him.

Mr. J. T. HANCOCK writes: "On Saturday last, Feb. 4, Mr. J. Hales caught a pike at Ponders End weighing 13lb. 1½oz.; 37in. long (extreme length), girth 17in. The weight was checked by Mr. F. Homer, of Forest Gate, who is setting the fish up."

THAT interesting little monthly, "The Word on the Waters," is to hand, and from it is culled the following: "Mr. John Carstairs, skipper of the fishing boat *Providence*, writes to *The Scarborough Post*: 'For myself, and on behalf of all the Scotch fishermen frequenting the port of Scarborough, I desire to publicly thank all who have in any way contributed to the maintenance of the Seamen's Institute. This year it has been the means of keeping many from spending their hard-earned money in the public-house. The facilities given at the institute for writing, reading, &c., have brought cheer and comfort to homes in Scotland, and have kept a home influence round young and old which no one can calculate the benefit of. We desire also to thank Mr. Tinley and all those associated with him in the management of the Seamen's Institute. We feel that nothing could exceed the kindness, courtesy, and attention they have given to the strange fishermen. We desire also to thank all those who have contributed to the Saturday night entertainments.'"

"A FEW days ago," says my friend the editor of *Scraps*, "I ran across an old 'salt' who ought to be on the staff of a fishing paper instead of portering down at Billingsgate, as he now is. Judging by his profound knowledge of the habits and customs of the finny occupants of the 'deep blue sea,' I fancy the old fellow must be a modern edition of Neptune himself. He told me lots of things which made me raise my eyebrows, but which, of course, demanded that full measure of belief and faith which it is the inalienable privilege of every fisherman to expect. For instance, he assured me on his solemn oath—as a fisherman—that pollack actually use parasols to protect their delicate complexions from the hot summer sun. He didn't go so far as to say that Messrs. Cod and Haddock ran a submarine 'Swan and Edgar' establishment, but that's a mere trifling detail of no importance. The salient fact remains, and that is, that certain fish use parasols."

"I AM not going to disgrace the whole finny society of the coast, however, for it is only one branch of a very sensible and hard-working family that puts on such airs, but even among the pollack this parasol craze is merely a childhood affliction. Moreover, it's most likely only the young ladies of the tribe that affect it, and when they grow older and more sensible they drop the nonsense, and divide their attentions between food-hunting and hook-dodging. Whether they like to lie near the top in shoal water, and the heat of the sun hurts them; or whether they are infected with the passion of the seaside holiday girl, who has a penchant for waving multi-coloured sunshades, I do not profess to say; but I am told that if I use my eyes the next time I go to the seaside, on a sunny day I shall find the harbours and inlets alive with young pollack, all swimming around under the shade of the most gorgeous jellyfish umbrellas imaginable—green, yellow, pink, orange, red and purple, fringed, emroidered, and scalloped, and notched with knobbed, carved, curved silver and gold handles."

THE following shows how it is possible to make money by publishing even a first book of poems. A budding poet took this step—at his own cost, needless to say—and was agonised when good-natured friends said, "You'll be half ruined." At last, in fear and trembling, he wrote to the publisher to know the worst (which he calculated at £70). "Let me know how many of the edition have gone off," ran his humble epistle, "and what is the balance I owe

you." The publisher wrote back: "Dear Sir,—Your whole edition has gone off, leaving a balance of £25 in your favour; cheque inclosed." The poet was delighted. He rushed to the publishers to obtain particulars of the unexpected sale. "My dear sir, I think you had better not ask." "Not ask. Why not? You wrote to say the edition had all been sold; it must have been sold to somebody." "Pardon me. I wrote that it had 'gone off'; so it had, the whole of it. There was a fire in the warehouse, and the contents were insured."

THE seventh annual Yachting Exhibition at the Royal Aquarium, which is now open and will continue until March 2, is the best display yet held there. For variety of craft, excellence of appointments, and splendid launches of various types and motors it is unique. It does not interfere with the excellent entertainments, which continue throughout the day, and will next week include a clever couple of comedians—the Wedburns.

EVERYONE who knows "Truthful Tommy" is aware that so far as hair is concerned he has lost "a little hit off the top," so he tried a well-known remedy to repair damages. "I say," he remarked to his Teutonic chin scraper, "I thought you told me that 'Tatcho' was a good hair restorer! Well, those two bottles you sold me have done no good." "Soh! Zen you haf not persevere viz eem." "Now look here, sonny," was "T. T.'s" reply, "I am a bit of a sportsman, and I will just *drink* one more bottle, but it's the absolute last. You can put your money on that and win every time." As the astonished Deutscher afterwards remarked to a friend, "You couldst have knock me downs mit ein mangle!"

THE Anchor Fishing Society, of which I am president, held a competition for the largest roach on the Thames, on Feb. 5 and 6. The first prize was won by Mr. F. H. Amplett (rach 1lb. 2½oz.), Mr. Charter being second, and Mr. R. House third.

OUR Newmarket correspondent, Capt. W. Howlett, chief officer of the Newmarket Jockey Club Owners' and Trainers' Fire Brigade, whilst superintending a big blaze at Chippenham recently, was severely burned about the face and arms. I am pleased to hear, however, that he is well on the way to recovery.

SIR W. WEDDERBURN, Bart., M.P. for Banffshire, has been kind enough to send his pamphlet on "North Sea Fisheries." This is a reprint of the paper read by the hon. member before the Moray Firth Fisheries Association at Buckie. It contains an account of his tour of inspection, and is full of much valuable information, which will be of the greatest interest to those who have a proper respect and regard for the North Sea as a source of our food supply, and regret its depletion by the suicidal policy which is now adopted with regard to it.

"ON Feb 9 (writes Mr. Howes, of the Bull Hotel, Barton Mills), I went jack fishing on the Lark, and caught six; largest only 6lb. Roach and dace are well on the feed in the deep waters. Gentles are the most killing just now."

A NEW monthly, commencing March 1 next, and conducted by Edward Oates, entitled "The British Journal of Health and Recreation," will be published at 27, Ivy-lane, Paternoster-row, E.C. Price fourpence. In presenting the prospectus of this new journal, the publishers are "firmly convinced that they are about to supply a long-felt want on the part of not only that section of the community who possess the necessary means for a summer or autumn sojourn by the 'silver sea,' or amid mountain and lake, but are hopeful of meeting the requirements of invalids, the man 'out of sorts,' the pent up tradesman, and denizens of our hazy towns and crowded cities. In short, to place the most reliable information at a cost and within a compass nowhere else obtainable."

'Tis the voice of the angler, I heard him complain,
"Well I'm—hanged if it's not started raining again";
As the door on its hinges so he on his bed
Has another turn over, and wakes up again—
Too late to go anywhere.

[And a good job *three*, considering the state of the weather when this was written.]

"IN the recently issued 'Transactions of the Zoological Society of London,'" says the *Echo*, "appears a report by Mr. Boulenger on the fishes collected by Mr. J. E. S. Moore, the leader of the expedition, from Lake Tanganyika. According to Mr. Moore, there are two faunas in the lake, one a normal fresh-water one, and another evidently of a marine origin. This was proved by the study of the splendid collection of molluscs which he obtained. But the same fact is not brought out from the study of the fish, which, although very novel and very remarkable, do not include any marine fishes; this may be due to the incompleteness of the collection. The finny inhabitants of many of the African lakes are apparently practically wholly unknown—from the great Albert Nyanza, for instance, only one species of fish has yet been brought."

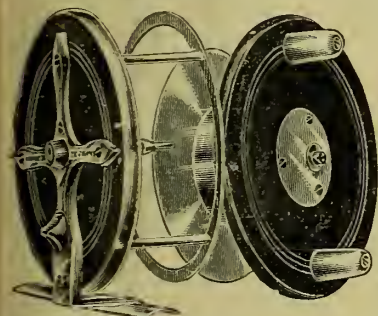
THEY had been "Dunripping" not altogether wisely; the host was unable for *reasons* to see his guest out, and after expressing his sorrow, added "When you get to the front door, Jock, ye'll see twa cabs; tak' the first yin, the second yin's no' there." DRAGNET.

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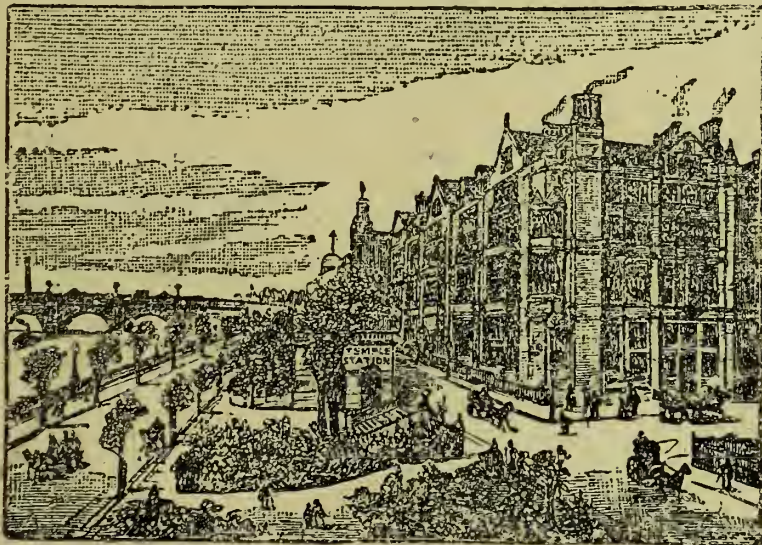
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BRITISH SEA ANGLERS' SOCIETY.

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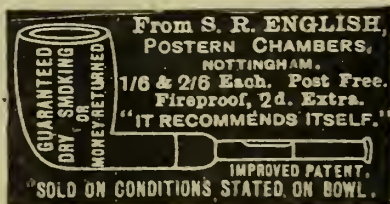
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PISCATORIAL SOCIETY.

THINGS were exceptionally quiet at Monday's meeting of this society, at least as far as angling was concerned. Three of the members, Messrs. Frank Ward, C. H. Bywaters, and H. Harden, had been to Ringwood for the opening of the salmon fishing there, and had been on the water two days. On the first day there were altogether fourteen rods out, and the catch was nine kelt's. On the second day the same number of gentlemen fished, but the result was an absolute blank, not even an unclean fish being caught. The three Piscatorials returned home disappointed with their fishing, but having otherwise spent a very jolly couple of days on the Avon. Mr. A. R. Matthews had taken some fair roach on the Thames, and Mr. H. A. Rolt roach from the Colne, the heaviest weighing 1lb. 3oz. The committee met on Monday evening to draw up the regulations for fishing the Uxbridge water, and it is confidently expected that at the smoking concert to be held in the Piscatorial saloon on Monday, the 20th inst., the date when members may fish the new acquisition will be announced. Next Monday there is a treat in store for members and friends, inasmuch as Mr. Horace H. Brown will descend upon "The Birds of the Kennet Valley." The paper is sure to be interesting and instructive. M. G. E. DE C.

GRESHAM ANGLING SOCIETY.

MR. C. S. BENTLEY occupied the chair at the usual weekly meeting on Feb. 7. Mr. Hesse brought a matter before the society which was satisfactorily dealt with. Mr. A. W. Parker reported fishing at Deal in anything but pleasant weather, securing few fish. Messrs. Emery and Scott pike fishing, but all fish ran small; Mr. Scott one, 8lb. Messrs. Marshall and Emery had a most enjoyable outing in the Lea Valley, and somewhat surprised our members by the description of the animal life met with so close to the smoke of London. Several fish were secured, largest 7lb. Mr. Short, at our waters at Kelvedon, sixteen roach over 1lb. each. Several gentlemen gave their experiences spinning, live-baiting, floods, frosts, and blanks, the last rather prominent catches. Mr. Emery had the honour of showing the first trout and salmon of the season. A gentleman was proposed as a member. A Bohemian concert will be held on Tuesday next, a fine programme has been arranged, and is in the hands of Mr. Gray. Ladies and visitors are specially invited. The usual toast and vote of thanks to the chairman concluded the meeting.

BRITISH SEA ANGLERS' SOCIETY.

The usual weekly meeting was held on Wednesday evening, Feb. 8, at the Cannon-street Hotel, J. Wrench Towse, Esq., in the chair. The usual fishing reports were given, and the hon. sec. announced that, despite all reports to the contrary, the S.E.R. and L.C.D.R. tickets for members were available by either route on the return journey.

It was further announced that papers by Messrs. Minchin ("Lobsters, Crabs, and Shrimps") and Matthews ("Rambles of a Sea Angler") would be given at early dates.

In the report of the lecture on "Hooks" by Mr. F. E. Eldred last Wednesday, Messrs. Bartleet and Sons' names were omitted from the list of those gentlemen who so kindly lent specimens to illustrate his paper.

The hon. sec. then read his paper on "Flat Fish."

The usual votes of thanks to Dr. Patterson for his paper, and to the chairman, closed the meeting.

C. S. PATTERSON (Hon. Sec.).

The following is a brief abstract of Dr. Patterson's able paper from notes taken by Mr. Eldred during its delivery:

The lecturer commenced his paper by saying that all flat fish fell into one or other of these two classes, viz., those with equal-sided jaws and those with unequal-sided jaws. He pointed out by means of fresh and preserved specimens their structural differences, the reasons for, and how these differences were brought about, and the points of agreement in common to both classes.

He next showed that, as developed from the egg, flat fish, in common with other fish, swam in an upright position; but that while fish like the haddock, herring, cod, pollack, &c., developed their fins proper, the family of flat fishes had theirs developed to so small an extent as to become almost useless. Their back and belly fins, however, became very large, but by reason of the non-development of the breast fins the flat fish lost its balancing power, and thus instead of swimming in a vertical it gradually assumed a horizontal position.

With this altered change in its position he next showed that one of its eyes was thus rendered almost useless, and, as Nature never makes a thing without giving it its proper use, it was shown that of necessity the eye must come to the upper side.

He next took his audience through the various changes in the development of the fish's head, and the effect upon their jaws consequent on this movement of the eye to the upper side, and he pointed out the differences which exist in various fishes of this class.

The colour of the fish was now taken in hand, and the lecturer showed in a very skilful and able manner that this colour was directly due to the altered position of the eye.

He gave at some length the experiments Professor Agassiz performed to prove this. Fish when young were placed in a glass vessel lighted from below as well as from above. As development proceeded the under part became pale, the upper part darker in colour. They were now blinded, and as a result the colour development ceased.

The lecturer here exhibited a specimen which was

piebald in colour, and which on examination proved to be partially blind in one eye.

Equal-jawed fishes were, he said, right-sided and left-sided, the chief representative of the former class was the halibut.

This fish, he pointed out, sometimes attained a weight of 100lb. This, he showed, was the most fish-like of all the flat fish family. Its chief characteristics, habitat, food, and method of capture were pointed out, and its respective proclivities enlarged upon.

Small specimens were sometimes taken on the rod of the sea angler, but rarely fish of any size. Specimens of this class of fish were recorded at Billingsgate in 1897 of 25lb. and 22lb., but weights exceeding 300lb. must be looked upon as more or less apocryphal.

Of left-sided fishes the most valuable example was, he said, the turbot. The habits, names by which known in various parts of the country, description, and localities in which found, were all fully given, and a rough and sure test for the buyer of this fish was given, so that one might have turbot instead of brill at turbot price.

The brill, he said, had a row of cockatoo-like spines extending a short distance from, and commencing at, its head; the spines of the turbot going much further along its back, and lying closer to its skin.

The turbot, the lecturer said, rarely exceeds 12lb. in weight, 4lb. to 8lb. being more common. Turbot were rarely caught by the amateur fisherman, though it takes the hook readily. It is a deep sea feeder.

He incidentally described it as the peasant of the sea on account of its "keeping" qualities, some even preferring it "high."

There was, he said, much confusion in the classification of unequal-jawed fishes, owing to differences of environment. He gave the flounder as a typical example of this class, and showed that it lives and flourishes in both fresh, salt, and brackish water, being found as far north as Norway, and as far south as the south of France, living in water varying from ten to 730 fathoms.

He pointed out the chief differences between the flounder and sole, the flounder having a larger mouth and jaws, snout not protruding, back fin just above the eye teeth present, eyes prominent; those of the sole being deeply placed, and its mouth placed farther back. He next pointed out the unreliability of the spot test for distinguishing the flounder from the plaice, the flounder having being taken at Leigh both spotted and unspotted.

A reliable test was to count the anal fins. In the flounder the rays were less than forty-six, in the plaice more. Both have less than eighty-five rays in the back fin.

The life-history, habitat, food, &c., of the flounder, plaice, and sole were fully gone into, and much useful information given on all these points. The lecturer warned his listeners that flat fish, if for the table, should be cleaned immediately upon being caught. Being gross feeders, chemical changes took place very rapidly in the food undergoing, or about to undergo, digestion, and these changes were soon manifest in the flesh of the fish.

The dab, lemon sole, and many more examples came under the lecturer's notice, and all were treated in a thoroughly scientific and workmanlike manner.

The paper throughout was capitally illustrated by diagrams, tables, specimens, &c., and was delivered in the usual masterly style which is so familiar to those who have the privilege and good fortune to hear the doctor's lectures. F. E. ELDRÉD.

KINGSTON PISCATORIAL SOCIETY.

THE members of this society, at a meeting held on Monday (Councillor T. Lyne presiding), decided to hold a competition for jack on Feb. 19 and 20, for chub on Feb. 26 and 27, and for roach on March 5 and 6. The latter prize has been given by Dr. Broomfield Bateman, and the club has added a second prize of 10s. 6d. The annual dinner will be held on March 20, and prior to the next meeting (Feb. 20) a committee meeting is to be held at 7.30 to finish the discussion re the dinner. The ordinary meeting will be held at 8 p.m. At Monday's meeting the following gentlemen were elected as members: Mr. R. O. Atcherley, St. Margaret's; Mr. Evans, of Kingston; and Mr. George Firth, of Kingston.

READING AND DISTRICT ANGLING ASSOCIATION.

THE annual meeting and dinner of this association were held on Monday at the headquarters, the Great Western Hotel, Reading, the president, Mr. Jas. Simonds, occupying the chair at both gatherings. At the annual meeting the following officers were elected: President, Mr. James Simonds; hon. treasurer, Mr. Charles Stephens; vice-presidents, Messrs. J. Herbert Benyon, A. C. Butler, H. Creed, C. H. Cook, W. Ferguson, A. Hurley, R. B. Marston, G. W. Palmer, M.P., W. W. Ridley, and W. Senior; auditors, Messrs. H. Creed and W. Ferguson; committee, Messrs. W. Bonny, A. H. Bull, W. Collins, M. Cundell, W. G. Flanagan, W. Hickie, G. Higgs, J. W. Lindars, T. Mackrill, W. G. Millar, W. Moore, A. McNeil, E. H. Simmons, W. J. Stapley, and H. W. Verey, with Mr. C. H. Cook and Dr. Jeston as representing the Henley-on-Thames Association, and Messrs. R. Nicholson and H. W. Russell the Maidenhead, Cookham, and Bray Association; and Mr. F. Brown, hon. secretary. The following is an extract from the annual report of the committee: "This the twenty-second annual report of the committee to the subscribers to the Reading and District Fisheries Protection Association is brief, and consequently of less interest, than most of its predecessors. The object of the association is the improvement of angling

in the Thames between Goring and Shiplake, by the prevention of illegal practices, by additions to the stock of fish in the river from other sources, by the recovery of 'stray' fish from ditches and backwaters, &c. Years ago the first branch of the work was arduous, the objects of the association being misapprehended by the general public; but for a long time a better feeling has prevailed, and prosecutions consequently have been rare. Indeed, the numerous angling clubs which have sprung up in the district are proof at once of the success of the association in improving the fishing, and of that confidence in the aims of the committee which practically renders legal proceedings a thing of the past. Nevertheless, a strict watch is kept over the whole district, not only by the bailiffs, but also by several members of the association who act as honorary river keepers. Unusual difficulty has been experienced in procuring stock fish, but among the items to be recorded in this connection are the placing in the upper reaches of the district in March of a consignment of Wycombe trout ('spawners') running from 12in. to 15in. in length, and the distribution at suitable spots in the district of 4000 cray fish, the generous gift of Mr. Henry Lewis. Between three and four dozen good carp bream were kindly given by Mr. Frederick Groves, from a private water. Important results have attended the onerous work of netting backwaters, ditches, &c., the record showing that by this means there were restored to the Thames no less than 1½ cwt. of barbel (sixteen of them weighing over 5lb. each), ten trout between 2lb. and 1½lb. each, and about 100 ditto up to 8in., about 2000 small perch, averaging 4in. to 5in., many good roach and chub, some 3cwt. of fry of various kinds, and a basket of cray fish. Netting operations after the late floods are not included in this statement. A gentleman resident in the upper portion of the river has during the season turned in at his own charge seven dozen large Wycombe trout. Your committee are confidently expecting, shortly, a nice lot of fair sized Kennet perch and roach. A reward has lately been paid for the destruction of an otter. A pup, found alive near the otter, which was shot, has been sent to the Zoological Society's gardens." The annual dinner was, as usual, a very pleasant gathering. The president was in the chair, and Mr. W. W. Ridley, V.P., vice-chairman, and nearly thirty gentlemen sat down. The toasts were: "The Queen, and Other Members of the Royal Family"; "The Mayor and Corporation of Reading," proposed by Mr. H. Creed, and responded to by the Mayor (Mr. W. G. Wellman); "The Reading and District Angling Association and Kindred Associations," given by the president and acknowledged by Mr. A. C. Butler, V.P.; "The Visitors," proposed by Mr. W. Ferguson, and replied to by Mr. W. Bowman; "The President," submitted by Mr. Ridley; and "The Vice-chairman," proposed by Mr. Bull. Mr. A. Beeson very kindly arranged an excellent musical programme, and also contributed one of his admirable ventriloquial sketches.

DARLINGTON ANGLERS' CLUB.

THE annual general meeting was held on Tuesday evening last at the King's Head Hotel, when the balance-sheet for the past year was confirmed, showing a balance in bank of £24 5s. 9d., an increase of £6 3s. 7d. over 1897. There was a full muster of members present, and the election of officers for the current year took place, when the following gentlemen were chosen, most of them being re-elected: President, H. Gawan Taylor; vice-presidents, Dr. Fothergill, E. M. Turner, H. Robinson, and J. Henderson; committee, J. Coverdale, C. J. Coleby, J. McDermid, A. Lascelles, F. Spreckly, T. Hutchinson, J. Adams, and R. V. Stewart; hon. treasurer, W. G. Chilton; hon. secretary, J. F. Smythe; assistant secretary, P. Hutchinson; auditors, M. Hornby and H. Marshall. Then followed a discussion on the fishing rented on the river Tees, and fresh water rented on the river Skerne, and the means to be adopted to improve the same by putting in yearling trout.

Arrangements for the annual dinner were entered into, and fixed for Feb. 16 at the King's Head Hotel, when a number of influential gentlemen have promised to attend. The satisfactory statement of accounts show the amount of interest the executive have taken in the welfare of the club generally. A vote of thanks was passed to the chairman, H. Gawan Taylor, Esq., and the secretaries. J. F. SMYTHE.

TEES FISHERY BOARD.

THE annual meeting of the Tees Fishery Board was held on Friday, Feb. 3, at Darlington. Canon Tristram moved that the Right Hon. Jas. Lowther, M.P., be re-elected chairman. The resolution was carried. The Finance and Watch Committee was re-elected, with some additions necessitated by the deaths of members. The Finance and Watch Committee presented an abstract of the receipts and expenditure for the year 1898. It showed the receipts to be £656 8s. 6d. Of this, all but between £16 and £17 was revenue from the sale of licenses, and these latter embraced 1,558 trout licenses at 2s. 6d. The abstract of assets and liabilities showed that £1820 19s. 9d. was due to the treasurer, a gain on the year of about £80. The report of the Finance and Watch Committee stated, regarding the pollution of the Tees at Newport, that a letter had been received from Sir B. Samuelson and Co., saying they had found out the cause of the pollution, and were taking steps to abate it. In the question of the Stockton and Middlesbrough Water Board's application to Parliament, it was reported that satisfactory terms were in process of arrangement on behalf of the board. A joint report was presented to the committee by the chairman (Canon Tristram) and the secretary, stating that

they had visited Stillington Beck, and found that a very serious nuisance was being caused by discharges from the Stillington Ironworks into the Tees. It was ordered that the attention of the company be called to the nuisance, and that they be informed that, unless steps were taken to prevent a recurrence, proceedings would be taken against them, and the chairman was authorised to take such proceedings, if necessary. The report was adopted. According to notice of motion, Col. Wilson moved the following resolutions:—"For each and every single rod and line, per day, 2s. 6d.; for each and every single rod and line, per week, 10s.; also, that the existing scale of duty on trout licences be amended by adding thereto the following: For two house season tickets to be issued only to a resident riparian owner or resident fishery lessee or the use of any two of his guests, and available only for the water over which such riparian owner or lessee has fishery rights—provided that not more than two such house tickets be issued to any individual riparian owner or lessee—for the whole season, £1." The first was seconded by Mr. Bainbridge, and carried. The second, after some debate, was withdrawn. The third, after discussion, was amended to read "resident" riparian owner or "resident" fishery lessee, "guests" instead of "friends temporarily residing with him," and the above addendum in dashes inserted, and passed.

"THE GLORIOUS ATBARA."

SUCH was the late Sir Samuel Baker's remark on seeing the great river in full flood so far back as 1861.

Now that civilization has penetrated to the heart of the Sudan, and the organization of tourist trips to Khartoum are promised in the near future, it is worth while to consider the sport to be found in that region. Not only are there lions, elephants, giraffes, hippopotami, rhinoceri, crocodiles, and the various kind of deer, but the Atbara and its tributaries contain game fish of enormous size and unknown genus, and here the angler, while fishing practically virgin streams, is sure of glorious sport.

It is probable that Sir Samuel Baker is the only English sportsman who has fished the Atbara, when on his great hunting expedition; his outfit, of course, including a good supply of tackle. Fastening his winch to a stout bamboo rod, with 200yds. of line, and a treble set of hooks, he set to work. A natural hole or well in the rock near the water's edge was converted into an aquarium for live bait from half a pound upwards. From this Sir Samuel selected his fish, and dropping it into the river had an almost immediate run. Preliminary results were somewhat disappointing; after a broken line he succeeded in hooking a fish of only 12lb. in weight, of a species known by the Arabs as the "bayard"; it has a blackish green

back, with bright silver belly and sides, and very peculiar back fins. Four long barbules hang from the upper jaw, and two from the lower, while its flesh is excellent. His first big catch (not without further loss of tackle) had better be told in his own words:

"I once more had a grand rush and hooked a big one. There were no rocks down stream, all was fair play and clear water, and away he went at racing pace straight for the middle of the river. To check the pace I grasped the line with the stuff of my loose trousers, and pressed it between my fingers to act as a brake, and compel him to labour for every yard; but he pulled like a horse, and nearly cut through the thick cotton cloth, making straight running for at least 100yds. without a halt. I now put so severe a strain upon him that my strong bamboo bent nearly double, and the fish presently so far yielded to the pressure that I could enforce his running in half circles instead of straight away. I kept gaining line, until I at length had him in a shallow bay, and after a great fight, Bacheet (his servant) tugged to the shore a magnificent fish of upwards of 60lb."

This fish measured 3ft. 8in. to the root of the tail, and 2ft. 3in. in girth of shoulders, while the head was 1ft. 10in. in circumference. Four days later he again took a rod, and fixing a fish of 1lb. weight on a large single hook had splendid sport. This capture took 100yds. of line

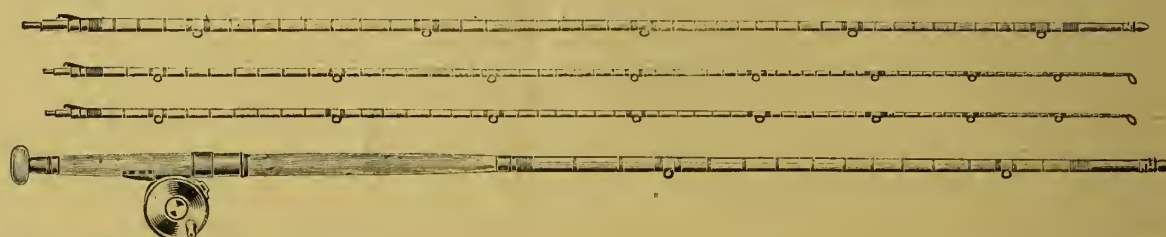
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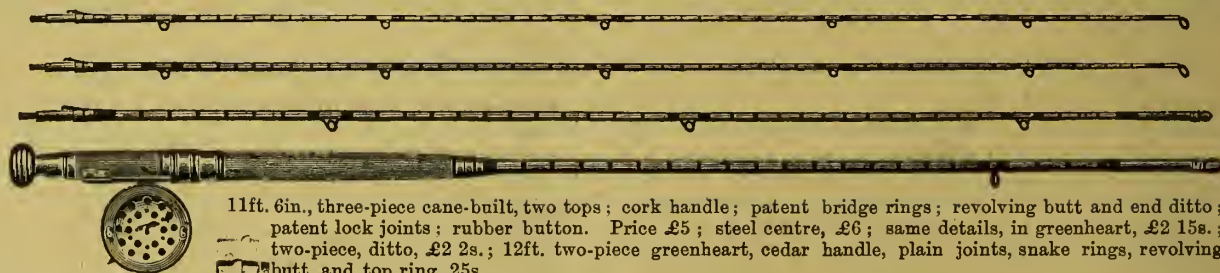
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out of the sportsman's hands before he was challenged, and to this he gave a splendid reply; several times he leapt from 5ft. or 6ft. above the water and made tremendous play, shaking his head furiously, darting hither and thither with 80yds. or 100yds. of fresh line, he was at last compelled to yield and a fifty-pounder came to bank. This fish, which is called by the natives "el baggar" (the cow), resembled a salmon in colour, the back was like that of a perch, with seven rays; the second dorsal fin had fourteen rays; the head was well shaped, and small in proportion; the eyes were bright red, and shone like rubies, and the teeth were very small.

Later, this keen sportsman landed a fifty-pounder known by the Arabs as the "coor"; not so edible as his previous captures, but a determined opponent when hooked, while his next excursion resulted in the capture of two splendid fish of 40lb. and 80lb. respectively. He thus describes his fight with the heaviest one:

This was a magnificent fish, and his strength was so great, that in his violent rushes he would take 60yds. or 70yds. of line without my permission. I could not check him, as the line burnt and cut my fingers to such a degree that I was forced to let it go, and my only way of working him was to project the butt of the rod in the usual manner; this was a very feeble break in the rush of such a fish. At last, after about half an hour of alternately bullying and coaxing I got him into the shallows."

Here after much struggling two of his servants succeeded in bringing to shore an enormous "baggar" of 80lb. weight. A 20-pounder caught subsequently he naturally despised.

Our author relates many other stirring fishing ventures, but we have quoted enough to show even to those who have fished the Volga for sturgeon of well nigh fabulous size, or taken the giant tarpon in the rivers of Florida, there remains yet this river, whose inhabitants may yield up their lives to the angler amid surroundings less wild but scarcely less fascinating than those enjoyed by this pioneer of all-round sport.—*County Gentleman.*

Notes from the North.

THE prospects for the opening of the salmon angling season on the Dee, Don, Deveron, Nees, and bulk of Scotch waters are not of the brightest, unless a favourable turn in the weather takes place soon. The streams are literally frozen up up country, and at the best the rivers will be crowded with ice.

There are few fish in the lower pools of the Dee, but the middle and upper waters should fish well with fresh weather. A splendid run of early spring salmon was noted running the Dee early in January, and these have lately been seen in the Kincardine O'Neil, Aboyne, and Ballater waters. There is a certainty of sport at Braemar by the end of the month at latest.

Sir John Gladstone, Bart., of Fasque, has the first two months of the Wooden and Commonly waters, in addition to the Upper Blackhall section, which he has now so successfully fished during the last two years. If Sir John did not make the record score on the opening months he was very near it. If I mistake not, he had some 200 fish to his own rod last spring.

Very few spring fish have been seen on the east coast since the advent of the new year till lately, when they again began to put in an appearance. The watchers know by the leaping and splashing when the fish are about, and it was only the other night that the welcome sounds were again heard, particularly on the Nigg and stations south of Aberdeen. Since then the signs have been steadily on the increase.

The fry in the Drum hatchery are beginning to hatch out, and the first hatchings were observed just ninety days after the ova were deposited in the boxes. The temperature has been kept at an average of 45 degrees, and this and the fine open winter generally accounts for the early hatching—some five days in advance of the normal time.

The Drum hatchery can accommodate some million and a quarter eggs on the grills and boxes; but Mr. Duncan, salmon fishery inspector, has found from experience that it is better in the end to have the boxes and grills sparsely filled than overstocked, and so he has for one or two years limited himself to a million eggs instead of the full complement, and his hatchings out have been attended with less loss than when overcrowded.

A spell of hard weather just now will be very fatal to the young fry just leaving the eggs, i.e. after their kind; but fortunately the bulk of the natural deposits will not be ripe yet for some considerable time. It is the spell of hard spring frosts we had four years ago which is chiefly blamed for the scarcity of young salmon now being experienced.

A good few heavy fish are being got on Loch Tay. On the Lochay water, on Friday last, Mr. Russell, Paisley, killed a fine fish of 24lb. Mr. Geen, the famous spinner, is also having fairly good sport on the Lyon.

At a largely attended meeting of the inhabitants of Fort William, Inverness under the presidency of Provost Young, the scheme of the Highland Water Power was highly approved of as likely to bring grist to the highland's mill,

in the shape of opening up a new field of labour. The chairman said the taking of water from Loch Erricht would not effect the supply of water to the Tay. More than a bucketful from Loch Ness would affect the Ness.

"The season opens on the Don," says my Kintore correspondent, "on the 11th inst., and already rods and tackle are being overhauled for the occasion. Those who know predict a very successful season." It is earnestly to be hoped so. The Burgh Kintore water may be fished for 1s. 6d. a day or 3s. 6d. per week for salmon, trout, and snipe, when they can be got.

There comes to me as I write excellent accounts of the prospects on the Ness and Loch Ness, where there has been an early and prolific run of salmon. Anglers residing in any of the numerous hotels on the loch side, may have free fishing there.

The Garry is one of the best early Scotch salmon rivers for large fish in the very early months.

SPECIAL SCOTCH.

Provincial Notes

FROM BIRMINGHAM AND DISTRICT.

A fully attended meeting of the committee of the Birmingham Angling Association was held at the headquarters on the 2nd inst. Mr. T. Coles presided, and Mr. J. A. Dance occupied the vice-chair. In opening the meeting the president complimented the members upon their election to office, and said he hoped the same unity would exist during the present year as in the past. The minutes of the committee meeting, held Jan. 5, were read and adopted. A letter was read by the secretary, in which the Princess of Wales Club again applied for affiliation. The application was referred to the Visiting Committee. Mr. C. White, the general secretary, brought before the notice of the meeting the advisability of the members of the committee having special credential cards signed by himself and the president, the idea of this being that the ticket can be shown any time as an authority to railway officials, landowners, and others, when occasions may require. The suggestion was unanimously adopted. The Queen's Head and West Bromwich clubs were each fined 5s. for not sending representatives to three consecutive meetings of the association. Messrs. Rabone, Hughes, Holding, Bagley, Foster, and Gumbley were appointed on the visiting committee. A question was raised by a member of the Good Intent Society re an arbitration committee being appointed, but the matter was referred to the next committee meeting for future consideration. The question of the advisability of the association renting private water on the Avon, in the Defford district, will also be considered at the next committee meeting. The date of the association annual dinner was fixed for March 11 next, the arrangements for which were left in the sub-committee's hands. A committee meeting of the Provincial Angling Association was held at the Drawbridge Hotel, Bristol, on Saturday last, Feb. 4. Mr. T. Coles, of Birmingham, presided; and Mr. R. Wingfield, of Worcester, and Mr. R. D. Frost, of Bristol, occupied the vice-chairs. All members were present. The minutes of the railway sub-committee meeting, held on Nov. 12 last, were read, when they were adopted; the minute relating to the wives of members enjoying the privilege of travelling at the reduced fare was ordered to be continued. The secretary was instructed to forward cheque to Mr. E. Moore, solicitor, in payment for defending certain prosecutions instituted by the Severn Fishery Board and others for fishing the Severn for coarse fish without a trout licence. The expulsion of a member of the Bristol Association for lending his travelling card for an indefinite period was approved of. A member of the Kidderminster Association was also expelled for making false statements against the leading officers of that association. The balance sheet and auditors' report for the year ending Dec. 31 last was in every way satisfactory, the amount laying in the bank to the credit of the association, after all liabilities had been paid, amounted to £97 7s. 2d.; to this sum is to be added the entrance fees of four new branches, bringing up the total to £101 11s. 2d. The balance sheet and auditors' report was received and adopted. The auditors' fees were raised to 10s. per audit, owing to great increase of members, which now amounted to 9000. Messrs. Coles, White, Dance, and Miller were again elected on the sub-committee. Messrs. Coles and Wingfield gave in their report of the last meeting of the Severn Fishery Board, and spoke upon certain proposed new bye-laws, which the committee decided to prevent coming law. With this in view, it was resolved to send Messrs. Coles, Sadler, and Wingfield as a deputation to the Board of Trade, if necessity arises, to oppose the proposed bye-laws being made absolute. The committee tendered their thanks to Messrs. Coles and Wingfield for their services. It was resolved to present the proposed testimonial to Mr. T. Coles on the occasion of the next committee meeting at Kidderminster, the presentation to be made by Mr. R. Wingfield, of Worcester. Four new clubs were accepted. A vote of thanks to the Bristol Association for the manner in which the committee had been entertained, and also to the president for conducting the meeting were passed, after which the meeting came to a close. Netting operations are going on largely in the Stourport district, all fish being taken that come to the net. The water bailiff has been dismissed by the Severn Fishery Board for this part of the river. On Sunday, Jan. 29 last, the netters brought to the bank the body of a young woman from the river below Limcomb Weir.

FROM THE FEN DISTRICT (LINCOLNSHIRE).

In some parts of the Fen district there was a tremendous downpour of rain on Tuesday and Wednesday, and as the rivers have since been in a state of flood, angling arrangements have been again upset. Specially was this the case on the Forty-foot, where, prior to the rainfall, subscribers had been getting capital sport amongst pike. On Saturday two rods accounted for four and a half brace of fish, weighing in the aggregate 34½lb. The same two sportsmen on Monday secured five brace, averaging about 3½lb. each, the best going up to 7½lb. Roach fishermen have been most successful on the Witham, and at most of the river-side stations between Lincoln and Boston quite a number of rods were at work during the fine weather. The drains in the Boston district have been principally fished for roach, and so has the Glen at Surfleet. In some cases the bags have weighed up to 13lb. and 14lb. per rod. On the Welland, in the Deeping district, sportsmen have mostly been in quest of pike.

FROM HULL AND DISTRICT.

Several good catches of roach were shown at the different anglers' rendezvous in the city during the early part of last week from the top stretches of the river Hull, many of the fish scaling from ½lb. to over 1lb. each; and amongst others Mr. A. Marshall, of the Victoria Angling Society, had one of 1lb. 3oz., also a dace of 8½oz.; and Mr. A. Finlay, of the Sheffield Arms A.S., a roach of 1lb. 3½oz.; but since Wednesday the weather has been so wintry in this district that little has been done in this class of angling, and worm fishing for flounders in the lower portion of the river received a certain check; but at the time of writing the weather is much milder, so there is a better prospect of sport. Pike fishing has been pursued with a fair amount of success, both on the Market Weighton canal and the river Ancholme, and odd fish have been met with in the upper water of the river Hull; but the best fish reported so far this year is one of about 15lb., caught one day last week by Mr. W. Learie, of the Zoological Hotel, in the river near to Swing Bridge; a friend of his, Mr. J. Thorpe, taking one on the same day of about 4lb. weight. The committee appointed by the Hull Amalgamated Anglers' Association to net the Stoneferry Reservoir and transfer the fish to the river Hull, have decided, weather permitting, to commence operations to-day (Saturday). The anglers' privilege tickets in connection with the Hull Amalgamation are now being issued, and members can have them on application to the financial secretary, Mr. C. H. Haddenby, at the headquarters, the Queen's Hotel. On March 11, both the Bowling Green and the Brunswick Angling Societies will open their season at Weelferry, on the river Hull. At the February council meeting of the Hull Amalgamation several applications from the affiliated clubs to fish their matches on the Holderness drains were granted, and the Central Hull Angling Society was affiliated to the association. On Feb. 17 the East Hull Brass Band A.S. held their annual *soirée* and ball; and, on the 24th, the Bowling Green A.S. have their annual dinner at headquarters. Another new angling society is being formed in the city, at the White Swan Hotel, in Wincolme; Mr. J. Simmonds is the secretary *pro tem.* On Tuesday last (Jan. 31), under the joint auspices of the Hull and Grimsby Fishing Vessel Owners' Association, a representative conference was held at the Hull Town Hall, the Right Hon. Lord Heneage presiding, being supported by a large and influential gathering of gentlemen connected with the fishing industry of Hull, Grimsby, Aberdeen, North Shields, Boston, Sunderland, and Scarborough, when resolutions were passed relative to the alteration of the rule of the road at sea, and the much vexed question of closing the waters of the Moray Firth to British trawlers. Those attending the conference afterwards dined together at the Imperial Hotel, Mr. Charles Hillyer, of Hull, presiding. On Monday evening a most enthusiastic and large gathering of anglers assembled at the Central Hall, in Pryme-street, to celebrate the annual *soirée* and ball of the Hull Angling and Preservation Society. The room was tastefully decorated with anglers' paraphernalia, and not the least attraction of the evening was a grand display of cases of specimen fish, lent for the occasion by angling clubs in the city. The affair will no doubt again assist to augment the funds of this useful society.

FROM THE LAKE DISTRICT.

With the approach of the open season anglers, and others interested in fish and fishing, are preparing for the advent. There is the usual putting together and testing of rods, fly books and tackle are being overhauled, and there is, with some at any rate, a general spirit of putting the house in order. Amongst the last named class it is to be hoped the Derwent Fishery Board may soon be found. The board's finances, and also its reputation, are not in an enviable condition, and a vigorous effort should be made to improve both. This can best be done by a return to a broader policy, instead of the present prohibitive system of issuing licences. The doubling of the price of tickets has told upon the funds of the board, many anglers being unable or unwilling to pay 10s. for that which formerly cost them only five; others again have refrained from taking out a licence as a protest against the Board's action. The result is that a limited income has placed the board in difficulties, and unsavoury repute among a certain class, a class, too, that they will do unwisely to further ignore. There are also other matters—notably the supply and protection of fish—that should receive careful consideration. The brief spell of beautiful wintry weather enjoyed during the past fortnight seems to have come to an end, judging from appearances at the time of writing, but we know the danger of prophesying and shall refrain. Suffice it that heavy showers on Tuesday and Wednesday have had the effect of clearing away the ice and snow.

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THE CONTRIBUTORS.—The present work, in the preparation of which Mr. LAIRD CLOWES is being assisted by Sir CLEMENTS MARKHAM, K.C.B., P.R.G.S.; Captain A. T. MAHAN, U.S.N.; Mr. H. W. WILSON, Author of "Ironclads in Action"; Mr. THEODORE ROOSEVELT, Mr. CARR LAUGHTON, and many other competent writers, aims at being a trustworthy and, so far as space allows, a complete history, from the earliest times to the present.

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FROM LANCASHIRE.

Word is to hand of the capture of a splendid roach, caling 2lb. 4oz. 6drs., caught by a Warrington angler, Mr. W. Hamblett, whilst fishing the river Gowy, at Mickle Trafford, on Feb. 5. This specimen is now in the hands of the taxidermist. The Warrington Anglers' Association, of which the above gentleman is a member, is steadily increasing, and at the recent monthly business meeting nine new members were enrolled. The County Palatine Angling Association are still very busy with tacking operations. On Saturday last a number of splendid roach and other fish were transferred with very little loss to the Peak Forest Canal. One of the many clubs who have recently affiliated themselves to this association is the Izaak Walton Angling Society; membership already about twenty strong. The St. Helen's Anglers will be busy at headquarters on the 16th—an important event in the form of a knife and fork tea is down for decision. The evening will be spent in the usual way, harmony, &c., and a good time is expected. The prospects of the Gorton Angling Society are very bright, and the coming season promises to be even more successful than was the last one. Several vacancies exist, and any anglers wishing to join should communicate with the secretary, Mr. G. W. Boothroyd, 5, Bowness-street, Higher Openshaw, who will willingly furnish particulars of entrance, &c. The executive is as follows: President, Mr. T. Stanton; treasurer, Mr. F. Rufus; committee, Messrs. J. J. Kay, W. Watson, and C. Gosdon. It is no disappointment to our trout fishers to hear that there is every prospect of early sport. Many of these fish are now in good condition, and the mild weather, combined with abundance of water in the priogs, is greatly enhancing prospects.

FROM MANCHESTER.

Some few days ago the Moss Side Socials were on the var-path, not stocking this time, but removing headquarters from the Marlborough Hotel, Moss-lane, Hulme, to the Alexandra Hotel, Bradshaw-street, Moss Side. The first meeting at these new headquarters will be held on Monday next, Feb. 13, when important business will be down for disposal. Thursday last, 9th inst., saw these only anglers doing justice to a good repast at an evening tour at a Manchester restaurant. A club rapidly getting into order for the coming season is the Old Standard Angling Society. At their last meeting several new members were enrolled, and prospects of more to follow. The members are summoned for a business meeting on the 13th. The Victoria Angling Society recently held an important business meeting at headquarters, when a somewhat lengthy agenda was got through. Members continue to be enrolled, and the coming season's programme is to be commenced with a contest and smoking concert. Their private waters are not productive of much sport, but better results are anticipated. March 11 will see this society fishing for prizes left over from a previous contest and one offered recently by Rev. C. P. Roberts. A venture of an educational character is on foot at the headquarters of the Ben Brierley Angling Society. Every month lantern exhibitions are to be given; the scenes will be from photographs of favourite angling resorts. The first of these meetings will take place on Tuesday evening next, 14th. Mr. E. J. Wardleworth has kindly consented to operate. At the last meeting of the society on the 10th a deputation of officials of the County Palatine Association attended, the ultimate issue of which visit was the affiliation of the club to the aforesaid association.

FROM NORFOLK.

Pike have been feeding well in some parts of the country during the past few days. Several parties have been out and have had excellent sport, bags ranging from four to twelve fish, of 4lb. to 15lb., having been taken. On Tuesday a party, fishing on private water near Norwich, were successful in landing ten nice fish, ranging from 4lb. to 3lb. each. Waters are all in excellent condition, and with a continuance of the present open weather, good sport may be anticipated.

FROM NOTTINGHAM.

There was a tremendous fall of snow on Monday, and rain afterwards setting in caused the Trent to rise rapidly on Wednesday. Another big water is, therefore, imminent. Coarse fish anglers have not enjoyed much sport since my last, and all complain of the apathy of the roach to feed. Whatever the cause, certain it is that the winter season has, so far, proved one of the worst known for years past. At Shardlow, Mr. F. W. K. Wallis and Mr. T. Spray (hon. secretary of the Wellington Society) have taken, with the worm, sundry bream and chub; and at Hawley a few chub have been creeled by Mr. G. Tilley. Here, on Feb. 3, Mr. J. Baker landed three pike with the live bait; and on the same day pike were caught at Lintham and Hoveringham. Operating on the latter length with pith and brains, Mr. T. Large secured a dozen and averaging about 1lb. each, and some fine fish fell to the attractions of the same class of bait at Kelham. Kelham is one of the best chubbing waters on the Trent when the river is running in low and bright volume. At Eveston, in the pool, Mr. Jas. Birkin has killed a brace of pike of 16lb., and on the following day nine were caught by Sergeant Jones and friends. At Shardlow, on the coming day, pike were taken by Messrs. W. Stevens, F. Lather, E. Saywell, J. Greaves, I. W. Foster, and J. Neal. Mr. Mather lost a fish estimated at 14lb. Members of the Waltonian Society have engaged in a friendly competition at Beeston. Not many put in an appearance, and only three or four small roach were, I understand, caught. The executive of the Wellington Society have in and a netting case from the Guntthorpe district. Netting has been rife of late on the river, and it is a great pity that anglers have not more water bailiffs to look after their interests.

FROM SHEFFIELD.

The weather up to the beginning of this week was very favourable for fishing, but the heavy downfall of snow on Monday put a stop to sport for a day or two; but as the snow is rapidly disappearing, it is hoped that the rivers will soon recover from the bad effect. Previous to Monday little fault could be found with the condition of the Trent, which was running in capital form for both pike and chub fishing. As was only to be expected under the circumstances, the opportunity for some good sport was taken advantage of to the fullest extent. A large number of rods have been at work in the Kelham section, near Newark, and some splendid fish have been secured. The season ends in this section on Feb. 14. The season in the Shardlow stretch closed about ten days ago, and the last day saw anglers out in goodly array, and several fine specimens were killed. Anglers will be able to patronise the river at Averham until the beginning of next month for pike, and several heavy fish have been had from this portion. Roach anglers have obtained an amount of sport which is looked upon as satisfactory, and Mr. W. Arnold, fishing the other day at Dunham, accounted for a lot of first-class roach, maggots being the most effective bait. A goodly sprinkling of pomeranian bream have also been taken from the same stretch of water. The Bain has provided good sport at Coningsby, but the Idle has not been so successful. Complaints are still made with regard to the netting carried on in the Trent, and it is high time stringent measures were taken to put a stop to this evil practice. Very little has been done recently in the Witham, although a few anglers have done fairly well amongst roach at Tattershall. The high winds, combined with the enormous quantity of water in the Wye and Derwent, have been altogether against fly fishing, but since the frosts several nice takes of big grayling have been secured. Glowing reports are given as to the prospects for the coming trout season, the keepers reporting that the rivers contain any amount of fish. The private waters, and those belonging to the various clubs, which are strictly preserved and carefully looked after, are said to promise exceedingly well, and it is to be hoped that such is the case, as last season turned out somewhat disappointing.

FROM SHROPSHIRE.

"February fly dyke" is not an invariable verity, but this year the old time phrase is fully justified. Snow, rain, or the two combined have rendered outdoor pastimes very unattractive for some time past, and the grayling fisher has scarcely had a fair day. Pike, perch, and roach have at times yielded sport, but on the whole, what with frequent floods and unpropitious weather, Severn coarse fish anglers have had an exceptionally poor season.

FROM WORCESTER AND DISTRICT.

We have had wretched weather in this district for some days, heavy snows, torrents of rain, and, early this (Wednesday) morning, a hurricane and a tremendous storm. Rain is still falling, and a heavy lot of very high-coloured water is rolling down the rivers, and it looks as if we are in for another flood, as the water is rising very rapidly. Angling is out of the question. Salmon fishing this season, so far, has been very disappointing; the take of fish far behind that of last season, both in size and numbers. There was one fish, 17½lb., taken the opening day, and a capital fish it was, and was bespoke for a London Hotel I was told. With the high water we have had, a great number of fish have headed up stream, and salmon-fishing in the upper part of the Severn should be better this season than it has been for some years. Very little news from the clubs; there are two new ones in the course of formation, and the St. John's Angling Society had their annual dinner on the 3rd inst. at their new headquarters, the "Grosvenor Hotel," and it was altogether a capital affair. The catering of Host James was first class, the musical programme excellent, and it was a success all through. The Jubilee angling society (Eversham), had their second annual meeting at their headquarters, the Trumpet Inn. There were a lot of members present, Mr. W. Morton in the chair. Mr. G. Hunt was re-elected president, and there was no change in the other officers. The club is in a flourishing state and have a good balance in hand.

FROM YORK AND DISTRICT.

The unsettled, changeable weather has rendered the conditions of angling most uncertain. The streams were running down to a nice level and losing their discoloration after the floods, when early this week heavy rains again marred the prospects. One result of the overflowing of the rivers has been the destruction of a large number of fish, which, along with rabbits which were washed out of their warrens, have been found stranded on the land after the waters had receded. There has been pike and roach fishing in the neighbourhood of York, many pike being caught in the Foss, where they had gone to shed their spawn among the weedy growths in the river. In taking leave of grayling, attention is turned to trout, which are plentiful and in excellent condition in the Wharfe, Yore, Swale, Nidd, Rye, and Derwent. No harm to this fish is anticipated from the late frost, whilst the mild weather has been in their favour. By the end of February or the beginning of March the prospects, which are very hopeful, ought to brighten. The fish must be well supplied with food after the late floods.

"THERE IS NOTHING NEW UNDER THE SUN" is a saying credited to a variety of illustrious authors, from the time of Solomon to the present day. It is a fact that many inventions looked upon as modern are of ancient origin. The telephone, which recently caused such a furor of excitement, was in ancient days a means by which the high priests worked upon the credulity of their disciples. The Pyramids of Egypt and other wonders prove that this generation has a great deal to learn. Holloway's Pills and Ointment, however, were not anticipated by our forefathers, and to-day they stand alone as the best cure the world possesses for all the ills that humanity is heir to.

Correspondence

[We do not hold ourselves responsible for the opinions expressed by our Correspondents.]

FISHING ON THE TORRIDGE.

SIR,—In reply to your correspondent, he will have no difficulty in getting trout fishing free. If he has not already secured his apartments, he will find some very comfortable ones if he writes to Sergeant Thomas Grylls, Sheepwash, Highampton, R.S.O., North Devon. He has about eight miles of fishing rights. This place is not far from Shebbear. The best flies would be the Coch-y-bondhu, Blue Upright, Blue Dun, March Brown, and February Red. I do not think waders are necessary. With regard to Padstow as a sea fishing station, it is very good provided the weather is right; but it is very exposed if there is any wind. The nearest salmon fishing would be in the Camel—about ten or twelve miles.—Yours, &c.,

WILLIAM HEARDER (B.S.A.S.).

195, Union-street, Plymouth.

A NOTE FROM DARWIN.

SIR,—With respect to the transportation of both fish and plants, Mr. Darwin says: "On the same continent fresh-water fish often range widely, and as if capriciously, for in two adjoining river systems some of the species may be the same, and some wholly different. It is probable that they are occasionally transported by what may be called accidental means. Thus fishes still alive are not very rarely dropped at distant points by whirlwinds; and it is known that the ova retain their vitality for a considerable time after their removal from the water." I wonder how long. "Their dispersal may, however, be mainly attributed to changes in the level of the land within the recent period, causing rivers to flow into each other. Instances also could be given of this having occurred during floods, without any change of level." I have caught odd chub and flounders in old ponds quite a mile away from a river, and in no way connected with it. Floods, of course. He continues: "The wide difference of the fish on the opposite sides of most mountain ranges which are continuous, and which consequently must, from an early period, have completely prevented the inoculation of the river systems on the two sides, leads to the same conclusion. Some fresh-water fish belong to very ancient forms, and in such cases there will have been ample time for great geographical changes, and consequently time and means for such migration. Moreover, Dr. Günther has recently been led by several considerations to infer that with fishes the same forms have a long endurance. Salt-water fish can with care be slowly accustomed to live in fresh water" (both the sea lamprey and the flounder seem to like it), "and, according to Valenciennes, there is hardly a single group of which all the members are confined to fresh water, so that a marine species belonging to a fresh-water group might travel far along the shores of the sea, and could, it is probable, become adapted without much difficulty to the fresh waters of a distant land."

FRESH-WATER SHELLS.—"When ducks suddenly emerge from a pond covered with duck-weed—I have twice seen these little plants adhering to their backs, and it has happened to me, in removing a little duck weed from one aquarium to another, that I have unintentionally stocked the one with fresh-water shells from the other. He says: "These molluscs when just hatched will survive from twelve to twenty hours in damp air, and in this length of time a duck or heron might fly at least six or seven hundred miles, and they adhere so firmly they cannot be easily shaken off."

PLANTS.—"In February I took three tablespoonfuls of mud from three different points beneath water, on the edge of a little pond. This mud when dried weighed only 6½oz. I kept it covered up in my study for six months, pulling up and counting each plant as it grew. The plants were of many kinds, and were altogether 537 in number, and yet the viscid mud was all contained in a breakfast cup! Considering these facts, I think it would be an inexplicable circumstance if water birds did not transport the seeds of fresh-water plants to unstocked ponds and streams situated at very distant points. Audubon states that he found the seeds of the great southern water lily, probably *Nelumbium luteum*, in a heron's stomach. Now, this bird must often have flown with its stomach thus well stocked to distant ponds, and then, getting a hearty meal of fish, analogy makes me believe that it would have rejected the seeds in a pellet in a fit state for germination."

Thus are fish, shells, and plants distributed.—I am, &c., E. W. E.

SEA PATERNOSTER BOOMS.

SIR,—The identity of Mr. Payton with "Sarcelle," of the *Field*, was not known to me, and I hasten to assure him that such of my remarks as would have been peculiarly offensive if knowingly addressed to him were not so addressed, but aimed merely at an abstraction.

In my former letter I showed the weak points (only too familiar to sea anglers) which must prove fatal to the continued use of the right-angle boom. Mr. Payton, in reply, appeals to his experience, and baldly reasserts the efficiency of the French boom. It is possible that I may be whipping the air, and that this boom may possess some occult property capable neither of expression in words, nor of delineation; but, as figured and described, it stands out a rigid boom, eminent among the bad ones, worse than worthless, inasmuch (you will observe I give a reason) as it interposes an obstacle in the form of a metal right angle between the fish and their efforts to assist the angler to hook them.

Mr. Ruekin somewhere has a dig at people who "have so long been in the habit of using pretty words without troubling themselves to understand them, that they now revolt from the effort, as if it were an impiety." What do Mr. Payton and Mr. Aflalo wish us to understand by "effective" and "extremely efficient"? Is a boom to be hastily dubbed "effective" and "extremely efficient" because a fish contrives to commit suicide on the tackle of which it forms a part? When I call a boom effective, I speak of one that will adequately sustain its part in the capture of sizeable fish as hard and fast as they can be hauled, without bending, breaking, embarrassing the fish, entangling the gear, or in any way conducing to profanity; and to say that in these circumstances a boom is effective, or extremely efficient, when it hends at every haul and must be rebent, is simply an abuse of words.

Mr. Aflalo has my sympathy. I seldom read the *Fishing Gazette* correspondence myself without wanting to take a pen and put all and sundry to rights; but I have learnt, with Falstaff, that "the better part of valour is discretion," and I know that.

"Those who in quarrels interpose
Must often wipe a bloody nose."

Well, in thirteen lines of queer English, Mr. Aflalo contrives to state that—(a) the French boom is extremely efficient; (b) it has stood the test of time; and (c) he is an angler of experience. If (a) and (b) are true, is it not singular that Mr. Aflalo should have hugged this knowledge to himself for years, and is only drawn out of his shell now to confirm the belated announcement of its excellence by Mr. Payton? As to his experience—pre-mising that my remark is abstract and not personal—I should like to say that observation convinces me that many people are so innately obstinate and impervious to fresh ideas that their opportunities for gaining experience serve only to confirm them in their original prejudices and misconceptions. When, therefore, Mr. Aflalo appeals in general terms to his experience, I am dumb; but when he appeals to it specifically in support of a rigid right-angle boom as "extremely efficient," then he tenders me ample evidence that the value of his vaunted experience on that one particular point does not amount to a "ha'p'orth."—Yours, &c., JOHN KIRBY.

ALLCOCK'S PATENT RUST-PROOF WIRE.

DEAR SIR.—Having noticed various letters in the Press recently on the subject of plaited wire lines, we have made some tests of it in comparison with our patent rust-proof wire, and we find our wire so much superior in strength, size, pliability, and colour that we have taken the liberty of enclosing you a sample.

Our attention was drawn to plaited wire for making tackle some years ago, and our experiments proved that in plaiting an unyielding material like wire the crossing of the strands in plaiting was an element of weakness, and as soon as a longitudinal strain came on the line there was a tendency to cut where every strand crossed, which made the line much weaker than a twisted one of equal thickness. Also, fineness being a great advantage, more strands can be put in a twisted line of a given thickness than in a plaited line, as a twist will of course lie much closer than a plait, and it therefore enables us to get the desired strength with little more than half the thickness necessary in a plaited line.

In three sizes of plaited line before us the breaking strain is given as 22lb., 24lb., and 28lb., but in our twisted patent line the same sizes, carefully gauged, showed a breaking strain of 38lb., 50lb., and 60lb. respectively.

Then our twisted wire is naturally more pliable than plaited, and though the rust-proofing process slightly lessens this, it is at any rate as pliable as the plaited wire, with the advantage of being a neutral colour, so that in strength, pliability, colour, and thickness it must be considered much superior.

As to the question of the advantage of using entire lines of wire we do not wish to enter, but a few yards of wire used as a trace, with hack line of flax or silk, make an admirable line for either fresh or salt water fishing.—Yours truly, S. ALLCOCK AND CO.

[Messrs. Allcock's samples seem to us to be excellent, and, for instance, far and away better than gimp for pike tackles.—ED.]

THE "BREAKING" OF THE SHROPSHIRE MERES.

SIR,—Could you or any of your readers give a satisfactory explanation of what is known as the "breaking" of the Shropshire meres? There seems to be little known about it locally.—Yours truly, E. W. B.

[We have not fished Ellesmere, but we believe that the expression "breaking of the mere" refers to the same thing as is known as the "working" of a pond; that is, the appearance in all parts of the water of a very fine vegetable growth, which spreads so as to occupy almost all the water from the bottom to the top. We have seen this epidemic growth of all colours, from light green to dark brown. In the cold months it dies off, and reappears with the hot weather. We had a notice of it in the *Fishing Gazette* not long ago, taken from an American paper.—ED.]

FLAT FISH.

DEAR SIR,—I read "Smear Dab's" letter in your issue of Jan. 28 with much interest, the postscript especially. I was not aware until then that the taking of uneizeable sea fish had ever been prohibited by Act of Parliament. On referring the matter to a legal friend and good sea angler, Mr. George Read Clarke, he writes me: "Almost all the 1st George's Acts are repealed: Act 1, George I. c. 18, relating to fish, is repealed by 31 & 32 Vic. c. 45, s. 71." The repeal of such an eminently useful Act is, I venture to think, a great pity, and the sooner that or a similar Act is placed upon the statute book the better

for all concerned, as it would greatly strengthen the hands of those who are doing their best to fight what is, after all, the fishermen's battle. While I have my pen in hand I should like to make some remarks on flat fish and their capricious habits, which I hope may be of use to your many readers who fish at Southend. In the first place, they seem to be gifted with the power of forecasting the weather in an extraordinary degree, and when bad weather is coming they bury themselves, or "sand" as the fishermen here call it. Consequently to fish for them on a falling barometer is almost useless, and for that reason I always send the latest barometer readings in my report. After bad weather, the fish, especially dabs, are covered with mud and sand, a clear proof that they have "sanded" to avoid the storm. Their caprices with regard to feeding are past finding out. I can only say what I have said a dozen times before, that the best method is to open the first few fish caught, ascertain on what they are feeding, and act accordingly.

Many people have the idea that the sooner flat fish are cooked after being caught the better; this is not the case, however. To get flat fish in perfection they should be cleaned as soon as convenient, washed in salt and water, and hung out of doors to get "wind dried." They are then firm, and not pappy like a freshly caught fish. Treated in this way a dab is about as good a fish as swims the seas, and will make even that most tasty morsel, a fried sole, look to his laurels.—Yours faithfully, CHARLES HUSSEY (B.S.A.S.).

TROUT FISHING WANTED.

DEAR SIR,—In reply to "Trout" and "Salmo Salar," who ask for information as to trout fishing at Easter, I would recommend them to put themselves in communication with Mr. W. Mackenzie-Ross, of 6, Little Bruton-street, London, W., whose fifty years' experience as angler and gillie on most of the Border and Scotch rivers and lakes, and many of the Welsh and English rivers, enable him to impart really reliable information. He charges a small fee for consultation or letters—some 2s. 6d. and postage—but the knowledge imparted is well worth the money.—Yours truly, L. M. MEREDITH.

P.S.—The old gentleman mapped out an angling tour for myself and husband last year, which, though a bad season, proved very successful.

WIRE WINCH LINES FOR SEA FISHING.

DEAR SIR,—I am in receipt of the two samples of "Hercules" wire mentioned in your footnote to "Viator's" letter last week, for which lines many thanks. They are, of course, not to be compared to the braided phosphor-bronze lines. "Viator's" letter is indeed a confession.

1. That he has not used wire winch lines with the proper apparatus for bottom fishing with the rod in the sea.

2. That the wire used was unsuitable.

3. That, as we thought, he had not troubled to use the sixteen strand plaited wire before condemning it.

I am pleased, however, to note that he has obtained samples, and is "trying them as reel and hand-lines very soon." When he gets the proper reel, pulley top, butt roller, and methods, he will no doubt find the value of wire for bottom fishing with the rod. This is the subject first started by Mr. Parker before the B.S.A.S., and in the *Fishing Gazette*, and discussed by Mr. Mignot and others who know.—Yours truly, CHARLES S. PATTERSON.

BRITISH SEA ANGLERS' SOCIETY.

MR. ELDRED ON FISH HOOKS.

DEAR SIR,—I notice that in the report of my lecture before the B.S.A.S. on Feb. 1 the name of Messrs. Bartleet and Sons, Redditch, is by accident omitted from the list of gentlemen who so kindly lent me specimens of hooks, &c., to illustrate my paper.

Will you permit me, through your columns, to acknowledge my indebtedness to them in this respect.—Yours faithfully, F. E. ELDRED.

GRAYLING EAT TROUT EGGS.

DEAR SIR,—As I look upon the grayling "as a thing of beauty," and, I trust, "a joy for ever," I am very jealous of having a word said against him.

That I have had some experience with his cultivation in waters other than rivers will be seen in a series of articles I wrote for the *Fishing Gazette* in 1892.

Before I go on to give fresh testimony in his favour, let me first give Mr. Miller credit for all good intentions, but at the same time it is well to remember what happened to the dog with a bad name. The river on which I reside is the Blythe, in Staffordshire, a tributary of the classic Dove, and to my certain knowledge, conviction, and belief for the last forty-five years the balance has been most evenly sustained between *S. fario* and *S. thymallus*, and I question if either would do better, if as well, were they separated. Granted Mr. Miller and mine Editor, grayling certainly prey to some extent upon trout ova, so do eels and others, even the miller's thumb when they can get it, but precisely the same thing takes place by these on the grayling redds in April. It is always dangerous to interfere with Nature's laws, for it is patent to every observer that the same thing happens throughout the whole chain of Creation, or things would soon come to a crisis. One thing I quite admit, i.e., that it is in no way desirable that trout should be unduly displaced by any fish that swims, and it is quite possible that a certain displacement may take place more upon some rivers than others—for instance, those traversing long reaches of level land, fed largely through porous strata, and lacking a number of tributary rills or feeders from the hills. In these cases trout must of necessity spawn upon the gravel beds of the river itself,

consequently the ova falls an easy prey to *Thymallus* and others, who have an undoubted knack of ploughing into the gravel to obtain it. In the rivers I have named these things are very different. We have numbers of these small feeders, and the trout, like the lordly *Salmo*, will never spawn at home if he can get away to do it; who shall reason with nature here? In the hatterfield there is not more heroism—more dangers to be met. I have frequently seen in the smallest of ditches (provided they are perpetual and have gravel), half a mile from the river, some half a dozen pairs of trout ploughing away. Be it said the ova is quite out of the way of *Thymallus* here, and the fry will remain in these places until about July or August, when they are pretty active; they then pass down, and largely join company with the schools of minnows upon the shallowest scours of the river out of harm's way. These beautiful little scavengers, in their raids upon the animalculæ, seem to teach them the early lessons of industry and self-preservation. In taking minnows for bait from these places, I have frequently found one in ten trout fry of the spring hatch. Whoever disbelieves in mixed fisheries and fish preying upon fish let me ask him why it so happens that in the mountain streams of Wales nothing but fingerling trout are found? Is it that the fish are all trout, the streams all breeding ground, and the enemy not present in force? With all good wishes, after long silence.—As ever, F. S. P.

ANGLERS' ASSOCIATION RE-STOCKING FUND.

DEAR SIR,—Since last report I beg to acknowledge receipt of £2 12s. 6d. from the Bostonian Angling Society.—Yours truly, ALEX. WRIGHT (Hon. Treas.).

FLAT FISH AND WIRE LINES.

DEAR SIR,—Many thanks for finding space in last week's *Fishing Gazette* to allow sister "Smear Dab" to ventilate our grievances. It is quite true what she said as to the size we should attain before coming to see you. We have had terrible trouble of late in our nurseries by the loss of so many of our infants going aloft, and other wise. The clouds above us—yes, we have clouds as well as you—but our clouds tumble, roll over and over, howling and hissing, and making terrific noises, which make us keep to the ground floor, covered up in our sand blankets many families together. But there seems almost as much trouble in your much clearer atmosphere in providing the means for taking us and our dear children aloft by our would-be captors, and their various coloured wire lines that glint, sparkle, and shine as they come down, derr, down. Well, as you know perfectly well, we have capita sight, and, always looking upwards, our hearing is equally good. Consequently, whilst taking shelter under the bow of a fishing boat, we heard the following read from your own paper, the *Fishing Gazette* to this effect. Your correspondent, A. W. Parker should say that hair and silk lines are not much heavier than "sea water," while phosphor-bronze are about eight and a half times heavier, and sink readily, and the surface of the tide offers very little friction, and makes sea fishing more comfortable (poor dabs). Another correspondent, C. S. Patterson, goes as far as the Mediterranean and the Canaries to verify the wire lines are used, to support his views in favour of wire lines. Then came another correspondent, A. Mignot with the braided wire line that makes fishing a "real pleasure" (poor dear dabe), there being no weight, do not hold water, going straight down and up, giving direct pull (oh, dear sister), only you must have a large wheel on the top, and counter sunk wheels along the rod. Then another correspondent, "Viator," says wire line certainly hold less tide than any other, but good strong and fine hemp lines have too many advantages to be displaced by a material which has so many disadvantages. Good hemp is suitable for all sea fishing, and much river fishing, too. Then came another and last correspondent's remarks, this time by that old and respected firm, Messrs. Hearder and Son, who state that a flax line properly made is undoubtedly the very best for sea fishing. Then there was a burst of applause, "so say all of us," which resounded down to our very ground floor, and must have been heard on the Leigh shore. It was then agreed that nothing can possibly supersede good hemp line dressed or otherwise, for experienced fishermen. Let the "sea anglers" (landmen) use their own fancies, their quips and cranks, their wheels and wire lines; the merely fish for pleasure, at least some of them. Experience is a good tutor when fishing is pursued for living. But why do they fish for dabs at Southend they want to get good-sized, well-fed members of the family? Surely there is room enough between Dove and Start Point, where the ground floor is all a heantiff sand, and if you want good flavoured dabs such is the ground to get them from. Dabs taken from muddy sandy bottoms, such as Southend, partake of a muddy flavour, although the very mixture of mud and sand makes the best nursery for all kinds of fish, from the halibut down to us poor dabs. Such is Southend. The fry are there in myriads, among which there are some fair-sized fish; but they have not yet been to sea and lost their muddy flavour. Southend is not feeding ground; it is purely and simply a nursery for the very young, who feed upon the substances brought down with the mud and deposited upon the sand. Then we catch them; they make good food in time? Why complain at their being taken? You use the means for doing. If you do not want them use larger hooks at larger baits, query then the results. There is not the slightest need for a "Mundella" Act nor anything the kind, not even for nets. We hear that information is already being collected on this subject at Southend. May much joy go with them we say, and do not forget several of *Asp's* fables.—Yours truly, SMEAR DAB.

Several letters unavoidably held over.

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The

Fishing Gazette

WITH WHICH IS INCORPORATED

ANGLING AND CLUB GOSSIP.

SATURDAY, FEBRUARY 18TH, 1899.

THE RAINBOW TROUT.*

I SUPPOSE there is no doubt that the introduction into Britain of *S. fontinalis*, the speckled brook trout of New England, resulted in general disappointment.

Judging of this fish from the very high place it held in America, high hopes were entertained of its future in British waters, but it must be confessed that they were not realised. However highly *fontinalis* was esteemed in America, it is certain that when introduced into Europe, it fell far short of the expectations of its friends.

Then the rainbow trout came to England. The *fontinalis* had a fair trial and proved a failure. The failure of the *fontinalis* has without a doubt prejudiced the minds of people against the rainbows, and it is possible that on that account the rainbows have not yet had a fair trial. However that may be, it is certain that the rainbow trout has been made the object of attack and severe criticism in various English publications, and has been considered as an unsuitable fish for British

waters. On the other hand, the rainbow has also found many friends in England, who claim that it is a highly desirable fish for that or any other country.

This controversy, which I am happy to say has not been characterised, so far as I have followed it, by any asperity of feeling or speech, has brought out a very sensible and well prepared book by C. S. Patterson and Charles Walker, entitled "The Rainbow Trout." This book, although it takes sides with the rainbow, is not by any means an extravagant eulogy of the fish. It appears to contain a fair and not exaggerated statement of the good qualities of the rainbow trout, while the specific object of the book is to show why it has not succeeded in Britain, and at the same time to propose conditions under which its introduction can be made successful. Although the book is obviously a defence of the rainbow trout, there is underlying it all the evidence of a sincere desire to bring out the facts of the case, and to give the rainbow a fair trial without advancing any unreasonable claims for it, or asking for the fish anything more than it deserves.

It seems to me that the writers have fairly accomplished their object. Of the four conclusions in regard to the rainbow trout, which the authors of the book have arrived at, and which are stated on page 22, the first three are certainly correct and well-founded, viz.: (1) that the rainbows prefer (comparatively) deep and not too swiftly running water, and are not averse to (comparative) warmth; (2) that they will grow quickly and (3) that they are less cannibalistic than the American *Fontinalis*.

The fourth conclusion, that the rainbows will show little or no tendency to go to the sea, I am not so sure about. It may be correct, but I think that at present the verdict must be "not proven." Is there any trout that will not go to the sea when it has a good opportunity? It is true that the McCloud river rainbows do not go to the sea from their native stream; but, on the other hand, the two hundred miles and more of warm water between them and the ocean is doubtless a sufficient reason for their not going.

The position taken by this book that the rainbows have not succeeded in Britain because they have not been placed in proper waters, and that they would have succeeded if they had been placed in proper waters, seems to be a very sensible one, and one that time will doubtless prove to be sound. The conclusions which the writers state on page 37 are also undoubtedly sound and correct. They seem to hit the case so exactly that I will quote them *verbatim*. They are:

"1. The rainbow will always fail if put in cold waters, escaping from them if possible, but if not, gradually dying off.

"2. The rainbow does well in all warm waters, especially where the temperature is subject to little change.

"3. It lives and breeds freely where neither *fontinalis* nor *fario* will thrive."

If these points are carefully kept in mind in the future introduction of rainbow trout into England, I think that future results will be much more favourable than those of the past, and that it is quite probable that *Irideus* will become a favourite fish in England wherever it finds a congenial environment. Too much stress cannot be laid, in my opinion, on the first of these statements, viz., "that the rainbow will always fail if put in cold waters, escaping from them if possible, but if not, gradually dying off." Here lies, I believe, the main secret of the whole matter. In many years' experience with these fish, I have never known a mature rainbow to live in ice water. Ice water is something that they know nothing about. The McCloud river proper, where the var. *Shasta* is native, is formed all at once by one vast spring that issues from the side of Mt. Shasta, a mountain over 14,000ft. in height. The stream never freezes. In the coldest winter that I have known there the temperature of the water never fell below 38° Fahr. No native McCloud river trout (*S. irideus Shasta*) ever felt the sensation of being in ice water. It is, therefore, a very fair conclusion to arrive at, that they are not adapted to extremely cold water, and will avoid it when they can.

I cannot leave this subject without saying a word of my own for this beautiful fish, on the banks of whose native stream, the McCloud river

of California, I have passed, off and on, nearly a quarter of a century of my life. I shall never forget the animation which pervaded our little community, the gathering of rods, the preparing of lines, the selection of flies, during the last days which preceded the opening of the trout season.

And on the opening day itself, the pride and enthusiasm and the happy faces of the fishermen as they came in at night, one after another, displaying their strings of beautiful golden rainbows. It was a sight that cannot be recalled without keen interest and pleasure, and a strong yearning for the beautiful river where it occurred.

As the season advanced, fishermen of both sexes and all ages came from all directions to fish for rainbows in the McCloud, and it became the custom of nearly the whole of our little settlement, men, women, and children, at the end of the hot summer days, to go out with rod and line in quest of these beautiful fish. The passion for fishing seemed to seize the whole community at these times, and it was a very pretty picture that they made, as the sun was going down below the hills, these anglers, men here, ladies there, and little boys and girls not far off, all dotting the river banks up and down as far as one could see.

And the sport was good. The fish were so abundant that almost all efforts were well rewarded, both in the number and size of the captures, the largest fish usually weighing between 4lb. and 5lb., while the smallest hardly ever weighed much less than 1lb.

This having been my pleasant experience with Rainbow trout, I cannot help wishing that every trout stream in Britain could be like the beautiful McCloud, if it were possible, in the quantity and size of its Rainbows. This, of course, is such a wish as only visits us in dreams, but to come down to plain, practical reality, it seems to me that if the Rainbow trout could be introduced into suitable British waters, where it will supplant only coarser and less valuable fish, it would be a consummation much to be desired.

I am not disposed to exaggerate the good qualities of the Rainbow. As a table fish, he does not approach the Atlantic salmon (*Salmo salar*), and he is in this respect far behind the eastern brook trout (*S. fontinalis*). Neither does he, in my opinion, merit the distinction given him by Mr. Noel (p. 30), of being the gamest fish we have, that is, if he means the gamest fish in the United States, but take him for all in all, the Rainbow trout is a beautiful, and when full grown, a magnificent fish, game enough to satisfy any reasonable angler, and when prime, a delicious fish for the table.

Before closing, I may perhaps be pardoned for alluding to some trivial errors in this valuable little book, which I have no doubt the authors themselves will be glad to have noticed, especially as they do not in the least affect the correctness of the reasoning, or of the conclusions of the book, both of which are very sound.

On page 25, I am quoted as saying that the temperature of the water at Baird varies "from 28° F. in December, &c." This, of course, is seen at once to be a misprint, as liquid water at 28° F. is an impossibility.

On page 27, we read that "in 1881, the whole of the hatcheries" (on the McCloud) "were destroyed by a very violent winter flood." It is true that the winter flood was violent enough,—it might even be called terrible,—for this mountain stream, formidable even at low water, rose 26ft. and swept large buildings before it like empty egg shells; but the flood destroyed the salmon breeding station only. The trout breeding station, four miles farther up the river, was not seriously injured, and successive shipments of Rainbow trout eggs were made from there to the eastern states every year from 1880 to 1887.

On page 31 it is stated that "Michigan has a much milder winter climate than any other eastern state." I doubt if facts will bear out this statement. It is true that Michigan is surrounded on three sides by water, but the winter climate in parts of Michigan is very severe, much colder than many eastern states. Michigan has certainly not a "warm, equable" climate, as would be inferred from remarks on page 32. Indeed, the climate is quite the reverse.

Allow me to mention that it seems to me that the book we are discussing, in speaking of waters that are suited to rainbow trout, does not give

* THE RAINBOW TROUT. By C. E. Walker and C. S. Patterson. London: Lawrence and Bullen, Ltd.

quite sufficient weight to the temperature of the water, as compared with the temperature of the air. I am, of course, stating a self-evident proposition when I say that if the water is warm enough for the fish, it is no matter what the temperature of the air is.

I thoroughly agree with the writers of the book, that rainbow trout will neither thrive nor stay in streams that freeze over in the winter. They are, comparatively speaking, a warm water fish. In their native habitat they do not know what ice water is, and I am satisfied that freezing water is very distasteful to them—to say the least; but at the same time they would live in a great spring stream like the McCloud in California, or the Caledonia in New York, even in a climate where the air temperature gets quite low, because in spring-fed streams like these they could find in almost every temperate latitude water not excessively cold. Something like this may account for the success of the rainbows in Michigan, though I have not facts at present to bear out the suggestion. Here let me add that it is a common error to suppose that the carmine band is constant on the rainbow trout. It is not so by any means. At times young fish, and even older fish, females especially, will not show it at all, or if it appears at all, it is hardly perceptible. In the McCloud river it is brightest and most marked in the males, and especially at the spawning season. But it is no proof that a fish is not a genuine rainbow because the red stripe is not perceptible.

I may mention here that it seems to be pretty generally conceded now in America that the ancestor of the rainbow and steelheads is one and the same fish, those of its progeny that habitually

British waters and may become a much esteemed and welcome guest. LIVINGSTON STONE.

[We feel sure that this is a most interesting and valuable contribution and well worthy the most careful consideration by all concerned in any way with the rainbow trout. We asked Mr. Livingston



Several different views were expressed upon the subject, and since that time I have taken occasion to measure falls in several rivers where salmon were leaping, for the purpose of determining how far a salmon can leap. The question allows of some elaboration, and several important factors must be taken into consideration. First, the character of the "take-off," or, in other words, the water from which the salmon starts below the falls. If he can start from a quiet, deep pool or eddy just below the falls, he can make a much higher leap than if he must start from broken water or shallow water. In some rivers salmon are much longer and slenderer than in others, and the slender salmon make much higher leaps than the more robust ones. A fresh run salmon may be so fat that he is clumsy, and not able to do his best at leaping, but after three or four weeks spent in the river, he may perform some remarkable acrobatic feats. In the Washcootai River I have seen salmon thrown back time and again from a leap of about 6ft., and do not remember ever having seen a salmon make more than an 8ft. leap in that river. On the Olomana River I have seen salmon thrown back repeatedly from a leap of 10ft., but having been foiled several times in succession, these fish jumped approximately 14ft. on two occasions, and 16ft. in one instance, while I was watching them. On the Kegashka River I have seen salmon leap about 12ft., but in this river the leaping place was not where I could measure the height of the chosen spot. On the Coal River, in Newfoundland, salmon seem to have difficulty in clearing 8ft. of fall, and this is due probably to the character of the rocks beneath the fall, but as the water from which they leaped was white water, I could not see the character of



went to the ocean becoming steelheads, and those that remained habitually in fresh water becoming rainbows.

The little slips above mentioned are, however, hardly worth mentioning, and they certainly do not affect the soundness of the conclusions of the book, which are well reasoned out, and, in my opinion, incontrovertible.

I agree cordially with the position taken in regard to the rainbow trout, by the distinguished editor of the *Fishing Gazette*, that great caution should be exercised in introducing rainbow trout into British waters, not, if I understand his position correctly, because the presence of the fish will be an injury, but because if planted promiscuously, without regard to suitable conditions, the result will be disappointment and useless expense. I agree entirely with this position of Mr. Marston. Indeed, no one has had more reason than myself for acknowledging the futility and folly of placing new varieties of fishes in waters that are not congenial to them, but if in the future introduction of rainbow trout into Britain, the warnings of this little book are heeded, and the trout are placed in such waters as the book recommends, and under the safe guards which it provides, I think the rainbow trout of California may yet be successfully established in

Stone to review Messrs. Walker and Patterson's work, because we doubt if anyone living has more experience of the fish than he has. He is the U. S. Deputy Fish Commissioner and was in charge of the government salmon boundary station on the Pacific Coast, he was formerly secretary of the American Fish Culturist's Association, and he is the author of "Domesticated Trout, How to Breed and Grow Them," which has long been a standard text book among pisciculturists. Mr. Stone has stated our position exactly, except that we also think it a mistake to introduce rainbows into any of our rivers, in which our native *S. fario* does well. If the rainbow will do well in waters which are not suitable for our native trout, then by all means let them be introduced.—Ed.]

THE SALMON'S LEAP.

A FEW years ago, in a fishermen's nook in London, we were discussing the height to which a salmon could leap, and an Englishman stated that he had known salmon to make a clean leap of 20ft. perpendicularly. This was questioned by a Scotchman present, who said that he had been on many a salmon river, and had never yet seen the salmon that could clear 10ft. perpendicularly.

the "take off." On the north branch of the Humber River salmon were leaping very much higher with ease over falls similar in character to those of the Coal River.

The highest leaping that I have ever seen was on the first falls of the White Bear River in Labrador. The salmon in this river are not large, and the adult fish weigh quite uniformly from 8lb. to 10lb.; but they are very slender, and have tremendously broad tails. A photograph of one of those salmon of 10lb. weight placed by the side of a sea trout of 4½lb. weight shows the breadth of tail and the more graceful outlines of the salmon of this river. I measured the height to which the salmon were leaping, approximately, by standing over the falls and letting my line run from the top of the falls into the pool below, and this line was marked with knots 3ft. apart, so that while the distances were not measured accurately, I was able to determine that most of the salmon leaping the falls at this point were making a leap of about 12ft. Salmon would occasionally leap far past this chosen spot into another chosen spot, which was approximately 18ft. from the pool below.

I photographed salmon in the air, making these two leaps, and all but two that are shown in the photographs were making the 12ft. leap. One that made the 18ft. leap is the salmon which

hows largest in the photograph, as he passed in his flight very close to the projecting rock upon which I sat. The other one making the 18ft. leap is the one with the tail curved downward, and looking rather indistinct in the photograph. I believe that the salmon use the tail for propulsion while in the air, as most of them continue while in air the movements which they make in traveling through the water. When they are near the end of the flight the pectoral fins are spread, the tail becomes rigidly fixed and the salmon sails into the spot that he has selected for an alighting place. The photographs brought out this point.

Reducing the question to one of mechanics, we may estimate that a salmon of 10lb. weight leaping from a still pool requires an initial velocity at the moment of leaving the water of eighteen miles an hour, in order to have momentum sufficient to carry him 12ft. perpendicularly. A velocity of twenty-three miles an hour is required or carrying this same fish 18ft. perpendicularly. —ROBERT T. MORRIS, in *Forest and Stream*.

THE STONE FLY AND ITS LARVA.

ALTHOUGH during the past twenty years I have occasionally published descriptions of the Stone Fly and its artificial dressings, some

identical with the insect so called by Pictet and Curtis—and is probably the species most generally known to anglers as the Stone Fly, since angling writers generally refer to the male fly being much smaller than the female.

I have copied Pictet's illustrations of his *Perla bipunctata* and *Perla cephalotes*, drawn from the natural insects natural size. It will be seen that the former is a larger fly both in the male and female, and whereas in both species the male is smaller than the female, in *P. cephalotes* he is much smaller.

Pictet points out that the general resemblance of some of the Phryganidæ (sedges) to the Perlidæ (Stone Flies) has given rise to the erroneous idea that the Stone Fly lives in a case like the sedge, which it never does or can do, in fact, if it were enclosed in a case from head to tail like the sedge larvæ it would be unable to move about, as the case would imprison the legs. In the larva, or grub, of the true caddis flies the feet are placed close up near the head, and can easily be protruded when the insects wants to crawl about.

Pictet says that the larvæ of the Stone Flies are found principally in the roughest parts of swift streams. Usually the young larva emerges from the egg (deposited in the water some time before by the perfect insect) in the summer or autumn. These larvæ grow to about middle size

often the prey of insects stronger than themselves.

The nymph of the Stone Fly only differs from the larva in having the rudiments of wings (i.e., as the larva grows the rudiments of wings appear on it).

The larvæ of the Stone Flies crawl about among the stones and rocks which form the bed of the river, the larger species preferring the most rapid parts of the stream, those parts where the stream is gentle and the surface smooth being rarely inhabited by these insects. They swim but little, although the long hairs with which the feet of some species are provided would appear to furnish a powerful swimming organ. It is generally only when frightened that one sees them quit the ground and allow themselves to be carried down by the current to a new hiding place; in this case they guide themselves as much with the feet as with the abdomen. As a rule the larvæ live under the stones, selecting places where the rough surfaces of stones and rocks approach each other, and thus afford a secure retreat. Their steel-like hooks or claws enable them to cling firmly to smooth surfaces and under horizontal planes (like flies to a ceiling).

When the time arrives for the last change the nymph leaves the water and seeks a suitable place in which to undergo it, selecting sometimes a

LARVA OF PERLA BIPUNCTATA (Pictet).

STONE FLY.



Figs. 1 and 2. Female fly of *Perla bipunctata*. Fig. 3. Male fly of ditto. (Note that the double tail extends beyond the end of wings).

Natural size.

STONE FLY LARVA OR "CREEPER."

FEMALE STONE FLY.

MALE STONE FLY.



Fig. 1. *Perla cephalotes* male newly hatched, wings folded. Fig. 2. Ditto, when older and towards the end of its life, wings folded. Fig. 3. Ditto, with wings expanded.

Larva of *Perla cephalotes* (Curtis).

Female of *Perla cephalotes* (Curtis) showing wings closed and wings expanded. (Note that the double tail does not extend beyond end of wings).

recent correspondence on the subject shows that there is a good deal of uncertainty about the identity of the insect in question. It also shows that one ought not to trust to memory, for, in answering one correspondent, I said that the Stone Fly in the larva or grub stage of its existence lives in a case or caddis, which was, of course, a mistake, and one I ought not to have made, having often studied Pictet's superb work, and more recently Mr. Frederic M. Halford's invaluable "Dry Fly Entomology."

The following notes and accompanying illustrations are from Pictet's "Famille des Perlides":

Pictet points out that the term *bicaudata* is applied by different naturalists to different species of the Stone Flies. Ronalds calls the fly he refers to *Perla bicaudata*; Mr. Malloch, of Perth, writing in the *Fishing Gazette* the other day, refers to *Perla bipunctata*; Mr. Halford gives as the Stone Fly *Perla cephalotes*, which is

at the beginning of the winter. It is probable they keep as much as possible at the bottom of the deep water in the winter, as the temperature is more even there; in fact, in cold weather it is very difficult to find them at all, and you do not find them near the banks. In the spring they approach the sides and grow more rapidly, and then change to the fly stage of their existence, some with the first fine days, others later in the year.

Stone Flies are found chiefly in swift streams, especially in the streamy parts where broken by rocks, &c.

The larvæ of the different species of this family are all exclusively carnivorous, feeding on small aquatic insects, chiefly on the larvæ of the Ephemeridæ* (duns), and in revenge they are

* This fact should be remembered when it is a question of introducing Stone Flies into waters not producing them.—R. B. M.

large stone, or a wall, or the trunk of a tree or stem of a plant. They only wait until they have found a suitable place, which sometimes takes them some yards from the banks of their native river. It is necessary for them to be able to place themselves on a rather rough surface so as to get a firm hold with their claws during the changing of the skin. When they are sufficiently firmly fixed they await during some moments an event, analogous to that which takes place with many other insects, which will free them from their outer skin. This is the formation of a bed or layer of air between the old and the new skin. The action of heat and dryness appears to influence the development of this layer of air, the principal cause of which is not well known, but the effects of which are easy to appreciate. This air gradually distends the outer skin until it is entirely detached from the inner; increasing in volume it makes a sort of inflation, which, in conjunction with the movements of the insect, ends

in a longitudinal splitting of the skin of the thorax, out of which comes first the body of the insect, then the rings of the thorax, then the head and antennæ, then the wings unfold. Then the insect withdraws the feet from their sheaths, which are held in place by the hooks, takes a fresh hold with these organs, and is thus enabled to pull out of the old case its abdomen and silk tails (whisks, as the fly makers call them). The old skin or larva coat remains adhering to the place selected by the insect for changing it. On examining it closely, the whole external organs of the insect are seen to be represented, because all, even to the corner of the eye, have left their skin there, some entire organs have been left behind, such as the respiratory tufts (*houppes respiratoires*), and in some kinds the whisks. Traces of internal organs are also found.

At the moment of emerging from the nymph skin, the Perlidæ have not their full strength or characteristic colouring; they are rather softer and clearer than they will presently become, a circumstance to be borne in mind in distinguishing species. In any case, after a few hours, or it may be after a few minutes even, the integuments become firm enough under the action of the air to enable the insect to fly.

The flight is heavy, horizontal, and straight; the flies have difficulty in rising, and can only do so at a very slight incline. The least blow stops them, and they fall readily if touched, the larger species appearing to be in this respect even less agile than the smaller ones.

The Stone Flies live usually on the banks of their native streams, and rarely wander far away; they are found on stones, walls, and bushes, some species having different habits in this respect. None of our European species take any nourishment; the rudimentary character of the mouth organs account for this. Thus, the Stone Fly lives but a few days, and, like so many other insects, appears to arrive at the perfect state solely to give birth to a new generation.

The males and females couple soon after changing their nymph skins; but not in the air, the male being minus the caudal forceps which permit the May Flies, Duns, &c., to hold the female in the air.

The eggs are in loose packets and easily separated, not being surrounded by any viscous matter. Pictet was not able to observe how the females deposit their eggs, but thought that they simply let them drop into the water as they fly over it. He had never seen them enter the water, as some of the Phryganidæ do, in order to deposit their eggs beneath stones under the water.*

This interesting description of the life history of the Stone Fly is general of the species, and, as Pictet points out, may vary a little in some particulars in some branches of the family, but as his work extends to over 400 pages I cannot follow him more closely in this place, except to note with regard to the illustrations that:

1. *Perla bipunctata* is, according to Pictet, the largest of the European Stone Flies, and the two sexes presenting less difference in size than is the case with many others. It is found over a great part of Europe, including, according to Newman, England.

2. *Perla cephalotes*.—This species of Stone Fly is remarkable for the great disproportion between the size of the male and female—the male, as already noted, being so much smaller. The wings of the male fly are quite rudimentary, not fit for flying, and not longer than the abdomen when alive; in dead specimens when the body is dry it shrinks so as to appear much shorter than the wings, the latter are brown, rounded, with strong markings. Another handsome species of Stone Fly figured and described by Pictet is *Perla marginata*, also found in this country, the female closely resembles *P. cephalotes* in figure and colour, but there can be no mistaking the males, as *Perla marginata* has long wings.

At the suggestion of Mr. Ohlson, of the Fly Fishers' Club, I am sending out some special bottles for collecting water flies and larvæ, and I shall be glad to have the names and addresses of any anglers who will undertake to collect specimens; instructions as to description, &c., will be

* I have often noticed when turning over stones in the middle of a trout stream many larvæ adhering in a row side by side, like sacks of flour in a mill.—R. B. M.

sent. I shall be glad to have Stone Fly larvæ now and some flies when they hatch out.

With the trout eggs I found in the stomachs of the grayling sent to me by Mr. J. E. Miller, from the Yore, the last week in January last, there were also larvæ of Stone Flies.

R. B. MARSTON.

"FIRST BLOOD."

THE Dee was all out of it on the opening day. So was the Don, the Deveron, the Spey, and the Ness, and the other eighty and one Scotch salmon streams which opened on that auspicious day. The fresh, which set in the previous Thursday, continued throughout Friday, and was even augmented by local rains, and, the hopes of a frost overnight not being realised, there was nothing for it but to face the music to a flooded river in making our first essay of the season.

The prospects were not of the brightest, but it was the opening day, when enthusiasm runs high. Much is overlooked on such occasions, and hope, borne on the wings of pent-up desire, is strong, dulling the worst fears and giving a rosy hue to the faintest chance of any favouring condition, especially on the opening day.

The wish was father to the thought that matters might not be so bad after all, and although there were grave shakings of the head with the older anglers, and the emphatic "no use" from those who had been at the river on Friday afternoon, Saturday morning saw us tearing along to the station in order to catch an early train for one of the mid-reaches of the Dee, a whole mile of water being placed at our disposal for the opening week by a friend who did not intend coming down just yet. He generally lets the first week or so of the season slip by, especially on an opening like the present, when the weather and water conditions have been somewhat mixed, and when no one can tell for two days on end how things are to turn out.

On a whole mile of water there are always some bits here and there where a fish may lurk when the pools are unrecognisable, and consequently unfishable, and to these likely places we determined to devote our attentions. It was on such that our hopes depended, and, recalling how often this backwater here, and that slack bits of stream there, this bend here and that turn there, had served us on many a former day when flooded out of the regular pools, it was wonderful what a cheery state of mind we found ourselves drifting into as we sped along over the eighteen miles of lower Deeside scenery, bearing but few traces of the adamant hand, which held it so fast in its iron frosty grip but a few days since.

For an opening day the weather was on the whole delightful. The mists which hung over the river in the early hours were dispelled as the morning advanced, and the early spring sun came out bright and strong till well on in the day, when clouds again began to gather and a slight rain fell at intervals till night closed in. After the rigours of the past few weeks, the genial spring day was most acceptable; and on this point at least the opening day was voted a decided success. If the river was not all that could be desired, the weather was no drawback, and the patch of blue sky so much built on by old hands was all there, with a few yards to spare.

The road from the station landed us at the centre of the water, and true to old traditions the gaff was thrown heavenwards to decide whether we should commence where we were, or proceed to the head of the water. The first throw was not very decided, as it fell with the clip pointing across the stream, and, accordingly, a second shy had to be made. There was no dubiety about the second throw. The die was cast for the head of the water, and to the head of the water we went. Probably the twist given to the handle of the gaff had something to do with the outcome of the auspice; but, at all events, it was quite to our liking, and what we would have chosen without the tomfoolery of calling in the services of the gaff, had it not been to humour old Donald, who would have been hurt had we not commenced the season's operations with the customary *éclat*. A brand new Gordon—the king of Dee flies—was put up to take the "cream of the water," as Donald put it; and "tight lines" being duly honoured by the same worthy, with many other

benedictions on the coming season, and with best wishes for a good day. Although this was said in a somewhat suspicious and doubtful tone of voice, and not after Donald's usual sanguine manner, the day's work commenced in earnest.

The river, if big, was not dirty, and there was no call for heavy casting. Wading, of course, was out of the question; but I have ever found stocking waders very serviceable, although probably they might have also been dispensed with, only that one can follow a fish with more comfort, and, at times, cover a flat or backwater "lie" with greater facility a yard or two into the stream than from 2ft. or 3ft. of a bank above it. It may be pure fancy on my part, but I feel more "at home" when casting, say, knee deep in the river than from a bank above. Of course it all depends on the surroundings of the pool and the nature of the margin of the river; but I confess to a predilection for getting into the water whenever and wherever I can. It is quite the opposite with a great many anglers I have met with, and they are often disappointed with fisheries they have taken when they find out, on arrival, that wading, and especially deep wading, is absolutely necessary before getting over their fish properly in a normal sized water. They prefer what are termed ladies' reaches, and soon get disgusted when a bit of hard wading has to be encountered to secure a fish. The nature of the fishery in this respect should be fully inquired into by those who are timorous of wading or who are not fully and freely at home when off the bank. Last year a gentleman took a section of the Dee for the spring months on the full assurance that there would be little or no wading required if the river kept up. After the first week the river fell away to dead summer level, and wading became an absolute necessity. It continued so during the second week, and the gentleman left in disgust. As there was no immediate prospect of a rise in the water, he wrote asking the proprietor to take the water off his hands and send him anything he liked in return. The rental was £150 for the season, and although only two weeks of it had gone, all he got in return was a cheque for £5. This same reach was worth twice as much in a small water to one who could wade, as in a big one to anyone fishing off the bank. Yet it was truthfully enough described as a bank water if the river kept up. But this by the way.

Knee deep I was covering a tempting little hole close by the side with a white-winged Akroyd, which I had changed for the Gordon, when the rug came, followed by the swish of a tail, which at once proclaimed the nature of the quarry.

"He's a kelt, Donald," I yelled to the old fellow, as he came tearing along the bank on seeing me engaged, so that he might take it easy.

"Don't be too sure of that, sir," came from the sanguine Donald. But I was not mistaken. Down the water it went, and I put on as much strain as I could to prevent it getting out into the swollen current, else there was no saying how far it might compel me to follow, or when the compact might cease. I succeeded in keeping it well in hand, and calling to mind an experience of some five years ago on the opening day, when the precious part of a whole forenoon was devoted to indulging the humours of big kelt over some three miles of the Commonty and Blackhall Castle waters, I at length got quite savage with this one, and, *volens volens*, soon had him within reach of Donald's gaff. It is not my practice to gaff a kelt, but here I had no option. There was no shallow to run it into, and landing nets are not yet made compulsory on the Dee during the opening months. But this is a mistake, and profiting by this legal loophole, that fish was gaffed, and so god rid of within twenty minutes of having been struck. Another run with a second kelt followed, a small affair this time, and got over in half the time.

Donald and I then had lunch, and as it was beginning to cloud up a bit and a slight drizzle to fall, skimmed over the lower part of the water till the "Lang Haugh" was reached, a favourite "lie" in a spate, and only fishable in a big water. At any other time it makes a wading ground to get at the pool proper farther out. As the Akroyd seemed to bring only "kelt sport," Donald tied up a Yellow Gaudie I got sent me the other day from old Blacklaws, who, although

ough the four score years and ten, can tie and cast a fly with many of his juniors. The Yellow Gaudie did it. At the third cast I was into a fine fish—small, but game. Away it went like a flash up the water. It was an anxious moment or so before I got it checked. But back it came with the current at the bend of the river, and for fully five minutes I held him in the teeth of it. Then it showed beautifully on its side, and then a sort of helplessly floated right round to Donald's feet; "7½lb., sir," said Donald from the bank a minute or two later, and we drank to the "first blood" of the season. G. M.

GROUND-BAITING, OVER-BAITING, ETC.

IN most open waters near London, during the first four or five months of the coarse fishing season, a great number of anglers cast in far too much ground-bait, and the fish get over-fed. Consequently, indifferent sport is the result. Take the Thames for instance, how frequently one hears of a swim having been baited with 1000 worms. No doubt judicious baiting is necessary to ensure success, but time should be given between the baiting and commencing, say at least forty-eight hours. Now, many anglers ignore this, and in a river like the Thames, at least during the summer months, the immense traffic naturally renders the fish shy, especially in the daytime; the result is they only begin to feed late of an evening and during the night. I have frequently proved this fact by opening one or two of the fish taken at day-break, when I have found them full of ground-bait—bread and bran, or worms, as the case may be. I advise anglers to open several of the fish first caught, one can then tell on what bait they are feeding. On one occasion, on opening a chub I found it full of cheese paste; on another, I opened several roach and found them literally gorged with bread and bran; needless to say, I knew at once what bait to use, and was thus successful. An old friend, a well-known chub and barbel fisherman, made a point of baiting one or more swims on a Thursday, ready for Saturday and Sunday; he was the most successful angler in our club, and this was no doubt due to his foresight. On the day he fished he used very little ground-bait. I mention this because one frequently sees anglers with large bags of ground-bait, which they continually cast into their swims; no wonder they catch so few fish. In fact, this was a common practice on the river Lea for many years past; but now most of the best roach anglers only make up the top of a half-quarten loaf, mixed with plenty of bran. A piece about the size of a Norfolk dumpling I find quite enough for a long day's fishing. Never cross bait your swim, if you intend using worms for a hook-bait, throw in a few cut up worms; if paste, throw in a few pieces about the size of a pea, don't over do it.

An instance of over-baiting, or, rather, injudicious baiting, occurred on the river Arun, in a swim I had been fishing near Bury, and doing well at. A friend, who was staying down for his holiday, procured a sack of grains, and mixed them with bullock's blood, casting the whole mess into the swim on the ebb tide, with the result that few fish were taken in the swim for some weeks, for the Arun being a strong tidal river, and the grains light, on the run up of the tide they were shifted further up the river, the fish, no doubt, going with them. On the following Sunday a great competition was held, and, strange to say, one of the first prizes was taken by an angler who fished about ten yards above where my friend had put in the grains. It taught my friend that the sort of baiting good for quiet rivers like the Medway and Onse was quite out of place at Amberley. Most of the anglers on the Arun squeeze a stiff piece of ground-bait round their bullets. This is a good plan, as it ensures the ground-bait remaining for a time close to the baited hook, and better than casting it into the swim.

I shall always remember my first visit to Richmond-on-Thames. I was a lad at the time, and was advised to take plenty of carrion gentles. So procuring six quarts at Messrs. Carter's shop, who kindly put them in a canvas bag, and tied the bag up with string, which we put on the rack. The train was just on the point of starting when in rushed an elderly lady. There was no smoking compartments in those days, but that did not

matter, as she did not object to a cigar, and asked us to allow her to sit with her back to the engine, to which we at once agreed, and so changed places, forgetting all about our traps. For some few miles all went well, when, all at once, we were startled by a scream. Now all anglers know how gentles find their way through the very smallest aperture, and it was certainly a mistake to expect them to remain quiet for long in a bag only tied up with string. The lady sat quietly reading, and no one noticed the gentles dropping out of the bag into her lap; fancy her horror when she noticed she was nursing twenty or thirty of these creatures. You can easily imagine our disgust, for the bottom of the carriage was covered with them. The old lady took her departure at the next station, leaving I and my friend busy scooping them up, and, in spite of all that escaped, we had more than enough for a week's fishing, let alone a single day.

I have often been asked how I make up ground-bait. This greatly depends upon the rivers I am going to fish; for rivers like some parts of the Ouse, Medway or Lea, with but little stream, your bait may be made much lighter, not nearly as stiff as for a strong running stream such as the Arun, or, in fact, many parts of the Thames, where they add more bran and less pollard, or allow the bread to soak longer, but beware of making it too soft, this is a great fault with beginners. I advise them only to make enough to last for a few hours, then make up some fresh, it is a great mistake to use stale bait of any kind. When white paste fishing, a good dodge is to slightly damp your paste, then dip it into a bag of dry bran, the particles of loose bran flake off, and floating away help to attract the fish.

There are so many little dodges known to our best anglers, that of late years roaching has become quite an art, but to enumerate all would make this article far too long. In these days roach are not so easily caught as in Walton's time. So I advise novices to try and have a day or two with an up-to-date roacher in order to become as celebrated some day as J. Osborn, Woodward, and many other well-known roach fishermen. On the Thames many anglers use soft clay, dug out from the bank, and mix it with soaked bread (crust and crumb) and plenty of bran. Thames professional anglers use the crust in the shape of a cube, this being a favourite bait on this river, but I seldom found it of much use on the Lea and certain other rivers. In making up ground-bait most Lea men never use crust.

Foul baiting.—In my long experience as an angler I have seen many instances of swims being spoilt. On one occasion, being a subscriber at Benningfield's water on the Lea, a swim where I had been very successful was for a time spoilt; in fact, made unfishable, hair line after hair line being broken, so the swim for a time was discarded. At last, while ledgering for chub, my gut triangle hook became fixed, but a steady pull at last released a five-barred gate, which, floating to the surface, I quickly removed out of the water sufficiently far to prevent its being pushed in again.

I think it was in the sixties that two well-known roach anglers, hailing from the east end of London, agreed to fish a match for a small prize or purse, two swims being selected; but, No. 2 swim being known to be better than No. 1, it was agreed the men should change swims every hour. It was decided to fish from 10 a.m. till 7 p.m. The angler I shall call Fred, having won the toss, elected to start at the best swim, so as to have the last hour at it. This was clearly a great advantage to him, as he would fish the best place five hours to his opponent's four, yet Joe won the match. Before leaving No. 2 swim Joe cast into the swim all his remaining bait. Fred up to this time having a few fish more than Joe, and the best swim for the last hour, it was almost any odds on him. Strange to say, No. 2 swim only yielded one more fish. How was this to be accounted for? Some of Fred's friends wanted to make out he did not try, but some time afterwards it transpired Joe had mixed salt with the last lot of bait he threw in, and completely spoiled the best swim. RED EYE.

GRANT'S CHERRY WHISKY.—This attractive "pick-me-up" is a pleasant combination of Kent Cherry Juice and very soft old Scotch Whisky. This and Grant's Morella Cherry Brandy are sold by Wine Merchants.

MRS. DABWATTLE GOES A-FISHING.

"JOSIAH," said Mrs. Dabwattle sweetly, "I am coming fishing with you to-morrow."

Mr. Dabwattle gasped. Not an ordinary common "I-wanted-that-badly" sort of a gasp, but one of sheer paralysed astonishment, opening his mouth so widely in the operation that his cigar dropped out on to his leg, where it started a small fire on its own account that speedily began to recall him to the painful realities of this world.

The cure was completed by his hurriedly seizing the wandering Havanah, and putting it back in his mouth, lighted end first.

Then weird and wondrous words floated around, until his ingenuity being exhausted, and his brain cortex fit to burst, the appalling sense of Mrs. Dabwattle's words broke upon him in all its terror.

"Ann Jane," said Mr. Dabwattle solemnly, "you must be dotty. Have you any idea of fishing? Can you cast a line? Can you play a trout? Can you scramble over rocks and through bushes with your size? It's monstrous, and not to be thought of for a moment. Bosh, Mrs. Dabwattle, bosh!" and then Mr. Dabwattle indulged in a hideous chuckle of his own invention, a chuckle that he kept for special and urgent occasions like the present, a chuckle that conveyed untold scorn and other maddening things; and which applied at the right moment—that is to say as he left the house, thus avoiding any reply—always infuriated Mrs. Dabwattle, and put her into a temper that took hours of violent sweeping, dusting, and upside-downing the house to calm.

On this occasion, however, it was too late at night for Mr. Dabwattle to escape, and he experienced the full fury of the storm, getting well bullied in consequence, and being obliged, after much resistance, to at last agree to his wife's proposal.

Mr. Dabwattle got down first next morning, and presently Mrs. Dabwattle's fairy step was heard on the stairs. Mr. Dabwattle went towards the room door to welcome her, but recoiled with a yell, and got round to the other side of the table, and stuck there, with one hand planted in the marmalade dish, and his eyes starting out of his head, as Mrs. Dabwattle sailed smiling into the room, arrayed in a bright green pair of bicycle what-you-call-ems, with a jacket to match.

Her legs were clothed in red check stockings of Mr. Dabwattle's, from which she had cut the feet, replacing them with black silk ones, cut from a pair of her own.

On these black extremities she sported a pair of old dancing shoes, because, as she afterwards explained, "She wasn't going to spoil a good pair of boots getting them soaked and cut about."

Above her Alpine hat waved a feather of fear-some shape and hue.

When Mr. Dabwattle perceived that it was of a truth his Ann Jane, and not a tax collector in disguise, he came from behind the table sucking the marmalade off his fingers, and trying to find words suitable to his state of mind. But before he had got even one finger clean, Mrs. Dabwattle opened the ball.

"Ha, ha, Mr. Dabwattle," she cried exultingly. "You little thought last night that I had anticipated your foolish objections about petticoats being in the way fishing, and that I had provided these er—trouserettes especially, so that you need not have that excuse, anyhow. I see you are surprised, my dear, but I hope you are satisfied."

"But the colour, Mrs. Dabwattle," faltered Josiah, paralysed by this sudden attack; "such a colour; and then that feather, oh, oh."

"There," cried Mrs. Dabwattle, "isn't that like a man? Nothing one can do is right. Didn't you tell me the day you came back without any fish, with a lot of green paint on your coat, that you had put it there on purpose to make you less conspicuous against the bushes? Although I noticed that they had re-painted the door of the Green Dragon that day the same colour. Isn't your line green, don't you call your wretched rod 'greenheart,' isn't even your beastly little fishing paper you devour so, green? And now you find fault with my trouserettes because I try to please you; and, as to my feather, one can't go out a guy even fishing, and feathers are worn big now; and I chose this because it's the tail of a lyre bird, and, the shopman said, suited to a fisherman—though why he grinned I don't know—and, and,

boo-hoo hoo," and Mrs. Dabwattle flung herself down in a yellow armchair, and sobbed loudly, producing a combination of sound and colour that quite overcame Mr. Dabwattle—who was biliously inclined—and caused him to hasten to pour oil on the troubled waters, and allay the storm.

Mr. Dabwattle, with these green garments ever in his eye, displayed a sudden solicitude for Mrs. Dabwattle's health that was quite enchanting, and instead of their walking through the town, insisted on hiring a little donkey-cart for the day in which to reach the river. Mrs. Dabwattle assenting, they soon got things arranged, and set forth in their chariot eager for the fray.

They had barely started, however, before Mr. Dabwattle remembered that he had left his knife in his room.

"You stay in the cart, Josiah," said Mrs. Dabwattle. "I'm not going to be left alone here with this beast, and we can't turn him round under half an hour. I'll go back," and she clambered out, and was back again almost before Mr. Dabwattle had time to replace the whisky-flask in the basket, after indulging in a surreptitious gulp. "Fancy forgetting your knife, Josiah," said Mrs. Dabwattle severely. You should always go through what you want to take first, like me. Now, I have put in the food and the flask—by the way, that flask must leak, I smell it strongly; a change of shoes and stockings—which you can manage in your pocket, Josiah, when we leave the cart. Then my cloak and umbrella—you'll have to carry these, my dear—and, let's see, yes, of course, some needlework and a book, in case I get tired of fishing. Those won't hurt in your basket, Josiah. There, you see, Mr. Dabwattle, nothing forgotten, everything needful for use and enjoyment."

"Why didn't you bring a table and chair as well, my dear," snarled Mr. Dabwattle. "I could have easily carried them on my head. Let me see, oh yes, and the bath tub, I could easily have slung that round my neck—everything for enjoyment, indeed," and Mr. Dabwattle groaned aloud and gave the moke "what for."

When at last they reached the river Mr. Dabwattle's temper was not improved, for Mrs. Dabwattle had, without warning, caught the donkey a crack over the back with one of the rods, which crack falling on the harness and not the animal had considerably damaged the spare top and bent the rings.

It was with a face full of gloom, therefore, that Mr. Dabwattle began putting the rods together, nor was it soothing when Mrs. Dabwattle suddenly sprang at his best winch, and began turning it round as hard as ever she could, exclaiming in childish tones, "Oh, Josiah, what a delightful little wheel thing. What can it be for, I wonder. Oh, I could turn it round all day, it's too lovely for words."

"Don't be a fool, Ann Jane," snorted Mr. Dabwattle. "Give it to me, can't you see that it's the line? Now, you just watch me. I place it here so, fix it like this, run the line through the rings, fix on this long piece of gut, then this fly like this, take the rod in your right hand, your landing net in your left, and there you are ready for your first lesson. See?"

Mrs. Dabwattle looked doubtful. "But where do you put the worms, Josiah?" she asked, "Won't they creep through the holes in the net?"

"Great Scot, Ann Jane Dabwattle," roared Mr. Dabwattle, "worms, worms; you ain't going to fish with worms; and if you were, d'ye think you bait the net with 'em for the fish to come and fetch away? Flies, woman; we fish with flies. This is the fly, this thing here; that's what the fish take in their little mouths, and then they pull, pull, pull; and he seized the fly and tried to shake it under Mrs. Dabwattle's nose. But Mrs. Dabwattle, in great alarm, jumped back, as was to be expected, at such a demonstration, and, as she had the rod in her hand, succeeded in jabbing the fly into Mr. Dabwattle's finger, making him jump and whirl like a Dervish, and yell like a man possessed, all of which only made her pull the harder, under the impression that he was showing her how a trout behaved when hooked. However, she soon discovered her error, and in a blue, not to say lurid atmosphere, the hook was extracted, the finger bound up, and after much delay, she received her first lesson in fly fishing.

Here my pen refuses to write. Suffice it to say,

that after much exertion and many accidents with the fly of a painful nature, she mastered the art of getting about 6yds. of line on to the water, in a good solid lump, with the fly in the middle.

Then Mr. Dabwattle gave the final directions. "Go up to that bridge, Ann Jane," he said, pointing out a bridge some way up the river, "and when you get there begin fishing, as I have taught you, only past the bridge, mind. This water here is useless, and I'll just skim over it and catch you up."

Here I must candidly acknowledge that Mr. Dabwattle knew of a whopping trout just above him, and meant to insure his Ann Jane being well out of the way in case he rose him.

"And," continued Mr. Dabwattle, "if by any freak of nature you should hook a fish, remember what I have told you; be very careful, and wind him in slowly as you get the chance."

"I see," said Mrs. Dabwattle, as she turned towards the bridge; "but surely, Josiah, it will have to be a very thin fish for me to wind in through all these rings."

Mr. Dabwattle set to work, but, alas! for the best laid plans. He had hardly made half a dozen casts before he was stuck in a lusty trout, his own particular whopper. All his ill-humour vanished. Even Ann Jane and her green trousers were forgotten. With a nice clear river and plenty of room all seemed *couleur de rose* in a moment. Away went the fish; screech went the reel; and at the strange noise Mrs. Dabwattle, who had not got far as yet, turned, beheld the bending rod, and ran back eager and breathless.

"Don't come close, get out of the way," roared Mr. Dabwattle, as his Ann Jane cavorted round and about. "Good heavens, woman, what are you about? Leave it alone, don't touch it. Oh, ah! you, you," and Mr. Dabwattle's voice, that had risen to a scream, sunk to a moan of despair as Mrs. Dabwattle, overcome with excitement and the sight of the slender bending rod, made a wild spring at the line, and exclaiming, "Oh, I must help, Josiah," seized it with both hands and tugged!

Once more my pen strikes work. Even that old trout, used as he was to fishermen, felt sad as he sailed away to his holt under the bushes, where he reflected on the limited language of trout as compared to that of man.

When Mr. Dabwattle eventually reached the bridge, after having flogged the rest of the water in a heartless and broken-spirited manner, he spied the cause of his discomfort, bending down on the bank a little beyond, busily engaged in rooting up the earth with something that gleamed white in her hand.

"What on earth are you doing now, madam?" he shouted. "Root grubbing isn't what I brought you out for—that's not fishing."

"No; but it means fishing, my good friend," shouted back at him his bright green spouse. "I've had enough of your stupid fly fishing, and caught nothing but myself; and now I'm getting a worm, and I'm going to fish properly, and you just run down here and put it on the hook for me."

"With my knife, too," yelled Mr. Dabwattle, and he dashed off the bridge with murder in his eye.

But his Ann Jane met his furious onslaught with that calmness born of innocence that disarms the strongest foe. "Don't be alarmed, my dear," she exclaimed, "I am not using your precious knife. I could not find it when I went back, but I brought your razor instead!! It's ever so much stronger, and I shan't break the blade."

"Ann Jane Dabwattle," said Mr. Dabwattle, sadly and slowly, "if any man had told me that he knew a woman, a real live woman, that went digging worms with her husband's best and only razor, I should have told him to run away and write fishing stories; but after this—oh, Ann Jane, Ann Jane—come home, Ann Jane, come right away home," and Mr. Dabwattle led his wife home, where she has since stayed. OYSTER.

BRITISH SEA ANGLERS' SOCIETY.—The annual general meeting of the members of the society will be held at the Cannon Street Hotel on Wednesday, Feb. 22, at 7.30 p.m., for the purpose of receiving the report of the committee and the audited accounts for the year ending Dec. 31, 1898, and for the election of officers for the ensuing year.

THE 1898-9 GUT CROP.

In reporting upon the gut crop of 1898-9, I have to announce an increased production of about 30 per cent., the major portion of which is confined to Refina or fine gut. For the first time since the exhibition year of 1883, the shorter common gut ("Corta") is a largely diminished quantity. In consequence of the Spanish-American War, the exchange value of gold so appreciated, that the price of gut has been materially cheapened, in some instances to the extent of nearly 30 per cent. The quality this season is fully up to the average, and intending purchasers will have little reason to complain. The heaviest salmon gut is scarce, and of course correspondingly expensive, the supply (as is frequently the case) not equalling the demand.

R. RAMSBOTTOM.

81, Market-street, Manchester.

STRAY CASTS.

SALMON problems, like the poor, we have always with us, and both topics have, I fear it must be confessed, been sufficiently fertile in words without knowledge, and speculation without sanity. There is no remedy for this, and perhaps it is as well as it is; but then let us be careful what we accept, for only by severe examination of theories and suggestions can we hope to secure some of the gold of fact, and reject the dross of fallacy and falsehood. At least, let us do it in the salmon and angling world, as for the politico-economic world it is simply past praying for, so we shall leave it at that.

A correct theory I do not hold to be necessarily true. But it must explain the phenomena. A spirit rapper may be a juggler or a miracle worker. Either explanation is sufficient to explain the phenomena, and, therefore, is enough for me. The philosophy of Ptolemy was objectively false, but as it explained everything, and could not possibly mislead any human being to his disadvantage or otherwise, it was good enough for Bacon. But he shrewdly remarked that the new Copernican system, although objectively false (!) could never be proved incorrect, for it also explained the phenomena. But when a man tells me that salmon will come up the Thames, when that river is as pure as the Test for instance, I demur. There may be other deterring influences at work besides the mere filth of the river, and there may be filth, Thames filth for instance, which does not really deter. The Liffey is the filthiest river in Europe, the Clyde scarcely excepted, and yet salmon ascend it, whereas some perfectly pure streams are never entered by these mysteriously capricious fish. A Glasgow paper has been telling its readers lately how salmon come some way up the Clyde even now, turning off at the Leven, and ascending by it to Loch Lomond; and presently, when Glasgow's model corporation has quite done with the river, they will come up to the Broomielaw and on to the upper waters in Clydesdale itself. This is good news, but I suspect that paper is singing the London song. And talking about the Leven, is it not about time *S. salar* began to take a peep in at the Stour or Medway, or some of the Essex rivers? But perhaps they are not clean enough.

They kill heavy springers in Ness and Thurso waters in early February and onward, and I am told there are really "winter fish yet travelling to the spawning grounds, which, of course, is the ultimate aim of all migrating fish." Well, this is good news. Will someone tell me whether these big fish are full of spawn as befits creatures hurrying to the redds—and very late, too, at that? If not, why darken counsel in this way? I hate to be hypercritical; but still, I hope there is no harm in saying, just by the way, that we seem to have no winter fish (salmon). I make it out in this way. The latest run of fish which the angler comes in contact with, even in the late November days, are always known—and rightly so, of course, as winter does not begin, if it comes to that, till late December—as harvest or autumn fish. And then, no matter how early the season opens, the angler—and everyone else, for that matter—calls the fish he killed spring fish, so that winter is virtually ignored. Perhaps autumn fish become "winter fish," but I hope not. Such nomenclature would

be most undesirable and confusing. But to return. What I really admire in the above quotation is "of course!" If there is a touch of the sarcastic in it I make my apologetic bow, but I really think we have here a most highly controverted point dealt with after the delightful manner of the most obvious truism. As I am writing these simple lines, towards the close of January, there are thousands of salmon pouring in from the ocean, and ascending certain favoured rivers of these islands, but surely not one of them will spawn, or is physically capable of spawning, until at least next November or thereabouts at the earliest. Why, then, speak of them as "winter fish travelling to the spawning grounds?" Their ultimate aim (next November or December) may be spawning, but what we want to get at is their immediate aim. My own impression is that their visit is of a ceremonial kind. They come with congratulations and good wishes in their mouths, just as our own women folk do when a certain interesting domestic event has recently occurred, and the mother in question is strong enough to be called upon. Or they may come up to laugh at the weary and worn breeders, forgetting that it will be their own turn next. I offer these explanations with reserve, and am quite prepared to qualify or even withdraw them on fuller information than I possess forthcoming. But anyway, they are an explanation, if only a laughable one; but to say the springer is coming up to spawn is no explanation at all, but worse. Nor is this all. The lighter weights (fish of from 7lb. or 8lb. to 10lb or 12lb.) it appears are "the true spring beauties," and not those heavy fish of Tay or Thurso. Agreed; but are these on spawning bent also, and, if not, what are they up to? Some years ago I read some remarks addressed to the tyro by an old and experienced salmon angler, Major Traherne I think it was, and among other things the pupil was told to try carefully "the eddies and tail of eddies at back of boulders" as a likely spot for a fish, as to such spots *food was swept by the current*. The italics of course are mine. Now any one who chanced to overhear the language used on that occasion, or took a glance at the wild war dance I executed over the mangled remains of that book as I kicked it about the room, would possibly be inclined to think I took things too seriously. And if I had been overheard, as I might have been the very previous day, giving exactly similar advice, barring the italics, to an inquirer, going on a strange river myself I might also be thought inconsistent. And yet it was quite otherwise. Undoubtedly, when you have not a local man to guide you, look carefully to boulders and their eddies. It is probably the best policy. But how dare any man say the presence of salmon in such places, or their taking humour is a matter of food or feeding! How does he know? He never saw a salmon feeding there, or anywhere else for that matter, and all this assumption of groundless and haphazard conjecture, as tried and accepted matter of fact, and lending it currency as such, I simply regard as treason to our craft and its mysteries. I love a man that can honestly and fearlessly say: "I don't know." As for saying the matter is but a trifle, I simply deny it. Nothing, however remotely connected with fishing is a trifle; and the cultivation of a credulous, unenquiring mental attitude is no trifle either. It is tampering with the vital springs.

Next, and lastly, a word on early and late springers, or rather on early and late spring rivers. I read this is a matter of temperature, and of course it may be, but let us see how it works out. "Where the waters are warmed in a long, shallow basin there is an earlier run of salmon than where the stream runs deep and sluggish over a cold bottom, even though their sources may all spring from the same mountain range." Of course, "spring" here really means winter, as the fish movements referred to are all pretty well over by the close of March, when winter ends; but it is enough for our purpose to remark that we are here speaking of cold weather, and not hot. Now, I always was of opinion, and am even so still if it comes to that, that in cold weather the water "in the long, shallow basin (query, bed)" was the colder, while that in "deep and sluggish streams" was the warmer. And the converse would be true, of course, of summer. For as

water is the most difficult substance in nature to make either hot or cold, and is also a very bad conductor in thermal matters, it defies the cold of winter to reach its greater depths, though, in its shallower parts, it may certainly at the close of a very cold spell be chilled through and through, even to freezing. And at such times fish retire to the depths for warmth. In like manner, it baffles the summer heat. The shallow margin, no doubt, will in late August be warm, very warm, but a touch of winter will be found lingering in the depths still. In fact, the sensible effect of heat or cold on water is in inverse ratio to its depth; so that the shallow water is now (in winter-spring) coldest, and the deep warmest; and no deep stream ever has "a cold bottom" in these islands either in winter or summer. Nor exactly a warm one either. The temperature of the deep changes little, and how much have the destinies of humanity depended on this small fact! How much does western Europe owe to the warm western winds from the winter Atlantic, and to the cool ones from its summer surface? But this is not fishing. MONA.

PISCATORIAL SOCIETY.

THERE was a large assembly of members and friends of this society on Monday evening at the Holborn Restaurant, to hear Mr. Horace H. Brown read his paper on "The Birds of the Kennet Valley," which had been looked forward to with unusual interest. Mr. Robt. C. Blundell presided. Mr. Horace Brown, after referring to the immensity of the study of natural history in any branch, mentioned that the species of birds to be found in the British Isles numbered 376, viz., 128 residents, fifty-two summer visitors, thirty-one winter visitors, and 165 occasional visitors. In the happiest possible manner he likened the members of the Piscatorial Society to these various classes of birds. First, the residents (the regular members), the happy souls who were ever with them ready to take the rough and the smooth as they came, and whose study it was, whilst learning the theory of how to take fish, to put in practice the art of how to make friends. Then they had the summer visitors, who turned up when the fat of the piscatorial land was served to them in the shape of Grey Drakes and Spent Gnats, having previously, perhaps, if very energetic, tried their luck with the Grannom. With the last of the May Fly they vanished. Verily they had their reward! Then there were the winter visitors, who showed up at the festive board when banquets were held or who came to "smokers." These, under the inspiring influence of the flowing bowl and genial society, talked fish, and there finished. Then came that remarkable collection classed as occasional visitors. They even sometimes built with them, and each year laid two guinea gold-coloured eggs, which were carefully collected by the hon. secretary and treasurer. They had been known, too, to lay three, and then to wish they hadn't. (Loud laughter.) He (the speaker) wished them good luck, and, as far as eggs went, "power to add to their number." Their treasurer had charge of a fine collection of these golden eggs, numbering over 200. They had been handed down to him carefully packed away and labelled "please don't touch." He might remark, likewise, on that curious migration northward that took place amongst certain knowing "old birds" in the autumn—birds who sometimes showed no piscatorial desire whatever until the period of migration to Scotland set in, but who, noting energy in their younger brethren, gave vent to their plaintive little cry of "pyffling, pyffling," repeated with monotonous frequency. (Laughter.) Much of their zeal was due to the extraordinary moulting which took place at this season of the year, when the semi-official broadcloth was thrown off and replaced by plaids and tartans, whilst the lower extremities were more or less exposed to the admiring gaze of the hen birds, who were supposed to aid in the adornment of the male, especially the lucky birds who had well feathered their nests. Harking back to that real quarry of the evening—the feathered friends of the Kennet valley—Mr. Brown said that in Berks, Wilts, and Oxon something like 245 had been credited. Suppose the members were at the Swan at Newbury, and that breakfast was arranged for 8 a.m. (a pure supposition, by the way), and that they had plenty of time for their ablutions. If they loved birds, they would, by drawing up the blind and opening the window, have a day's work before them without moving. He had seen the kingfisher dive from the old apple tree in the garden, and noticed that black rascal, the lesser grebe, which was so devilishly cute. He, too, from the same lattice, had watched the heron, and a cloud of golden plover captivated him by their graceful evolutions for so long a time that "Brown, breakfast," was shouted. Then he knew it must be nine o'clock. (More laughter.) On one occasion, indeed, he had counted forty-two different kinds of birds in the district. The summer migrants swarmed by the Lambourn. They might hear the marked call of the chiff chaff, the first to chirrup forth tidings of spring. This was followed by the black cap, the willow warbler, the wood warbler, the reed, sedge, and garden warbler, the polly whitethroats (those charming little friends of our boyhood), and the grasshopper warbler. They found the tits at all seasons of the year. The beautiful nuthatch might always be heard, though seldom seen. The cries of nocturnal birds, specially the nightingale, too, he had often listened to when standing on the little bridge by moonlight. They might also hear the

song of the reed warbler, also called the night warbler or reed wren. Thanks to a hint given him by their chairman, Mr. R. C. Blundell, when down at Newbury once, he (the speaker) had heard these reed warblers hold forth on one memorable evening—a great treat. Referring to larger birds, Mr. Brown said that the golden eagle was killed at Hungerford in 1840, and the giant bustard was plentiful fifty years ago on Lambourn downs. He had dropped upon a specimen of a very scarce bird at Hungerford, which one of the commoners had killed, viz., the purple gallinule, a bird so rare that although it was included in "British Birds," by Lord Lilford, it was on the strength of one specimen only, which was obtained near Wellingborough in 1890. On another occasion, Mr. H. Harden had picked up and had drawn his attention to a spotted crane—a rare find. The marsh through which the society's moor stream ran was "bird haunted." They could not walk along its banks without hearing the "scape, scape," of the full snipe, and its "drumming" or bleating as it circled in the air—a habit followed by its cousin, the little Jack snipe, but not by the great or solitary snipe. They could not look down stream from Ham Bridge without spotting the everlasting dabchicks, moorhens, and coots, and in the summer the graceful wagtails. Going towards Thatcham by the Kennet and Avon Canal, they might see a few of the commoner sorts of hawks. The Kennet valley could boast of being the home of the common buzzard, which not many years ago was plentiful in the immediate neighbourhood of Hungerford. After giving an interesting list of terms used in speaking of flocks or companies of birds, the speaker said that in the matter of luck the birds might be reckoned as full of portent. The magpie, crow, and raven were all, under certain circumstances, desperately unlucky. They should be careful, too, not to hear the first cackoo of the season before breakfast or see the first wheatear sitting on a stone. The terrors of bad luck were ever held before evil-doers who would rob certain birds of their eggs. What for the good luck? What omen would they seek from the sight of their feathered friends of the Kennet valley? To his mind it was a slice of good luck to have them to look at, to hear them, and to talk about them. Each one of them, residents or migrants, was so full of interest that to be without them would be to rob the surroundings of their piscatorial pursuits of half the pleasure and half the profit. He might add with Ralph Waldo Emerson—

"Hast thou named all these birds without a gun,
Then be my friend and teach me to be thine."

A hearty vote of thanks was unanimously accorded to Mr. Horace Brown for the amusing and admirable reading he had given the members.

A very kind offer of 600 coarse fish, consisting of roach, dace, and chub, was received from Mr. Willie Gilby, J.P., through Mr. Hine Haycock, and an expression of thanks was passed for the most acceptable gift. The fish in question will in due time be placed in the new water at Uxbridge. May I again remind members of the smoking concert on Monday next? Mr. Robt. C. Blundell has secured some excellent artists for the occasion, and a capital programme will be presented. M. G. E. DE C.

FISHING RIGHTS IN THE TRENT.

AT Bingham Petty Sessions last week, three labourers, named respectively, Chapman, Holmes and Fewkes, were prosecuted by the Board of Conservators of the Trent Fishery for illegal fishing in a stretch of the river leased to the Wellington Angling Society. The two latter pleaded guilty, but Chapman decided to fight the case on the ground that he had proper permission to fish in the river. It was proved that they were using a net 25yds. in length, 8ft. deep, 3in. from knot to knot, and 1½in. diagonal. Mr. Gaskell, the president of the Wellington Angling Society, stated in his evidence that the net used by defendants was capable of taking all the small fry, and could sweep everything out of the Trent. The defendant Chapman went into the witness box and produced written permission from several persons; but Mr. Eddowes, the solicitor for the conservators, got from him the admission that he had obtained these permits since the commission of the offence with which he was charged. Although Mr. Eddowes pointed out that the offence was a most serious one, and pressed for the imposition of the full penalty of £5, the magistrates, after consultation in private, fined each defendant forty shillings and costs, and ordered the net to be confiscated.

YORKSHIRE FISHERY BOARD.

THE annual general meeting of this board of conservators, appointed under the provisions of the Salmon and Fresh-water Fisheries Acts of 1861 to 1896, was held at the Royal Station Hotel, York, on Feb. 9. The secretary submitted the annual report and balance-sheet, which showed that the receipts for sale of salmon net licences were: £35 for sea licences, and £23 for river licences, a total of £58. The take of salmon in the sea had been about the average of recent years, but the river fishing had again been a lamentable failure, owing to the diminished flow of water during an exceptionally dry fishing season. One salmon rod licence only was issued, no salmon being caught with rod in 1898. From the water bailiff's report it was impossible for fish to live in the Ouse during the greater part of the fishing season, and it was patent that no improvement could be expected in the fishing industry in the river so long as the summers continued so dry as they had been during the last few years. He was pleased to state that the pollution of the river Aire had much decreased. It was also gratifying to be able to report a very large increase in the sale of licences, notwithstanding that the season had been an indifferent one for sport. The large number of 10,564

trout rod licences were issued during the year, being an increase over the previous year of 1061. Mr. A. R. Empson, one of the conservators, was good enough to attend the hearing at Westminster for the purpose of giving evidence in connection with the proposed abstraction of waters within the watershed of the district, and it was thought that his opposition to that course, so far as it went, had not been without some beneficial results, though the right to inspect gauges was not given to the county authorities opposing the Bills as was hoped would have been the case. Clauses, however, dealing with the question of compensation water and the maintaining of proper gauges were inserted in the Bills, and it was believed that the opposition of the several authorities had resulted in the maximum of benefit possible at the present time. Notwithstanding the expenses relating to the fish pass repairs, and the sum of £52 10s. which it cost the board in reference to the Corporation Water Bills, there was a substantial reduction in the debt owing to the bank, the amount having been reduced from £323 6s. 8d. to £268 19s. 3d. There had been forty-six convictions under the Fishery Acts during the year, nine of which related to the sale of unclean salmon or the use or sale of salmon roe. The report was adopted. A vote of thanks to Mr. A. R. Empson for his services in attending the hearings at Westminster was heartily carried. The secretary stated that applications had been received for yearling trout from the Richmond Angling Association, Knaresborough Joint Anglers, Burneston Angling Club, Harrogate Angling Association, York and District Amalgamation, Hearts of Oak Angling Society (Great Driffield), Hull Angling Preservation Society (river Don), Kirbymoorside Angling Club, Thirsk Angling Club, Ripon Angling Club, and Lansthrodale Angling Club (Wharfe). In answer to questions, the secretary stated that the aggregate cost of providing the trout for distribution was £55.

BATH ANGLERS' DINNER.

A GOOD muster attended the third annual dinner of the Bath Anglers' Association on the 9th inst., at Fort's Restaurant, Milsom-street. Several letters of apology and regret for non-attendance were received from the president and others. The spacious dining hall was furnished with a stack of glass cases, in which were set some excellent casts of fresh-water fish. The tables were elegantly laid out, and at intervals large vases of gold and other species of fish were placed. A further embellishment was the tasteful distribution of beautiful flowering orchids, grown by Mr. F. C. Fortt. As regards the repast, it was all that could be desired. Mr. T. Tempest presided over the company, being supported by Messrs. Foster Smith, P. Learoyd, F. C. Fortt, L. G. Clough, H. Lansdown, R. Kendall, J. Berryman, W. Monk, F. Moody, R. Curtis, A. J. Tanner, W. Edwards, and S. Wilkinson. The loyal toast having been duly honoured, the "Bath Anglers' Anthem" was sung. The "Bath Anglers' Association" was submitted by Mr. Harold Lansdown, who, in the course of a brief speech, remarked that angling was a sport which tended to a lot of good fellowship. (Applause.) Responding, Mr. Fortt considered that angling associations were good things in their way. They tended to good fellowship and mutual improvement. He thought the club had made great strides during the three years it had been in existence, and the three dinners they had held had been very creditable affairs. Mr. Fortt next proposed the toast of the "Chairman," observing that were it not for such gentlemen as Mr. Tempest he did not know where their dinners and such like functions would be. Mr. Tempest was a good sportsman, and was always ready to help any association formed for the purpose of sport. Acknowledging the compliment, the chairman expressed his satisfaction at the evening spent, and said he hoped to be present at the Anglers' next annual dinner. Amongst those who contributed to the harmony were: The Cecilians (the Singers Messrs. Monk, Edwards, Hopper, and Kerr), a quartet; Mr. Reginald Curtis, in a highly dramatic impersonation of "Bob Brierly, the Ticket-of-Leave Man"; Mr. Bertram Fortt and Mr. T. Clack rendered comic songs; and others contributed to the musical programme (Messrs. F. J. Moody, Percy Fry, W. Edwards, H. Glisson, Bryce, &c.). A very enjoyable evening was spent.

HARROGATE ANGLING CLUB.

THIS association has accomplished some excellent work until now, and perhaps possesses the best varied fishing ground in Yorkshire. The club has annually re-stocked its waters with yearling trout and ova, and have introduced the rainbow trout. A water bailiff is kept on the fishing grounds. Prosecutions have been undertaken, and the club's hatchery (presented by the president, Mr. Ibbetson, of Leeds) is in full working order. The club possesses the fishing rights of the river Nidd, from North Ribston to below Cattle, a distance of about ten miles, containing trout, grayling, pike, and coarse fishing generally. The club have a number of members in Harrogate and Leeds, as well as in other West Riding towns, and the fishing grounds can be easily reached via Harrogate, Knaresborough, or Wetherby; whilst the water bailiff (Dowling) can be communicated with at Ribston, Wetherby. The association have also the fishing rights of the lower Crimble, from its confluence with the river Nidd to Spofforth, and the upper Crimble, from Pannal to its source at Crimble Head, about twenty miles of capital trout fishing. At the annual meeting of the club the total receipts were nearly £80, with further subscriptions still owing, and the whole of this sum will be spent in re-stocking and preserving. A thousand yearling trout of large size were added to the waters at Ribston last spring, and a large quantity of rainbow trout ova were successfully

hatched out and transferred to suitable runners under the protection of the water bailiff. The Crimble and Oak Beck streams have from time to time received consignments of fish, and the members of the club continue to have excellent sport, as far as thirty and forty brace of fish being taken by one angler in one day. The Yorkshire Fishery Board have granted the association 500 yearling trout for the present season, whilst a large number of ova is to be purchased and hatched, no spawn being taken from any of the streams. The Mayor of Harrogate (Dr. Solly) is a member of the association, whilst the president is Mr. Ibbetson, of Leeds, who has kindly presented the club with a fish hatchery. The committee have decided to admit a few more members at the present subscription of £1 1s. per year, before imposing an entrance fee, and anglers who are thinking of visiting Harrogate during the coming summer, or those on the look out for excellent fishing all the year round, should communicate without delay with the hon. secretary of the association, Mr. R. Fortune, Strawberry Dale-road, Harrogate.

G. MORELL.

REPORTS FROM RIVERS, LOCHS, &c.

River Reporters who want forms and envelopes should send a post card to the Manager of the FISHING GAZETTE, St. Dunstan's House, Fetter-lane, London.

Time of High Water in the Thames.

To find the time of high water in the Thames at any of the following places, to the time of high water at London Bridge given below.

Add	30 min. for Chelsea.	Add	55 min. for Kew.
40 "	" Putney.	75 "	" Richmond.
45 "	" Hammersmith.	80 "	" Twickenham.
60 "	" Barnes.	85 "	" Teddington.

EXAMPLE:—If it is high water at 2 o'clock at London Bridge, it will be high water at Teddington at 3.25, or 85 minutes later.

N.B.—A strong wind up-stream accelerates the tide very much, and one down-stream retards it.

TIME OF HIGH WATER AT LONDON BRIDGE.

	Morning.	Evening.
Saturday, Feb. 18	7.15	7.43
Sunday, " 19	8.17	8.56
Monday, " 20	9.42	10.30
Tuesday, " 21	11.14	11.51
Wednesday, " 22	—	0.25
Thursday, " 23	0.53	1.13
Friday, " 24	1.33	1.52

HIGH WATER AT AMBERLEY AND PULBOROUGH.

	Morning.	Evening.
Saturday, Feb. 18	7.55	8.23
Sunday, " 19	8.57	9.36
Monday, " 20	10.22	11.10

These times show high water at Houghton Bridge, Amberley Pulborough will be 2h. 40m. later.

ENGLISH AND WELSH REPORTS.

Lower Thames.—GENERAL REMARKS.—The old era in the work of Thames preservation is past and gone, and what was to be done in the fifties and sixties is very different to what it is at the present time, which may fairly be designated as another epoch. The old evils of poaching, snatching of fish, taking unsizable fish, laying night lines, trailing, and other evils are done away with, and the work is of a more straightforward character, but the same energy is still needed, especially under the head of watchfulness; and the netting of lakes and reservoirs, practically inaugurated during the presidency of the late Mr. Thomas Spreckley, will be always required for re-stocking purposes and preventing the depletion of fish, unless the new scheme of Mr. E. B. Shrubsole, which has been taken up by the Thames Re-stocking Association, is found adequate by the introduction of fish hatcheries, and the raising and rearing of the natural fish, if the river has become sufficiently developed, is found sufficient for maintaining a good head of fish in the river. I have never advanced any opinion on this new proposition, because my great fear is there will not be found enough of pecuniary support to carry it fairly out. We all know how difficult it is to get funds to carry on the ordinary work of river preservation, and how costly it was when those pioneers of fish culture, the late Messrs. Frank Buckland and Stephen Ponder, introduced it to the Thames, in respect to trout and grayling, then the T.A.P.S. had to relinquish their connection with it on a monetary consideration, even when there were so many ready to give their support. The late Mr. W. H. Whitbread, one of the founders of the society, in addition to his annual subscription of five guineas, supplemented it with an additional donation of ten guineas for the work of fish culture. The scheme is one of so expensive a character, my only fear is if it fails it will be for want of the necessary support, and I should be sorry to throw cold water on the movement, for anything that is done to benefit the river I have been so long connected with will have my best wishes, as I still love the grand old Thames and the old society which watches and preserves it for the benefit of all classes of anglers.—B.

—(Hampton Court).—William Milbourne, writing on Tuesday, says: "There has not been any fishing done this week, as the water is now higher than we have had it for the last three years, and is running over the banks, flowing over the meadows, and still rising fast. I am afraid we shall not do any more fishing for some time. It looks like a very high flood."—B.

—(Henley).—Feb. 15.—The river, which has been in flood for the last week, is once more within bounds. Henley Reach can be fished from the bank, the water is falling down, and a very strong stream running. If the rain would only keep off it should be in good condition by the week-end, but we get a little every day. At the time of writing it is coming down fast, which will no doubt

delay it clearing. Several aak up to 4lb. have been taken to-day and some roach. I have just seen a bag of the last named fish weighing 13lb., taken ledgering with lob worms.—STANLEY MEAD.

—(Kingston).—Mr. Gunston, fishing on Tuesday with John Johnson, creeled sixty-four bream, the largest 3½lb., but only a few retained; and Johnson during the week has taken thirty-four more bream and nine dozen of roach. Only a few bank anglers have been out, and taken a small quantity of roach.—B.

—(Sunbury).—There are no reports from this district, and the same may be said of the portions higher up, so that the angling news generally is very limited.—B.

—(Teddington).—W. McBride writes: "The water is in a terrible state, and has risen six inches to-night (Tuesday). If the rain keeps on, I am afraid we shall have a big flood. I went out with a customer on 12th inst., who caught eight brace of perch, one jack, and fourteen gudgeon. In a small eddy to-day (Tuesday) I got seventeen dace, one perch, and one eel where the previous take was made. I am sorry to say the water is too high to lay our pots for lampers. Mr. Sinnibaldi, jun., caught a fine pike last week in the ballast hole pond just above the railway station. It weighed 24lb." I remember when we netted the lake at Osterley Park some years ago we got a pike of about 14lb., which was afterwards taken to this piece of water, and this may probably be the same fish. There is another report to hand from Douglas accounting for a jack of 4lb. being creeled by Mr. Sinnibaldi from the steps of the Anglers' Hotel, and the date of its capture was Friday last.—B.

—(Twickenham).—The river has not of late years been of the same description as I found it on Tuesday last. I had a good chat with Mr. Ogden Smith as to its consequences in connection with the fish. He replied, "It is of serious mischief to the small fry, as I have seen them left in the meadows on the grass, in large quantities, to perish." The anglers who fish in punts have not been able to get out, and what fishing has been done is entirely with the bank fishers in the back eddies. Mr. Ogden Smith told me of one take he had seen on Monday, from the rod of Mr. Simmonds, consisting of five and a half dozen good sized roach and dace; and one on the Friday previous from another bank angler, who had a good show of very fine roach and dace. There is a little irritation amongst the anglers as to the trout which have been taken in the nets lower down, as to their always being taken to Kingston, as they consider it is only fair to them to have them placed in the river at Twickenham or Teddington. It has, however, always been the practice to turn them in again above the lock, and whatever objection there may be it does not belong to any recent movement in that direction, but of a custom which has prevailed ever since the foundation of the T.A.P.S., together with the present reward, and can be dated to the founders of that noble institution.—B.

—(Windsor).—The river is still very high, but is now running off, and should the rain keep off for a few days anglers should be able to obtain good sport in about a week. Jack and chub should account for heavy creels to those anglers who watch the water carefully and avail themselves of the first opportunity of wetting their lines again as soon as the water clears. I hope, with other members of the Windsor and Eton Preservation Society, to don my waders immediately Father Thames confines himself to bounds again, to net the ditches and ponds, where I have no doubt we shall find and return to the river large numbers of fish that would no doubt come to us untimely end if it were not for the good work carried on by such associations.—CECIL HOWLETT.

Blackwater (Maldon, Essex).—The waters in connection with the Langford Fishery have been rather too much coloured during the past week, but now prospects for successful angling seem much better. Messrs. Turner and George, fishing the backwater on the 9th and 10th inst., secured over 20lb. of roach; and other anglers secured a few roach. Mr. Ben Lees was the most successful on the 11th, with roach and bream. The time of high water on the 19th will be at 6.56 a.m. Day tickets for fishing the Langford waters may be had at 1s. from the above clubhouse. As the time is now drawing near for renewing the lease of Langford waters, I shall be pleased to bear from the late subscribers if they will again subscribe to the Langford Fishery during the next season.—F. KEEN, 26, Spital-road, Maldon.

Bottisham Locks (Waterbeach).—After wind and rain fish all disturbed just now. Time of writing we are having fair sport. No end of pike up to 4lb. each. Roach slow; dace have spawned; river clean; bank fishing also.—J. O. GEORGE.

Dart (Totnes and District).—Reports from the moorland waters show that the spawning season has been a good one, and there is every hope that with the new fish passes at Totnes and Buckfast Weirs the ensuing season will be successful.—DEVONIAN.

Devonshire streams.—All the streams have been running in heavy flood for a week or two, and there are no signs of any improvement at present. It is announced that the Meavy and Plym are well stocked with fish. The Tavy, Walkham, and Plym Fishery Board report a balance in hand of £35, although the past season was the worst experienced since the formation of the association; owing to the low state of the water, salmon and peal did not return to the rivers in anything like numbers until August, whilst trout were out of condition much later than usual. The Tavy and Meavy, however, yielded some fine trout, one basket of forty including a 2½ pounder. Baskets of from three to five dozen were made on the Plym.—DEVONIAN.

Exe and Canal (Exeter).—This has been another monotonous week of rain and wind, relieved on one day only by a tropical thunderstorm. Fishermen are quite boycotted, as one flood is barely off ere another is making.

It has been, with out exception, the most sickening season within my recollection.—RED PALMER.

Fen District (South Lincs. and Cambs.).—The heavy rains are really now disastrous to the interests of the anglers. Most of the rivers and leading drains are bank full, and running over in some places, to the dismay of all concerned. Only the little drains are now worth a visit, and those only are yielding roach. Weather, however, is promising if only the floods would but run down.—LIMPET.

Idle District (North Notts.).—Thousands of acres of land have been submerged in the valley of the Trent between Newark and Gainsborough. Floods are also reported on the lands above Gooles, and many districts where fishermen do congregate—in this district even—under water, or were so early this week. About the only item recorded last week were a few roach takes from the Stockwith Canal.—L.

Lea.—The river has been in full flood, but on Wednesday was fining down. It should be in order by Saturday if no further heavy rains intervene. Many anglers have been out, but few have met with sport. The water above the lock at St. Margaret's early in the week attracted a good many rods, and some nice jack and perch were secured. One angler (Mr. Friedlander) took a brace of the former, 8½lb. and 4lb. 3oz. At St. Margaret's on Monday a few nice roach were landed. Mr. Isaacs captured four scaling 6lb., best 1lb. 9oz.; and Mr. Wood a similar number going 3lb. 10½oz. I hear that at Waltham Mr. W. Springham, last Saturday, took twenty-five roach weighing 11lb.—a nice basket. In this district pike up to 7lb. and some pound perch have also been taken. Mr. W. Perry, writing from the King's Arms Fishery, Waltham, kindly forwards me this information: The Stort has overflowed in most districts, and frightful weather has prevailed for angling. There has been no sport, but roach, conditions favouring, should be had this week-end.—ISAAC WALTON.

Lugg and Arrow (Leominster).—Both these streams are now high, and out over the fields in some places. The heavy rain of last week caused both streams to rise higher than they have been for years, and for miles along the banks the land was under water. There has been no angling, and it will be some weeks before the river gets into order again, and then the fish will not have recovered the floods, and trout fishing will be slow for a time after March 2.—GWYNNE.

Lugg, Arrow, and Winsley (Kingsland).—Gales with driving heavy storms of rain, &c., have prevailed for a week past, varied at intervals with every kind of weather known to us Britishers, including thunder and lightning; the effect has been to bring another big flood, as high or nearly so as that of Jan. 23. The waters are subsiding to-day (Wednesday), but are still overflowing the banks, and a vast quantity of land is yet submerged. This afternoon rain has again set in, and the outlook is ominous. It is a question if the rivers will be low enough to commence trout fishing when the season opens (March 2).—R. T. WILLIAMS.

Nene (Peterborough).—Depressing circumstances are still in the ascendant, and my prognostication of last week has been fully verified, as the water in the river has risen fully another foot, bringing it up to about 13ft. on the water gauge at the bridge. As a consequence the adjacent lands are now flooded, with no immediate prospects of improvement. Albeit a great quantity of roach have been caught, some taking 2st. or 3st. weight during one day's fishing. Notwithstanding the controversy over the Eroder dredger that the Wisbech Town Council had decided to purchase for river purposes, after a prolonged discussion of the matter on Friday last the minute on the subject stands confirmed, and as soon as the plans and specifications are prepared the dredger will be ordered, at a cost not exceeding £1800.—E. A. S.

Otter (Buddleigh Salterton).—For the last week rain and gales have visited us, and fly fishing has consequently been an impossibility. The river is now (Feb. 15) in flood. The usual netting has been going on, but with very little success. This is not altogether such a reason for congratulation as at first might appear. It looks as though the supply of white or sea trout, which presumably come up from the sea near the mouth of the river, was being exhausted by the annual and indiscriminate drains upon it.—HERON.

Ouse (Holywell Ferry).—Had a rise in the water here all last week that quite upset all fishing, but it has now (Wednesday) subsided, and is not at all a bad colour; but by Saturday it will, no doubt, be in first-class condition again, and the large specimens which have eluded capture up to now will have to look to themselves as the end of the season approaches.—A. SCARD.

Ouse (Paxton).—We have had two weeks of flood, but they have drawn off the water well, and it has fined down to a perfect state for fishing. The jack are feeding well. A person was fishing last Tuesday for roach with worms, and a jack of 4lb. took the bait, and, after a good fight, was landed. Now is the time for good sport with the jack, for they are hungry, and in numbers in little room.—W. DUCKER.

Plymouth.—All the rivers are in high flood, and plenty of water everywhere; all the lower levels are flooded throughout our district. There will be no dearth of water certainly for the first part of the season, and everything bids fair for a good one. We shall only now be able to issue tickets and licences for the Dart district and the Tavy and Plym, besides the Cornish rivers, as the Avon and Erme district has been monopolised by a quiet family party. These latter rivers are being poached to a fearful extent, and I am surprised.—WILLIAM HEARDER.

Severn, Vyrnwy, Tanat, and Cain (Llanymynech).—All these rivers are now again flooded, and the weather continues very wet and stormy, so that angling is well nigh impossible, excepting pike trolling and fishing

with worms and other ground bait. The salmon are now afforded a grand opportunity to reach the upper waters, and if there proves to be a scarcity of them this season it will be useless to expect to find salmon in future in this neighbourhood.—VYRNWY.

Stour (Bures, Suffolk).—The weather and water during the past week has been against successful angling of any kind, and though a few decent roach of 1lb. each and upwards have been taken, large takes have been out of the question. Since the 12th the wind has moderated considerably, and the water is now in splendid condition. Mr. H. Steed, on the 13th, had four pike in an afternoon's angling, largest 5lb.; and a London angler, on the 15th, some roach, largest 1lb. 4oz. Some good bags of roach should now be made with either gentles or paste.—W. T. BAINBRIDGE.

Sussex Rivers and Chichester Canal.—The heavy gales of the past week, combined with high tides, have played havoc on the coast, and filled rivers to overflowing. Some thousands of acres are under water from the rising of the Arun, and, in fact, the Ouse. Cuckmere and Adur are all filled to overflowing, and running rapidly. The hope of angling is at present remote, as the weather is far from settled. The Canal at Chichester has not suffered, as the water is let off at the locks to keep it from overflowing. Several anglers have been down when weather permitted, and pike up to 4½lb. have been taken. One of 4½lb. was taken in the reach from Birdham Bridge to the lock, by spinning, when at times the spoon was blown out of the water. There are a few big pike below Donnington, but they are proof against all lures.—GEORGE F. SALTER.

Taw (North Devon).—The rivers are very full of water, rather too full for any fishing. The small brooks, although in good condition as regards colour, are over their banks. I have heard of a few worm fishermen, but the catches are small. I have been informed a new Act of Parliament, since 1875, is in existence, that no trout can be taken before a certain time. Not having seen any, can you inform me of it?—RUSTY GAME.

Temé (Ludlow).—The Temé in this district is still running out of order for angling, being high and muddy. The rain of last week caused it to rise, but it had gone down a little on Saturday; but rain, thunder and lightning, and a gale sprung up on Monday, and the river commenced to rise again, and there will be another flood, and angling will be impossible, and as things are at present there will be little, if any, fishing done before trout come in season on March 2, when it will be doubtful as to good sport. The late floods have stirred the fish up, and the heavy water has not been good for them to be in good condition, and anglers will have to wait for a time before good conditioned fish will be landed. The Ony, Corve, Clun, and Ledwyche are all running high and muddy, and will be on the rise. They are quite out of fishing order, and nothing will be done in them until the weather takes up.—S. LUDLOW.

Temé (Tenbury).—The Temé in this part is now running high and muddy, and quite out of order for angling. Seldom if ever has such weather been had as we have had lately. Snow, rain, thunder and lightning, and a gale all following one another, and it has made the river quite out of condition for any sort of fishing, and there is no prospect at present of any change, and there will be nothing done until trout come in, when sport will be slow for a time.—WORCESTER.

Usk (Abergavenny).—Trout fishing commenced here, Thursday, the 15th. The river has been in flood for the last four to six weeks. The water rose on two occasions higher than the flood of 1894; the flood level mark being out of sight.—ERNE DELAFIELD.

Witham, &c. (Mid-Lincolnshire).—Angling is all but at a stand still in this district. Floods are having disastrous effects. Some of the drains have overflowed their banks, and in some places low lying lands have been submerged. The other day a strange scene was noticed; when the waters fell hundreds of fish, chiefly roach, failed to get back with the returning water; they had gone on to the meadows to feed on the grass and were left high and dry to perish. The chief mortality from this course was at Timberland Fen, which joins the river at Kirkstead. There has been a little sport on the Sincil Dyke and the Stanch at Bardney. From the latter an eel was taken the other day of 4½lb.—LUCI.

Yorkshire Rivers.—THE YORE, SWALE, NIDD, WHARFE, OUSE, &c.—We have had some remarkable weather since my last week's notes, and the hot wave has been followed by a lot of wind and wet. Although the floods have not been sufficiently high to overflow the banks of any of our rivers, they have been high enough to prevent angling, except for roach, &c., in the back-waters. Frequent rains have, however, kept most anglers at home, but the weather moderated on Tuesday, and to-day it is brilliantly fine, and as the aneroid has a steady upward tendency, prospects for sport are improving. The thrush, blackbird, and lark have been in full song for a week now, and the snowdrops are getting plentiful in the woods contiguous to the riversides, reminding us that the season for grayling fishing will soon be over, and that our attention will soon have to be turned to that of the trout. The Spanish Needle, small Olive Bloat, Little Brown, Red Cock, Blue Midge, and Alder Flies have been observed on the water during the bright sunshine of the last day or two, and as the water clears the grayling will rise to them. I was very pleased, indeed, to notice in the report of the last meeting of the Yorkshire Fishery Board that Col. J. W. Lodge, the popular member, who practically represents the upper reaches of the Yore, had raised his voice on behalf of what is known as "the coarse fish anglers," and had protested against the anomaly of their being obliged to pay a licence to catch trout, when the miles of water which they fish does not contain a single specimen, or, at the most, very few trout. His arguments, I observe, were

met by the secretary that the fishery board are trying to introduce trout into those streams, so that in due course of time the bottom fisherman, who never goes out with the intention of getting a trout, like the boys who have to pay their shillings for gudgeon fishing, may be able at some future time to get some return for the money they contribute for the preservation of *S. salar* and *S. fario*. But I doubt the policy of putting trout into waters where there are pike, chub, perch, &c.; besides, the bottom fisherman does not want trout. He is never so happy as when he gets into a swim full of good roach, bream, &c. But the board say the law will not allow them to spend money in coarse fish. Last year no fewer than 10,564 trout rod licences were issued, an increase of 1061 over the issue of 1887. On the other hand, only one salmon rod licence was issued; no fish fell to that rod, and the total income for salmon (sea and river) licences was but £58, against the £528 4s. contributed by the trout rod licentiates. And I notice with pleasure that the board have granted 500 yearling brown trout each to the Richmond Angling Association, Knaresborough Joint Anglers, Burniston Angling Club, Harrogate Angling Association, York and District Amalgamation of Anglers, Hearts of Oak Angling Society (Great Driffield), Hull Angling Preservation Society, River Dove (Kirkbymorside) Angling Club, Thirsk Angling Club, Ripon Angling (River Yore), and Langstrothdale (Wharfe). I also hear the Hawes and High Abbotside and the Askrigg Angling Associations on the Yore are to be included in this list. I have little to report in the way of angling. I tried a couple of hours roach fishing in the Yore below Middleham this afternoon, and found the fish well on the feed, and to take the little red worm very freely; I got about a score nice fish. Several other anglers have made similar catches lower down the river, but I have not heard of any grayling fishing. All our rivers have, of course, been out of condition for pike fishing, but that description of angling has been good in ponds and canals; and at Pocklington, Messrs. Jenkinson and Pope caught six, but only small fish, the largest weighing 7½lb. Only moderate returns from the Wharfe are to hand. On Saturday a Leeds angler caught half a dozen grayling, and on Monday Mr. Pickergill had a grand dish of twelve good fish.—J. E. MILLER, Northern Anglers' Depot, 19, New Station-street, Leeds.

By TELEGRAM.—Weather delightfully fine, and all our rivers are getting into good trim for all-round fishing. A few flies are on, chiefly the little brown. Prospects for next week are good, particularly for roach and pike fishing.—J. E. MILLER, Northern Anglers' Depot, 19, New Station-street, Leeds.

SCOTCH REPORTS.

Deveron (Banffshire).—The angling season on the river Deveron opened on Saturday last, but, unfortunately, the river was in too high flood, owing to the melting of snow on the hills, which greatly discoloured the water. The tidal water at the entrance has also been exceedingly high since Sunday, the water almost covering the right bank of the river up to the Bridge of Banff. On the coast it is many years since the stream was so full. The wind, however, was light from a south-westerly direction, which kept the sea from rising. Owing to the state of the water nothing has been done by anglers, but when the stream settles down to its normal condition good sport is expected. The net fishermen were early at work on Saturday morning, and although the river was high they continued plying the nets until dusk, with the result that they only captured three trout. Last year, the first year after the dyke was removed, sixty fish were landed on the opening day. During the nineteen years that the present lessee has had the fishings the average for the opening days was 186 salmon. On the opening day in 1896 there were killed in the river by the net fishermen no fewer than 695 fish. The failure of the fishing on the opening day this year is attributed principally to the removal of the cruive dyke. Up to Wednesday there was little appearance of an improvement in the fishing, only seven fish from both river and sea having been got. They averaged 8lb., and were consigned to the London market.—H. W.

Loch Ness (Foyers Hotel), N.B.—The opening of salmon fishing on Loch Ness on Feb. 11 resulted in very poor sport, only one salmon being killed, by Mr. R. Thom, Annan—a beautiful fish, weighing 22½lb. The loch was very calm, and weather conditions altogether unfavourable for good sport.—S. TILSTON.

Loch Tay (Kenmore, Perthshire, N.B.).—On the 4th Mr. Harry Tangye killed salmon, 19lb. 6th, Mr. A. E. Holder, of Remoney, killed one, 14½lb. 7th, Mr. T. A. Holder, of Remoney, one, 18lb. 8th, Mr. A. E. Holder, of Remoney, one, 16lb.; Mr. Harry Tangye, one, 21lb. 14th, on the reserved water, Macdiarmid, the keeper, one, 18lb. Loch in good ply.—W. KNIGHT.

Loch Tay (Killin, N.B.).—Feb. 9, on the Reserve water, Surgeon Fraser had a salmon of 15lb. Feb. 11, on Hotel water, Mr. Menzies had one of 21lb. Feb. 14, Mr. A. Smith, of Glasgow, one of 19lb.—MAISEY.

North-East of Scotland.—The spring salmon angling season, which opened on the Dee and bulk of Scotch waters on Saturday, promises to be one of the best enjoyed for some years past. True the angler was all out of it on account of the spate which prevailed on the opening day, but the fact that fresh fish were got all the way up from Durris—sixteen miles from the sea—right on to the royal waters at Balmoral—over some sixty miles of water—speaks volumes for the future prospects of the spring angler. With anything like average weather conditions sport will be simply grand. On the Balmoral waters, on Saturday, Donald Stewart creeled a beauty of 17lb., which was dispatched to Her Majesty at Osborne. On the Birkhall waters, kelt sport was all that was got. On the Invercauld Ballater water Mr. J. B. Millar and Mr. Aton had four nice fish on the opening day scaling

from 6lb. to 16lb.; while Mr. Lynningham had one of 17lb., and Mr. Granville one of 14lb., on the Cambus O'May water. The Monaltrie, Mortloch, and Morven reaches were not fished. Col. Eddis had two, of 15lb. and 10lb., on the south side of Cambus O'May water on Saturday. On the Glentana waters, on the opening day, Mr. Brickman landed two, of 6lb. and 16lb.; and Mr. Merry the top weight for the day—a beauty of 25lb. On Monday, Mr. Merry creeled two, of 6lb. and 12lb. On the Aboyne waters, Mr. Crawshaw was the only lucky angler, creeling a nice little fish of 7lb. On Monday, however, Mr. Kemp had one of 22lb. and two of 6lb. each, while Mr. Hepburn had one, 6lb., and Mr. Borthwick one of 10lb. On the Kincardine O'Neil waters, fresh fish are said to be quite plentiful, and prospects of the brightest. Sir John Gladstone had two on the Comonty, of 8lb. apiece. Mr. Drummond opened the season with one of 9lb., and on Monday had three to his own rod, of 6lb., 9lb., and 10lb. Col. Chas. Hay landed a fine fish of 20lb. on Saturday on the Dees water, and two on Monday, of 13lb. and 14lb. On Kincardine Lodge water, on Monday, Mr. Deverell creeled two, of 7lb. and 8lb.; and Nicoll, fishing for Lord Garrioch, on Borrowstone, had one of 7lb. on Saturday, and another of 7½lb. on Monday. On the same reach, Mr. Wm. Blacklaw, sen., commenced his sixty-fourth season on the Dee by landing a beauty of 7½lb. Dunn, on Carlogie, had one of 6lb. General Hills, on Inverly, had three, 8lb., on Saturday; whilst Capt. Mitchell's party had five on the Blackhall water, and Mr. G. Mekin, Durris, one of 9lb. The weather has been snapper, water falling, and sport rife. On Aboyne, on Tuesday, Mr. Kemp had one of 16lb.; Mr. Borwick, one 10lb.; Coutts and Gregson, three, of 8lb., 7lb., 6lb. On the Blackhall Castle water, on Monday, the Hon. A. Orde-Powlette creeled two, of 6½lb. and 9lb.; Mr. Mowbrey Farquhar, two, of 7lb. and 8lb.; and Capt. Mitchell, one of 8lb. A good supply of salmon was in the Aberdeen market on Wednesday morning, and prices ran from 2s. 4d. to 2s. 5d. per lb., a small supply of trout sold at 1s. 3½d. per lb. All over the prospects are much brighter than the most sanguine dared to anticipate before the season opened both for the angler and netter.—G. M.

South of Scotland.—Heavy rains have fallen over the south of Scotland since last week's notes, and the rivers have been running bank full in red floods almost daily. Next week-end the Border rivers open their waters for the angling season, and at present the prospects are anything but bright for the spring salmon fishing. It is feared that the repeated floods will have done much damage to various fishings in this part of the country. There is a little salmon disease in some of the waters, but the Annan is comparatively free of the scourge so far. The salmon netting on the English side of the Solway opened for the season on Friday of last week, but owing chiefly to the stormy weather prevailing none of the drift net boats licensed by the Eden Conservancy Board have been down the Firth. Probably a commencement will not be made by the fishermen until the Scotch side of the channel opens as well. The weather is very unsettled at present.—HEATHERBELL.

Spey.—The net and rod and line salmon fishing opened on Saturday on the Spey and sea coast district of the river. On the previous day there was a thaw in the upper reaches of the Spey and Spey basin, causing the river to rise in volume 3ft. or 4ft. above its normal size, thus making the water all but impossible for rod fishing on Saturday, more especially in the reaches near the sea, where the river breaks into numerous streams. All the netting crews were on duty from Orton downwards, and succeeded under difficulties in obtaining highly successful results. This gives promise of remunerative catches when the water falls to a normal height. Nearer the sea it was impossible to get the nets worked at all satisfactorily. The few anglers who tried their luck all returned blank. Owing to the heavy ground swell running for several days the sea nets could not be properly got to work, and not over half a dozen fish were caught. In the vicinity of Rothes the fishing opened under most unfavourable circumstances, owing to the high state of the river. Between the Delfr Bridge and Craigellachie only one well-known pool—the Boat Pool, on the Arndilly water—could be fished. Shlach, head keeper, got there one beauty of 14lb. and five kelts. Two rods fished the water leased by Major Grant, of Glengrant, without success. At Aberlour conditions were precisely similar—fine, spring-like weather, but far too great a flow of water. Numerous anglers were out, but no results in clean fish were secured. It is, however, believed that a fair stock must be forward by this time. On the Wester Elchies water, Mr. Duncan, fisherman, had one salmon of 24lb. The salmon spawning season, now practically over, has been considerably behind the heavy spawning returns of the two or three immediate preceding seasons. Ever since the close of the season in October last, the river Spey has been abnormally high in volume, and this fact has given ascending salmon favourable opportunity of getting up the river. Good hopes for a successful season can certainly be predicted, but for further assurance time and a trial will tell. In a gigantic river like the Spey fish cannot be seen in the pools from the banks; consequently, until fishing operations are commenced, the quantity of fish in the river cannot be ascertained. The leases of angling for the season in this district are: Mr. Hankey, Knockando water; Col. Smith, Legan water; Mr. Grant, of Wester Elchies, Carron water; Dr. Cowie, Mr. Cumming, and Mr. Hankey, Wester Elchies water; Mr. Graves, Aberlour water; Mr. Dethbridge, Easter Elchies water; and Capt. Spicer, Arndilly water.—J. M.

Tay.—The river is now coming into better ply, but of late it has hardly been fishable owing to the continued flooding. On Friday, Mr. R. Thomson, from Fisher's Hotel, Pitlochry, killed two nice fish, 19lb. and 13lb. On

the same stretch, on Saturday, Mr. R. H. Mackworth Prade killed one of 22lb. On Mr. Leaf's lower Delvine water, on Tuesday, the boatman had a fish of 16lb.; and on the upper water, on Wednesday, they killed another of 17lb. On the Logierait water, Mr. R. Butter, Perth, killed a 14lb. fish. On the Benchill water yesterday, Mr. Pople killed two fish, weight not ascertained.—P. D. MALLOCH.

Tweed, Teviot, and other Border Rivers.—Since my last notes the main rivers—Tweed and Teviot—have been running in good bait fishing order, having subsided very much since the last heavy floods. The Tweedometer to-day (Wednesday), however, still shows a height of 2½ft. above the normal level, but as the weather is now fine and genial, with a slight frost, the streams will very soon be down to salmon angling proportions. On one or two of the shallower casts to-day some of the more enthusiastic anglers were out trying their luck, but their efforts were fruitless, no kills being recorded. It is stated, however, that there are a good head of fish up the river, and once they get settled down in the various fastnesses it is hoped that proprietors and lessees will have a fair good spring season. Trout fishers, however, have been in their glory during the past week, and many heavy baskets of trout have been got, but the fish are still scarcely worth taking, not being in anything like eatable condition, being soft, flabby, and lanky. Give them another month, and then fish will be fit for the table, and delicious for breakfast. The net salmon fishing opened yesterday, but as yet no news has come to hand regarding the success of the opening of the season. Of those who have had best baskets of trout in Tweed and Teviot lately are the following: Mr. Richard Newton (Tweed), 15lb. (Teviot), 12lb.; Mr. J. Hogg, 12lb., 8lb., 6½lb., all in Tweed; Mr. J. Cook, 14lb., 11lb., and 8lb.; Mr. Jas. Mahon, 6lb., 8lb., and 4½lb.; Mr. J. Robertson, 8lb., 14lb., 6lb., and 9lb.; Mr. James Percy, 8lb., 10lb., and 6lb. The English markets being now open for the sale of fresh-water trout, all these takes have been sent south by the fishmongers here who bought them, as they knew they could not dispose of them here. Several of the pike fishers have been out again, but no takes as yet have been recorded. The annual general meeting of the Kelso Angling Association was held last night in the club-room, White Swan, when the genial vice-president was in the chair, and the attendance was good. Minutes of last general meeting and accounts were approved of, and the statements showed the society to be in a most flourishing condition. The office bearers were elected as follows: Patron, His Grace the Duke of Roxburgh; presidents, Sir R. W. Griffith, Bart., Sir G. B. Douglas, Bart., C. B. Balfour, Esq., of Newton-Don, and Major Scott Kerr of Sunlaws. The other officials, who do the working part of the business of the association, were re-elected *en bloc*, with Mr. R. J. Mills as secretary and treasurer, and Mr. John Smith (chairman of committee). It was agreed that the society be affiliated to the Scottish Trout Anglers' Association. A very pretty specimen of the perch, weighing 2lb. 4oz., in glass case, was presented to the society by Mr. R. Ormiston, Hay Bank House, Kelso. The fish was caught in the Tweed, at Sprouton, and set up by Mr. Jas. Chisholm, taxidermist, Kelso. Mr. A. Steel then intimated that he would give a silver medal as first prize in a pike competition amongst the members, and various other members offered money prizes besides. It was then resolved that the committee make arrangements for a picnic party of the members to go to the Howietoun breeding ponds during the month of July, and a good many members at once put down their names as participants in the event.—MAXWHEEL.

IRISH REPORTS.

Ballynahinch Fishery.—The season opened on the above on the 1st inst., but no one has tried it as yet. We have had very large spring tides, also good water, but the weather was very unfavourable. I may add that we had a splendid spawning season, and both sea trout and salmon were more numerous than for the last two years.—WALTER BLACKADDER.

Bannon River (co. Cork).—Salmon and trout fishing opens to-day (Wednesday). Numerous anglers are out, but as yet no reports have come in.—W. HAYNES AND SON.

Blackwater (co. Cork).—River quite unfishable for past week, owing to the extraordinary wet weather. It will take some days to get into fishing order. The weather, as we write, has settled; a sharp frost set in.—W. HAYNES AND SON.

Cork Rivers.—Sport has been very backward on the majority of the Cork rivers open for angling, while on some nothing at all has been done. The weather, however, has been greatly against angling, and the waters high and foul. Spring salmon are supposed to have come up in big numbers on all the larger rivers during the recent long-continued floods, and the records of sport should show great improvement next week, especially as the weather is all that could be desired.—T. J. D.

Corrib (Galway).—The weather continues unfavourable, and the river is not in the best order yet after the floods and gales of last week. Up to time of writing, spring fish have not been seen in any numbers. We are pleased to note that the appeal against the bye-law recently made prohibiting cross-lining on Lough Corrib was unsuccessful before the Judicial Committee of the Privy Council at Dublin Castle a few days ago. Forty-two cross-liners appealed against the bye-law, but it was unanimously rejected.—J. A. B.

County Antrim Rivers.—Since the season opened the weather has been very unsettled, with bitter frosts at nights. Consequently little has yet been done on the Bush, Margy, and the Glens of Antrim rivers. Capt. Williams, Dorsetshire Regiment, has killed several salmon at Ballycastle. The Maine opens on March 1. One of its

tributaries, the Glenwherry, formerly preserved by the Belfast Angling Association, holds a good head of trout, I hear. The Six Mile water and the Bann open on March 1. To-day (Wednesday) the weather has taken a decided turn for the better. The Bush has been completely cured of salmon disease, which formerly did great damage.—J. A. B.

Killarney Lakes.—Practically nothing was done on the Killarney Lakes last week, owing to the very wild and wet weather which prevailed. The waters, too, were very high; too high to afford any fair chances of sport, even if the weather conditions were favourable. At time of writing, however, the weather has improved.—T. J. D.

Lee (co. Cork).—Since last report the river has been almost unfishable owing to the continued heavy rains. Very few anglers have ventured out. On Lee Mount fishery, Mr. W. T. Crawshaw, one, 8lb.; on Fargus, Capt. Douglas Pennant, 60th Rifles, one, 10lb.; on Farran, Mr. Maurice Lyons, one, 10lb., and F. Dale, one, 12lb.; at Inniscarra, Sergt. Grey, R.I. Constabulary, one, 12lb. As we write the weather seems to have settled, and good sport may be expected during the coming week.—W. HAYNES AND SON.

Liffey.—Since the season opened on this well-known river—the lower portions of which is euphoniously known as the “Stench pool of Dublin”—Major Claude Cane has killed several spring salmon up to 18lb. on his preserves. Salmon are increasing in the Liffey, and with less pollution about Dublin this increase would be still more marked. On the other waters in the vicinity of the metropolis, little has yet been done by trout fishers.—J. B.

Lough Curran (Waterville, co. Kerry).—The weather has been very wild and wet since last report. Only one salmon (9½lb.) has been taken by Mr. Chamney. The two salmon reported last week as being got by Mr. Smith should be credited to Mr. Chamney. On many days fishing was very difficult, and on a couple of days was quite impracticable.—T. J. D.

Lough Neagh.—Since the season opened on Lough Neagh on the 1st inst. the pike fishing has been very poor, and it is plainly evident that the fish are not there, the takes being small and the fish themselves of an indifferent size. The demand from Billingsgate, Manchester, Glasgow, and other cross-channel markets is good, and prices pretty good. We regret to learn that wholesale poaching of spent salmon and trout continues, although the railway stations around the lough are being carefully watched by the Royal Irish Constabulary and the bailiffs. Some seizures have been made. Angling opens on the Blackwater, Ballinderry, Moyold, Maine, Bann, &c., on the 1st prox.—J. A. B.

Moy, Loughs Conn and Cullen (Ballina, co. Mayo).—River in high flood for the past week. No rods on the water. Weather very unsettled. A number of fine springers have been got at the salmon weirs. Fine weather is all that is required for good sport. Trout anglers on the Bunree river are getting from eight to twenty trout daily.—PAT HEARNES.

Slaney.—The season opens on this river the 26th inst. Just now the river is high in flood, so that all the spent fish will have gone seawards. As yet spring fish are not showing up.—J. A. B.

Tyrone Rivers.—None of the Tyrone rivers are yet open, as they are all late streams. On the 1st prox. the Ballinderry, Blackwater, and its tributaries, Torrent, Fury, and Ballygawley, open for trout fishing. The well-known Mourne will not open till April 1. The Omagh Angling Club is moving to have the season extended on this fine salmon river. Between the lateness of opening and the earliness of closing (Oct. 10) and the annual flax water plague, the salmon angling season is generally about five weeks in duration, whilst trout fishing is over in June.—J. A. B.

SEA FISHING.

Deal (The Pier).—Scarcely anyone has wetted a line from the pier during the past week, the weather having been very stormy and unsettled and the water very thick and discoloured. Several members of the British Sea Anglers' Society paid a flying visit on Feb. 12, but none of them experienced any sport. A strong south-west gale blew for the greater part of the day on Monday, and the pier was without a patron. Mr. Cooper took a small codling on Tuesday—the only return for three hours' patient fishing. Two or three smallouting and one codling constituted the catch of five rods to-day (Wednesday).—J. RICHARDSON (B.S.A.S.).

Deal.—The storms and gales that have been blowing quite put a stop to angling. However, on Saturday a few anglers put in an appearance for Sunday fishing if possible, and Mr. G. R. Clarke, out from two to four in the afternoon, landed three codling, largest 3½lb. Messrs. Perks, Andrew, and Royle put out about 7.30 a.m., and landed twenty-two codling (some fine ones amongst them), two whiting, and one pout. To-day (Wednesday) quite a summer day, and water very thick, and a few local fishermen fished off the butts. One man landed twenty-five codling, some very nice ones amongst them, and the others did not score so high. If the weather keeps moderate, in all possibility there will be some sport again amongst this kind of fish.—EDWARD HANGER (Agent B.S.A.S.).

Plymouth.—Gales and plenty of wind has been the order of things during the last week, not only blowing sails out of our small fishing boats, but funnels out of iron-clads. Very little fishing has been done, especially from the rocks and piers. A friend of mine was out last week trying for some pollack, but he had better sport shooting cormorants, as he managed to bag three in the afternoon. Sea birds of all kinds are plentiful just now, and the collector will meet with many varieties if he takes a walk along the breakwater, which is nearly a mile in length.—WILLIAM HEARER (B.S.A.S.).

Southend and Leigh.—Feb. 15. This neighbourhood has not been exempt from the rough weather which has prevailed all round the coast, and although there have been one or two fair days, there has practically been no fishing. On Saturday, Sunday, and Monday the gale blew with hurricane force, accompanied by furious rain squalls. On Sunday the schooner *Willow* foundered on the Black Tail Sand. Captain Wyatt and the crew took to the boat, and after a terrible voyage in a barracane of wind, managed to make the Mouse Lightship, whence they were most pluckily rescued by the Southend lifeboat. The most dismal accounts reach me from professional fishermen of bad catches and rough weather. The barometer at present appears to be rising, probably on account of an approaching change of wind to E. or N.E. If this change comes it will most likely be accompanied by frost and snow. Anyway, things are too unsettled to forecast with any likelihood of success the weather for this week-end. The gale has been blowing "on and off," principally "on," for five weeks, so that a change of some sort in the near future may be looked for. Under the circumstances I cannot recommend fishing here this week. Barometer, 29.69 in rising; wind, S., light; sea moderate; weather clear.—CHARLES HUSSEY (B.S.A.S.).

The following table gives the nearest approximate tides for the use of sea anglers for the week ending Friday, Feb. 24. Neap tides. Lowest on Monday.

	Sat.	Sun.	Mon.	Tues.	Wed.	Th.	Fri.
	a.m.	a.m.	a.m.	a.m.	a.m.	a.m.	a.m.
Scarborough	9.49	11.7	—	1.9	2.16	3.7	3.47
	p.m.	p.m.	p.m.	p.m.	p.m.	p.m.	p.m.
	10.25	11.49	0.31	1.45	2.44	3.28	4.4
Yarmouth	4.17	5.18	6.44	8.13	9.27	10.16	10.53
	4.44	5.59	7.31	8.52	9.54	10.35	11.10
Lowestoft	2.53	3.55	5.20	6.47	7.59	8.50	9.27
	3.22	4.46	6.5	7.25	8.27	9.9	9.44
Aldeburgh	3.42	4.44	6.10	7.37	8.48	9.40	10.16
	4.11	5.25	6.55	8.15	9.16	9.58	10.34
Harwich	5.4	6.6	7.31	8.58	10.10	11.1	11.37
	5.33	6.47	8.16	9.36	10.37	11.20	11.55
Southend, Sheer- ness, and Leigh	5.53	7.3	8.30	9.56	11.7	11.55	0.14
	6.27	7.45	9.15	10.34	11.34	—	0.31
Margate, Broad- stairs, & Ramsgate	4.57	5.58	7.24	8.53	10.6	10.56	11.33
	5.24	6.39	8.11	9.32	10.34	11.15	11.50
Deal and Dover...	4.24	5.29	6.49	8.9	9.13	9.57	10.35
	4.54	6.7	7.29	8.44	9.36	10.17	10.52
Hastings	4.4	5.9	6.23	7.49	8.52	9.37	10.15
	4.34	5.47	7.9	8.34	9.16	9.57	10.32
Eastbourne and Brighton	4.32	5.37	6.56	8.17	9.21	10.5	10.43
	5.2	6.15	7.37	8.52	9.45	10.25	11.0
Newhaven	4.28	5.33	6.52	8.13	9.17	10.1	10.39
	4.58	6.11	7.33	8.48	9.40	10.21	10.56
Shoreham and Southwick	4.49	5.54	7.13	8.34	9.37	10.22	11.0
	5.19	6.32	7.54	9.9	10.0	10.42	11.17
Portsmouth and Hayling Island	4.51	6.1	7.26	8.50	9.56	10.40	11.15
	5.23	6.47	8.9	9.27	10.19	10.59	11.30
Plymouth	11.8	—	0.56	2.21	3.36	4.34	5.18
	11.36	0.13	1.39	3.0	4.8	4.57	5.37

NORTH WOLVERHAMPTON WORKING MEN'S CLUB.

On Feb. 13 a very successful supper and concert was held at North-road by the members of the fishing club, the occasion being a presentation to their worthy secretary, Mr. Stables, Mr. Cook, of the Wolverhampton and District Angling Association, presided, and Mr. J. J. Salt officiated as vice-chairman. The usual loyal toasts were proposed and responded to. Amongst those who contributed to the evening's amusement were: Messrs. J. Goddard, J. Mason, J. Hill, H. Jones, W. Nott, J. Holding, T. Smith, &c. The vocalists were all in capital voice, and Mr. J. Goddard accompanied with his well-known taste and ability. During the interval the chairman, on behalf of the members of the fishing club, presented the secretary, Mr. J. Stables, with a splendid fishing rod, suitably engraved, as a token of esteem in which he is held by his fellow members, and in slight recognition of his valuable assistance and untiring energy in promoting the interests of the club. Mr. Stables acknowledged the gift, and said it always had been a pleasure to him to do the work in connection with the fishing club, and he would always, to the best of his ability, endeavour to carry the work to a successful issue in the future.

STOP PRESS. WEATHER REPORT.

BY TELEGRAPH.—FRIDAY, FEB. 17, 11.15 A.M.

DEAL.—S.E.; smooth.

DOVER.—S.; smooth.

RAMSGATE.—S.E.; smooth.

MARGATE.—S.; smooth.

HASTINGS.—N.; smooth.

SOUTHEND AND LEIGH.—Telegram.—Since sending my report a marked improvement has taken place in the weather, and fishing prospects for the week end are consequently much better. As I expected, the wind has veered to an easterly quarter. If no considerable fall of the barometer takes place in the meantime, sport should be obtainable on Feb. 19.—C. H. HUSSEY.

Angling Fixtures.

February 19.

Amicable Waltonians: Outing to Boxmoor.
Blackfriars: Outing to Datchet.
Brothers Well Met: Outing.
Cambridge Heath Brothers: Consolation prize outing.
Camden: Outing to Broxbourne.
Clapham Strollers: Match at Walton.
Convivial: Outing to Rye House.
Drayton Park Piscatorial: Outing.
Harcourt: Lapsed prize outing.
Hearts of Oak: Outing.
North-East Brothers: Match at Broxbourne.
North London: Outing to Roydon.
St. Alban's: Roving match.
St. John's: Outing to Shiplake.
Stratford: Match at Hatfield Peverel.
Walworth Waltonians: Lapsed prize outing.
White Hart: Lapsed prize outing.

February 20.

Anglers' Association: Delegate meeting.
Cambridge Heath Brothers: A.B.S. concert.
Piscatorial Society: Smoking concert.

February 21.

Elgin: Concert.

February 22.

Jolly Butchers: Supper.

Feb. 26.—Alma: Outing to Windsor.
" 26.—Battersea Piscatorials: Consolation match.
" 26.—Brompton: Outing to Pangbourne.
" 26.—Canning Town: Outing to Hatfield Peverel.
" 26.—Clapham Junction: Outing to Windsor.
" 26.—Coborn: Match at Henley.
" 26.—Earlsfield: Outing.
" 26.—Elgin: Match at Henley.
" 26.—Lincoln: Outing to Sunbury.
" 26.—Seymour Brothers: Outing to Goring.
" 26.—Silver Trout: Outing to Hertford.
" 26.—Wimbledon Piscatorials: Outing to Weybridge.
" 28.—Original Alexandra: A.B.S. concert.
" 28.—Peckham Brothers: Visit.
" 28.—Queen's Piscatorials: Visit.
March 1.—Enterprise: Visit.
" 2.—Stockwell: Lantern lecture.
" 5.—Holloway: Outing.
" 5.—Original Clerkenwell Piscatorials: Outing to Hampton.
" 5.—Sundial: Outing.
" 7.—Bomere: A.B.S. concert.
" 8.—Brompton: Snapper.
" 12.—Walham Green: Roving match.
" 20.—Piscatorial Society: Annual dinner.
" 23.—Thames River and Lock Keepers' dinner.
" 25.—Lychenobite: Benefit concert at the Champion Hotel.

Reports from Clubs

We beg to remind Secretaries that their Reports must reach us not later than **SIX o'clock on Thursday Evening.** Address *Editor, FISHING GAZETTE, St. Dunstan's House, Fetter-Lane, London,* marked "CLUB REPORT" outside envelope.

Anglers' Association.—The monthly delegate meeting will take place on Monday evening next, Feb. 20, at 8.30.—R. GHURNEY.

Anglers' Benevolent Society.—The next committee meeting will take place on Friday evening, Feb. 24, at 8.30. At the last meeting £18 were granted for three applications. In last week's issue I omitted to state the amount from the Islington Brothers' donation box, £1 12s. 6d. I hope secretaries of societies who had concert tickets for the Holborn Town Hall will send on remittance and unsold tickets, as I wish to bring it to a close.—R. GHURNEY.

Anglers' Association (N. AND N.E. SUBURBAN DISTRICT) Visiting List.—My next visit will take place at the Enterprise A.S., City Arms, High Cross Road, Tottenham, on March 1.—T. R. C. LA MOND.

Anglers' Benevolent Society.—ANGLING COMPETITION.—The annual dinner of the committee of the recent A.B. Windsor competition was celebrated at the Queen's Arms, 1A, Chapel-street, Edgware-road, on Feb. 9. Harmony followed. Messrs. Steptoe, Delroy, Brock, Garney, Grossmith, &c., contributed. A telegram was received by Ben from "Dragnet," apologising for not attending, but wished us all the good luck, and we were to enjoy ourselves, which you may guess we did. The chairman spoke of the late A.B. competition, and also the treasurer. Ben Abrahams replied, and stated that there was £23 16s. to hand over to the A.B.S. on Feb. 24. Everyone was cordially thanked, also the Press, committeemen, and officers.—BEN ABRAHAMS.

Albion Brothers' Angling Society, Frampton Arms, Wells-street, Hackney.—On Feb. 12 several of our members were out despite the weather. Some nice fish were taken. Mr. Jagot, sen., lapsed roach prize with good fish. The following weighed-in for yearlies: Messrs. C. Osborne, roach and perch (good); Jagot, sen., perch; Thompson, four bream; Mr. Skilleter showed a large eel, 2½lb.; Mr. C. J. King, roach, bream, and very large perch. Mr. Pearce, a nominated member, had some nice roach from Homerton Bridge, Lea. On Wednesday, the 15th, our quarterly meeting was well attended. Mr. C. J. King was elected to take the position of secretary in place of Mr. Haynes, of the Good Intent, who has been *pro tem.* for the past three years. Mr. Coventry gives

10s. for the gross weight of all fish taken from his ground on Feb. 19; Mr. Jagot, sen., gives a prize for largest roach; and Mr. Carey, one for the largest perch. Also lapsed prize outing for dace; all fish to be shown at Mr. Coventry's.—C. J. KING.

Allason United Brothers' Angling Society, Duke of Sussex, Uxbridge-street, Notting Hill Gate, W.—Messrs. H. Brassington had roach; Pronter, barbel; and Ben a 4lb. 4oz. jack, on the 12th. H. Brassington reports a take of roach from Staines on the 15th, largest fish 14oz. The committee of the above decided that all members who were written to will have one week's grace, and I hope the same will show up on 22nd and oblige. I beg to remind E. Jackson and G. Blades that Monday next is A.A. delegate meeting. Please attend and take the report. Several of the above were at Queen's A.S. return visit on Thursday last.—BEN ABRAHAMS.

Alma Angling Society, Coach and Horses, Portsmouth Place, Lincoln's Inn Fields.—On Feb. 12 Messrs. Drew, Butlin, Montgomery, and Black weighed-in roach and dace. On Feb. 26 the third quarterly outing for four prizes will be to Windsor. All to go down on the morning of the match, and to meet at the Waterman's Arms to fix the boundary.—J. CHAMBERS.

Amicable Waltonian Angling Society, The Fox and French Horn, Clerkenwell Green.—The following members had shows of fish on Feb. 12: Brealsforth, jack and roach; Hulme, roach; Millen, roach; Moore, roach. On Feb. 15 Mr. Drockes was elected a working member. Mr. Brealsforth being in the chair for the evening, some very edifying and interesting remarks were made by the same. Will members please note that in consequence of the floods the outing for Feb. 19 is altered from Shiplake, and will take place at Boxmoor; all members first train?—G. MERRY.

Anchor and Hope Angling Society, Duke of Kent, Old Kent-road, S.E.—On Feb. 12 our members competed at Datchet, but owing to the flooded state of the river only two weighed-in, Mr. H. Hamilton being first, and Mr. C. Cannar second, leaving two prizes open. A special meeting of the society will be held next Wednesday, Feb. 22, to consider annual dinner, &c., when I hope to see a good muster.—F. W. MARTIN.

Battersea Friendly Angling Society, Queen's Hotel, Queen's-road, Battersea, S.W.—On Feb. 12 Messrs. W. Thomas and H. V. Wilson were the winners of the lapsed prizes. Also weighed-in: G. S. Ireland, roach; C. Phillips, bream and roach. Mr. Addison exhibited his prize won in the Anglers' Benevolent Windsor Competition, viz., a pair of Anglers' Benefit boots, presented by Mr. W. Liggins, of Coventry. A special meeting is fixed for Tuesday next, Feb. 21, to arrange last outing and other important business. Will all members please attend?—A. JENKINS.

Battersea Piscatorials, Winstanley Arms, Winstanley-road, Clapham Junction, S.W.—Since last report we fished our match at Feltham, but owing to the state of the water only one prize was taken by Mr. C. Harris, who also weighed-in perch on the 12th. We have made another new member, Mr. W. Withers. We fish a consolation match on Feb. 26 for members not having won a prize during season.—T. TRINGHAM.

Bermondsey Brothers' Angling Society, Woolpack, Bermondsey-street, S.E.—The members of the above fished a competition for their February series of prizes on the 12th. Only one member succeeded in getting above the stipulated ½lb., Mr. W. Taylor. On the 15th Mr. J. Martin weighed-in 12½lb. of roach.—ALF. CONN.

Blackfriars Angling Society, Imperial Hotel, Southwark-street, S.E.—Several members weighed-in on the 12th—Mr. J. Foster, roach and perch (largest roach, 1lb. 4oz.); Mr. J. Wheelhouse, roach (largest, 1lb. 15oz.); Mr. Merrygold, barbel; Mr. Kobelt, roach and dace. There are three prizes to fish for at Datchet on Feb. 19.—J. WHEELHOUSE.

Bloomsbury Brothers' Angling Society, Rose and Crown, Broad-street, Bloomsbury.—The quarterly peg-down match took place on Feb. 12 at Ware, the result of which was as follows: Mr. H. Davis, first; Mr. C. Davis, second; Mr. F. S. Pavett, third; all with roach. On Feb. 15 Mr. W. Taylor was elected an honorary member.—T. PATERNOSTER.

Bomere Angling Society, The Britannia, Clarendon-road, Notting Hill, W.—On Feb. 14 members showed up in great force at our new clubhouse. Owing to the amount of business to be got through it was 11.45 before we finished. I beg to thank all members that attended on this opening night. It was arranged to hold a grand smoking concert on March 7 on behalf of the A.B.S., it being greatly needed. There will be plenty of talent, and every member and friend of the club will thoroughly enjoy themselves. We hope to have a large attendance. Members are requested to attend early next Tuesday evening, as we want to be well represented at the Elgin concert on that night on behalf of the A.B.S.—H. DAGWORTHY.

Brompton Angling Society, D'Oyley Arms, Marlborough-road, S.W.—Our fourth special outing will be to Pangbourne, on the 26th inst.; usual conditions; all to travel down by first or subsequent trains, and return by 8.52 p.m. from Pangbourne. Hope everyone who can will make a point of attending. Wednesday, March 8, has been fixed for the supper given by Mr. Cowper to winners in last match. Losers and others at same nominal charge as before. Concert to follow.—W. H. B.

Brothers Well Met Angling Society, King Edward VI., King Edward-street, Liverpool-road, N.—On Feb. 12 Mr. H. Boden had 9lb. of roach, caught from our water at Bures, largest 1lb. 2oz. On Feb. 19 we have an outing on the east coast.—HY. TAME.

Cambridge Friendly Angling Society, Fountains Abbey, Praed-street, W.—Three prizes only taken at the

outing on Feb. 5, by the following: T. Welham, E. Welham, and H. Scutt. The remaining prizes will be fished for under the same conditions.—W. SUTTON.

Cambridge Heath Brothers' Angling Society. The Good Intent, Mowlem-street, Bishop's-road, Cambridge Heath.—On Feb. 12, five of the consolation prizes were won as follows: Messrs. Earp, first; Dawson, second; Millward, third; Turton, fourth; Adams, fifth. Also weighed-in: Messrs. W. Elsworth, sen., jack; J. French, jack, perch, and roach; R. Nursery, roach; R. Hubbard, roach; J. Baines, roach. Remaining consolation prizes to be fished for, any open water, Feb. 19; start on the morning. On Feb. 20, we hold a Bohemian concert on behalf of the A.B.S., when all anglers, wives, sweethearts, and friends are cordially invited.—P. E. LOFT.

Camden Angling Society. The Locomotive, James-street, High-street, Camden Town, N.W.—We have an outing to Broxhorne on Feb. 19. Club rules; no live bait to be used; all to start on the morning.—E. BOXALL.

Canning Town Angling Society. Marquis of Salisbury, Hermit-road, E.—Several of our members were out on Feb. 12. Mr. G. Lewis had a nice show of dace. Our next outing will take place at Hatfield Peverel on Feb. 26, when we fish for the annual rabbit prizes, given by Host Clayden, at the Sportsman's Arms.

Central Angling Association (Liverpool). Original Prince of Wales Hotel, 13B, Moss-street.—On Feb. 9 four new members were elected, and several more are promised for Feb. 16. Forty-two members are now on the books. A gold centre silver medal is offered for the heaviest roach caught during the season from the Leeds and Liverpool Canal. The association's waters are at Hooton and Willaston, and contain a fine lot of tench, perch, roach, &c. A competition for trout has been opened, and prizes presented by Messrs. Bratt, Layfield, Meighen, and Fergusson.—GEORGE W. HANN.

Clapham Junction Angling Society. The Clarence, Winstanley-road, Clapham Junction, S.W.—Our next day's outing will take place on Feb. 26, at Windsor. On Feb. 12 Mr. A. Bowater saved this society from having a blank. A committee meeting will take place on Wednesday, Feb. 22, when important business will be brought forward at 8.30.—G. T. JAMESON.

Clapham Strollers' Angling Society. Alexandra Hotel, Clapham Common, S.W.—On Feb. 19 we fish a match at Walton for lapsed prizes; all fish to weigh. Mr. Monks weighed-in barbel on Feb. 12.—T. PASMORE.

Clissold Angling Society. The Cricketers, North-wold-road, Stoke Newington, N.—On the 12th several were out, but only the following weighed-in: Messrs. Osment, Hunt, Cobbold. Members are requested to attend on Tuesday next.—S. FAULKNER.

Collingwood Angling Society. The Lord Nelson, Nelson-square, Blackfriars-road, S.E.—The following have weighed-in: Mr. Boyd, six bream, largest 2lb.; Mr. Jarrett, bream; Mr. Ball, bream and roach; Mr. Stafford, perch; all from the Thames.—W. H. STAFFORD.

Convivial Angling Society. City of London, Sidney-street, City-road.—On Feb. 12 several members were out, but owing to the flooded state of the waters we had a blank. On Feb. 19 we have an outing to Rye House for five prizes. Members can get out at Rye House or St. Margaret's, two rods and live bait allowed.—PHIL.

Covent Garden Piscatorial Society, King's Arms, Long-acre, W.C.—On Feb. 12 Messrs. Massey and Cutbush had good bags of roach, dace, and perch.—W. MASSEY.

Crown and Buckland Piscatorial Society, Middlesex Arms, 35, Clerkenwell-green, E.C.—On the 12th we fished at Bourne End for three prizes, with the following results: Messrs. C. Walter, first; G. Norris, second. The eligible members fish for the remaining prizes according to rule. Messrs. H. Haines had 12lb. 7oz. of roach; and W. Long, 3lb. 12oz. of roach from other waters. C. Walter was re-elected check secretary for this quarter.—G. H. FRANKLIN.

Dalston Angling Society. Brownlow Arms, Brownlow-street, Dalston.—On Feb. 12, in spite of the rough weather, several of the members were out, but the only gentleman who weighed-in was Mr. T. Swain, who had some very nice roach. Members are requested to attend on Tuesday next to arrange for another outing.—S. MALBY.

Drayton Park Piscatorials. Stanley Arms, Landseer-road, Holloway-road, N.—On Feb. 19 general outing. Owing to condition of rivers members may go where they choose.—GREG.

Eagle Angling Society. Red Lion, Tottenham.—During the last week several of our members have been out with very fair success. Mr. T. Collier weighed-in a jack, 7½lb. On the 15th inst. Mr. A. Sheppard had a jack, 6lb. 1oz.; Mr. T. F. Barlow, 10lb. roach and dace; Mr. W. Denton, 6lb. roach and dace; Mr. F. Reed, jack.—W. S. PRICE.

Earlsfield Angling Society, Half-way House, Earlsfield, S.W.—Our outing for the silver challenge cup was not a great success. Owing to the condition of the water and the heavy wind fishing was rendered very difficult, and the takes ruled small. Mr. Mathews was the lucky winner, and holds the cup for a year, also receiving an added prize. We have arranged another outing for

three good prizes on Feb. 26. Full particulars will be arranged next Tuesday.—A. T.

Elgin Angling Society. Blenheim Arms, Blenheim-crescent, Notting Hill, W.—There is not much to report this week. Some of our members were out on Feb. 12, and had a few fish. I should like to remind secretaries of our concert next Tuesday, Feb. 21. Any club that has not received a notice will please accept this as an invitation.—G. KING.

Enterprise Angling Society. City Arms, High Cross-road, Tottenham.—On Feb. 15 the following weighed-in: Messrs. Crump, roach and dace, 5lb. 9oz.; Wells, dace, 1lb. Phaeasey and Horne also weighed-in. On March 1 we hold our return visit in aid of the Anglers' Benevolent Society, when we hope all anglers and friends will rally round.—W. LEFEVRE.

Forest Gate Piscatorials. Forest Gate Hotel, Godwin-road, Forest Gate.—Only a few members were out on the 12th inst. Mr. Durell, roach; Mr. H. Creeke, 8lb. roach, being the only two who had fish.—H. C.

Forest Piscatorial Society. Rose and Crown, Hoe-street, Walthamstow.—On Feb. 12 Messrs. W. Davies and H. Tisley were the only members who weighed-in, each with roach.—H. TISLEY.

Golden Barbel Angling Society. Sir Isaac Newton, Union-street, W.—On the 12th inst. Messrs. Ellins and James were the only members who weighed-in. On the 14th inst. the outing took place, and resulted as follows: Mr. King, first with 16lb. 15½oz. jack and roach; Mr. Ellins, second, roach, perch, and dace; Mr. Mitchell, third, roach.—J. E. LAWFORD.

Good Intent Angling Society. The Crown, Church-street, Shoreditch.—Mr. Thompson was the only one that brought in fish on the 12th. Our annual supper took place on the 14th inst., and was a great success. Our caterer, Mr. Mignot (of Hackney), supplied us with a capital supper, and I can highly recommend him to any club that may want a supper provided. After the supper the usual toasts were soon got through. Mr. W. H. Beckett made a capital speech, in which he spoke of the good work the Anglers' Association was doing. The chairman's (Mr. J. Williams) and vice-chairman's (Mr. G. Hunt) healths were drunk with musical honours; also our esteemed host and family, Mr. F. W. Arnould. They all ably responded. The chairman then became very busy booking prizes for finish of the season, thirteen in all. Harmony then commenced with some excellent talent provided by Mr. G. Hunt and Mr. G. Huggett, which was kept up till 2.30. I may say it was one of the most pleasant evenings we have spent during our twenty-seven years of existence.—R. MURPHY.

Harcourt Angling Society. Harcourt Arms, Harcourt-street, Marylebone.—We fished our match at Shiplake, but owing to the water being so plentiful only one prize was taken, leaving seven prizes to be taken at Shiplake on Feb. 19.—A. E. PAYNE.

Hearts of Oak Angling Society. Ye Olde Crown, Brick-lane, Bethnal Green, E.—Mr. Jeffries and Mr. C. Smith had a show of roach at our outing on Feb. 12. Only one prize was taken, by Mr. H. Bagshaw. On Feb. 19 members to go where they like for remaining prizes. All members to sign on Saturday evening at six o'clock, or after.—C. SMITH.

Holloway Angling Society. Holloway Station Hotel, 295, Holloway-road, N.—At our usual weekly meeting on Wednesday several good fish were reported, notably those of Mr. Hawes, who had taken several good pike from the Loddon on the preceding week. Amongst his take was a fine fish going 13lb. This is the best fish from the district during the season. Our final outing has been arranged for March 5, when a good muster is expected. Our quarterly supper on Feb. 8 was a great success.—A. CLAYTON.

Hoxton Brothers' Angling Society. Spread Eagle, Kingsland-road, Shoreditch.—On Feb. 12 Messrs. F. Newton had roach; J. Wiltshire, ditto; H. Bailey, jack; G. Nicholls, dace; and T. McGrath, ditto. Our smoking concert in aid of the A.B.S. on Tuesday, Feb. 14, proved a great success. Although our large room has been recently enlarged, it was crowded to excess. We had some excellent talent, which reigned supreme throughout the evening; Mr. H. H. Heap, R.A.M., presided at the piano. Our president, Mr. G. H. Wood occupied the chair, faced by Mr. G. H. Shepherd (Host, Bermondsey Brothers) in the vice. During an interval the chairman stated he had gathered donations for the A.B.S. as follows: J. Abrahams, 10s. 6d.; J. Bartlett (Host, Spread Eagle), 10s. 6d.; A. Abrahams, 10s. 6d.; T. Dickson, 2s. 6d.; Josh Cosnett, 10s. 6d.; G. Leeder, 10s. 6d.; together with a donation of £1 1s. from himself made £3 16s., and the amount collected in the box was £3 4s., therefore made a grand total of £7. The next concert will be a Bohemian, Mr. G. H. Shepherd in the chair, faced by G. Armstrong.—JOHNNY.

Islington Brothers' Angling Society. Myddleton Arms, Canonbury-road.—Our match at Cookham on Feb. 12 was a success, all prizes taken as follows: Messrs. Boys, 1st, 2lb. 2oz. roach and dace; Wilkes, 2nd, 1lb. 11½oz. roach and dace; J. H. Herbert, 3rd, 1lb. 5½oz. roach and dace; G. Holder, 4th, 1lb. 4½oz. roach; Croker, 5th, 1lb. 2½oz. roach; Heckford, 6th, 1lb. 3oz. roach and dace; Howard, 7th, 1lb. 4oz. roach and dace. We met on Tuesday last, when the minutes of the previous meeting were read and confirmed. E. Challis in the chair.—J. H. HERBERT.

Jolly Butchers' Angling Society. George the Fourth, Walnut Tree-walk, Lambeth, S.E.—Our supper, "Jolly Butchers" versus "Wellington A.S.," takes place at the above address on Wednesday, Feb. 22; supper to be on the table at eight o'clock sharp; all members are requested to appear as early as possible to arrange for concert, which is to follow later.—S. EDWARDS.

Jubilee Angling Society. Prince Arthur, Golborne-road, North Kensington.—Since my last report we have had three shows of fish weighed-in: Mr. Gilder, roach and perch from the Thames; Mr. Moody, two shows of jack from the Welsh Harp. I hope to see a good attendance next meeting night.—G. BENCE.

Limehouse Piscatorial Society. Silver-street, Burdett-road, Limehouse.—This society (recently formed) has been enrolled with the Anglers' Association. Our entrance fee is 10s. 6d., and subscription 15s. per annum. Our standard of fish is same as the Thames, with the exception of roach, which must measure 8in. Any further information with respect to this club may be obtained from the private address of the secretary, 12, Streetfield-street, Limehouse, or at the clubhouse.—R. J. WELLS.

Lincoln Angling Society. Metropolitan, Winchester-street, Pentonville, N.—On Feb. 12 the following showed some nice fish: Mr. Johnson, 7lb. 5½oz. of roach; Mr. Thompson, rudd; Mr. Briggs, perch; Mr. Holmes, roach; Messrs. Utton and Manly, roach. I hope to see a good muster on Wednesday next, being quarterly night. Time of train for outing will be arranged on this night.—W. WATLING.

Liverpool East End Angling Association. Court House Hotel, Commutation Row.—The weekly meeting of the above-named association was well attended, there being representatives from the various societies affiliated to the Liverpool centre of the Provincial Angling Association to hear the report of the committee meeting of the P.A.A., held at Bristol on Feb. 4, at which the Liverpool delegate was present. Many interesting items were mentioned in the report, which went to show the great amount of energy exercised by the P.A.A. to further the ends of the centre. Another item was brought to the members' notice, and was a splendid gift of close on one million live fish for stocking the waters rented by the Association. Fish carriers having been sent to convey the fish to Bromboro, and in all probability they will arrive on Saturday afternoon. The donor has the best thanks of the members tendered to him. A good basket of dace, grayling, and chub, weighing 10lb., was shown at the clubhouse on Monday. Mr. J. Parks and Mr. J. A. Porter were the captors. The Leeds and Liverpool Canal has fished well during the past week, a few very nice takes of roach and gudgeon being had. The Bootle branch of this association is progressing very favourably. A net has been presented by Mr. W. Jones, the chairman, for the taking of live bait, another gentleman having also given a tank for the purpose of keeping them in. A vote of thanks was tendered to the donors.—JAMES REYNOLDS.

North-East Brothers' Angling Society. Star and Garter, Green-street.—On Feb. 19 we have a boundary match to Broxhorne, from Fish and Eels look to Ratty's weir. Show fish at Fish and Eels at time decided on morning. Train 9.10 a.m. Bethnal Green. I hope to see all members present at smoking concert on Monday, Feb. 20, at the Cambridge Heath Brothers A.S.—A. LEWIS.

North London Angling Society. Tap House, Holloway-road.—On Feb. 12, Messrs. Black and Pink weighed in roach, and Christmas dace from the Lea. On the 19th the prizes left over from Ware will be fished for at Roydon. All to go by the 8.8 a.m. from Hackney Downs. Later arrivals to report themselves on the bank.—H. STRETCH.

Original Alexandra Angling Society. The Lamb, Three Colts-lane, opposite Bethnal Green Junction.—On Feb. 12 Messrs. W. Madget weighed-in one jack, 7lb. 5oz.; S. Orrow, 5lb. 6½oz. roach; R. Brockett, jack, 3lb. 1½oz.; S. Dulieu, 1lb. 14oz. jack; A. Birch, 1lb. 6oz. roach. Our second Bohemian concert in aid of the A.B.S. fund will take place at the above on Tuesday, Feb. 28, to which ladies are cordially invited. Pianist, Mr. Dan Green.—E. BROCKETT.

Original Clerkenwell Piscatorial Society. Sutton Arms, Great Sutton-street, Goswell-road.—On the 14th we had a nice show of fish: Mr. Davison, jack; Mr. Webster, jack; Mr. Hunt, jack and perch; Mr. Beckett, roach; Mr. Abbott, roach (largest 1lb. 3½z.); and Mr. Woods also showed roach and perch. Our next outing will take place at Hampton on March 5; all members to go by first train on the morning. Our visit on the 6th was on the Central visiting list, and not on No. 2 Anglers as stated, a slight error being made.—A. HILL.

Park Angling Society. Park Hotel, Park-lane, Tottenham.—Our smoking concert, which took place on the 11th, in aid of the A.B.S. was a success. The chair was taken by Mr. A. Hubbard, supported by Mr. C. Coldwell; pianist, Mr. B. Rowe. The following gentlemen rendered some excellent harmony during the evening: Messrs. Hubbard, Coldwell, Sparrow, Timms, Ranson, Allen, G. Fox, Churchley, Fox, Hollington, E. Carter, Curtis, and several others. Several members were out on the 12th—Messrs. Thompson, Reitz, Skeggs, Tracy, Hopton, Carter, Coldwell. Sport being bad, very few fish were weighed-in.—W. S.

Peckham Brothers' Angling Society. Windsor Castle, Cator-street, Sumner-road, Peckham, S.E.—The return visit on the Central and S.L.U.V. list comes to the above house on Tuesday, Feb. 28, being the first visit we

TO SPORTSMEN—Burberrys, of 30, Haymarket, London, will offer (till the 28th inst.) at half price, their 1898 model and stock sporting garments, viz.: gabardine (unlined) shooting coats, 21s.; long overcoats, 21s.; long leggings, 7s. 6d.; gaiters, 6s. 3d.; golfer caps, 2s. 6d.; gabardine combination shooting coats, 26s. 2d. and 31s. 6d.; K. B. breeches, 21s.; knickerbockers, 15s.; long overcoats, 31s. 6d.; kilt coats, 21s.; Highland capes, 21s.; Burberry capes, 21s. 6d.; rain-proofed tweed shooting coats, 26s. 2d. and 31s. 6d.; Highland capes, 26s. 8d.; weatheralls, 31s. 6d. Sent on approval on receipt of cheque covering.

THE MOST IMPORTANT LESSON Esculapian tried to impress upon his pupils was that the chief trouble afflicting humanity was due to impurities of the blood. All disorders may be traced to this fact, for unless the source of life is freed from disease germs it cannot have that strength which is necessary for good health. Holloway's Pills are composed of the most precious herbs and soothing balsams which Mother Earth can offer to her children, therefore they may be relied upon to supply the nourishment that is craved by the system. It is no vain boast to say that this is the most wonderful discovery made in the annals of medical science; they will cure or relieve all diseases.

have had in our new house, and, having an excellent host, I hope to see a good muster. Our match at Pulboro' on Feb. 12, was not a success, only two weighing in, Mr. Watkins, jack; Mr. Steadman, roach.—G. ETHERINGTON.

Phoenix Angling Society, The Tavistock, Stibington-street, N.W.—Wind and river being a trifle high, only two prizes were taken at Bourne End on Feb. 12, by Messrs. Austin and F. Dove. W. F. Sherlock had fish, but not up to our standard. Ben Forster, our late host, added the fourth prize, the two left, same conditions as others. We arranged for a weekly subscription of 1d. per member during the fence months to support the Rivers Re-stocking Fund.—R. C.

Prince Albert Angling Society, Prince Albert Hotel, Woodfield-road, Harrow-road, W.—Our outing at Cowley resulted in the following members taking prizes: Mr. Hardcastle, first; Mr. Baverstock, second; Messrs. Perry and Chapman tied for third prize; leaving one prize to be fished for. Total weight of fish taken did not exceed 4½oz., owing to the terribly rough day.—W. B. F.

Queen's Piscatorials, Queen's Arms, 1A, Chapel-street, Edgware-road, N.W.—On Feb. 12 only Messrs. W. Shepherd and J. Taylor weighed-in. Will members please attend on Tuesday next, 21st inst., to finally consider outing and transact other business of much importance? Those failing to attend can have no excuse afterwards for what has been done. Our visit on the Clerkenwell and District Visiting List takes place on Tuesday, Feb. 28.—GEO. KEENE.

Royal George Angling Society, Queen's Arms, Bateman-street.—On Feb. 12 only the two following members returned with fish—Messrs. Bardot and Pope. Last meeting night we added Mr. Brand to our list of members. Feb. 22 is quarterly night, when I hope to see all attend and clear the books.—J. GIBBONS.

St. Alban's Angling Society, Rising Sun, Prince's-road, Kennington Cross.—Two of our members weighed-in on the 12th inst., Mr. Cooper and Mr. Brown, the fish consisting of roach and perch. We held a roving match on Feb. 19. Members can go where they like for gross weight only.—H. ALLAN.

Seymour Brothers' Angling Society, King and Queen, 1, Foley-street, Fitzroy-square, W.—A few of our members were out on the 12th inst., but only Mr. Campbell weighed-in roach, 1lb. 1oz. Our outing to Goring is postponed till Feb. 26. Same conditions.—W. ALDIS.

South London United Anglers' Visiting List.—The next visit on the above list will take place on Tuesday, Feb. 28, at the Peckham Brothers' A.S., Windsor Castle, Cator-street, Peckham.—ALF. PAINTER.

Stockwell Angling Society, Old Queen's Head, Stockwell.—As anticipated the outing to Datchet was very much "off." Mr. Payne having a decent take of dace on Saturday from the lower reaches encouraged some to go down on the following day, in spite of gales, floods, and blizzards. "Wally" was well amongst the gudgeon as usual. The clerk of the weather may be an important individual, but he is no angler.—THOS. LUCAS.

Sundial Angling Society, Plough and Harrow, King-street, Hammersmith.—Our next outing is to take place on March 5, place to be named later. Mr. Stevens weighed-in one roach from Thames, 1lb. 4oz.—G. E. LOCK.

True Caledonian Angling Society, 23, Caledonian-road, N.—Mr. Miller has weighed-in, as the result of two separate days outings, thirty-five roach, weighing 41lb. 12oz., eleven going over 1½lb. each, the largest 1lb. 12½oz.—THOS. F. WARD.

Twickenham Piscatorial Society.—There was a large attendance at the weekly meeting on Tuesday evening, with Mr. Hibblethwaite in the chair. Six new members were enrolled, and the chairman's name was added to the committee, and Mr. Edwin Gunston, whose success amongst the bream at Kingston, on Tuesday, appears in another column, was elected vice-president. The collecting box of the T.A.P.S. made a successful start.—J. M. BROUGHAM.

Walham Green and Chelsea Angling Society, Black Bull, Fulham-road, S.W.—On Feb. 15 an open roving match was arranged for March 12, punt or bank, two rods, all fish to weigh, with option of going away on Saturday. Mr. Coombs has given a prize for gross weight. On the 22nd some very serious business will be put before the meeting, the consideration of which necessitates a full attendance. I therefore urge all members who feel interested in the club's affairs to do their best to be present.—W. H. BATCH.

Walton and Cotton Angling Association, Crown and Woolpack, 162, St. John-street-road, N.—We have had some nice fish weighed-in during the last few days, viz., jack, 8lb. 14½oz., 6lb. 14oz., 4lb. 10oz., 4lb.; roach, 1lb. 6½oz., 1lb. 2½oz., and takes of roach 10lb. 7oz., 3lb. 9oz.—M. CUDDON.

Walworth Waltonians Angling Society, St. Paul's Tavern, Westmoreland-road, Walworth, S.E.—We have arranged to have an open competition on Feb. 19 for the three lapsed prizes, and on Wednesday next there will be another open competition for three more prizes. Mr. W. Sparrow weighed-in some nice perch and bream from the Thames.—W. WRAY.

West Green Angling Society, Black Boy Hotel, West Green-road.—Mr. James Taylor ("Red Palmer") has kindly promised to read us a paper on "Rain and Rivers." Date not yet fixed, but will give full information next week. We hope members will muster strong, and shall be glad to see any visitors from other clubs.—A. G. H.

West Ham Brothers Angling Society, Coach and Horses, The Grove, Stratford.—Our members were out on Feb. 12 in the match, and the following took the prizes: Messrs. Weller, sen., first; John Newton,

second; L. Hunt, third. I hope our members will not forget that it is our monthly meeting on Wednesday next, Feb. 22.—R. LOWTHER.

Westminster Angling Society, The Telegraph, Regency-street, S.W.—On Feb. 12, Mr. Beck weighed-in a jack of 11½lb., and Mr. Richardson a good show of bream and dace. A special meeting will be held on Feb. 22 to arrange match.—S. H.

Wimbledon Piscatorials, 28, Alexandra-road, Wimbledon.—Only some half dozen members turned up for the fortnightly competition on the 12th inst. The weather was something to be remembered, and but one prize was taken; Mr. H. Golding, jun., was the lucky winner with three nice bream. The next outing is fixed for the 26th inst., at Weybridge, as usual. The same prizes, trains, and conditions will obtain as heretofore.—HON. SECRETARY.

CARLISLE ANGLING ASSOCIATION.

THE forty-sixth annual report of the above society is to hand, from which the following is an extract: "They are sorry not to be in a position to report favourably on the success of its numerous members so far as salmon fishing was concerned, as 90 per cent. of our members were not successful in hooking a single fish. Undoubtedly salmon were very scarce in the autumn months. There was a very good show of such fish in the spring, but, unfortunately, members of our association are not privileged to angle in such stretches of water as are usually resorted to by these fish, their efforts being mainly confined to autumn fishing in the lower reaches. Your committee have frequently endeavoured to procure water in the upper portions of the river, but hitherto with little success. Sea trout were fairly numerous in the early part of the season. This applies more particularly to the lower reaches, although good catches were also obtained, in the 'Sheep Mount,' and the immediate vicinity of Carlisle. Grey trout were also fairly numerous in all parts of the river, and many of our members met with good sport amongst these fish. The committee are also glad to point out that the leasing of the Caldew from R. S. Ferguson, Esq., and E. Stead, Esq., resulted in a large number of tickets being taken out. The innovation of granting tickets at a small charge to juveniles has been the means of adding a large number of members to the association, most of whom, it is hoped, will in future continue their membership. The efforts of your committee to have the time of closing extended to the end of November met with no success. The amount paid to the Eden Conservancy Board this year amounted to £29, being an increase of £9 over the previous year. This arose from the fact that the actual amount received for licences by the association was £27 10s., thus leaving £110s. for the checking of tickets by their watchers. It may be noted that our members contributed no less a sum than £115 for licences to the funds of the conservancy board during the past year. The balance in favour of the association shows an increase of £24 over 1897. This improved position arises from the fact of our having been compelled, for want of funds, to give up certain stretches of water, the rentals of which amounted to £40. The committee are greatly indebted to Miles MacInnes, Esq., and Thomas Robinson, Esq., for the free use of their stretches of water, and desire to thank them very heartily for such privilege. They also wish to place on record their appreciation of the public spirit of the other proprietors who lease their fishings to the association."

INTERNATIONAL CHESS TOURNAMENT, LONDON, 1899.

DURING the past three months great progress has been made in the movement to organize an International Chess Tournament, to be held in London during the coming summer, and it is now announced that the committee have made arrangements to hold the tournament in the St. Stephen's Great Hall, adjoining the Royal Aquarium, with entrance from Prince's-street, Westminster.

Play will last six or seven weeks, commencing on May 30. Some little difficulty was anticipated in finding a suitable hall, the tournament being fixed to take place during the height of the London season, and the committee are to be congratulated on securing such a fine hall, capable of holding a very large company, and so well situated for sightseers.

A very strong committee has been formed, of which Sir George Newnes, president of the British and City of London Chess Clubs, is president, and including, among the hundred or more names, the Marquis of Ripon, Viscounts Cobham and Folkestone, the Lord Chief Justice, Lord Rayleigh, F.R.S.; a strong contingent of members of the House of Commons, including the Attorney-General, Sir Wm. Hart Dyke, and Mr. Henniker Heaton, and the presidents of all the leading chess clubs and associations throughout the kingdom.

It is proposed to hold two tournaments,—the first a Double Round Tournament limited to about sixteen players, which, it is hoped, will include all the finest players in the world, and secondly, a Single Round Tournament of twenty or more players not competing in the Double Round Tournament. The prize fund will, it is anticipated, amount to about £1500, and towards this premises have been received by the committee of about £1000. The joint hon. secretaries of the tournament are Mr. Jnnius L. Cope, hon. secretary of the British Chess Club, which is taking a leading part in the matter, and Mr. J. W. Russell, hon. secretary of the City of London Chess Club. Subscriptions to the prize fund may be sent to them at the British Chess Club, 5, Whitehall-court, S.W.

NEW PISCATORIAL PATENTS.

THE following particulars are compiled by Messrs. Hughes and Young, Patent Agents, 55 and 56, Chancery-lane, London, W.C.

1050. Reuben Heaton, Hospital-street, Birmingham. Line director for fishing rod end pulleys.
- 21,279. Trawling. Patentee, Mr. J. Cohrs, Altona-on-the-Elbe, Germany, relates to otter boards. The board consists of a box-like frame, between the top and bottom of which vertical louvre boards are fixed so as to be adjustable.
1743. Lambert William Scottford and Alexander Cruickshanks, Wray-crescent, Tooting Park, London. A double spiral spring regulating fishing winch or reel.
- 22,340. Fishing. Patentee, Mr. H. R. Mortell, Wellington-street, Gravesend, relates to trawling gear. Otter boards are replaced by short axles carrying wheels of unequal diameter, the larger one being placed inside to produce a diverging action as the net is drawn along.
2085. August S. Ludd, of Ludgate Hill, London, relates to an improved means for transporting live fish.
2193. Andrew Verd Chapin, of Queen Victoria-street, London, relates to fishing reel tension attachment.

Doftings by the Way.

MOTTO for the last week's weather, "*De gustibus non est disputandum*," which being freely, very freely, translated means, "It is little use to argue with the wind for the possession of your best 'long sleeved' hat."

ONCE more I have to refer to the books issued by the Great Eastern Railway. This time it is a most useful little waistcoat pocket book containing a list of the principal horse and cattle fairs, racing, steeplechase, and cricket fixtures, and angling information for 1899. The anonymous compiler deserves the greatest credit for the amount of information on widely varying subjects he has managed to compress into an almost microscopic space. Racing and cricket are liberally dealt with, but pages 111 to 134 contain what is to me, and, doubtless, to my readers, the most interesting part of the book, a fund of angling notes which are sure to be useful.

FENCE months, sizes of fish, angling waters, and other subjects of interest or importance to anglers are fully set forth, and not the least valuable is the list of angling resorts on the company's system. I may not have to consult the book to find when Gloucestershire will play the Australians at Bristol, when Drogheda fair is held, the Jubilee Stakes are run for, or how much it costs to send a horse from Belfast to Boulogne, all of which this little book will tell me, but I know it will be often looked at when I cannot quite make up my mind as to which part of the country I shall visit for my weekly fishing jaunt, and I know I shall not look in vain. There is a capital half tone block of the company's splendid steamer Dresden, and, of course, a list of fares to the principal stations. I cannot really speak too highly of this capital little volume, which should be in the hand, or rather the waistcoat pocket, of every sportsman.

THE labourers who were convicted at the Bingham Petty Sessions of illegally fishing in the river Trent seem to have been rather lucky. It was stated in evidence (see report in another column) that the defendants were using a net that "was capable of taking all the small fry, and could sweep everything out of the Trent," and it was proved that they were fishing illegally, so that in fining them 40s. and costs, and confiscating the net, the magistrates cannot be said to have erred on the side of severity. The maximum penalty for this objectionable offence is only £5, surely hardly enough!

SOME years ago I spent a month's holiday in Wales and Ireland. After the usual drive round the Phaynix Park and a bathe in the Liffey—and looking at Strawberry Hall when there were no strawberries to be had—I was induced to go as far as the salmon leap, but I saw no salmon leap. A certain Irish wag (all Irishmen are wags) told me at Foley's Hotel at night that he was sorry I had been disappointed, and assured me that if I would accompany him the next day he would show me a wrinkle. This consisted of a large coke fire placed just above the weir, upon which was a large frying-pan containing boiling fat. "You see," says he, "that when the salmon leap up they leap into the frying-pan; when it's done on one side we just turn them over and cook the other side. Then we place them in a box and drive home with them 'all hot.'" But I had to visit the Zoological Gardens the next day, and consequently had no hot salmon.

Scribner's Magazine for February is a specially interesting number. The letters of Robert Louis Stevenson are continued, and illustrated by some delicately beautiful drawings by Herbert Railton. "The Lepers—a tale of South Africa," is an intensely dramatic story by Wm. Cbas. Scully. Theodore Roosevelt continues his account of the "Rough Riders," and there are interesting articles on Wm. Makepeace Thackeray and other subjects, as well as some of those short stories for which Scribner's is so famous.

THE following cutting was sent from Salisbury: "A Monster Trout.—While Capt. Howell, of St. Mark's-road, was pike fishing in Mr. Gregory's river recently, a large trout took his trolling bait. It weighed 14lb. 6oz., and measured 31in. in length, 18in. girth, and 7in. depth. It was photographed by Mr. H. C. Messer, Castle-street, and is being stuffed by Mr. White, High-street. Since the beginning of last year Capt. Howell has caught upwards of 130 pike, many of which scaled 8lb. to 15lb., as well as a good many trout, grayling, and other fish."

MR. EDWIN GUNSTON (of Teddington), was out on Feb. 14 with J. Johnson, of Kingston-on-Thames, and took sixty-four good bream and eighteen roach within a very short distance of his house.

THE late Thames (Windsor) competition in aid of the A.B.S. resulted in the sum of £23 16s., which will be handed over to the executive on Feb. 24.

I AM asked to say that the dimensions of Mr. Well's pike (Allason United Brothers), was 42in. in length, 25in. in girth, and weighed 25lb.

THE monthly delegate meeting of the Anglers' Association will take place at the Foresters Hall, on Monday evening next, Feb. 20. Chair to be taken at 8.30.

ANY submarine boat (says the *Sunday Special*) must, in the nature of things, be cranky. It was found in the *Nordenfjeld*—and the same defect exists admittedly in the *Zédé*—that the movement of her crew or of things on board altered her equilibrium and was liable to depress or raise the bow dangerously out of the horizontal, and then comes the insuperable difficulty of all, that once submerged, no idea can be formed of the course of a submarine boat or her speed, the result being that she must continually come to the surface to fix her position, while nothing has yet been discovered by which the impenetrable gloom below the surface of the water can be pierced. The electric search-light, so far from enabling the crew of the *Zédé* to see anything ahead, rendered the sea, if anything, more opaque, as shoals of fish were attracted by the glare, and kept hovering round the disc. There may be a future for submarine boats, but the French in the *Gustave Zédé* have done nothing as yet to solve the problem which has not been done already, and it is quite certain that the *Magenta* would never have been torpedoed if her commander had cared to avoid being so. M. Lockroy and the French public had, however, to be impressed and pleased. It is one thing to construct a submarine boat, it is quite another thing to make her of any use, and, for the present, the *Gustave Zédé* is nothing but a dangerous toy.

MR. P. E. LOFT, of the Cambridge Heath Brothers, sends the following: "W. Bishop, of the Hoxton Brothers' Angling Society, had a curious experience when fishing in the Lea near Enfield Lock. Two anglers were fishing from the bank near him when it gave way, throwing them in the water. Bishop went to their assistance, and, by laying on his stomach, was able to grasp each of the men by the arm. However, he was unable to drag them out, and lay in this helpless position, still retaining his hold, for twenty minutes, until assistance arrived." The above took place at Coventry's water, at Sewardstone, on Feb. 12. Unfortunately both anglers, after being well looked after at Coventry's house, left without giving their names or club, and Bishop lost his hat and got his tackle damaged!

"FIRING on British trawlers" sounds ugly, and if the reports wired from Grimsby are true, the captain of the Danish gunboat implicated appears to have acted in a high-handed and unwarrantable manner. It is reported that twenty-three trawlers—fourteen from Grimsby and nine from Hull—took refuge from the weather in Fzleford Harbour, Farøe Islands. They were ordered by the captain of the Danish gunboat to follow him to Thorshavn, the capital of the group, for trial for being in the harbour "with their trawls on board." If they were simply taking refuge owing to stress of weather, and their trawls were on board, it is difficult to see how they could be contravening the regulations as to fishing within territorial waters. Two of the boats, the *Hugelia* and *Magic*, of Grimsby, approached each other to speak, when the gunboat fired on them, I am glad to hear from a later report with blank cartridge only; but the whole fleet at once hoisted British colours, and went into Thorshavn cock-a-doodle-doing defiantly with their steam sirens. All the trawlers implicated were fined. On an *ex parte* statement of this kind it is, of course, difficult to pronounce an opinion, and I give none; but while my sympathies are naturally with my fellow countrymen, I cannot forget that on more than one occasion unpleasant reports have come to hand of the behaviour of British fishermen in the far north.

THE Yachting Exhibition continues an attractive feature at the Royal Aquarium. It closes on March 2, and will be succeeded by the Fisheries Exhibition on March 8. The entertainments are going strong, and will on Monday include a double-voiced ventriloquist, a champion lady shot, and a contortionist.

"WHEN the stormy winds do blo-o-o-o!" go fishing. Never mind the colour of the water—so long as it is wet. Here is an account of Mr. Miller's two days' fishing. He belongs to the True Caledonians A.S. Thirty-five roach weighing 41lb. 12oz., eleven going over 1lb. 4oz., largest 1lb. 12oz. And they wanted getting.

CARDIFF and the Bristol Channel and the River Taff and the River Ely got so badly mixed up on Feb. 12 that it will probably take a week to sort them out.

A LARGE eel was caught in Cathedral-road, Cardiff, after the flood. The policeman who effected the arrest thinks the eel was on the way to its home in Ely.

How's this for an acknowledgment? "Dear Sir,—I am obliged by your inquiry of the 12th inst., for which I am obliged, and hope to reply thereto in the course of a post or so."

A WELL-KNOWN Teutonic orchestral player, while fulfilling an engagement in Sydney, thought he would go fishing, and, being advised to bait with prawns, had this experience: "I put me a fishing line and went to a pork-butcher and took for sixpence prawn (brawn). Zen I go fishing, and I stop zero all day, and catch nodings, and I lose all my prawn. 'Twas better I eat him mineself."

HE was a member of a London vestry, and having been brought into contact with a landed proprietor near the coast, he accepted an invitation to a day's sea fishing. Here are a few flowers culled from the description he gave of his outing. "Talk about a trip—at the ratepayers expense—for the Cemetery Committee, and dinner at the 'Hangel and Hartichoke,' it wasn't in it. I went down in a Pullman car, and had a 'rekerchy' luncheon. Then we had whiskies and soda, and 'Laryngitis' cigars, and at last I was taken out to sea in a boat that was beautifully painted, though they call it a dingy one. We caught some 'castor and pollux,' and my host caught a small Bass that must have weighed a 'tenner.' I must say I enjoyed the trip and the lunch, but the fishing was a bit too rough for me, and I was very glad when I got back on 'terra cotta.'"

OUR F. G. ALBUM OF ANGLERS.

No. 35 (New Series).



MR. W. H. CATE.

"WORTHY son of worthy sire," Mr. W. H. Cate is one of the most popular men in angling circles. As secretary of the Society of Caxtonian Anglers, as committee-man of the T.R.A., and one of the earliest members of the Kingston P.S., Mr. Cate's abilities have been of the greatest assistance to the business side of angling. A keen lover of fishing from his youth up, a taste doubtless inherited, his angling efforts have been particularly successful, as his specimen cases testify. "On one occasion," he says, "I had two pelicans on a spinning flight at once, but I didn't land them, so didn't get them stuffed!" With Mr. Sinibaldi, jun., he took on one day last year thirty bream, averaging 3lb., besides a good catch of roach. A sweet singer, a good sportsman, and a gentleman in the best sense of the term, Mr. Cate is one of those whom it is a pleasure to meet on any and every occasion.

"AND now," says W. Carter Platts in the *Yorkshire Weekly Post*, "here is our old friend, 'The Cockney,' coming along with a simple little question like this—'Is a lobster a fish?' This inquiry ought, of course, to have been addressed to the Cuckoo man on the back page; but as the answer is so apparent, I will go into the matter myself. Popularly, then, when the lobster is in the sea, he is a fish; but when he is in a salad, he is very often a headache next morning. But let us deal with the question scientifically. Firstly: The organs of inspiration in a lobster are gills; therefore, he is a fish. He has a jointed body and jointed legs; therefore, he is an insect. He blushes vividly when he gets into hot water; therefore, he is a man, and I should say a Scotchman at that when you come to think how he sticks to anything he grabs hold of, and how he grabs at everything. Thus it will be quite clear to you, 'Cockney,'

that a lobster is a human-fish-insect. But, secondly, a lobster has no vertebra; therefore he cannot be a fish. He does not breathe by air tubes; therefore he is not an insect. He only gets into hot water once in his life; therefore he is not a man. So you see, 'Cockney,' it is equally clear that the lobster is certainly not a human-fish-insect. As a matter of fact—Oh, hang it, 'Cockney,' what you want to do is to send your query to Dr. Andrew Wilson, or the photography man, or the obituary editor, and send the lobster (if it is a good one) on to me. They will tell you at once what is the nationality of a reckless reptile that takes such little care of his bones as to wear them outside, and I'll tell you what he tastes like."

THE following is taken from the *Hawke's Bay Herald*, New Zealand, of Dec. 28: "The largest fish of the season was captured yesterday by Mr. G. Culliford, who succeeded in landing a monster kingfish, measuring 49in. in length, 29in. in girth at the shoulder, and weighing 64lb." The line with which this fish was caught was made by the Manchester Cotton Twine Spinning Co., Ltd., Compstall, a firm which devotes itself wholly to the production of lines for fishing—deep sea, lake, or river.

THE Bohemian concert given by the members of the Gresham Angling Society on Tuesday evening last was one of the—if not the—best ever held under the auspices of this up-to-date body of genuine anglers. Ladies were particularly invited, and were very much in evidence. Mr. P. Morrall was an excellent accompanist, and amongst the artists were Mr., Mrs., and Miss Croger, Messrs. Reeves, Boustred, Maull, S. A. Soake, W. Syckelmoore, W. Clifford, Abbott, Pelham Wilks, F. Norman, Hatton, jun., &c. At many concerts there are artists who are particularly clever, and some mediocre, but Mr. Gray (to whom the greatest credit is due for his admirable selection) contrived to produce none but "particularly clever" and talented artists. The solo on the kitchen bellows was a "treat"—in fact, the concert was the best I have ever attended. Mr. James Tayler ("Red Palmer") was a capital chairman.

ON Friday evening next, Feb. 24, the Hastings Anglers hold a "Ladies' Night and Cigarette Concert" at the Assembly Rooms, Castle Hotel. Dr. Travers will preside, and Mr. F. S. Foster in the vice-chair. At the foot of my card of invitation are the words "Cigars and cigarettes at and after intervals." What about the pipe?

THE Piscatorial Society will have a smoking concert on Monday evening, Feb. 20, and it goes without saying that the usual treat is in store for those who are fortunate enough to be present.

ONE of the unfortunate duties which falls to me too often is to have to act as referee in angling disputes. Many anglers seem to look upon me as Solomon at five stone seven (in racing parlance). Now, of course, I greatly appreciate the compliment; but it has its inconvenient side. Here is a case in point. At a recent roaching competition the first prize was awarded to Mr. A., and was claimed by Mr. B. on the ground that his catch was the heavier by two lead pencils and a piece of coal—they had mislaid the weights, and had to use anything that came handy in their place. B. passes his protest on to me, and, to prove his case, sends me the two lead pencils and the piece of coal in question. Now, there are always two sides to everything, even a plum pudding, and the point is a knotty one; but here is my decision: I will keep the pencils for office use, burn the coal, and the match must be fished over again. Judgment accordingly, with costs (drinks round) against both sides.

THE GOLFER'S MOTHER GOOSE.

I.—The Boomerang Drive.

Little Tommie Driver is a naughty little boy, Who by his horrid slicing other players does annoy. He doesn't try to drive his ball like others, straight ahead, But loves to pull or slice it, till he fills the links with dread.

But now this naughty Tommie on his bed doth lie and whine, Because he's got a fearful ache all up and down his spine. And all because last Friday Tommie gave his ball a whack, And pulled it round so fiercely that it hit him in the back.

II.—The Little Caddie.

I had a little caddie boy who was so very small, That he was just as hard to find as though he were a ball; And once when I was playing for a lovely pewter mug, He disappeared completely as a buglet in a rug.

But when the game was over—oh, the naughty little wag!— I found him sleeping soundly in the bottom of my bag.

—Harper's Bazaar.

THE Lychnobite Angling Society's fifth annual concert, in aid of printers' charities, and for other benevolent purposes, will take place at the Champion Hotel, Aldersgate-street, on March 25. The programme promises to exceed all its predecessors, and with such names as Marie Lloyd, Vesta Victoria, Harry Anderson, Charles Osborne, and Amy Brook (R.A.M.), the concert of 1899 looks like proving a bumper. The chairman will be DRAGNET.

BRITISH SEA ANGLERS' SOCIETY.

THE usual weekly meeting was held at the Cannon-street Hotel on Wednesday, Feb. 15, Dr. John Brunton in the chair. Mr. Linfoot reported fishing off Deal Pier with the wire line. Mr. G. Read Clarke gave his experience, and showed two specimens of the brittle star, which he brought up on a piece of rock when rod fishing. Mr. Handley reported that the alarm for the Southend Pier had been given by a sea angler. Mr. Hnssey spoke on the subject of the ahuse of hand-lining off Southend Pier, and urged the importance of the society aiding him to influence the local authorities. Messrs. Green, Clarke, Jacob, and the chairman also spoke in support of something being done in the matter. Mr. Tucker showed his rod with his special top (cane and whalebone built), large pulley top and roller rings, and the roller butt. The usual vote of thanks closed the meeting.

CHARLES S. PATTERSON (Hon. Sec.).

THE committee, in presenting their report for the past year, would draw attention to the change that has taken place in the *personnel* of the members, although the register of the society showed 772 members, there were 247 new members elected during the year. The promised revision of the seaside stations has been carried out, and a second edition is already being printed of the "B.S.A.S. Pocket Book," which contains lists of officers, members, stations, &c. This publication keeps members informed as to the rules and benefits of the society, and will be revised and added to from time to time, as occasion may require. The principal fixtures of the past year have been successfully carried through. The annual dinner was held at the Cannon Street Hotel, on April 27, the hon. treasurer, R. Biddulph Martin, Esq., M.P., being in the chair, and J. Wrench Trowse, Esq., the secretary of the Fishmongers' Company, in the vice-chair, and 120 members and friends were present; this was a slight falling off from the previous year, chiefly to be accounted for by the lateness of the date.

With the increased number of active members now in the society a larger attendance this year is hoped for.

The annual sea angling competition was this year again held at Deal, on Nov. 5, 6, and 7, when 155 members entered and 116 competed, a great increase in numbers over that of last year. The weekly meetings of the society, referred to in our last report as being of an experimental nature, have been continued during the past year, and have been productive of much interest to those members who have regularly attended. Your committee would urge upon all members the value which such gatherings possess as a means of gaining a thorough knowledge of sea fishing methods and neighbourhoods, and also an acquaintance with many of our most skillful anglers, whose experience has hitherto always been at the disposal of their fellow members. On certain evenings special subjects have been brought before the meeting; thus, two papers have been read, one special discussion on bottom-fishing tackle has been held, while upon three occasions formal discussions have taken place on the proposed abolition of the Buckland Museum, the destruction of immature flat fish, and trawl fishing in the Moray Frith, matters concerning the welfare of our sea fisheries. The other thirty-nine meetings have been of an informal character, at which reports have been given, by members, of sport at Blankenherghie (Belgium), Colomell (near Girvan, N.B.), Clacton-on-Sea, Deal, Dover, Dungeness, Eastbourne, Felixstowe, Great Yarmouth, Gorleston, Hastings, Harwich, Herne Bay, Isle of Man (Castletown and Port Erin), West of Ireland (Leenare and Achil Island), Leigh-on-Sea, Littlehampton Looe (Cornwall), Margate, Minehead (Somerset), Newhaven, Orkney Islands, Pakefield (Suffolk), Plymouth, Port Isaac (Cornwall), Ramsgate, Shoreham, Southwick, Southend, and Ventnor. Your committee formally beg to tender their best thanks to the agents of this society at the various stations, especially those at Deal, Leigh-on-Sea, Ramsgate, and Southwick, where most of the sea anglers seem to congregate, especially during the winter months. They further tender their best thanks to the S.E. and L.C.D. Railway Companies for the continuance of the railway concessions during the past season, and confidently hope that even greater concessions may be obtained for our members during the coming year.

Notes from the North.

MR. THEODORE BRICKMAN and Mr. A. W. Merry have again taken the Glentana water, and went up Deeside on Saturday morning, to Profit's Hotel at Dinnet.

MR. H. L. Crake has taken the private waters at Invercauld House at a rental of £400 for the spring months. It fishes best during April, and some records were made on it a few years back.

MR. FRANCIS BACON, Earlstone, Berks, has taken the Monaltrie House and water, with shootings attached, for the season. It is a good water on the north bank of the Dee, and easily fished at all times.

THE Deveron promises to afford good sport from the start this spring. Fresh fish have been seen in the mid-reaches for some weeks back. This is the result of the enlightened policy of huying up the netting rights and removing the dyke at the Reik Saw Mill, for some 200 years or so farmed by the Duke of Fife and his ancestors.

DURING the close season fish merchants have been able to supply the orders of customers with refrigerated salmon, marked in accordance with the Home Office regulations. The North of Scotland Cold Storage Company are making

arrangements for storing 2000 fish in place of 200 as formerly. We hope they may get them, and that speedily.

MR. ALEXANDER MCGREGOR leaves the Invercauld Arms, Ballater, in May, when his lease of the Ballater fishings also expires. Many anglers and others, both at home and abroad, will regret his departure, as he has, during his long lease of the hotel and fishings, made hosts of friends, and never intentionally an enemy.

THE new hotel and extensive golf course at Cruden Bay—the Brighton of the East, as it has been felicitously called—will be in full swing by April 1. There is some good sea trout fishing at times in the Cruden Burn, and, *par excellence*, tip top sea angling at any time in Cruden Bay itself.

THE third batch of salmon rivers, including the North and South Esks (Forfar), and some South of Scotland rivers, opened to the angler on Thursday last, the 16th. The late floods have been favourable to the ascent of fish, and sport should be more free on the South Esk now that the nets are bought off.

THE Ythan District Board are moving in the matter of extending the annual close time till Nov. 14. If successful in getting the consent of the Scotch Secretary of State, this regulation will equally affect the Cruden Burn and Ugie, as well as the Ythan. A fortnight's sea trout angling will thus be secured at the very best time of the year. Of course, date of opening is to be correspondingly prolonged.

THE results of the opening day on the Dee are on the whole quite satisfactory. A fish of 17lb. was got on the Balmoral waters, and duly dispatched to the Queen at Osborne. It is not often that spring fish are found so far inland on the opening day.

ON the other waters, Messrs. Miller and Ashton creeled four; Messrs. Tynningham and Granville, two; Mr. Carshaw, one; Col. Eddis, two; Mr. Brickman, two; and Mr. Merry, the top weight for the opening day, one of 25lb., on Glentana; Col. Hay had one, 20lb.; Sir John Gladstone, two; Capt. Mitchell and party, five; and old Wm. Blacklaws, who commenced his sixty-fourth season on the water, a nice little fish of 7½lb.; while Gen. Hills had three. Nothing was done on the lower reaches owing to the flooded state of the pools.

THE fly was the taking lure on the opening day, although almost every conceivable bait was more or less *en evidence*, especially the phantom and live gudgeon.

SPECIAL SCOTCH.

Provincial Notes

FROM BIRMINGHAM AND DISTRICT.

THE majority of our Birmingham clubs are getting down to business again, and better attendances of the members are to be found all over the city. Some few of the clubs are taking time by the forelock, and are making the necessary arrangements for their summer outings and contests, which will be both large and numerous—so much so, that the Great Western and Midland Railway Companies will have to put on special Sunday trains for the members to travel by. The same old fishing grounds will be visited, and the innkeepers at Pershore, Defford, Eckington, and Bredon will again do a roaring trade. At the whole of the places mentioned the publicans are interesting themselves in getting permission for our members to go upon the land to fish the Avon, which will again be greatly patronised—so much so, that those who pretend to have the rights of fishing, and obtain benefits indirect from the anglers, should do something to help to re-stock the water to provide sport in the future. But this is a matter that they consider outside their consideration, but there will, perhaps, come a time when through depletion by over fishing they may wish that they had done something in the direction named. Some of our members have been out pike fishing, and have succeeded in making one or two good captures from their club waters, which, through the short duration of dry weather, have nearly gone down to their normal level. A member of the Midland Piscatorialists took two nice pike from the Trent at Alrewas, between Burton Bridges and the canal weir. One fish weighed 8lb. and the other 7½lb. Mr. G. Turley, jnn., of the Aston Britannia Society, caught a nice pike of 11lb. 6oz. from the Avon at Harvington, which is rented by this club. A number of small jack have been taken from the Stratford and Warwick Canals at Kingswood. A large quantity of small pike have been taken from these canals of late, the most killing lure being the spoon bait. Sport on the Severn and Avon has been very quiet, owing to the high and discoloured state of the water. Messrs. Devonport, the noted brewers of Bath-row, Birmingham, who are the owners of Earlswood reservoirs, are doing much to make their waters the best in the Midlands. They have gone in for re-stocking on a large scale; 2000 very fine perch have just been put in, and a large order has been given to the Fazeley Fisheries for a quantity of large and small roach. The fishing is let to subscribers. All particulars may be obtained of Mr. T. Coles, 70, Edgbaston-street, Birmingham. The Oldhury Angling Association held their first annual dinner on Wednesday evening last, at their clubhouse, the British Lion, Talbot-street. The members turned up in full force, and a very pleasant evening was passed. Councillor Hollyhead, the president of the society, occupied the chair,

and did his best to put the members on good terms with themselves. The annual dinner of the delegates of the Birmingham Association has been fixed for March 11th next. Arrangements have been made to hold it at the Metropole Restaurant, High-street, which is one of the finest places in the Midlands. Tickets will be sent to the clubs on Monday next. We are having shocking weather, owing to which very little angling has been done, the heavy rains and high winds having prevented our members from going out.

FROM HULL AND DISTRICT.

WE have experienced splendid mild weather in this district since the advent of the new moon, and had our local waters been in better condition no doubt our roach fishermen would have had a splendid time of it. Nevertheless, a few good fish have been taken in the top stretches of the river Hull at Wansford, Brigham, and Swing Bridge, from where roach of 1lb. 4oz., 1lb. 1½oz., and 1lb. 1½oz. have been shown; also dace from 7oz. to 8½oz. each; and below the lock, at Walton and Aike Beck-ends, and at Leven Lock a few good takes of both roach and perch have been made, but chiefly with worm. At the time of writing (Wednesday) the weather is simply lovely for the time of year, and, with the neap tides, no doubt by the end of the week the waters will have fined down again, and some good sport may reasonably be expected. A few mixed bags of roach, flounders, and eels have been made in the Wawne and Calley district with worm. The Holderness Angling Society will fish a sweepstakes on the river at Wansford on March 2; and the new society, the Trinity A.S., will open their season and fish their first match on the river, on Minto Flatts, on April 15th. At an adjourned meeting of the Hull Amalgamated Anglers' Association on Wednesday last, several applications from the affiliated societies to fish their matches on the Holderness Drains during the coming season were granted, and the bailiffs appointed for the Burstwick and Winestead Drains, at Hedon and Patrington; it was also finally arranged to pay over the proceeds of the Charity Match, amounting to £7 4s. 6d. each, to the two Hull Orphanages on Saturday (Feb. 18). The annual meeting for the distribution of prizes for specimen fish to the successful competitors of the past season, will be held at the Queen's Hotel, Charlotte-street, on Thursday evening, March 9th. The Holderness Angling Society have removed their headquarters to the King's Arms, in Witham, East Hull, where the meetings and business of the society will in future be conducted. The Derringham Angling Society held their annual dinner at the Botanic Hotel, on Spring Bank, on the 6th inst., the president, Mr. W. Wardell, occupying the chair. During the evening Mr. George B. Cheeseman was presented with the society's gold medal for the past season and many good songs and recitations were given by the members present, adding greatly to the evening's enjoyment. On Thursday evening, Feb. 9, the Alexandra Angling Association celebrated their twelfth annual *soirée* and ball at the Ripon Hall, in East Hull, where a large gathering of over 260 anglers and their friends took part in the proceedings, which were most enthusiastic throughout. The officers elected for 1899 are: President, Mr. B. Kemp; vice, Mr. J. Gooch; and hon. secretary, Mr. H. Wharam. The Trinity A.S. will hold a smoking concert at their headquarters, the Malt Shovel Hotel, on Church Side, in the Old Town, on March 4, when other club members are invited. The Izaak Walton Angling Society have arranged to open their season on April 1, at Patrington, on the Winestead Drain.

FROM THE LAKE DISTRICT.

ANOTHER suggestion has been made as to the scarcity of salmon in some of the streams of West Cumberland. Mr. J. Grice, speaking at a meeting of the local fishery board on Thursday, Dr. Braithwaite in the chair, said he had found that the rivers were very much poached near their mouths by means of draft nets, and this must have something to do with the scarcity of salmon. Mr. W. H. Watson and others agreed with the statement, and the question having arisen on the appointment of a representative to the sea fisheries committee, which body is supposed to watch and protect the coast, Mr. Grice was chosen as a delegate from the board to the committee. At the same meeting the head watcher reported that there were very few fish in the fish pond at Holmrook, but a large number of eels. This is the common experience of all interested in the culture of fish. Eels are probably more destructive to fish life in ponds than are pike in rivers and lakes, and, seeing the difficulty existing in the trapping of eels, it was a good suggestion on the part of Dr. Braithwaite that as many fish as could be secured should be transferred to the river Esk, and that the pond be allowed to lie fallow for a time. The board's finances are in a satisfactory condition, there being a balance in the hawk at the end of the year of nearly £105.

FROM LANCASHIRE.

FROM Warrington continued reports of progress are to hand. They have arranged for an annual dinner, passed a set of rules for the new federation society, and arranged for three matches. The new executive of the Isaac Walton A.S. is as follows: Chairman, Mr. W. Hoggarth; treasurer, Mr. A. J. Redman; secretary, Mr. G. F. Drinkwater; committee, Messrs. W. Shepherd, J. Jenkins, S. Hanson, E. Ridings, J. A. Cadman, and R. Wilson. The annual of the St. Helen's Anglers was a big success, and the members will long remember the happy evening they spent together at their clubhouse. The travelling or membership card of the Northern Anglers' Association, if judged by the advance proofs, is sure to give satisfaction, being, as usual, very complete. Many additional privileges are printed, and at the same time disappear a lot of useless ones under heading of first and second class, fares of no earthly use to the frugal angler of to-day. The com-

ANGLERS' HOTELS, FISHING QUARTERS, &c.**FORTINGALL HOTEL,
GLENLYON, PERTSHIRE.**

8½ miles from Aberfeldy Railway Station and 2½ miles from Fearnan Pier, Loch Tay. This new First-class Hotel is beautifully situated near the "Famous Pass of Glenlyon, with Mineral Well." Good spring salmon fishing on the River Lyon opens Jan. 15. Trout fishing free. Posting. Post and Telegraph Office two minutes' walk.

PAUL MACPHAIL, Proprietor.

**SALMON FISHING
ON
LOCH TAY.**

For Boats, apply to

H. J. MAISEY, Killin Hotel.

FOYERS HOTEL, LOCH NESS.

Re-decorated and most Comfortably Re-furnished throughout. Electric light.

THIS Hotel, which is most beautifully situated, overlooking Loch Ness, and commanding Finest Views of the Great Glen, has the right of Salmon Fishing on Loch Ness, which will be free to visitors staying at Hotel, also Trout Fishing on River Foyers, Loch Bran, Loch Garth, and Loch Farraline. Boats for use of visitors. Terms moderate.

S. TILSTON, Proprietor

**SHANNON & LOUGH DERG,
KILLALOE, IRELAND.**

MOST reliable information as to Salmon, Grilse, and Trout Fishing in free and preserved waters, river, and lake, at this station; also as to accommodation and board in private cottage close to river. Expenses, shortest route from England and Scotland, on application to S. J. HURLEY, Killaloe Co. Clare, Ireland. N.B.—The Green Drake season on lake commences about last week in May, when the big trout are about in thousands.

SALMON ANGLING.

LOCH AWE HOTEL.—Superb and extensive additions since last season. Excellent TROUT and SALMON FISHING on Loch Awe, Free. Experienced boatmen. Boats towed by Steam Launch to the best Fishing Grounds. Magnificent views of mountain, lake, and river scenery obtained from the Hotel.

DALMALLY HOTEL, GLENORCHY, under the same management.—Guests have nine miles FREE SALMON FISHING on the beautiful and celebrated salmon river ORCHY. Parties wishing to ascertain fully of river promptly answered.

DUNCAN FRASER, Proprietor.

CROOM, Co. LIMERICK.

The Mague, Comogue, Morning Star and Luby, Lough Gur, and Tory Hill Lake.

TWENTY miles of the best free Salmon and Trout fishing in Ireland to be got on the above rivers. The lakes are teeming with coarse fish—Pike, Roach, and Perch—and are also free. CROOM HOTEL, which is now one of the prettiest and best laid out in the country, with sanitary arrangements perfect, is built on the Mague, and stands central to all the others, viz., Comogue (half mile), Morning Star (four miles), Luby (seven miles), Tory Hill Lake (one mile), Lough Gur (five miles). Cars are supplied at the hotel at special low rates. BOATS FREE. Tariff very moderate.

T. D. MCCARTHY, Proprietor.

SALMON and TROUT FISHING (Killaloe), Two Miles best preserves (Clare side of Shannon) to LET for March. Splendid Trout, Pike, and Perch Fishing free on Lough Derg; also free Salmon Fishing on river. First-class accommodation close to river.—Address "Proprietor," Grace's, Hotel, Killaloe, Ireland.

SHIP HOTEL, LEIGH, ESSEX

Local Headquarters of British Sea Anglers' Society.

THIS Hotel, which is now under entirely new Management, can offer high class accommodation at moderate charges to Gentlemen visiting Leigh for Fishing or Commercial purposes.

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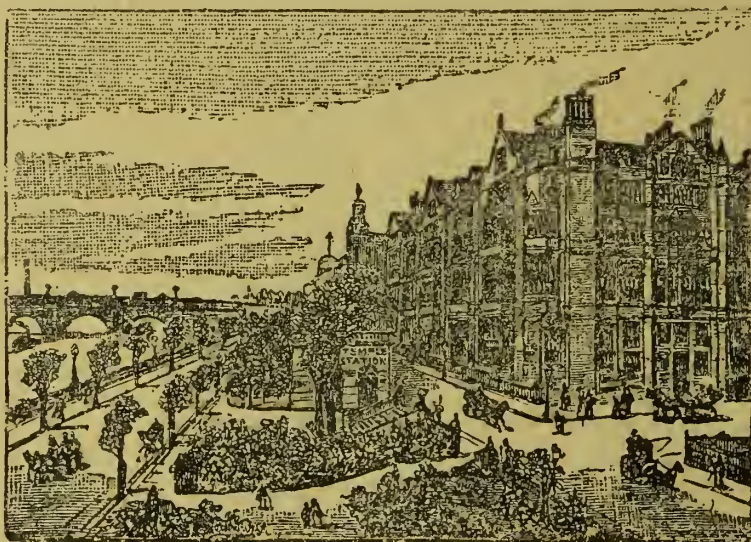
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VACANCIES for Two or Three RODS, for coming season, on a short but highly productive length of water.—"A. A." Mariemont, Binley, Saint Mary Bourne, Andover.

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plers are to be congratulated on the satisfactory production. The Lune Conservancy Board are doing their utmost to stop pollution of this river. It appears the estuary is badly polluted, and application to the Board of Trade for their assistance has been made. The Crompton Lodges, at Moses Gate, are yielding some good fish, and there are some fair pike in the waters. It is a trifle hard to understand why more do not pay a visit to these waters, for they are worth it—only 3d. per day. Next Monday the Levenshulme Anglers will hear Mr. Pendrigh's lecture on a "Fishing Trip to the Donegal Highlands in 1898." The Good Intent Angling Society, Collyhurst, are now up to their limit of thirty, and all enthusiasts. Within the last few days they have been visiting the Irlam and Cadishead reservoirs, and returned with some very fine roach. Next meeting night they are to have a lecture from Mr. W. Smith Nightingale on "Bottom Fishing," and the secretary has sent out an urgent whip for that occasion. The Bridgewater Canal is reported as fishing very well at Patricroft.

FROM MANCHESTER.

The travelling card of the County Palatine Angling Association is quite ready, and has been issued to the various affiliated clubs. This association practically confines itself to Manchester and district, and the card is sure to give satisfaction to the members for whose benefit it has been printed. The executive have spared no effort to make it as complete as possible, and it contains several additional privileges. We notice the system of periodical authorising is still in vogue. No doubt the executive have found it useful. The old Standard Angling Society are forging ahead; just at present they are discussing one or two things of importance, but postpone announcing the results. The Welcome Angling Society are rapidly on the increase, and a very few more will reach the limit of fifty they have in view. A most enthusiastic angler, Mr. Geo. Wyche, has lately joined this growing society. There is still one more city club just at present claiming notice, viz., the South-West Manchester. They have got into ship-shape, and are going rapidly to the front. The Moss Side Socials, at their annual dinner, had high jinks, the event being admitted as an entire success. On the 13th, in their new headquarters, they had a good muster of members and a good meeting. They have issued a new card of membership, in a neat and useful form; the membership is growing, and they intend to be heard from in the coming season. The Lancaster Angling Society at their last meeting had a muster of every member on the books—very good. They also decided to have two more centres. The first is by Mr. H. Wallwork, on "An Angling Trip to Ireland," and the capture of sea trout, 3lb. to 10lb. The second is by Mr. C. Standing, on Isaac Walton, a subject he is calculated, after careful preparation, of dealing with to the satisfaction of the members. We have had a prosecution for illegal sale of trout, in which our meat inspector has appeared. Can anything be done to induce him to prosecute for the illegal possession and sale of coarse fish in the coming close season; any amount of cases could be got.

FROM NORFOLK.

The weather has been almost too rough for pike fishing, but, in spite of it, a few splendid catches have been secured. On Monday, two gentlemen, fishing in private water near Norwich, took thirty-three fish, returning twenty-two as undersized. The eleven kept were nice fish, from 5lb. to 13lb. each. Mr. J. W. Waters, of Acle, and friend, fishing in a private broad near Acle, also had a very nice catch, their largest fish being 17lb. The wind has now moderated, and everything is in the pike fisherman's favour, the whole of the waters of the district being in capital condition.

FROM NOTTINGHAM.

Angling pursuits have again been carried on under considerable difficulties, owing to high waters running in the Trent and its tributaries, and the prevalence of boisterous winds. The river in the closing days of the past week attained a tremendous height, and at the period of writing here were fully five feet of extra water on. At Colwick, on Saturday afternoon, Mr. A. Coxon and his nephew, Mr. W. Coxon, creel-fished seventeen roach with the cockspur worm; and on Wednesday, on the same waters, Mr. J. Hynes secured a mixed bag of roach, eel, dace, and chub. Some roach were also taken at Blifton and Wilford, and in the extensive slack at Beeston Dead. There has been nothing doing at Shardlow and Weston, and scarcely a rod has been visible at either Trent Lock or Sawley. The weather had settled down on Wednesday, and indications were not wanting that the river was running in, though slowly. The netting case arrived to a successful issue by the Trent Fishery Board, at Birmingham Petty Sessions on the 9th inst., should work great good. Two of the defendants pleaded guilty, the other alleging that he had a right to net from the owners of the land. The bench convicted all three, imposing in each case a fine of 40s, with forfeiture of the net used. This was 25yds. in length, and 1ft. in depth, and was capable, as testified to by Mr. W. Jaskell, president of the Nottingham Wellington Society, who reeled the waters, of sweeping all the small fry and fish generally out of the river in the district.

FROM SHEFFIELD.

So far as Sheffielders are concerned, fishing has again been greatly interfered with by the incessant downpours of rain, and the rivers have had very little opportunity of recovering from their flooded state. Although the Trent has been running bank high, several anglers have fared very well amongst pike, but taking the season as a whole the yield has not been so good as in former years. During the past week several visitors have put in a few days at Sawley, with results of a fairly satisfactory character, whilst those rodsters who have confined their attention to

the neighbourhood of Weston and Hazleford have had very little reason to complain of the success that has crowned their efforts. To a very large extent roach fishing has of late been neglected in the Trent, but in various places heavy catches of chub have been made, the most successful baits having been pith and brains. At Dunham Bridge the principal takes have been composed of roach, whilst capital sport has been afforded at Torksey and Laneham by chub, several heavy fish having been landed. Not many bream have fallen victims to the wiles of anglers, but a spell of fine weather would work wonders in this branch of sport. The Witham during the last week or so has been in remarkably fine condition, and it seems anxious to atone for its shortcomings earlier in the season. In the Sincil Dyke roach anglers have had a very good time of it; whilst at Bardney the catches have been of uniform quality and quantity, the creels sometimes being further weighted by a few heavy eels. At places the heavy rains have caused the river Witham to overflow its banks to a considerable extent, and the result has been that large quantities of fish, principally roach, have been swept out on the bank. When the floods have drained away the fish have been left high and dry, as it were, and hundreds of dead fish have been found near Timberland, a few miles distant from Kirkstead. Very little fly fishing has been carried on in the Wye and Derwent in consequence of the heavy rains, although a few patrons of the club waters have had a little sport. On Wednesday last week a few brace of nice grayling were taken in Holmesford, in addition to several heavy roach. A fairly large amount of good sport amongst coarse fish has been obtained between Ambergate and Whatstandwell. Prospects for trout fishing on the Wye and Derwent are reported to be very promising. The complaints about netting in the Trent have been very numerous and well founded. On Thursday of last week three men were each fined £2 for netting near Dover beck-mouth, and their net forfeited.

FROM WORCESTER AND DISTRICT.

Anglers as a rule are possessed of a considerable amount of patience, and this season it has been sorely tried. Pike tackle has been rigged up and put in order, rods wrapped and varnished, and they have week after week been waiting for the water to get into condition to enable them to be used. But they will have to wait a little longer, for the rivers are still in flood, and again thousands of acres of land are under water, and this day (Wednesday) the rain is falling heavily, so that there is no immediate prospect of the water decreasing. So with the close season for coarse fish upon us, the grayling season over, the majority of club anglers will have some four months to put their tackle in order and wait for June 15. It is the general opinion that the heavy floods have been very injurious to the trout spawning operations, and anything but a good season is expected. Salmon fishing between Worcester and Tewkesbury a failure all down. In a personal conversation with several of the local netmen they tell me there has not been half a dozen fish taken by the whole of the Worcester nets since the season opened—one net has not taken a single salmon, but caught a few pike and large bream. The sixth smoking concert of the Worcester and District Angling Association was held at the Gloucester Arms Inn, Copenhagen-street (headquarters of the Good Intent Club), on Monday evening last, and, considering the inclemency of the weather, was well attended. The president of the association (Mr. L. F. Higgs) occupied the chair, supported by Mr. R. Wingfield (district secretary), Mr. Gillham, &c., the harmony of the evening being supplied by Messrs. Gough, Wingfield, Cotten, Gillham, Bowen, Allen, Hodges, Holder, Hope, and Cale, encores being frequent. Mr. Margetts efficiently presided at the pianoforte. The next smoker takes place at the Grosvenor Arms, the headquarters of the St. John's Club, on Monday, the 27th inst. The Worcester United Working Men's Club have their annual dinner on Monday next, at the Turk's Head Inn, when a large company will be present.

FROM YORK AND DISTRICT.

The week-end reports from all angling stations were to the same effect, namely, that the streams were in high flood, and successful fishing was out of the question. The frost has disappeared, and though unsettled weather has prevailed in some quarters since the 10th inst., the conditions have improved. The rivers, however, require time to run down to a normal level and assume their natural colour. Little is recorded as regards grayling, even from the Costa, a noted river for this fish, though the Wharfe and the Ure have yielded fair sport with worm and maggot. Yorkshire grayling do not spawn until April, which is a little later than the Derbyshire. Trout prospects are encouraging, the fish being both plentiful and forward. The Wharfe, the Derwent, and the Ure give the fairest prospects. Of late, on the latter river, evidence has been furnished of the rapacity of grayling in devouring trout ova, one angler having dissected several of the fish which he caught, and found their stomachs congested with trout ova and dew worms. Mr. Oxley Graham, M.A., York, an enthusiastic coarse fisherman, has written to the press to support Col. Lodge in his claim at the recent meeting of the Yorkshire Fishery Board, that something should be done for this class of anglers. He says that "a great number of trout licences are taken out by men who neither care nor wish to fish for trout, even were these fish present in the water they angle in. It seems only just and fair that those who contribute very largely towards paying the piper should at the least have a voice in calling for some part of the tune. . . . I have had some experience in re-stocking depleted waters, and feel sure that the introduction of carp, tench, rudd, and other fish in many of our rivers on the same lines that are adopted in the Thames and other waters would be attended with much satisfaction, not only to the coarse fishermen but also to the Fishery Board."

Correspondence

[We do not hold ourselves responsible for the opinions expressed by our Correspondents.]

GRAYLING EAT TROUT EGGS.

DEAR SIR,—My letter of the 4th inst., with the above heading, has been copied by several Yorkshire and other newspapers, and, from comments made on it, some angling correspondents have evidently conceived the idea that I would banish grayling from trout streams. Nothing could be further from my thoughts or intentions. There is no more enthusiastic grayling fisherman, or has there been, for the last thirty-three years a greater admirer of this game and beautiful fish, either for sport or the table, than J. E. M. Perhaps in a great measure owing to the fact that I have more opportunities for following my only sport or recreation, viz., angling, during the autumn and winter than I have in spring or summer, grayling fishing is such a fascinating sport to me that were I the happy possessor of an estate through which a river ran, and the water equally adapted for the cultivation of *S. fario* and *S. thymallus*, I should sacrifice the one for the other. By affording the two fish equal protection, I am certain that the grayling would supplant the trout, and in a very short time any of my friends wishing to enjoy a few days' trout fishing in my waters would soon have to seek "fresh fields and pastures new." The knowledge that grayling fed on trout spawn I acquired soon after leaving school, but what has struck me forcibly of late years is the great number of trout eggs that they do swallow—hence my distribution of dishes of grayling to you and other gentlemen likely to be interested in the matter with the request that the stomachs of the fish should be examined, and to prove that every fish caught had fed extensively on trout ova. I have often had an invitation from riparian owners to "come and kill some grayling." Some of these gentlemen are not always as anxious to offer a few days' trout fishing in their private waters, they knowing that if grayling are given too much encouragement then good-bye to the trout. Grayling, like coarse fish, are "left out in the cold" by the Yorkshire Fishery Board, who, in answer to complaints of the illegal capture of any fish scheduled in the Mundella Act, practically say, oh, we cannot bother with them; in fact "we have no funds allowed for that purpose." Few angling clubs extend the legal close time for grayling, and in open waters they are taken by some anglers when fly fishing for trout at the end of March and in April. I remember once fishing one Good Friday, and I could raise any amount of grayling, but few trout. After fishing a couple of miles I came up to two piscators sitting down on the bank smoking. Angler like, I inquired "what sport?" "Oh, we've filled our panniers!" "Strange," says I, "I have only four fish! Let's look at your catch." The creels were opened, and, to my astonishment, were full of grayling. "Why," says I, "they are grayling, and out of season, and neither fit to catch or eat." The answer I got was, "Rot! Sir Humphrey Davy says grayling are always in season, and he's right." In spite of the scant protection, if any protection at all, the grayling have had, they are not decreasing in numbers, in fact they increase and get higher up our streams than they did formerly; that is, of course, in waters that are free from sewage pollution or lead washings, to which *S. thymallus* is far more susceptible than *S. fario*; but, on the other hand, the stock of trout is only kept up by carefully watching the breeding fish in the brooks; by seeing that the spawn when washed out with the gravel by floods is returned to its native bed; by artificial propagation; or by stocking with yearling trout; and by other protections which angling associations afford them.

Under certain conditions we may have, in fact have, very fair grayling and trout fishing combined, but I need not tell you, Mr. Editor, that the best trout streams are those in which there are no grayling, and the Kilsney Club, whose trout fishing is admitted to be the best on the Wharfe, will not allow a single grayling, to remain in their water if they know it. In your footnote to my letter you say, "Doubtless the trout take their revenge in April, when the grayling spawn, and I read with much interest the communication of "F. S. P." in your issue of last Saturday. Of course, the trout may take their revenge to some extent on the grayling spawn in April, but they do not feed on the ova of the grayling so voraciously as the grayling do on that of the trout, for the simple reason it is more out of their way, as the grayling deposit it in very shallow places, and at a time there is any amount of insect life, in the shape of creepers, larvae, and flies, more the taste of *S. fario* than bottom food of any description. To prove this, if I have the opportunity, I will send for your acceptance, and to the other gentlemen I have forwarded grayling to, a dish of trout, each taken from the same water after the grayling have spawned. "F. S. P." says, "the miller's thumb, &c., prey on ova. No doubt they do, but at the time *S. thymallus* spawns these fish are in our rivers dormant, or next door to it. When the Yore was frequented by the "lordly" salmon in large numbers the grayling fed largely on salmon ova. Now salmon have all but deserted our rivers, they are evidently going in for that of the trout in place of it. "F. S. P." seems to think that the trout ova deposited in the tributary rills is out of the way of *S. thymallus*; but it is after a flood, when the trout eggs are washed down the numerous tributary beds, in which the trout breed, into the main river that *S. thymallus* can, and does, fill himself to his heart's content. The angling editor of the *Yorkshire Weekly Post* goes as far as to say that he thinks that, "given the opportunity, that grayling have no marked disinclination to vary the menu by the addition of a few dainty trout fry." This is not, however, the teaching of my experience. I have examined the stomachs of hundreds of grayling in my time, both caught in

the summer and winter months, and never in any single instance have I ever found the remains of fish in them. On the other hand, I have often found young grayling in the stomachs of the trout, and on one occasion I caught a small trout with minnow with a grayling, perhaps a year old, whose tail was hanging out of its mouth. We know that where one angler fishes for grayling regularly in the winter months, there are twenty fishing for trout in the spring, summer, and autumn; that in a great measure will help to sustain the balance more evenly.

I have received a communication from Mr. John Willis (of Carperhy), who regularly fishes the Yore from Redmire up to the Hawes Association water. He says: "I am decidedly of opinion that grayling have very much increased, and are increasing, and that trout have decreased in both size and numbers in this district. The finest trout I get, both in size and quality, are those caught about Aysgarth Falls, where there are only few grayling." Yours truly, J. E. MILLER.

Northern Anglers' Depot,
19, New Station-street, Leeds.

FLAT FISH AND WIRE LINES.

DEAR SIR,—I once heard a sermon on an abstruse theological point described as "a man preaching about what he didn't understand to a lot of people who didn't understand what he was preaching about." This phrase seems to fit your correspondent "Smear Dab's" letter exactly. Although he lays down the law with a considerable amount of "cocksureness," he does not favour us with his signature, and therefore it is permissible to speak more strongly of a nebulous anonymity than it would be polite to do while mentioning a correspondent by name. He appears to be one of those curious products of *fin de siècle* civilisation, the man who has such an overwhelming confidence in himself that he will take on any job that offers, give Lord Salisbury a few hints as to the proper policy to pursue with France, accept a mount on the favourite for the Derby, or the Archbishopric of Canterbury with equal composure, take command of the Channel Fleet, or edit the *Fishing Gazette* as part of the day's work. But a man really cannot know everything, as your correspondent appears to think he does. With calmness he has given Dr. Patterson, of all people, a lecture on marine biology; has told us the law on flat fish, in which, by the way, he was utterly wrong; then our mutual and respected friend, Mr. Parker, comes in for a lecture on specific gravity; and now your readers are told that Messrs. Patterson, Mignot, and Parker know nothing at all about what they write. I am not concerned to defend these gentlemen on the wire line question, for two reasons—firstly, they are each and all perfectly capable of taking care of themselves and their opinions; and, secondly, I have not yet sufficient experience of the advantages or otherwise of wire lines to pronounce an opinion one way or the other, and until I have, I shall "shut my head" on the subject. But your correspondent, speaking as the self-elected mouth-piece of the flat fish, says, "A flax line properly made is undoubtedly the very best for sea fishing"; and he adds, "and so say all of us." Who the "us," are we are not informed. Why, too, he has dragged his "dear sister" into the controversy is rather puzzling. And another unsolved riddle is, why, when his sister is allowed "to take the flure," his cousins and his aunts have not been brought on in the same act. But, as usual, poor "Smear Dab" is hopelessly out of it. A fine silk line, such as that specially made by Hardy Brothers, is streets in front of hemp. I have tried both repeatedly, so I know; and I am sure practical, as opposed to "armchair," sea anglers will agree with me. Then comes a cheap sneer at "sea anglers" (landsmen). Well, I will give "Smear Dab" a challenge. I will find in this town (Southend) half a dozen, perhaps more, "sea anglers" (landsmen)—if I go to the B.S.A.S. I can get ten times as many—who will take him on at any, or all, of the following things: Fishing with rod or hand-line, managing a boat, either under sail or rowing, shooting a taw, picking up a dandy bridle, or any other duty of a practical fisherman; man and any reasonable amount of money ready at the *Sporting Life* office on any day convenient to your correspondent.

It is to the "sea anglers (landsmen)" that the professional fishermen, who have no time for experiment, look for improvement in sea fishing methods. They are grateful for what has been done in this direction, and look to us for still further advances. With regard to his remarks about Southend and its flat fish, as usual your correspondent is entirely wrong. During the past twenty-five years I have caught and eaten as many dabs and other flat fish as here and there one, and I can assure you, sir, and your readers that the fish here feed principally on shrimps and whitebait, and not as he suggests; that they do not "partake of a mnddy flavour"; that people come here to catch flat fish because good flat fish are to be caught if you only know where and how to catch them; but there's the rub. "There is not the slightest need for a Mundella Act or anything of the sort, not even for nets." Indeed! I assure you I thought there was, and what is of infinitely more importance, the North Sea Fisheries Conference, held at Fishmongers' Hall last summer, thought the same. No one who has not actually shared the sea fisherman's work on the deep sea, miles away from land (I have frequently), can realise how very urgently a legislative measure to stop the wholesale destruction of immature fish is required, and if I err in my view I prefer to err in the company of a body of thoroughly practical men like the members of the conference above alluded to, rather than to accept unquestioningly the *ipse dixit* of an anonymous correspondent, just as I accept without hesitation the opinions of my brother members of the B.S.A.S., Messrs. Patterson, Parker, and Mignot, on the wire line question, because

I know they understand it, rather than those of "Smear Dab," who does not even "say" that he has given the new system a trial.—Yours faithfully,

CHARLES HUSSEY (B.S.A.S.).

SEA PATERNOSTER BOOMS.

DEAR MARSTON,—In the course of a long career as an angler and angling writer, I have generally contrived to steer clear of controversy. It takes two to make a quarrel, and I have none with Mr. Kirby, nor am I inclined to prolong argument with a gentleman who admits his *penchant* for "putting all and sundry to rights." So I am quite content to continue using the little wire booms when I use a sea paternoster, as I do not find that the demerits suggested by Mr. Kirby really exist in them, and I rather think my experience will be corroborated by any sea anglers who get them properly made.—Yours very faithfully, CHAS. A. PATTON.

LOUGH DERG QUERIES.

DEAR SIR,—I should be very sorry to advise, as "Oirmuhan" has done, no doubt with the best intentions, "Blatherwyck" to travel to Lough Derg via Ballyhrophy, Nenagh, and Drominer. The shortest and most direct route to the lake is by rail from King's Bridge, Dublin, to Limerick, via the Junction, and on to Killaloe by first train. Could any gentleman or lady, say, in London, desire a more rapid journey than that between Euston and Killaloe? By leaving Euston by the evening mail train to Holyhead, and crossing over either to Kingstown or Dublin, one could arrive at Killaloe at 11.30 a.m., and go on to fish on the river or lake at noon.

Killaloe is *par excellence* the best angling station on Lough Derg, whether as regards the splendid variety of fish that abound here or the excellent accommodation obtainable in the hotels and private fishing quarters.

As to fish, beginning with salmon and grise, the former range in weight from 12lb. to 20lb., 30lb., 40lb., 45lb., and 46½lb., and the latter from 3lb. to 10lb.; trout from 1lb. to 14lb.; pike, all weights from 3lb. to 15lb., 20lb., and 26lb. *Vide* my reports for many years in the *Fishing Gazette*, and more especially my notes concerning the grand sport realised by Mr. and Mrs. Hope, of Maidenhead, England, during their recent sojourn of three weeks here at Killaloe.

I need not say that it will at all times be a great pleasure to me to give our English angling friends every information about the fishing, &c., here.—Yours faithfully, Abbey View, Killaloe. S. J. HURLEY.

THAMES RIVER AND LOCK KEEPERS' DINNER.

SIR,—The executive of this society has decided to hold the above in the "Connaught" room of the Criterion Restaurant on Thursday, March 23 next. The rendezvous has been fixed in town owing to the difficulty of making suitable country railway arrangements for the greater number of our guests.

May I once more appeal, through your columns, for subscriptions on behalf of the dinner fund from clubs, anglers, and others who use the Thames between Staines and Kew?

All amounts will be gratefully received and duly acknowledged.—Yours faithfully,

H. WHITMORE HIGGINS

(Hon. Sec. and Hon. Treas. T.A.P.S.).

34, Windsor-road, Holloway, London, N.

NETTING THE CHICHESTER CANAL.

DEAR SIR,—Your Sussex correspondent, Mr. G. Salter, hails, no doubt, from the district of the Ouse. His suggestion to net a public water, the Chichester Canal, to replenish a private one (or partially so), the Ouse, is rather cool; and further, his remarks in last Saturday's *Gazette* (Feb. 11) as to the myriads of roach, bream, pike, &c., is not borne out by his statements in previous reports as to the depletion of the first named water.

Only a short time ago, according to Mr. Salter, the building of the Chichester and Selsea railway bridge over the canal was the cause of the destruction of tons of fish, and yet he suggests further netting.

I should suggest that the authorities at Chichester refuse all such requests, if only in the interests of their own townspeople.—Yours truly, F. G. ARPLETT.

FISHING IN NEW ZEALAND.

DEAR SIR,—I am going out to New Zealand for fishing and shooting, and shall be greatly obliged if one of your numerous correspondents will inform me the best time to go for that purpose. Also good accommodation for myself, wife, and her companion near to Leighurst, Inglewood, Turanachi, New Zealand.—Yours truly, JOHN BEWLEY.

BAIT FOR AMERICAN WHITEFISH.

DEAR SIR,—I strongly advise "Emigrant" to try the fly paternoster described by me in the *Fishing Gazette* some five or six years ago. I feel quite sure he will have good sport if he knows the whereabouts of the fish. The tackle called Hegene is universally in use on some of the big lakes in the northern and eastern part of Switzerland, principally for coregoni, of which it takes are sometimes made. But other fish bite freely at it, especially perch, of which two or three are not unfrequently hooked at a time, followed up to the very side of the boat by quite an army of their brethren eager to have their share of the flies. I saw on one occasion some big bream which succumbed to this tackle, and char, rudd, and roach are frequently taken.

I had very good results with sparsely dressed hackle flies

with soft fibres, to which the sink and draw motion gives wonderful lifelike appearance. The flies must be mounted on very fine and clear hair to stand well out from the main cast. Wet gut is too limp. It is a pity that this tackle is not more universally known. I consider it by far the best lure for deep lake fishing.—Yours very truly, LYONS. W. WIESMANN.

ABOUT BREAM, BLEAK, AND PEARLS.

DEAR SIR,—I have read and followed the description of fishing the Lower and Mid Thames by Mr. Amplett with much pleasure, as I used to visit the places mentioned some thirty years since. Bream were abundant at Walton then. Aug. 16 was considered the best day, then the villagers and others make a day of it—their punts were fixed in the deep close together the evening previous, some anglers slept in them all night to prevent others from taking their pitch. They commenced at daybreak, and left off at 8 a.m., for shore and breakfast, leaving their punts under the care of some boys. After 8 a.m. the bream are off, too, and don't come on again till the evening. This is the case everywhere on the Thames. I remember once fishing there with my late friend, Mr. Klaffenberger. He was too strong in the wrist, for he broke his ledger tackle several times with large fish. We caught ninety-nine, and bought a thin sack of a grocer to take them to the Piscatorial Society. Mr. Amplett recommends the tail of a lob worm for bait, a maiden-dew lob is preferable generally. We were attended by the late old George Hone. Since the introduction of so many stram launches the bream have been scattered away, and the annual outing for him, as Hone used to call them, gone "to the Ewigkeit," or less disturbed waters.

The Piscatorial Society were good to George Hone, as, having ruptured himself, he was obliged to be taken to St. Bartholomew's Hospital, and as he had a wife and young family, we subscribed £16 for their use during the time he was in hospital. His eldest son, the well-known Otter Hone, was then about fourteen years of age. The bream are now fished for under some willows, out of the rush of steam lanchettes, with float tackle, but the sport is not what it used to be.

Old George Hone showed me one day a white bottle full of bleak scales he expected a Frenchman to call for, who came every year to collect them from the Thames puntmen. The French now use the scales of a similar fish, d'ablette, from their own waters for the purpose. It takes 7lb. of bleak scales to produce 1lb. of the so-called *Essence de Orient*; after the scales are rubbed off through a sieve into a basin, the residue is used to line the white glass beads made for the purpose. But the reader should study Frank Buckland's last book, "The Natural History of British Fishes," 1880, as at page 15 is a long article I wrote for Frank Buckland, at his request, about the manufacture of artificial pearls, counterfeits of the real oriental pearl.—Yours truly,

T. R. SACHS (P.P.S.).

LAKELAND NOTES.

SIR,—I was exceedingly interested in the article under the above heading in last week's issue. I fish the waters in question as often as most men, and am therefore keenly alive to the importance of using the correct fly or presenting it in the most deadly manner, but I am totally ignorant of any practical knowledge of the use of the dry fly, and should be glad if "B. E. F." will let us know whether he tried the wet fly at all, and, if so, which? I have observed the same partiality for the March Brown of which he speaks, but even more so for one of Cholmondeley Pennell's hackle flies—No. 3 in Hardy's list—which is exceedingly killing (fished wet, of course).

As to the spinning, will he also inform us what bait he used, whether artificial or natural; and, if the latter, whether live or dead?

I may say that the fly is extensively used up to the end of the May Fly season, but most local fishermen never think of trying it afterwards.—Yours sincerely, WM. H. PEARSALL.

LANDSCAPE AND FISHING.

SIR,—Could any of your readers very kindly inform me of any healthy old thatched village with surrounding open scenery suitable for landscape painting, where I could get comfortable apartments, or rent a small house within two hours train from London, and where a little trout fishing might be obtainable?—Yours truly, F. W.

FISHING BAG WANTED.

DEAR SIR,—I will require a bag for trout for the coming season, and I would be obliged if you or any of your readers would recommend one.

I have a basket of English wicker, but it dries up the fish badly; also another of French wicker that I bought a year or two ago, but it is quite worn out, having been too slight for rough usage; besides, baskets are dreadfully in the way when tanning. Is there any bag on the market fitted with a facile strap, and simple in its construction? Most of those advertised have as many straps and buckles as a double-breasted portmanteau.—Yours, &c., WRENTAIL.

NORTH AND SOUTH ESKE, NEAR BRECHIN.

SIR,—Can you or any of your readers kindly give me some information regarding the early salmon fishing in above rivers?

What are the favourite flies, and are other lures allowed—minnow, prawn, worm, and spoon?

About what number of fish might be expected in a week's fishing under favourable circumstances?

Is the trout fishing good?—Yours, &c., F. M. LESLIE.

Several letters unavoidably held over.

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NOTICE.

THE FISHING GAZETTE is published every Saturday, and can be obtained at Messrs. W. H. Smith and Son's Railway Bookstalls and of the principal Newsagents and Fishing Tackle Dealers in London and the Provinces.

Communications relating to the Literary Department, Fishing Tackle for Notice, Books for Review, &c., should be addressed to R. B. MARSTON, Editor of the FISHING GAZETTE, St. Dunstan's House, Fetter-lane, London.

Correspondents are requested to write on one side of the paper only, and give their real names and addresses, not necessarily as signatures to their letters, but as a guarantee of good faith. Unless this rule be adhered to no notice will be taken of such communications.

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The GAZETTE can be had by sending Postal Order or Stamps to Messrs. Sampson Low, Marston and Co., Limited, the Proprietors, St. Dunstan's House, Fetter-lane, London, to whom all money payments should be made.

For One Year, post free to any part of Great Britain and Ireland	10s. 6d.
"Six Months ditto ditto ditto"	5s. 4d.
"Three Months ditto ditto ditto"	2s. 8d.
To America and the Continent, annual subscription, including postage	12s. 6d.

Scale of Charges for Advertisements.

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Small advertisements 4s. per inch of single column (4 cols. to page).	

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The Fishing Gazette

WITH WHICH IS INCORPORATED

ANGLING AND CLUB GOSSIP.

SATURDAY, FEBRUARY 25TH, 1899.

A GOOD START.

The salmon angling season is now in full swing in Scotland. The first week on the great bulk of Scotch waters—which opened on the 11th inst.—has come and gone, and although the opening days were handicapped with too much water, yet the results on the whole were eminently successful, and the sport since then highly satisfactory.

The opening day may not be of much importance in itself, but the opening week, under anything like fair angling conditions, gives a good idea of what like the season as a whole may be expected to turn out, as far as the early spring fishing is concerned.

There were many blanks on the opening day, and no wonder.

It was a bit of promiscuous angling all over, and a sheer bit of promiscuous luck to bag a clean fish, so unrecognisable were the regular pools and favourite lies. It would have been difficult to tell where even a "kelt" might be booked had one been on the look out for any such "beauty," so swollen were the rivers and streams all over from Dee to Ness.

On Monday, the second day of the season on

the rivers referred to, matters began to mend, and right on throughout the succeeding days cheering and more cheering reports came steadily to hand, until Saturday, when, as far as the Dee is concerned, the first week of the season was pronounced to have proved the best experienced for at least the past five or six years. As the volume of the river decreased the pools were better covered, and sport accordingly became brisker and brisker.

It was somewhat late in the week before the Spey, Ness, and Deveron were in trim, if they may be said to have been even that, but at least some of the pools were "come-at-able," and the first fruits of the season culled enough to indicate that under normal conditions there is every chance of more than average sport. First blood on the Deveron was somewhat late in being drawn, but only a day behind that of last year, and since then there is good reason to classify that salmon stream among those of which good hopes of a successful spring season are confidently entertained.

Up till Thursday only one clean fish had been reported from the Don, got on the burgh of Kintore water, which may be fished by all and sundry at a nominal charge. At Inverurie some twelve kelts were hooked and returned, but no clean fish. There may have been more sport on the Don than the solitary fin that has been mentioned, although such a state of matters would not be surprising to anyone who knew how this once famous salmon stream has been abused. Of course it may be that the fish are not into the middle waters, and that the lower waters are still too big, but certainly it stands to reason that where twelve kelts were pulled out clean fish could also have been got at were they there. The North and South Esk opened badly on Thursday, the 16th, but owing to the state of the pools sport was not rife on either stream, although the prospects on both are brighter than for years past.

The first day's returns from the netting stations along the east coast were meagre in the extreme; and the worst features were put upon the aspect of matters by the prophets of evil, who are ever ready to croak forth their alarmist views as to the speedy extinction of *Salmo salar* whenever there is the slightest pretext for getting a word in. Happily their prognostications are not seemingly to be readily verified on this occasion at least. "Good supplies" have been the order of the day, and falling prices the rule of the market, from almost every centre where conditions have been in the least favourable for netting operations being carried on. We do not grudge the netter a fair share of the season's spoil, but we confess an inward satisfaction in the fact that the big waters have considerably reduced his results; and that what has escaped the meshes of his net are now stocking the pools for the present and future sport of the salmon angler.

As regards the distribution of the bead of fish over the lengths of our longest rivers, matters could not have been better arranged. We much doubt, that had a committee of lessees been appointed for the job they would have succeeded half as well. We are certain there would have been much more grumbling, on the Dee for instance, among anglers than there is to-day.

While fresh fish are being found well into the higher waters, it is evident from results that the strong bead of the spring migration are not more than a dozen or twenty miles into the main streams. Of course with every semi-spate and daily flood—for the snows are not all off the far hills yet—they will move forward, and it is a very gratifying thought that while the pioneers of the spring migration are affording just as much sport as will keep the angler from wearying, or chucking his fishery up in disgust, the red-letter days have yet to come, and the records to be made when he gets into the thick of the shoal proper. He has something to look forward to compared with the knowledge that the strength of the migration has gone through his beats before the season opened, on account of the abnormally mild winter, as was the case last spring and the spring before.

Although not a single fish was got on the lower half of the Dee during the opening days, on account of the very high state of the river, since then some phenomenal baskets have been made. On the Durrus lower beat, for instance, Davie

Rae and a friend took eleven out of one pool on Tuesday, the 14th inst., seven on Wednesday, and six on Thursday, all fine spring beauties, ranging from 6½lb. to 12lb., the average of the two dozen spring salmon being about 8lb. On the Park waters three and four have been got daily since the opening by Mr. George Davidson and Capt. McNeil, who share the fishery; while two, four, and six fish are being got daily on the sections below this. This on the lower Dee, which, it may be mentioned, is more favourable for autumn than spring angling. It shows that the thick of the spring migration just got into the river in the nick of time to escape the netter, and that there is a good time coming to those on the waters above, i.e., the middle and upper pools. As the season advances, what is true of the Dee is more or less applicable to the majority of Scotch salmon waters in general. Of course, they are not nurtured like the Dee, and may not share in like heavy shoals of spring fish, but theirs will be in proportion as they have been similarly treated or otherwise.

The quality of the early spring fish are described as of the best. Lanky fish are conspicuous by their absence this season, and while the average weight may not be more than 7lb. or 7½lb., fish of 16lb., 18lb., 20lb., and up to 25lb. have been by no means rare. There is little sign of disease even on spent fish, and none at all, as yet reported, on any spring fish that have been killed, while those which have been killed on such far inland fisheries as the Invercauld and Balmoral Dee waters must have been travelling since Christmas at least.

The number of kelts, as usual, have been strongly *en evidence* during the opening days, and especially on the far inland reaches. They are a nuisance the spring angler has to deal with more or less, according to the distance his water is from the sea. If far inland then he will be rid of them all the sooner, while his neighbour on the netter pools may be pestered right on to the end of his spring lease. The autumn angler has nothing to do with the kelt. I am tempted to mention this obvious fact on account of an amusing incident which came to my knowledge last fall. An English sportsman, of undoubted prowess in his own country and among his own fish on the Thames, had a reach of the Dee placed at his disposal during September. He disdained the attentions of the ubiquitous gillie, and went to enjoy his sport alone. He returned in the evening with a goodly basket of trout, also with the information that he had hooked and played a salmon, which he had carefully returned to the river again as it was a kelt. "That is impossible," said his host, "at this season of the year. Earlier or later you might get them by the round dozen, but not just now. All last year's fish have gone down to the sea, and the present season's stock have not yet commenced to spawn; so you must be mistaken."

"Well, it was red in the colour, and, to avoid trouble, I put it back," was the excuse proffered. At this the north countryman rudely laughed; and related at dinner how his English friend had come all the way north to kill a salmon, and that when he was lucky enough to get one, he carefully put it back. It was a "potted" salmon, i.e., some time from the sea. But for the life of him the Englishman could not see what his Scotch friends had got to laugh at.

The fly has been the lure *par excellence* this season. Of some hundreds of fish killed on the Dee during the first ten days the fly has accounted for ninety per cent. of these at least. From all accounts, I bear of plenty kelts being pulled out on the phantom and kindred lures, but only in one case that I know of has a clean fish been got to anything but the fly. Of course, there may be a few that have not been reported, but, making the most liberal allowance, I am very confident that nine out of every ten fish have been got to the fly. Probably the high rate of temperature prevailing (from 38° to 45°) during the first days of the season may have something to do with it, but the fact remains that this season's spring beauties will as yet look at nothing but the fly.

The best taking lures have been the Gordon, Akroyd, and Black Doctor, running from 2½in. to 3½in. irons, and of the larger sizes rather than the smaller. Other patterns have also been requisitioned, but these three have been the most in

demand, especially since the waters began to subside, and sport became rife.

On the whole, from the fine head of fish forward, from the distribution of the earlier pioneers of the spring migration well into the middle and upper waters, from the success which has been already met with almost on every pool where a fly has been got out, there is no doubt about the fact that the season has at least commenced with a good start.

G. M.

"NORWEGIAN ANGLINGS AND SPORTINGS."

THERE can be no doubt that the demand for fishing and shooting in Norway increases every year, and we are glad to find that such a first rate English firm of sporting agents as Messrs. J. A. Lumley and Co., of "Lumley House," 34, St. James's-street, London, S.W., have taken up the matter in good earnest.

They have recently published a very neatly got up guide to the fishings and shootings they have to let, and have kindly lent us a couple of interesting illustrations from it, which we reproduce this week—one is a scene on the Evanger river, and the other a photographic reproduction of a 50lb. salmon killed on the Namsen in 1897.

There has been such a demand for this list that a second edition has been printed, and we advise all who are interested in sport in Norway who have not yet got a copy to secure one by writing to Mr. James Dowell, 34, St. James's-street, London, S.W. Mr. Dowell called on us recently, and we are convinced from the conversation we had with him that anglers who want to rent salmon fishing on some of the best water in Norway will do well to consult him. Mr. Dowell is managing this part of Messrs. Lumley's business, and has been out in Norway making arrangements for his firm with the different leaseholders. Messrs. Lumley and Co's list of "Norwegian Anglings and Sportings" contains also much useful information as to routes, seasons, sporting licences, &c., as well as of the beats they have secured.

The following particulars which we quote from the list will show what a great enterprise Messrs. Lumley have taken in hand, and we only hope that they may be so encouraged by the success of their action in buying up the netting rights on the Mandal river in Norway, to do the same on the Spey and some other of our terribly abused salmon rivers in this country.

THE MANDAL RIVER, NEAR CHRISTIANSAND, SOUTH NORWAY.

"This river has hitherto ranked as the second in importance in Norway as regards the total catch of fish by the farmers and others using nets, traps, and other implements or engines for the capture of salmon. And from the Norwegian Government's statistics we find that an average annual catch of about 40,000lb. of fish are taken by these means at Holme, Halså, Hartmark, and several other netting stations, extending over a distance of seven kilometres, near the mouth of the river. On the upper waters, at Foss Foss, the farmer had to pay a governmental "land tax" of twelve barrels of salted salmon yearly. Fortunately, this latter tax has been cancelled, thus affording salmon better protection on the natural spawning grounds.

"The above, of course, does not by any means represent the total take of fish, but these figures are simply quoted to show the immense amount of damage—from an angler's point of view—these nets and traps do every year.

"Messrs. J. A. Lumley and Co. have pleasure to announce that they, in conjunction with the leaseholders, have arranged for the entire buying up of the whole of these destructive netting, trapping, and other rights, hitherto held by the farmers, cottars, and others in the valley; and on a personal inspection at the end of the angling season of 1898, Messrs. J. A. Lumley and Co. have divided the river into suitable beats, and now offer these to anglers for such periods as may be desired.

"The salmon have access to about fifty-five kilometres of this river, and further ascent is barred by the top falls known as Foss Foss. The total length of the Mandal proper is 136 kilometres, and it has a basin of 1760 square kilometres. The Mandal itself has its source on the Haskjeld, a large plateau generally retaining the winter's snow well on till July or August, and the tributaries of the river flow out of or through countless lakes or mountain tarns, these collectively forming one of the best reservoirs for the purpose of maintaining the river at a good level. The river falls into the sea near Mandal Bridge and above this for about seven kilometres there is a stretch of even water affording excellent opportunities for harling. Above this the rapids commence at Noddings Foss, and from there to Manflo Lake the beats into which the angling is divided afford a variety of bold and rapid pools, choice streams, and excellent holding water. This river has been in the hands of an English gentleman for the last twenty-seven years, and he only gives it up this year in consequence of the lease being out. This gentle-



A 50LB. NAMSEN SALMON, 1897.
(See "Norwegian Anglings and Sportings.")



ON THE EVANGER RIVER.
(See "Norwegian Anglings and Sportings.")

man has a large extent of the fishings from Noddings Foss upwards, but through having such a large extent of attractive fishing ground, it is impossible to give records from any given beat, and it must be remembered that all the destructive nettings, &c., were carried on regularly during his occupancy, yet he obtained splendid sport.

"The buying-up of the nets and traps, &c., especially on the lower portion of the river, has this gentleman's highest approval, and he considers, with us, that it will make the river, in a very short time, 'one of the most prolific angling preserves in Norway.'

"The scenery throughout the whole of the Mandal valley is exceedingly charming, the hills being well covered with pine, birch, and oak trees, interspersed with heather patches. The valley on both banks is rich pasture land. The farmers and inhabitants of the valley are of an exceptionally well-to-do and respectable class, and the houses exceedingly well built and comfortable.

"The residences for each of the tenants have been carefully selected with a view to the comfort and convenience of the anglers as well as the best situations for the favourite parts of their respective beats.

"Separate schedules detailing the individual particulars of the respective beats may be had on application to the sole agents, Messrs. J. A. Lumley and Co., 34, St. James's-street, London, S.W."

Herr A. Landmark, the well-known Fishery Inspector to the Norwegian Government, and one of the greatest living authorities on salmon and salmon rivers, after a recent visit reports:

"The Mandal river has for a period of many years, and probably for centuries, been the most productive salmon river in Norway, which undoubtedly, first and foremost, is due to the fact that the river has a favourable geographical situation, running directly into the sea, without an intermediate fjord, and is altogether naturally well adapted as a salmon river, and abundantly provided with

fish to the well or basket. The only chance has been with the roach, and, with the exception of a few good takes here and there, sport has been exceptionally bad; at least, that has been my experience in the waters near Weybridge. When the first autumnal rains came, the Thames took a long while to rise, as every ditch was empty and every spring was low after the long continued spring and summer drought. However, when the river really filled, it seemed as if the water could not run itself away, notwithstanding the extra care taken at the weirs.

The water has dropped slowly and risen suddenly; the fish have had no time to settle themselves properly, there has been such continual alteration in the eddies and stream. Nor do I remember such a long-continued thick water for many years; the earlier floods brought down all the accumulated scum and filth of innumerable ditches. This was naturally to be expected, an equally natural supposition was that the water would soon clear when the first push of *débris* and weeds had been swept away; but it has been exceptionally thick during and after each fresh rise. Two theories are promulgated. One, that the wash of the launches breaks away the banks during the summer months, and the loosened or fallen earth is so thoroughly stirred up in a "spate" that a longer period must elapse before the river clears again than heretofore; another, that greatly increased drainage pours more dirty land water into the river, which land water has

not approached the magnitude of the 1894 flood, which was, I believe, a record one. Those who know the river near Shepperton Lock will judge the height of the latest push of water from the photographs, recently taken, of the entrance to the lane leading to Walton, and of the towing-path at Shepperton, nearly opposite Dunton's boathouse. It will be noticed the water is almost into the lane, while the other "snap-shot" gives some idea of the tremendous rush of water in the main river. The water was just commencing to recede when I took the photographs, another foot of water would have meant a very serious flood.

It is a doubtful question whether the Shepperton water will clear sufficiently for successful chubbing before the season ends. A stray chub or two may be picked up with a lob worm; but that is not chubbing in the true sense of the word. It is getting too late for pike or perch, so, for my own part, I think I shall see the season out with the roach, or perhaps bream, unless a wonderful change takes place.

CHARLES H. WHEELEY.

ROVING FOR ROACH.

THE break up of the last frost, happening after many rivers had been in flood and had commenced to clear, was a grievous disappointment to skaters and fishermen alike. The former had



TOWING-PATH AT SHEPPERTON, OPPOSITE DUNTON'S BOATHOUSE.



ENTRANCE TO LANE LEADING TO WALTON.

spawning beds. I therefore entertain the firm belief that when the different implements, partly fixed and partly moving, have been removed from the lower part of the river, thereby allowing an increased number of fish to reach the vast and excellent spawning beds above, and the accessible part of the river solely devoted to sport, to which it is splendidly adapted, the stock of fish will be greatly increased."

In addition to the Mandal, Mr. Dowell has beats to let on the Sundal or Driva river, and on many other good salmon and trout streams. We told him we hoped that he would be able to arrange to let good sea trout and brown trout fishings as well as for salmon and grilse, and he promised to consider the matter.

There can be no doubt of the advantage of dealing with a responsible London firm in taking a fishery in Norway, and we wish Messrs. J. A. Lumley and Co. all success.

FLOOD AND MUD.

THIS title may not be elegant, but it is uncommonly concise, and fully describes the condition of the lower Thames, Wey, and Bourn during many weeks past. So thick has the water been that I have not troubled to put my spinning rod together during the last month, and the chub tackle has been equally idle.

Not once during the winter have we had that greeny-clear water, so conducive to sport with pith, macaroni, or cheese, when the chub seem to fight for the bait, and almost every swim adds a

had time to partly purify itself by more or less filtering.

The steam launch question certainly affects the lower Thames considerably. It is common to see the lap-lap of the wash disturb many a pellet of earth. These pellets, though small in themselves, aggregately form a vast quantity of mud. The delicate looking electric launch, infinitely more picturesque than her steaming, puffing sister, appears to do far less harm to the banks, gliding over the water rather than cutting through it. In the sharp bend of the river, some half mile below Chertsey Bridge, two or three fast following launches raise a tremendous "pothor," as they have to keep fairly close to the towing-path to avoid the shoal on the other side of the river, and I have many times had my punt set a-dancing in a miniature sea, the chief offenders being the rowdy hirers for the day of that antiquated tin-pot-in-a-barrel style of launch so well known and well-beloved by the would-be peaceful angler. The gentlemen (?) who venture abroad in these fearsome craft, quite 6ft. from the Surrey (or Middlesex) shore at times, seem to prefer very small launches with plenty of beam, that throw a bigger wash than one of Tom Taylor's (Windsor Castle) liners! However, joking apart, there may be something in the launch idea to account for the extra thick water, though it would not appreciably affect the Wey, where there are very few launches to be seen. Here the "increased drainage" theorist ought to score.

Although the floods have been high, they have

looked forward to donning their Acme's and cutting all sorts of intricate figures—grape vines, loops, flower-pots and what not, on the ice—to the delight of their sweethearts or wives, whilst the latter counted upon the streams being sufficiently bright to enable them to make an onslaught on the chub, which, thanks either to low or high and thick water, they had been debarred from doing throughout the greater part of the winter months. But it was not to be. The wind suddenly veered to the southward. A thaw naturally resulted, and, what was infinitely worse, Jupiter Pluvius became once more strongly in evidence, and the expectations of the rod men were, to their great grief, unrealised.

Now, I held an order to inspect in a practical manner a private part of one of the most famed tributaries of the Thames—the Colne, to wit—and as my opportunities for angling are hardly as plentiful as blackberries in the autumn, I resolved that the first spare day I had, let the wind blow from the north or south, east or west, and the water in what is termed fair ply or the reverse, I would go a-fishing.

I freely confess that I do not care to hear the rain steadily patter against the bedroom windows several times during the night preceding a piscatorial excursion. I have a too vivid recollection of a tempest of wind and rain I had to face when not long since I hied to another part of the same river. A glorious sunset on the eve of this outing made me opine that I was really going to have an enjoyable trip, but before daybreak there was a

Scotch mist falling. This rapidly developed into moderate showers; then the universal sprinkler, to vary the monotony of a continuous downpour, removed the rose from his all too large watering can, and treated me to a regular deluge. The rain ran off the well-seasoned mackintosh, into my boots, got, alas! into the baccy pouch, and ruined the companionable and consoling weed, my "grub" was rendered decidedly moist eating, and, in fine, the only item in my provender which kept at all dry was, as Pat would say, the "cold tay" in the bottle.

Would history repeat itself on the occasion under notice? I fervently prayed not, although the odds seemed greatly in favour of another wet holiday being added to my already longish list of uncomfortable expeditions. For from the moment I ventured forth from home until I reached the very edge of the river—a journey of nearly three hours—the pitiless rain descended. The wind, however, was in the quarter whence it is said to "blow the bait into the fishes' mouth," and the forecast prophesied the weather to be "rainy to fair." This for once in a way proved to be correct.

At 11 a.m. I was by the waterside. There was a good deal of ice about in the ditches which discharged themselves into the river, and I was not altogether sanguine that I should find *Rutilus* in a mood to cross swords with me, knowing how low temperatures adversely affect the appetites of their roachships. But I had with me a spinning rod, so that if the red fins were "off" the wagtail or sprat would, I thought, in all probability enable me to reel a brace or two of pike.

Before I had time to put together a long light rod the sky cleared a bit, and the rain stopped, for which I had much cause to be thankful, for to fish in the fascinating Nottingham style when the rain comes down in big or little drops is practically impossible.

The first swim I worked was a shallow one—2ft. 6in. in depth. A little loose ground-bait was pitched in, and the tell tale despatched on its maiden voyage. I naturally employed crust for the hook bait, because in the first place it is, as a rule, a most deadly lure in the winter; and secondly, because fewer bites are missed than is the case when maggot fishing, provided always that the cubes are not too large. For half a dozen swims the float sailed complacently downstream, not a touch ruffling it. I could not believe that the roach were not there, as the holt was generally a fairly productive one. I concluded, therefore, that *croûte de pain* was not on their *menu* for the day, and accordingly reverted to a bunch of gentles. Off went the *bonne bouche*, but 15yds. were traversed without effect. A few yards further on, however, the quill gave a sudden dip, and ere long I had a nice roach of 1lb. on the greensward to admire. Two smaller ones followed in quick succession, and were returned. A fourth fish I hooked, and felt it to be a good one, but unfortunately the crystal came unstuck, and the roach lived to fight another day. Thereafter, not a bite rewarded me for a quarter of an hour. I deemed a move imperative, and, wandering upstream, alighted upon a most attractive-looking spot; a somewhat difficult one, however, to tackle by reason of there being on either side of it an old willow which sadly required pollarding, for the branches met almost in the centre. Still, I could not refrain from giving the place a trial. Encasing the plummet in a ball of ground-bait, I dropped it quietly in, and found the depth to be 4ft. I brought a camp stool into requisition here, seated myself upon it well back from the edge of the stream, and commenced with gentles. By holding the point of the rod low down, in fact, almost touching the water, I was able to command a run of 12ft. under and beyond the boughs aforesaid. I soon found that the roach were there, for in half an hour I had seven by my side, one a handsome fellow of 1lb. 3oz., the remainder being well over ½lb. each. By way of experiment, while the fish were feeding freely, I discarded gentles, and gave crust a chance. I used cubes of various shades of colour, but could not attract the attention of a single roach. I accordingly resumed with gentles, the first cast giving me a ¾-pounder, a clear proof that on that day the justly valued crust was completely out of the running.

The sun appeared soon after 1 p.m., but the roach refused everything I could offer them. I moved again, and roamed about, trying swim

after swim, picking up a roach here and a dace there, until the church clock chimed the hour of three. Then the wind shifted round to the north-east, and the water fell a couple of feet, which upset the fishing for the rest of the day. I laboured hard until five, but had only one solitary ½lb. roach for my patience and perseverance.

I did, however, meet with an adventure to close the day with. At the end of a 30yd. run down, the float went under with a bang. I naturally imagined that one of the heavy chub with which the river abounds had had something to do with its unlooked for dive. I struck the fish, whereupon it bolted down stream for all it was worth, taking line off the Ariel winch in an astonishing fashion. I knew then that I had to deal with a large trout. I was forced to let it gang its ain gait, for the all sufficient reason that I was using a very fine running line and a length of gossamer gut. With this frail tackle, however, I managed to turn the fish, and outmanoeuvre two other bursts it made into the bargain, but in the end the speckled beauty and I parted company, the former making off with the bottom and its appurtenances. I had, nevertheless, the consolation of knowing that had I landed the prize I could not have retained it, and the additional gratification of feeling that I had left it for some brother piscator to catch when the glorious First of April arrives, and the trout fisher may, after six months of masterly, albeit compulsory, inactivity as far as most southern rivers are concerned, once more be up and doing. H. A. ROLT.

TO AN OLIVE DUN.

[Alighting near Burnside, Bromley, Kent.]

BY SOME MEMBERS OF THE FLY FISHERS' CLUB.

STAY, graceful goddess of our gentle art,
And cease the flutt'ring of those gauzy wings,
Till we some angling lore to thee impart,
And tell the joy that thine accession brings.
We deftly weave thy likeness round a hook
With silk and feather and transparent quill,
Until it quite deceives a casual look,
Though thy full beauty must elude us still.
Then humbly kneeling at thy silv'ry shrine,
We note a dimple on its placid face;
But wait (nor care to cast a random line)
To see another in the self-same place.
It comes—the moment shadowed in our dreams—
And now to cast with speed but not with haste
Thy counterfeit presentment, and it seems
A morsel tempting to the nicest taste.
Crisis of fate—as cocked and dry it floats—
The ponderous trout absorbs the flimsy cheat.
Our practised wrist the motion sharply notes,
And a tight line proclaims our joy complete.
Farewell, frail insect, wing thy wilful way,
And seek thy love by river or by brook.
Bask in the sunshine. Dance thy little day!
Then peaceful die in some sequestered nook.
J. P. T.

MESSRS. J. BERNARD AND SON'S NEW CATALOGUE.

THE old-established West-end fishing rod and tackle manufacturers, Messrs. J. Bernard and Son, of 5, Church Place, Piccadilly, have just brought out their new catalogue, neatly got up and illustrated. It contains lists of all the tackle required in first-class fishing, from artificial baits to waterproofs and waders. We are often asked where amateurs can get lessons in salmon and trout fly-making; Messrs. Bernard advertise that they teach fly making, and, not only that, but how to catch salmon and trout with flies of your own make. Messrs. Bernard give great attention to the wants of dry-fly anglers, their tapered reel lines, eyed flies, and special dry-fly boxes being particularly good. For pike as well as salmon fishing we have found their London made telescopic gaff answer admirably, it has a metal point protector and spring for keeping gaff closed when not in use.

To look down the lists of favourite salmon and trout flies is as refreshing as the buds now showing on the lilacs in our dingy London squares.

THE WEATHER BALANCE.

LAST September, in an article recording some dry-weather reflections of mine in these pages, the following paragraph occurred:

"From observation of some years I have found that abnormally dry weather is eventually balanced by some of the other sort, although, perhaps, not within the short period that some of us could desire."

It is some satisfaction to find that events have justified my opinion; but it is far from my desire or intention to take up an "I told you so" attitude, or to pose for one moment as a weather prophet, just because the rain which was due in July and September last has come now in February, and not only in sufficient quantity to atone for the shortage of those months, but to leave a fair balance of moisture in hand to meet ordinary summer dryness.

This latter fact embodies a great element of hope for anglers in the south of England, for it was the extreme dryness of last winter and spring which made the ensuing summer's drought so disastrous to our sport.

In the article before referred to it was pointed out that "even fishless days at the waterside may easily provide lessons to be profited from in the future under different conditions," and that "the clear shrunken stream, while disclosing perhaps a disheartening growth of weeds, also makes plain to the observant angler those places which always seem to remain clear of weeds under all conditions, and also the few gravelly shallow places close in shore, which the fish frequent towards dusk, and which are particularly good places in a flood at any part of the year."

An opportunity of practically verifying these views occurred to me just lately, when, having to be on Colne side to see some young trout planted, the remainder of that day and the whole of the next day was spent in trying to catch other fish. And it really was trying, in more senses than one; for the river had only just ceased rising, and was higher than it had been for nearly two years; its colour was just a good match for coffee and milk, while the wind was a real hurricane; first from south west, and later with sufficient of north with the west to make the holding of a rod a finger numbing operation.

The question then arose, Where is the best and most likely place to fish? As I walked upstream the wind blew across the river, leaving quiet water on my side wherever the banks were fairly high. I passed the deep, swirling hole, with a fine stream running through it from a shallow above. That was one of the few places which yielded fish during the drought, because of the stream, which to-day made it, under the altered conditions of height and colour, one of the most unlikely places for sport. The stretch above being narrow, shallow, and consequently fast running, was equally unpromising; and the weeds which there, in spite of floods, showed green and thick, were strong evidence of the general mildness of the winter.

The most quiet and deep portion of the river, say 10ft. or so, was next arrived at; but that, too, for all its tempting appearance, was passed by, in the knowledge that fish do not frequent such depths of flood-swollen water, although they come back to them in winter as soon as the water fines down.

In this search for a swim it was pleasant to note that most of the willows had been pollarded since my last visit, and that thus access had been made to many a swim and cast hitherto unapproachable. The cut branches, however, which still lay strewn about the banks, or tied up in bundles, would, if still growing on the trunks, have afforded some shelter from the searching wind. But future advantage must be counted as a fair set off against present discomfort, for I took note of a few excellent spots for Nottingham long line fishing, which previously were only fairly accessible to tight line fishing with a roach pole, and afforded many an anxious moment to the angler as to the means of landing a fish, and liberty to many a fish after it had been hooked.

At last I arrived at a nook which, on due consideration, I do not think could have been bettered for my purpose by any other swim in the fishery. It is a small bay under a fairly high bank, its downstream end being bounded by a submerged willow, through the branches of which

the mid-stream current flowed strongly. In the bay itself, however, its barely 4ft. of depth was sluggish enough to be easily fished with a tackle carrying the lightest of Lea porcupine floats. A place slow enough, in fact, to be famous among the fishery subscribers for its tench, and, above all, as the plummet disclosed, a place well cleared from obstructions by the flood.

Old associations induced me to commence fishing here with the Lea tight line, and very soon a roach of 12oz. or so, and four others, somewhat smaller, fell victims to amber-coloured cubes of bread floated down about an inch from the bottom. Without disturbing the swim these fish were returned to the water, for what is the satisfaction in keeping such fish from a water which produces numbers of 1lb. each, many of 1½lb., and not a few of 2lb. and over? The biting continued at fair intervals, but nothing large resulted. I then became restless, and thought that better fish might be obtained by float ledgering; that perhaps in the thick water they might appreciate a worm, a bait which might also tempt one of the swim's portly tench. Then, reflecting that perhaps the same bait might also attract one of the 8lb. bream known to inhabit the water, I made a very unorthodox, but still quite sound, change in my tackle by taking off the butt of my roach pole, fixing a reel on the next joint, running a fine plaited silk line through the rings, which in a moment of caution I had fixed to the pole, and added a fine gut line with a slightly heavier float and two hooks, one baited with a piece of paste the size of a Spanish nut, the other with a bright marsh worm, then started float ledgering with a tough piece of ground-bait on the shots.

This style of fishing was much more comfortable in the high wind, for I could place the rod on the bank within reach of my right hand, instead of vainly trying to hold it steady against every gust. My hands being thus freed, it occurred to me that my umbrella would keep some of the wind off myself and the swim. By the way, many good Lea anglers always carry an umbrella with their tackle; but they cannot claim originality for the idea, for that reverend and literary Lea angler, James Martin, in his "Angler's Guide," published 1854, recommended the use of the harmless necessary gamp for much the same purposes.

But where is my float? Out of sight; and before the umbrella can be lowered something very much alive, and apparently well under the sunken willow, tugs sharply at the rod top. There is no need to strike, and after a good fight a shapely roach of 1lb. 2oz. lies in the net, having bolted the worm. Another good 12oz. fish soon after takes the paste, the quick succession of bites encouraging me to hope for a really good bag by the end of the day.

The wind, however, gradually veered round, and now blew straight upstream, harder, if possible, than before, spoiling that yard width of glassy surface nearest the bank which had hitherto seemed to harbour the fish. No more bites came, a changing wind being always bad for roach fishing, therefore the arrival of my friends in charge of the trout gave me a good excuse for packing up for the rest of the day.

Yet, when I should have taken train back to town that evening, I turned aside at the local telegraph office to let my people at home know that they need not expect me for another twenty-four hours, and within a very few minutes I take mine ease at mine inn, hoping the while that no more rain will fall, and that the wind will abate, when, indeed, the much desired big bag of big fish will surely be mine.

At seven the next morning my first anxious glance at the sky is anything but reassuring, for past the bright blue white masses of cloud are scurrying along at a great pace, telling yesterday's tale of strong wind, although this time from the north-west. Early risers tell me also that rain has fallen heavily during the night.

However, after fortifying my inner man with wholesome solids, I sally forth, at same time drawing a big cheque on my store of hope. In company with five brother anglers I fish the same stretch of water as before, being driven from swim to swim by the wind. At last, about noon, there is a lull, the sun strikes really warm. Off goes the float, and I manage to land the only fish among the party, a handsome roach of 1lb. 6oz., lured by a pellet of paste. Soon after a terrific

hailstorm marked the re-commencement of a hurricane which gained strength as the day advanced, and the uselessness of further trying was admitted by all.

I feel convinced, nevertheless, that with the water just the colour we were hoping for all last autumn, the wind alone was responsible for spoiling what would otherwise have been record days; and, as usual, the following day, when none of us could fish, the wind, weather, and water were just perfection.

CLAYE KENWAL.

FISH CULTURE AT THE WESTON FISHERY, NEAR NORWICH.

THE following extracts are from Colonel Custance's last prospectus. The Weston Fishery is one of the finest and most extensive in the country, and we advise all interested in fish culture to consult Colonel Custance's price list when they are thinking of re-stocking.

"The Weston Fishery has for many years steadily maintained its reputation for producing the best of fish, and each succeeding year brings with it an increasing demand for them. This growth has necessitated a corresponding expansion of the fishery, and still further additions to its equipment.

"A powerful pumping engine affords an inexhaustible extra supply of brook water whenever desirable, so that the Weston Fishery cannot suffer as do many others from the effects of drought, so fatal to the growth and development of good fish.

"This year a supplementary series of specially constructed yearling ponds has been added. Favourably situated in a locality in which fly is very plentiful, these ponds are served from an independent source with an unflinching supply of the best class of brook water, teeming with freshwater shrimps and other forms of natural food.

"Systematic attention is of course given to artificial feeding. But it is to the very fine supply of brook waters and the abundance of natural food they contain that I chiefly attribute the growth and condition of the Weston fish, which, for their age, are much finer than those grown in Scotland and the North of England.

"This season my stock of yearlings and two-year-olds is very large.

"The two-year-olds are deservedly popular, and I highly recommend them for stocking lakes and rivers. My yearlings, too, being particularly strong, are also suitable for this purpose.

"*Fario* are recommended for streams and rivers. Rainbow trout thrive splendidly in lakes, reservoirs, and ponds. Under favourable conditions their rate of growth is surprising, and instances are not wanting of yearlings, sent out in January, attaining to 1lb. weight before the end of July. Bold in rising, and full of fighting mettle, the rainbow, as a sporting fish, is unsurpassed.

"To those interested in fish culture I shall be happy to give assistance and advice in laying out and improving rivers, fish ways, hatcheries, ponds, &c."

In addition to *S. fario*, *S. levenensis*, *S. irideus*, &c., Col. Custance can also supply various kinds of coarse fish.

MR. S. HAYNES, CORK.

WE are glad to hear that in consequence of increase of business Mr. S. Haynes, of Cork, has had to move from Sunday's Well Road to larger premises, and his address now is Mardyke, Cork. Mr. S. Haynes has a great reputation among fly dressers as a dyer of materials for making salmon and sea trout flies, &c.

LOBSTER FISHING ON THE EAST COAST, NEAR FELIXSTOWE.

It may perhaps be interesting to some people to know how lobsters are caught on this part of the coast as differing from the most usual way, namely, of taking them in "pots." The method adopted is as follows: The "lobstering gear," as it is called, consists of twelve vertically flat hoops about 2½ft. in diameter, and to each of these is attached a shallow net about 2ft. deep, in a

similar way to which the netting is attached to the frame of an ordinary landing net. Across the iron hoop a string is tied somewhat loosely, and in the centre is attached the bait, which consists generally of small dabs dried in the sun, but whiting or herring, dried in the same manner, is often used as well. The "hoops" are attached to a rope line, having four ends for that purpose, and to the line itself are secured oval or round pieces of cork all the way along at quite short intervals, in the first place, as far as the upper end of the line is concerned, for the purpose of showing the whereabouts on the surface of the water of the "hoops" below; and in the second place, with regard to the other portion under water, sunk by the weight of the iron hoop, to lighten it to some extent whilst it is being drawn up from the bottom, the corks, of course, having an elevating tendency, and considering the weight of the iron with a net attached, which latter naturally causes a good deal of resistance to the water, the submerged corks are of considerable use in this respect. Each "hoop" is dropped into the water from the boat (an ordinary open sea one, which can either be rowed or sailed according to the state of the wind and tide) at regular distances apart, the whole twelve hoops extending for a distance of about half a mile, "just to give them (the lobsters) a chance," as the fishermen say, meaning a chance to smell the bait and get into the hoops. The reason they are placed so far apart is that the bait, having been dried in the way above stated, emits, as may easily be imagined, a very strong aroma, this being for the purpose of attracting the lobsters and crabs (the latter are caught in the same way as the former), as there is no doubt they have the power of scent at very long distances, as in the case of sharks, whose odoriferous powers are enormous, and in this respect it may incidentally be mentioned that it has been brought to the knowledge of the writer of this article that the reason why sharks are now more numerous in the channel than in former years is that the cattle traffic between Newhaven and Dieppe has so much increased of late, and consequently many carcasses of dead cattle are frequently thrown overboard, the smell of which attracts the sharks in the extraordinary way above mentioned. From a naturalist's point of view it would be interesting to consult works of authority on the subject. The "hoops" are left in the water for about forty minutes at a time, but not longer, as lobsters are rather fond of having a feed, and then crawling or swimming away again before being caught, and then in turn pulled up, which process in itself takes some time. The boat is rowed for this purpose with the tide, and has to be carefully steered in order that the fisher may carefully and gently take hold of the part of the line remaining floating above water, and then commence to haul it up with all possible speed, after having given a very sharp and long pull in the first instance, in order to suddenly send the lobster or crab into the bottom of the rather shallow net, the creature being thus taken quite by surprise, which is most material, as while feeding it has been lying on the net while quite flat, with the iron hoop on the top. The reason the line has to be "hauled up" so quickly is that the resistance given by the water keeps the shell fish in the bottom of the net, and the most exciting time is just when the "hoop" leaves the surface of the water and is being lifted into the boat. At this moment, the resistance of the water having ceased, great quickness is required, and the least blundering, such as letting the hoop strike the side of the boat, will probably lose the fish, and with every care and skill a lobster may be lost just at this crucial time, as they possess considerable leaping powers with their tail. It may be asked, "Why is the net so shallow?" and the answer is that if it were of greater depth it would be likely to become entangled in the rocks and with the iron hoop to which it is attached, and thus prevent the catch from arriving safely at the bottom of it, as intended, and as above explained. A whiting or codling is now and again caught in this way, but this seldom happens. The kind of fishing just described can only be entertained in calm weather, and when the tide is slack.

E. MILLIKEN.

ON A FINMARKEN SALMON RIVER.

Not many people make the journey to that region lying between Tromsø and Vadsø, which is known as Finmarken. Those visiting Norway seldom go beyond the North Cape, although some do travel on by mail steamer from Hammerfest to Vadsø, but these on their return generally express the opinion that there is nothing to go for or to see, and that the odours of Vardø and Vadsø scarcely compensate you for the extra sea passage. But those who go in this way do not really see Finmarken, only the outer fringe of it, and that is the least interesting and picturesque part.

They know nothing of the country, of its magnificent salmon rivers, the Tana and Alten, besides several others smaller, but nevertheless good; and it is to one of these latter, between the above mentioned rivers, that this account alludes.

Few beyond those on fishing or other sport bent have penetrated into the interior, and know how beautiful the country is, and what a wealth of flowers exist during the all too brief summer months.

The mountains, as a rule, are not of great height or fantastic shape, having a glaciated surface, but they are beautifully wooded on the lower slopes with the hardy birch, whilst in the upper parts of the valley the pine flourishes.

There is not much bird life, although the field-fare abounds, and hawks are far too numerous, as they do a vast amount of damage both to the fish and also to young birds, and as a result the Government sets a price upon their heads. Their plaintive cry can be heard a long distance off as they circle and circle on the look out for prey. One large one became a perfect nuisance to whichever of our party was fishing up the river, as his favourite hunting ground was on a plateau about 100ft. above the river, and across which runs the track. Whether he was afraid the pedestrian would scare his prey I do not know, but on sighting him he invariably began a series of swoops over his head, descending to a very slight height above him, so that he almost seemed to be intending an attack. My men were delighted when I presented them one day with the body, doubtless in anticipation of the crown reward.

For anyone to thoroughly enjoy the delights of salmon fishing in Finmarken he must possess an abundant supply of two excellent qualities, viz., nerve and patience, the former being indispensable for the boat work which is necessary, while the latter is an invaluable help where mosquitos abound. "To suffer and be still."

Nearly all the casting is done from the Lapp built river boats, which, while admirably adapted for the purpose of ascending and descending these rapid northern rivers, afford to the novice but little firm footing, especially when they are being held up in broken water for a cast, when there is of course a large amount of vibration through the boat; balancing oneself at such times, particularly if the boat be wet, is a matter of difficulty. I have found a stout felt sole the best thing to use, this giving a good grip even on wet slippery rocks. It is, however, a very bad material for wear.

The Lapps themselves use "Komager," which I may explain are a sort of heel-less boot, the sole and sides being made of toughened walrus skin, and the uppers, in some cases continued up as wading stockings, composed of dried reindeer hide. Before use they are filled with dried senna grass, a regular nest being made for the foot, which thus encased is kept perfectly dry, while there is no feeling of weight at all. These are made by the Lapp women and children, and exceedingly well made too. Those on sale at the stores in Tromsø and Hammerfest are for the most part of the wrong material, and consequently unserviceable.

The boats are all built on the river, of pine, well bolted together, varying from 18ft. to 25ft. in length, and 3ft. to 4ft. in breadth, and have very graceful lines. They are propelled by long poles at either end; they draw but little water, and can thus be used even when the river is at its lowest, although then much additional labour is thrown on the men, and the feelings of a passenger sitting in the bottom of the boat, on birch cuttings for a seat, are not of the pleasantest, as the narrow craft rolls and jumps about as she comes in contact with the bottom. It is coming down

stream with plenty of water in the river which is the pleasure.

The Lapps, I mean of course the settled ones who live quietly on their farms, not the nomadic tribes which wander with the reindeer over the high fjeld, are capital fellows. Living all their lives on the river, they become first rate boatmen, hardy and strong, apparently knowing every rock in the stream from source to sea.

It is a curious fact that none of them can swim, nor did they evince any desire to learn when we offered to teach them. Every day they carry their lives in their hands, and yet are neglectful of this simple safeguard. Still, such good watermen are they that an accident is practically unknown. Once last year my boat, indeed, capsized, but then the men were trying to show off coming down the worst foss on the river—that shown in plate I. Not content with doing that when in flood, but must needs choose the middle of the stream, with the result that a big wave caught them. The next thing I saw was the upturned boat with my men, Rasmus and Hansen, clinging to the keel, and all the baggage being carried away downstream. Luckily no damage was done, but I was very glad I had chosen to walk round by land instead of going in the boat, as I was pressed to do.

Owing to the great amount of bright sunshine which often prevails during the day, the best plan

Moreover, we noticed that the majority of the salmon caught of about 17lb. to 20lb. were hen fish, while those of 10lb. to 15lb. were cocks, which seems to be accounted for by the hen fish remaining in the sea, and not running up the river as grilse, thus putting on weight to a much greater amount than those spending the same time in the fresh water, with its consequent loss of condition and weight. I should very much like to know the actual cause of these proceedings on the part of the hen grilse.

The Lapp men make useful gillies, gaffing a fish fairly well, although they are at times prone to excitement, and, consequently, are erratic. Nevertheless, they do their best, and take great interest in the use of the fly as a lure for salmon, having been converted from the opinion that nothing but a "sluk" or minnow would do. There is generally a healthy rivalry between the men in the different boats as to the respective catches, and this is a good sign.

Nothing but the stoutest and best tackle should be used, as the fish average big, and must often be followed down from pool to pool. The sizes of flies used varies from the largest Tay standard at the end of June down to No. 4 late in July, and these latter should, I think, be dressed on double hooks. A bright body and red wing would be what I should call a favourite combination for dressing.



SHOOTING A FOSS.

is to rest during that time and fish through the night hours and early morning. One is thus enabled to have the sun off the water, and, moreover, to be free, to a certain extent, from the attentions of the mosquitos, which seem to dislike the slight chill which comes on as the sun gets near the horizon.

This night fishing is possible for some weeks after arrival; but towards the end of July, when the sun once more dips from sight, a nasty, cold, white fog rises over the water, rendering any effort useless while it lasts, which is until the sunrise. When these mists begin, it is as well to abandon night work.

It is a very strange fact, and one that up to the present I have not heard satisfactorily explained, that hen grilse do not run up the rivers in these Arctic parts. Why this should be so I cannot understand, unless it is that the coldness of the water may affect them in some way or other. I did not believe it when told for the first time by a Norwegian living on the river, the postmaster to wit, and was decidedly sceptical. He, however, assured me, from long personal investigation, that it was true, saying, if you catch a thousand grilse in this river, and cut them open, you will not find a hen fish amongst the lot. There happened to be but a small run of them that year, but those we tested were all cock fish.

Of many good days during the past season, one stands out as unique.

I was the last home, having been far up the river, and found the other two waiting for me on the edge of the home pool. In reply to my query as to the day's sport, E. replied, "Oh! two little ones;" and then, catching sight of something glittering in the boat, said, "Hallo! You've got a nice fish there." "Yes," I said; "28lb. to an ounce." So we walked up to the hut.

What was my surprise to see lying outside two fine clean fish the identical size of my own, and try as we would we could not do otherwise than enter them as each weighing exactly 28lb. These three, together with two of 18lb. and 17lb. respectively, captured by the third rod, made as handsome a basket as one could wish to see.

There is but little animal life to be seen in the valley, but E. had rather a curious experience on two occasions. While fishing a favourite piece of water, which had been called "The Long Run," hearing a rustling in the growth on the bank, he looked up, and was surprised to see a hare bound out, run along the bank, and finally disappear in the bushes. "Strange," he said to himself, "I've never seen a hare up here before," and, lo! a second emerged, ran along for all he was worth, and vanished in the same way. A third followed

close upon his heels, and last of all came a wily old fox in hot pursuit. One would like to know how it all ended.

This was the only occasion that any of us sighted ground game, the reason being that they kept to the high field during the summer, and no doubt the hunt above described had originated there.

On another day the same angler, who seemed destined to get all the exciting incidents, was disturbed by the bellowing of a bull in the vicinity of the pool he was fishing. Presently he was answered by one on the opposite bank. They stood giving vent to loud utterances of defiance for some time, and then one entered the river, and coolly swam across the cream of the pool, after which he made vigorous but futile efforts to scale the steep and yielding bank on the other side. E., disgusted at having his water thus rudely disturbed, made down stream in order to try a lower pool, and, looking back, saw the one above sliding down the declivity on his haunches to meet the enemy, while his antagonist awaited the assault from below. From marks in the locality, seen later on, there must have been trouble.

Living is somewhat rough up in this remote district, the accommodation being but scanty, consisting of roughly constructed log huts, and those not always watertight. Still, we were very snug in our headquarters, with our men living in an adjoining shanty always on hand willing to help in cooking or any other way. They took turn and turn about in going to their own homes from Saturday night till Monday morning.

All provisions must either be taken out from England, which is the best plan, in spite of the customs, or purchased in Thondjem or Tromsø, as practically nothing beyond coffee and sugar can be had at the little store kept by the postmaster, near the church, which is situated near the mouth of the river.

It is surprising how high the duty is on dried fruits and marmalade imported into Norway. Last year 25 kroner, or about 27s. 6d., went in duty on 35lb. of marmalade, which is simply monstrous. Moreover, you cannot well do without it, as it is impossible to get any green food.

Undoubtedly, the great drawback to complete pleasure whilst in Finmarken is the profusion of numerous varieties of insect life. Foremost of all, especially in point of numbers, is, of course, the mosquito, which thrives abundantly; and it detracts a great deal from the delights of fishing to have these pests continually feeding on you, and this is what happens unless one wears a veil. This obscures the vision considerably, and consequently I hardly ever use one, using, instead, various applications to the skin, which help to keep the creatures off, but which must be applied frequently to be of any avail. Stockholm tar and castor oil mixed, and oil of wintergreen are preparations which have proved fairly successful.

Last year was a good mosquito year, that is, from an angler's point of view, there being fewer than usual. As a set off against this, however, there were an unusual number of "margarer" (this is spelt phonetically), which is a small biting fly, which never fails to draw blood. I have seen the Lappmen's faces badly marked by them, one of my henchmen having an eye almost closed for two days. Mosquitos, on the other hand, do not seem to trouble them so much, preferring a Britisher when they can get the chance. Many other species of insects are to be had without the asking, but it is just as well not to dwell on these little worries.

Better is it, during these long winter evenings, to light your pipe before a good fire, and fight, in imagination, the battle with the ideal 50-pounder, which you always hope will come next season—but which never comes. S. O. M.

JOHN W. ALEXANDER, the portrait painter, whose best work is illustrated in the March *Scribner's*, is the son-in-law of James W. Alexander, the vice-president of the Equitable, whose portrait is one of the artist's best achievements. Two of Mr. Alexander's pictures have been purchased by the French government, and are in the Luxembourg; another has recently been bought by Vienna; still another is owned in St. Petersburg. No American portrait painter except Sargent has received more recognition abroad than Mr. Alexander.

PISCATORIAL SOCIETY.

"THE best smoker we have had for a very long time," was the verdict unanimously pronounced upon the concert given on Monday last in the Piscatorial Salon, and Mr. Robt. C. Blundell, who was responsible for the whole affair, must be congratulated upon the unqualified success which attended his untiring efforts to provide a capital entertainment for the members and friends who supported him on the occasion in question. There was a large company present, a list of capable and first class artists, and a programme which left nothing to be desired in point of variety. The comic element was supplied by Messrs. Wallis Arthur (a host in himself) and Thorpe, and it goes without saying that the lovers of amusing ditties had everything they could wish for. Sentimental songs were rendered by Messrs. Cockburn and Herbert Linwood, than whom a better choice could hardly have been made, whilst as instrumentalists one would have had to go very far away to find better executants on the piano, zither, and cornet than Mr. Sinclair Mantel, Herr C. Schultz, and Alex. Edwards. To add to the enjoyment of the evening, Mr. Ridgway volunteered as a reciter in a piece entitled "The Last Fisherman," and Mr. Blackmore appeared in the double rôle of reciter and comic singer, in each of which characters he showed conspicuous ability. Encores were of frequent occurrence, and the applause genuine and spontaneous. In fact, the audience expressed their views at the close of the concert in the words with which I have opened this brief report. Certain it was that the last smoker of the Piscatorial Society has never been previously excelled, if, indeed, equalled, as far as merit goes, and the exceptionally hearty vote of thanks which went forth to the chairman (Mr. Robt. C. Blundell) testified, if any such demonstration were necessary, to the high appreciation on the part of the assembly of the admirable musical treat which had been so thoughtfully initiated and so ably carried out.

Mr. C. H. O'Dowd and Mr. A. R. Matthews exhibited some fine roach from the Thames and society's new water at Uxbridge, which were much admired by members and visitors during the evening. M. G. E. DE C.

BRITISH SEA ANGLERS' SOCIETY.

THE annual general meeting of the members of the society was held at the Cannon Street Hotel on Wednesday, the 22nd February, at 7.30 p.m. Present: Mr. Edward McFee in the chair, and between ninety and 100 members.

The minutes of the last annual meeting having been read and adopted, the hon. secretary read the report of the committee during the past year, and, after some general remarks, invited criticism on the society's policy, evoking flattering comment on the economical management shown in the two items of expenditure, clerical assistance and postage.

Mr. C. W. Glassington suggested that a boat tariff be put up at some of the society's headquarters, so that all members should understand the fair price to be paid for hiring boats.

Replying to Mr. Ricketts, the hon. secretary said that the chief loss in connection with the dinner last year was owing to his having had to guarantee a number of dinner tickets, and it was through the small attendance that the guarantee had to be paid for. He expected to have at least 150 members at this year's annual dinner.

Mr. Grant threw out a suggestion as to one evening in the year being reserved for the ladies, and the chairman said, that although he could not promise, the matter had been, and would be, considered by the committee.

The Chairman then moved the adoption of the committee's report and statement of accounts, which was carried unanimously.

A suggestion was made that the society should start a small library. Mr. Minchin deprecated adding to the burdens the hon. secretary was already called upon to bear on the society's behalf, but thought that certain members might support the idea who took an interest in the more scientific side of sea fishing. Perhaps if the Cannon-street Hotel continued to be their headquarters the offer of a cupboard might be forthcoming where the books could be kept, and some member of the committee might be found who would act as librarian. He thought, however, that any precipitate purchase of scientifically-written piscatorial works would be indiscreet.

Mr. Parker heartily supported the suggestion, volunteering to donate the first volume, and naming Mr. F. W. Norman as a suitable librarian.

The Hon. Secretary said that the chief obstacle to the creation of a library was that the society had at present no fixed habitation, and that if Mr. Minchin had an eye on his office he could assure him that it was already too full. He considered, however, that casts of important captures of fish, and specimens of notable or rare tackle, could be hung on the walls of their meeting-room when the society's *habitat* became less volatile, and that then a library might also follow. Dearth of cash was not the impediment to a library, as £397 odd stood to the society's credit in the bank, and it would doubtless be over £400 by now if only subscribers would kindly remember that the annual subscription was 10s. 6d., and not 5s. 6d.

The Chairman argued well for the prospects of a fixed habitation from the financial progress shown by the balance of 1898 compared with 1897.

The Hon. Secretary announced that Mr. C. O. Minchin would lecture on crabs, lobsters and shrimps that day fortnight, and the chairman hoped that as it would be interesting to boys, members would bring their sons.

The Hon. Secretary intimated that the Fishing Exhibition at the Aquarium would open on the 8th March, and close April 5 next, and that the authorities would supply members of the B.S.A.S. with tickets at four shillings a

dozen. Applicants for tickets should send in their stamped addressed envelopes at an early date in anticipation of a rush.

The chairman then declared the president and vice-presidents re-elected; and the new committee elected to be Messrs. A. E. Litchfield, Edward McFee, C. O. Minchin, G. Read Clarke, F. W. Norman, A. W. Parker, H. W. Lane, Edwin Linfoot, Croft Handley, E. H. Bramley, J. N. Hearn, J. W. Zaehnsdorf, C. Preston Gardner, and F. Simmons.

The hon. treasurer, the hon. solicitor, and the hon. secretary were all re-elected.

It was moved, seconded, and carried that the retiring auditors, Mr. Harry Barker, F.C.A., and Mr. Alexander Wright, A.S.A.A., be re-elected.

The Hon. Secretary, in acknowledging the honour of re-election, regretted his inability to pledge himself to retain the office, not that he intended to abandon the society, but it was a growing concern, and it might become necessary for the executive to take other steps for the dispatch of the secretarial work.

A vote of thanks to the outgoing committee was moved by the hon. secretary, seconded by Mr. Hill, carried unanimously, and acknowledged on behalf of the committee by Mr. Clarke.

The Chairman announced Wednesday, March 1 next, at 6.30 p.m., as the date of the ensuing committee meeting.

The proceedings then terminated with a vote of thanks to the chairman. CHAS. S. PATTERSON, Hon. Sec.

GRESHAM ANGLING SOCIETY.

AT our ordinary meeting on Feb. 21 Mr. Marshall occupied the chair. A new member was elected, and a gentleman proposed for membership. Mr. J. Jeffery has kindly consented to read a paper before the society in June, and his offer has been accepted. Mr. Hicks reported taking some large roach at Kelvedon. Mr. Zerfass, at Kelvedon, nine roach, largest 14lb. Mr. Gray, roach from Bury St. Edmunds, Messrs. Marshall and Allen reported pike and perch from the Ivel. Another gentleman was proposed for membership, making two during the evening. The Bohemian concert held last Tuesday was very successful, and one of the best events of the kind the society have ever had. The arrangements were admirably carried out by Mr. F. A. Gray. The usual toasts and a vote of thanks to the chair concluded the proceedings. ALEX. WRIGHT.

DARLINGTON ANGLERS' CLUB.

THE twelfth annual dinner of the above club was held recently at the King's Head Hotel, Darlington. The president (Mr. H. Gawan Taylor) occupied the chair, and Mr. H. Robinson the vice-chair. After a capital repast the chairman gave "The Queen." This was loyally honoured. Mr. G. Clarke proposed "The Army and Navy." Mr. R. Thornton responded. "Success to Darlington Anglers' Association" was given by the president, who said, amid applause, that the club, he was glad to say, had become an important one. As regarded standing well with the landowners of the district, he thought everything was what could be desired. As regarded the sport, well, they were trying to get the fishing in the district to what it should be. After mentioning what the club had done to make the Tees a better fishing ground, the speaker remarked that they were glad to see that the Tees Fishery Board had done a great deal in this direction by making the fishing commence a month later than it used to do, and also, to his mind, by the very salutary form of increasing the amount of annual subscription for trout fishers. If the club, continued the president, continued its present course of management, he thought they would present to the district the spectacle of a club carried on in sportsmanlike way, with rigid observance of rules, and continue to be as they were at present, on good terms with the riparian owners, and said that the satisfactory statement of accounts rendered it unnecessary for him to say much more than that the balance at the bank had increased, and now amounted to £24 5s. 9d., and that all the income, less necessary expenses, such as printing &c., went entirely in renting water for fishing. Their membership continued to keep up to the number they considered sufficient. They had elected more than made up the number of those who had resigned. He considered the club, from the number of miles of fishing rented, was one of the cheapest in point of subscription of any he knew of. Personally his ambition was to see it become a credit to any gentleman to belong to. (Hear, hear.) It had been usual for many years now, in responding to the toast, for him to say a few words respecting the fishing of the past season, which had proved somewhat better in March, April, and May, salmon being caught weighing 9lb., 18lb., 12lb., 14lb., and 20lb., most of them about Blackwell and Neasham. One of 23lb. was caught in the net below Dinsdale. A good many were caught in the upper reaches in May, thus showing spring fishing was improving. Later on the drought proved disastrous, and the back-end was spoilt by floods. Trout fishing was poor owing to the same cause, and although the fishery board put into the fees and tributaries 50,000 trout fry they saw but little improvement. He did not believe they could until they changed their ways and put in yearlings instead of fry. Mr. Hutchinson also responded. Mr. J. H. McDermid proposed "The Mayor and Corporation." The Mayor replied. Councillor Marshall also responded, saying that he thought the members of the Waterworks Committee would listen attentively to any fair suggestion on the part of the association. Songs were rendered during the evening by Messrs. P. Hutchinson, G. Clarke, W. G. Chilton, J. H. McDermid, W. T. McDermid, and J. Coverdale.

REPORTS FROM RIVERS, LOCHS, &c.

River Reporters who want forms and envelopes should send a post card to the Manager of the FISHING GAZETTE, St. Dunstan's House, Fetter-lane, London.

Time of High Water in the Thames.

To find the time of high water in the Thames at any of the following places, to the time of high water at London Bridge given below.

20 min. for Chelsea.	55 min. for Kew.
Add 40 " Putney.	75 " Richmond.
45 " Hammersmith.	80 " Twickenham.
50 " Barnes.	85 " Teddington.

EXAMPLE:—If it is high water at 2 o'clock at London Bridge, it will be high water at Teddington at 3.25, or 85 minutes later.

N.B.—A strong wind up-stream accelerates the tide very much, and one down-stream retards it.

TIME OF HIGH WATER AT LONDON BRIDGE.

	Morning.	Evening.
Saturday, Feb. 25	2.9	2.25
Sunday, " 26	2.37	2.52
Monday, " 27	3.7	3.21
Tuesday, " 28	3.36	3.51
Wednesday, March 1	4.5	4.21
Thursday, " 2	4.37	4.53
Friday, " 3	5.9	5.25

HIGH WATER AT AMBERLEY AND PULBOROUGH.

	Morning.	Evening.
Saturday, Feb. 25	2.49	3.3
Sunday, " 26	3.17	3.32
Monday, " 27	3.47	4.1

These times show high water at Houghton Bridge, Amberley Pulborough will be 2h. 40m. later.

ENGLISH AND WELSH REPORTS.

Lower Thames.—GENERAL REMARKS.—I hope the appeal which is now before the anglers of the Thames towards the annual dinner to the river and lock keepers will meet with a most liberal response. It is now some years since this entertainment was first instituted, and it was always a great pleasure to me to meet my fellow workers on that happy occasion. It was intended to benefit the men, and to make it a strictly riverside gathering at one of the hotels where the worthy host was a member of the society; and I cannot help thinking the class of dinner there provided was more suited to the men, who are the real guests, and far more enjoyable to them. Besides, it was more of an "At Home" dinner, with a menu of roast beef and boiled legs of mutton, than the *table d'hôte* style of a London banquet. During my official period it was only once brought to London, and included an afternoon performance at the Royal Aquarium, for which the then manager, Major Hobson, gave me free admission to the building and reserved seats, and a memorable day it was, with a fearfully heavy fall of snow. The dinner, provided by the prince of caterers, Mr. T. J. Hamp, at the Holborn Restaurant, was of a specially arranged character, similar to the riverside houses, and gave great satisfaction to the men. The return home will be fresh in the recollection of those still living who were present on that occasion, not only in getting to Waterloo station, but in the uncertainty of the trains. I am still wedded to the riverside class of entertainment, and a support to those hostesses where the proprietor is a subscriber to the society; and the remark I heard last year from some of the men, "give me a dinner nearer home, such as we have had at the Castle, East Molesley, and the Mitre at Hampton Court," made me feel then it would be more enjoyable and close to their home, which is the river itself. I am not referring to this in any spirit of dictation, but simply an expression of my own opinion, and will close these remarks by urging upon one and all of the anglers to give the appeal an earnest and hearty support, and no one will rejoice more than myself at a brilliant and successful result.—B.

—(Datchet).—John Keene writes the water has got into good condition again, and the fish are feeding fairly well. One day, with Mr. Phipps and Mr. K. Cannon, who creeled 103 roach, the largest 1lb. 6oz.; and another day, in a few hours, with Mr. O'Dowd, two dozen of roach, the largest 1lb.—B.

—(Datchet).—The river is getting into first rate order, and by the time this is in print it will be good enough for anything. I was out this afternoon, and caught six dozen roach and perch.—G. LUMSDEN.

—(Eton).—The river is now clearing, and will be in first class order in the course of the next two or three days. Bank anglers have been taking a fair number of barbel and roach. A few jack have been creeled. The best fish I have heard of was taken by Mr. Morrer, of Windsor, on Feb. 21, and weighed just over 6½lb. I was out on Feb. 20 with the genial and enthusiastic chairman of the Windsor and Eton Preservation Association (Mr. A. Brown), and with the assistance of James Burce succeeded in netting several jack from a piece of water where they had been left after the flood had subsided. They were all returned to the river in first class condition, swimming off in a style that intimated their thorough appreciation of their new quarters.—CECIL HOWLETT.

—(Henley).—Feb. 23.—The river is getting into splendid condition, although a strong stream is still running at a good level. Several perch and jack up to 4lb. have been taken, but the best bags have been made among the roach, ledgering with job worms accounting for most of these fish. As the stream slackens, sport should improve, and with a continuance of the present weather there should be a good finish to what has been a very bad season.—STANLEY MEAD.

—(Hampton Court).—William Milbourne reports the water is now falling fast, and by the end of the week, if there is no further disturbance, it will be in good order. The bank anglers have been catching a few roach and

perch. Owing to the high water it has brought a good many dace to Hampton Court, which are biting well.—B.

—(Kingston).—The only fisherman reported to have been out is John Johnson, who has been getting some bream and roach during the week. Mr. F. H. Amplett, the active secretary of the Kingston Piscatorial Society, has succeeded in adding another fine roach to his previous captures. It was taken at Thames Ditton, and weighed 1lb. 15½oz., for which he has my hearty congratulation.—B.

—(Lechlade, &c.).—The heavy rains last week put angling out of the question in this district, the floods being out. They are, however, now gone down considerably, and the water has fined nicely. Some good sport should be had with jack during the remainder of the season, which closes on March 15. Several trout have been caught during the winter and returned, and from their number at the mouth of the Leach and Coln during the spawning time there should be some good ones taken this season, as the water is bound to be in better condition far than last season. Hear of some splendid sport in the Estcourt Lakes by Mr. Wm. Warn and friends.—RAMBLER.

—(Shepperton).—I have just received a few lines from George Rosewell, who, I am pleased to find, has about recovered from his long and painful illness, and is fit again to be on the warpath. He also adds: "The water is falling and fining down, and by the end of the week, without there is a lot more rain, there will be a good chance of sport, although there will be a strong stream, but plenty of places to catch fish."—B.

—(Sunbury).—In this district, like other places, nothing appears to have been done. Messrs. T. and A. Stroud report they have not had a customer all the week.—B.

—(Twickenham).—The report as to the annihilation of some thousands of small fry in the meadows which, though somewhat exaggerated, is not to be attributed to the want of watchfulness on the part of the T.A.P.S., or its excellent head river-keeper. The river has always been subject to this on the decadence of a flood, and would require constant attention to prevent the loss of the youngsters which are left in the grass to perish, and it cannot be done by one keeper. It is one of those occasions when the fishermen would be of service in time to remove them before their little life has passed away, and I feel certain any of the fishermen if he saw the small fry thus left would willingly lend a helping hand in turning them into their native stream, and this is the opinion of my friend, Mr. Spong, the practical host of the Two Sawyers. Head river-keeper W. Douglas, who I met at Twickenham on Tuesday last, is most anxious about them, but it is impossible for him to be in more than one place at the same time, and he has received a letter from Mr. Higgins in reference to the newspaper reports, but his duties require his presence on other portions of the river, and he has quite enough to do without assistance in the work he does so well, and I feel sure during the present flood he has faithfully done his duty, and in consequence is suffering from a severe cold. I called with him on Mr. F. J. Ogden Smith, and in course of my inquiry as to the sport of the bank anglers, he told me that Mr. Simmonds during the past week had made a total of twenty-one dozen of roach and dace, two bream and three perch. And as to punt fishing, he was out with a friend on 19th inst., and creeled 12lb of roach, a couple of bream, and two perch, the latter weighing respectively 1½lb. and 1lb., and found the river very heavy. The Bermondsey Brothers had a competition on the same day, and, considering the state of the water, were not altogether unsuccessful. Mr. John Spong was engaged to supply five punts, which made a total of twenty silver bream and a fair quantity of roach and dace, and the punt plotted by his son Robert secured the first prize. John Spong, in two days, with one of his clients, had secured a good take of some fine roach in a portion of the Crane. I found the water on Tuesday in very good condition, and quite ready for the anglers, and it will be their own fault if they do not embrace the earliest opportunity of getting amongst the finny tribe. A line from Mr. Ogden Smith to inform me Mr. Gardner, one of his customers, on Tuesday afternoon caught a nice pike of 9½lb. in the deeps opposite Pope's Villa on fine p-r-och tackle.—B.

—(Anchorage District).—The Market Rasen Trout Club have just run off their rearing ponds at Willingham, and found an excellent crop of fish. The top pond contained between 2000 and 3000 yearlings, which ran well up to 8in. or 9in., which speaks volumes for the natural feeding. They have had no artificial food whatever. In this pond were also found ten or twelve large trout of about 2lb. each which had been left in from last season. This proves that trout are not such cannibals after all when there is plenty of other food. A fine otter was shot about a fortnight ago near the ponds. It is a generation since one was seen before. Trout licences are now in the hands of the usual agents for sale. The season nominally begins on March 1, but that is too soon. Rainbow trout are being spawned at the Manor Fishery, Caistor, this week. Coarse fishing is very quiet, but the waters are in capital trim. The Anchole Commissioners purpose turning out 500 to 1000 rudd in a few days' time.—THOMAS FORD (Caistor).

—(Arun (Pulborough)).—Only a few anglers visited here on the 19th, who found the river very fall and thick owing to recent floods. Mr. Bent, Silver Trout, took 7lb. roach, three over 1lb. each; Mr. Sanfield, same club, 4lb. roach; and Mr. Wigley, Bermondsey Brothers, 4lb. bream. The water from the lower parts is fast disappearing (Tuesday night), and, given fine weather, the river should be in good order by the 26th.—W. G. HOLLMAN.

—(Bottisham Locks (Waterbeach)).—Plenty of pike had up to 3½lb. and 4lb. each. Ten pike to one rod a day, spinning with sprat. The banks are very clean. Feb. 22 seems like April. Roach fishing quiet. We have a few baited swins. Ask lock keeper for them. Live baits with him; unless applied for, scarce.—J. O. GEORGE.

Dart (Totnes and District).—Fishing in the Dart commences on Wednesday next, and if the anticipations of the keepers are realised the coming season should prove a successful one, it being reported that fish are very plentiful. The question of fishing at Totnes Weir has again been discussed, and it is proposed to put the rule prohibiting any bait except artificial flies within 100yds. of the weir out of operation for a month. Nursery Pool is still reserved for fly fishing only.—DEVONIAN.

Derwent (Malton, Yorks).—We have had any amount of flood water down with the recent heavy rainfall, but the water is now in splendid order for fishing, and anglers should have good sport with grayling, roach, and jack.—H.

Devonshire Streams.—The streams will soon get into condition now that the rains have ceased, and there will be plenty of water for the streams opening on March 1st. Owing to the great volume of water, very little has been done on the rivers already open, but salmon have had exceptional opportunities for ascending to the higher reaches. From most of the streams, however, the reports show that fish are numerous, so that a good season may be looked forward to.—DEVONIAN.

East and West Cleddau (Pembrokeshire).—The rivers have been more or less in a state of flood for the past two or three weeks. A few salmon have been taken at Treffgarne.—H.

Eden (Carlisle).—Considering he very bad start the nets have had all the way from the month of the river to Armathwaite, salmon anglers have not much reason to grumble at the sport they have had since the opening day, Feb. 16, though, of course, it is a long way short of last year. The river was not in order till the 17th, when Mr. Liddell, of Warwick Hall, opened the season with a nice fish of 17lb. On the 18th, Lord Newtown Butler had one, 8lb., in the Crown Hotel waters; Mr. W. Smith, one, 2½lb., at Low House; T. Robinson, one, 18lb., at Syke Foot; and Simon Bell, two, 15lb. each, in the Armathwaite Hall water. On Monday, the 20th, Lord Newtown Butler killed one, 7lb.; and Mr. F. Sandeman one, 16lb., in the Low House water. Fish are showing very little in the estuary. It is the same in the Tweed and other Scotch rivers. If the supply does not shortly improve some drastic measures will have to be taken to check the gradual falling off year after year.—SILVER GREY.

Esk (Whitby).—This river at present is in fine condition for angling, but subsequent upon the opening of the salmon season on Feb. 2nd practically nothing has been done in the direction of angling. On Friday last the Fishery Board turned 3000 yearling trout into the river at Gathland Sleights, Egton, Grosmont, Lealholm, Danby, and Casleton. They arrived from the Howieton hatchery, Stirling, in the pink of condition, and were deposited in the river without the slightest loss. The prospects for the coming angling season are exceedingly favourable.—J. JACKSON.

Exe and Canal (Exeter).—Several good baskets of trout have been made, among them being Mr. G. G. Snell a dozen, some up to 1lb. each; Mr. A. J. Roberts, five and a half brace; Mr. Theeuwissen, four brace; and Mr. Roberts has been among the pike again, scoring in two outings seven fish, weights as follows: 17lb., 8lb., 8lb., 7½lb., 7lb., 5lb., and 4lb. February Red has proved a taking fly during last day or two. Water now in pink of condition after floods.—RED PALMER.

Fen District (South Lincs. and Cambs.).—The floods have been clearing away nicely during the last few days, but reports of the diegats at the week-end are very meagre. The pursuit of pike on the Forty-foot has been resumed, but it seems likely that the season is getting over for this sport. Roach fishing is still reported from the Cambridgeshire side. About Surfleet there have been some captures. The Wisbech authorities are about dredging the river, and it is to be hoped that the work will be completed before the commencement of next season.—LIMPET.

Isle District (North Notts).—There is little or no information to hand as to the sport obtainable in this district. Water in the streams is mostly running high, and work has been limited largely to the canal. About Clayworth some roach have been taken. Some anglers have gone to the Foss Dyke, between Torksey and Lincoln. A few sizeable roach have been obtained from the former end, and also about Saxilby. Pike fishing has been possible in Brayford Pool, and fish up to 5lb. have been caught.—L.

Lake Corron (Bodorgan, Anglesey).—Fair sport has been obtained fly fishing considering the very changeable weather. Mr. Curtler, Llandudno, had six one afternoon, six another, and ten another day, all good sized and very fair conditioned fish. Mr. Edwards, Holyhead, took nine one afternoon; and Mr. Dew, Bangor, six. On Saturday a thick fog set in, and the writer and other anglers had few fish. To-day (Wednesday) frost has set in, and the prospects are poor.—W. H.

Lake Vyrnwy.—Owing to the exceptionally mild winter we have had, the trout in this lake and streams have fared well, and are now in splendid condition. In the hatchery there are now 8,000 fry, and nearly 2000 two-year-olds have just been turned into the lake from the breeding ponds. The weather is bright and mild, and the fish are rising briskly to the February Red, which is now on the water. From the register it appears that last year's take was considerably better than that of previous years. The records are as follows: 1895, 1773 fish, weighing 1131lb.; 1896, 2093 fish, weighing 1312lb.; 1897, 2767 fish, weighing 1916lb.; 1898, 3343 fish, weighing 2397lb. It is a healthy sign that, in addition to the increase in the number of fish year by year, the average weight of the fish is increasing also. The season opens on March 1, and there is every indication of good sport. The

lake is ten miles from Llanfyllin Station, and is within easy access of all parts of the country.—LONG DRIFT.

Langford Fisher (Maldon, Essex).—There has been some good sport with roach during the past week from the Langford waters. Three London anglers have fished the preserved waters and have been very successful, several roach over 1lb have been captured. Mr. Ben Bevers and T. Springett exhibited some nice roach taken on the 18th. The presentation of the cup won by S. Vince took place on Saturday evening, and a smoking concert followed. Mr. H. Mills sang some excellent songs, and Messrs. Hunt, sen., Hunt, jun., B. Bevers, Miller, S. Vince, and others contributed to the evening's harmony. Several of the subscribers were fishing the Langford waters on the 19th, and a good number of fish were taken altogether. Messrs. Millers, Dugate, Briggs, Horner, Hawkins, jun., were most successful.—F. KEENE.

Lark (Lackford and Flempton).—The river has been in full flood again during the past fortnight, but today (Tuesday) is in grand order. The stress of water has cleared the river bed from weeds, &c. A few anglers have been out, meeting with very fair sport. The roach have been feeding well during the past week. Mr. W. G. King was again successful on Thursday, the 16th, securing seven roach weighing 4½lb., best fish 1½lb. I was out on the 17th, and killed one chub 2½lb., and some roach, best fish 1lb. 2oz. Gentles and brandings proved the best bait.—A. E. KEMP.

Lea.—The water is now in good all-round condition, and anglers should meet with sport among roach, pike, and perch. The Stort, which has been very full, is also falling down, and should be right by Saturday. Since the Lea assumed a fishable colour anglers have been able to get some nice lots of roach, the best takes being reported from the Hoddesdon district. Here, in the Dobb's Weir Fishery, two 10lb. baskets are recorded, and pike up to 6lb. 12oz. have also been caught. A trout of between 5lb. and 6lb. has been landed there and returned, being out of season. At Enfield Lock some nice perch have been taken, and roach up to 1lb. 3oz. are notified from the Sewardstone water. At Ware the river is in prime order for the operations of the roach angler. Some nice roach have been basketed in the Burnt Mill and Sawbridge-worth reaches of the Stort, but owing to the thick water sport has been far from general. At the time of writing prospects are promising on both rivers. For perch minnows should kill best.—ISAAC WALTON.

Lugg and Arrow (Leominster).—These streams have both been in flood and out over the fields for miles, and the district has been more like a lake up to Friday last; but the weather turning fine, they quickly lowered and cleared, and are now getting into order for fishing once again. There has been no angling for weeks, and grayling have practically gone off, and anglers are now preparing for the opening of the trout season on March 2, and should the weather hold fine as at present, there is every prospect of some good sport being had in both streams. The Pinsley is gone down and cleared.—GWYNNE.

Lugg, Arrow, and Pinsley (Kingsland).—Rivers sink but slowly, their springs being now fully replenished. If present fine weather holds, fishing will be possible for trout on the opening day, March 2, but waters will be on the big side. Blue Dnn, Red Palmer, February Red, and Cowdung Fly should be the best flies to start with.—R. T. WILLIAMS.

Nene (Peterborough).—Precariousness is the term that may very well be still applied to the condition of things in connection with the vocation of the angler in this district, for the river is yet too full of water for general participation in sport. Those who have been out have had fair sport with the roach, and Mr. A. Wilson, Peterborough, fishing near the batyard, had the good luck to capture a bream which scaled close upon 5lb.; this is the second best specimen taken this season. To-day (Wednesday) the height of the water at Peterborough Bridge registers close upon 12ft., but it has been up to 14ft. within the past fortnight, although it fell about a foot in one day.—E. A. S.

Otter (Budleigh Salterton).—The river is now (Feb. 22) in perfect order for the fly, but trout are not taking well. This is rather strange, as at this time of year, under theoretically worse conditions, the Otter trout often take fly greedily. One rod to-day (Wednesday), at Tipton, took two brace between 1 and 2 p.m. A few Duns came on the water at that time. For flies, February Red and Blue Upright are the favorites.—HERON.

Ouse (Great Paxton, St. Neot's).—The jack fishermen are missing a treat, as the fish are well on the feed, and some good baskets are being made daily. The water is in fine condition.—W. DUCKER.

Ouse (Holywell Ferry).—By TELEGRAPH.—Water in really grand condition; jack feeding well.—SCARD.

Ouse (St. Ives, Hunts).—River rising down nicely; by Saturday ought to be in perfect trim for all kinds of fishing. We do not weigh any pike after the last day of February, so members please note. We thereby give the fish fifteen days' grace at a time they require it, closing up a week to-day. A fine night to-night, and looks like a continuation of fine weather, which ought to give a good finish to the season 1898-9.—E. COLLINSON (Feb. 21).

Ouse (St. Neot's).—Jack appear to be hungry, for although the water of late has been very cloudy, the few anglers who have been out have had fair sport, though I have heard of nothing over 6lb. since November last. The water is now clearing very nicely, and will no doubt be in good condition by Friday or Saturday.—WM. NASH.

Plymouth.—The rivers are running down more to their normal state, and I have good reports from my correspondents in all districts. It is true that at some places pools and runs have been altered, still, I do not expect we shall find very much difference. I hear there are a lot of peal in the Meavy, but I expect those are back

fish; of course they cannot go further up the river than Burrator now on account of the dam. The lake above, which is over 60ft. deep in some places, will eventually afford some good sport. I can always tell when the trout sea-on is about to commence by the amount of rods we get to repair and to touch up. All our fishermen are eagerly looking forward to March 1.—WILLIAM HEARDER.

Severn, Vyrnwy, Tanat, and Cain (Llanymyneon).—All these streams are now in very good condition for angling, and with the weather more like June than February it is not surprising to find this neighbourhood crowded with anglers, principally from Lancashire, who have enjoyed splendid sport with perch, roach, and pike. The last named fish are now getting quite out of condition, and if we could get them out of our rivers, there would be more chance for the game fish to survive.—VYRNWY.

Sussex Rivers and Chichester Canal.—Fine weather has favoured us during the past week. The tidal rivers have righted themselves, and are now in excellent order for pike fishing. The Ouse is at present giving very poor sport, but the Cuckmere has favoured bream anglers—bags of 8lb., 9lb., and 11lb. have been taken by members of the Brighton Anglers' Association. Live baiting has been successful in obtaining small pike. The Rother is now in order. A day on Tuesday by three anglers resulted in a nice pike of 7lb., a brace of 4lb. fish, and a brace of perch weighing together 3½lb. A few small pike have been taken from the upper waters of the Adur, but nothing exceeding 3½lb. Chichester Canal is in good order, and pike seem as plentiful as ever. A pot-hunter with three hand-lines or trimmers and one rod recently secured four fish in a few hours with live gorse, the heaviest weighed but 3lb. It is quite time this poaching should be stopped, or the water will soon be decimated.—GEORGE F. SALTER.

Teifi (Lampeter, Cardiganshire).—The river has been so flooded during the past few weeks that only one salmon has been taken, but there is every prospect so far of our having a very good fishing season for salmon and trout.—H.

Teme (Ludlow).—The Teme in this part has been running very high and muddy for some weeks, and quite out of order for fishing. It has now gone down, and there has been a welcome change in the weather, and since Saturday we have had no rain, and the river is beginning to get into good order again, and is clearing quickly, and by Saturday should be in order for fishing again. At present it will suit worm, but there will be little fishing done before trout come in on March 2, as grayling have been off sporting for some time, and only roach and dace have been landed. A few of these may be taken this week with the worm. When trout come in it is expected the fish will not be in the condition they were this time last year, as they have had a rough time with the floods and snow-broth, and they will not have had time to get into condition; but there is every prospect of some good sport being had in this part, and a successful season is looked forward to. The Ony, Corve, Clun, and Ledwyche are gone down and cleared, and are getting in order.—S. LUDLOW.

Teme (Tenbury).—In this part the water has been very high and muddy for some weeks, but the weather took up time at the end of last week, and the water has gone down quickly, and is now clearing, and should be in fair order for fishing by the end of the week. The floods will have done good in one way, as they will clear all the rubbish accumulated in the bed of the river during the dry summer, and they will also have moved the fish, and anglers are now looking forward to March 2, when trout fishing begins, when good sport is expected in this district.—WORCESTER.

Trent (Newark).—Pike and roach have produced most sport, and best results have been obtained from the free waters. From the Devon a lot of the former have been taken during the week, best brace weighing 9lb. 6oz. and 8lb., caught by Mr. W. Garrard and Mr. H. Sharpe. Amongst the roach, Mr. J. Gill has excelled, showing some fine fish at the Piscatorial Club-room, several over 1lb., and heaviest 1lb. 7½oz. 8 shots. The ragged tail-end of a maiden dew worm has proved most attractive bait. The Trent is fishing down, and chub fishermen are hoping to obtain sport ere the close of the season, this branch of the art being a great failure throughout the winter.—TRENT-SIDER.

Upper Co'n, Bibury (East Gloucestershire).—It has up to the present time been a splendid spawning season throughout the district, and on the Swan water the big spawners have shown up well. The season opens in this county on the 1st of April (now but five weeks), and the following artificials will be found to kill well on the opening, viz., March Brown, Pale Winged Olive Dnn, and Quill Gnat, Whirling Blue Dnn, and gold ribbed Hare's Lug. The Iron Blue will also kill well hereabouts, and although early for the Red Spinners, I have known some good creels got on this fly during April. A red tag March Brown and red caterpillar will also kill well on rough rippling water, and on rough days. Most useful rods for this district are from 10ft. to 11ft., but nine-footers are frequently used on the narrow lengths. Weather fine.—SHERRY SPINNER.

Witham, &c. (Mid-Lincolnshire).—Sport has been resumed in this district. Several captures of pike are reported from the lower lengths, and one local "hand" is reported with a fish of 15lb., one of the best captured this season. Some good pike have been obtained at Chapel Hill, a Leeds party having as many as they could take back with them up to 6lb. Capital sport is also reported from Cunningsby. Among the best baskets was one of 21lb., made by two Grimby anglers from near the mill. Some good perch have been taken hereabout, and also some chub, both up to 2½lb. Village anglers have been taking pike up to 5lb. About Bardney sport has been good on the Sincil Dyke. Some good baskets have also been made at Five Mile House.—LUCI.

Wye (Builth Wells).—River in good order for salmon fishing. Mr. A. G. Vaughan caught six pike on Saturday last. Salmon and pike anglers should do well the next few days. Weather fine.—W. B. ROBERTS.

The Yore swale, Wharfe Nidd, &c. (Yorkshire).—Angling has fallen off a bit in these rivers during the past week, the grayling in the Yore &c., have risen fairly well to Little Needle, February Red, Little Brown, and Willow Fly, and the natural flies begin to show themselves in greater numbers, but few anglers are out, and no fly fishing of any moment will be attempted with us until after the opening of the trout fishing season. A few pike have been caught in the deep pools of the Yore, both live baiting and spinning, and I hear of fair sport amongst the same fish in the neighbourhood of Boroughbridge. Roach fishing has been good in this river. Few anglers have been out up the Wharfe, and the takes of roach, &c., have not been large in any instance that has come to my knowledge; this remark will apply to the Swale, Nidd, Derwent, &c., but I hear pike fishing has been followed in the latter river with very fair success, and some nice pike have been caught in the Pocklington Canal, with small roach for bait. All our rivers are in capital trim for pike fishing to-day, and as we are evidently in for a little sharp weather, we may anticipate good sport for next week. As I write prospects could not be better, and this is the time of year to declare war against the pike that make their homes in close proximity to our trout and grayling streams.—J. E. MILLER, Northern Anglers' Depot, 19, New Station-street, Leeds.

By TELEGRAM.—The weather is again gloriously fine, but sharp, and pike and grayling fishing very enjoyable. Prospects for sport continue good in the Yore. Yesterday a party of three anglers from Harrogate caught twenty-nine grayling at Masham. On Friday, Mr. Dent caught fifteen grayling; and on Saturday Mr. Riley Fortune, thirteen good fish at Ripon, the largest weighing 1½lb.—a large fish for this river. Prospects for sport on the Harrogate Association water, on the Nidd, are good. On Saturday, Mr. Calvert, of Leeds, had 8lb. of perch and roach. At Hunsingore the Knaresborough Angling Club held their meeting on Tuesday, and the secretary reported a most successful year. The club preserve some of the most charming and picturesque water in Yorkshire, which is also well stocked with fish. Since its formation the association have turned into their water in the Nidd about half a million trout. The club have gone in extensively for rainbows, and up to now the experiment of its introduction has proved successful. This year 1000 of this variety and 500 brown trout have been added. The officers and committee were all re-elected: President, the Earl of Harewood; vice-presidents, the Hon. H. E. Butler and the Hon. and Rev. Canon Lascelles; secretaries, Messrs. Brown and Wolstenholme; treasurer, Mr. A. Walton.—J. E. MILLER, Northern Anglers' Depot, 19, New Station-street, Leeds.

SCOTCH REPORTS.

Carron (Easter Ross, Ardgay, N.B.).—So far as known not a fish has yet been caught on any of the beats. Messrs. W. Burrow, Simmonds, and J. A. Young, Balnagown Arms, were out on Monday and Tuesday, but without success. The weather has been very changeable. On Wednesday keen frost, with bright sunshine. The water is mostly composed of "snow brea."—B.

Deveron (Banffshire).—The result of the opening week on this river has been rather disappointing to anglers, the atmospheric conditions being very changeable. Towards the close of last week the water was settling down into fine condition, when rain commenced on Friday evening, and on Saturday the river was again in flood and discoloured. On Thursday, Feb. 16, Mr. William Walker, gamekeeper on the Corniehaugh section, killed a fine fresh run salmon of 6½lb. He hooked another fish in the same pool, but lost it. A day earlier last season, on the same water, three salmon were killed. We hear of a few more fish grassed in the lower waters. Little success was recorded by the net fishermen on the river in the latter half of last week and the beginning of the present. Four fish was the most netted on any one day, of an average weight of 8lb., the heaviest scaling 16lb. On the coast the nets nearest the entrance to the river have remained almost blank, but at the stations furthest east several fish have been got daily. Owing to the swell on the sea, caused by a stiff breeze on Saturday night, the leaders had to remain over Sunday, and on Monday the total yield from all stations was eleven fish. A box was consigned to the market on Monday, and another on Wednesday of this week.—H. W.

Loch Ness (Foyers Hotel), N.B.—The fishing on Loch Ness during the past week has been fairly satisfactory, although on two days it was too stormy for boats to remain out. On Feb. 13, Mr. James Sheriff, Ceylon, killed a nice salmon, 16lb., and one trout, 4lb. On the 14th, Mr. R. Thom, Annan, killed one salmon, 26lb., and one 9lb. 16th, Mr. R. Thom, Annan, killed one salmon, 16lb. 17th, Mr. W. Walker, Perth, killed one salmon, 10½lb.; and Mr. James Sheriff, one of 9lb. 18th, Mr. R. Thom, Annan, killed a fine salmon, 23lb. There is no doubt the loch is well stocked with fish, and with favourable fishing weather very good sport will be got.—S. TILSTON.

Loch Tay (Kenmore, Perthshire, N.B.).—On the hotel water, on the 17th, Mr. J. C. Daniels killed salmon, 15lb.; on the reserve water, Macdiarmid killed one, 20lb. 21st, on the reserve water, Macdiarmid killed a salmon, 22lb.; on the hotel water, Mr. D. Carson killed salmon, 18lb. Loch in good ply.—W. KNIGHT.

Loch Tay (Killin, N.B.).—Feb. 15, Mr. Smith, of Glasgow, had a salmon of 16lb. 16th, Mr. P. N. Midwood had one of 19lb.; Mr. Kessler, one, 16lb., and one, 10lb. 17th, Mr. P. N. Midwood, one, 18lb.; Mr. G. N. Midwood, one, 16lb. 18th, Mr. G. N. Midwood, one,

19lb. 21, Mrs. Midwood, two, 20lb. and 16lb.; Mr. G. N. Midwood, one of 17lb.—H. J. MAISEY.

North-East of Scotland.—The Dee, although not in wading trim for many of the best waters, has yielded unprecedented sport during the past week; in fact, the brightest opening in the middle and lower reaches yet experienced during the past decade. On the Glentana waters, Mr. Merry and Mr. Brickman (Proffit's Hotel) have had two and three fish daily, scaling from 6lb. to 8lb. Col. Eddis, Mr. C. B. Lucas, and Col. Ind. on South Cambus O'May waters, have had one and two daily, ranging from 6lb. to 18lb. On the Huntly Arms Aboyn water, Mr. Crawshaw had one of 7lb., one of 7lb., three of 6lb., 6lb., and 20lb.; Mr. Borwick, one of 7½lb., two of 8lb. and 5½lb., and one of 7lb.; Mr. Kemp, two of 6lb. and 20lb., one, 22lb., and one of 6lb.; while Mr. Hepburn creel two, of 6lb. and 6lb., one, 17½lb., and one, 6lb.; and Gregson, one of 14lb. On Aboyn Castle water, Lord Huntly creel one, 13lb. On the Kincardine O'Neil section, Mr. E. Drummond, on Ballogie water, creel three, of 6lb., 9lb., and 10lb., one 6½lb., one 6lb., one 6½lb., one 7lb.; Mrs. Leslie had one 6½lb.; and Mr. Corbet had one 6½lb. On the Lodge water, Mr. J. C. Deverell landed two, of 10lb. and 8lb., one 11lb., one 8½lb., and one 6lb. On Carlogie, Dunn, keeper, had one 14lb., and one 6lb. On Borrowstone, Nicoll, keeper for Lord Garrioch, creel two, 6½lb. and 7lb.; two, 7lb. and 8½lb.; two, 7lb.; and one 7½lb. On Desswater, Col. Chas. Leith Hay landed two, of 13lb. and 14lb., and two of 7lb. and 14lb.; while Major D. F. Davidson creel one of 7lb., one of 9lb., one of 9½lb., and one of 6lb.; while Lieut. Stewart Farquhar, on same water, had three, 7lb., 7lb., 7½lb.; and Mr. Mowbray Farquhar, two, of 6lb. and 6½lb. On the Commonty and Blackhall sections, Sir John Gladstone, Bart., creel six, scaling from 6lb. to 18lb., one of 8½lb., five ranging from 6lb. to 13lb., and two, of 6lb. and 8lb.; five from 6lb. to 10lb., and two, of 7lb. and 8lb.; in all, twenty-one fish for the week. On the Sluie water, Mr. Duncan Davidson had two, of 6½lb. and 7½lb. On the Blackhall Castle water, the Hon. A. Powlett had one of 6lb., two, of 11lb. and 6½lb., one of 9lb.; while Major Duncan Gordon creel one of 6lb.; Capt. Mitchell, one of 6lb., and one of 8lb.; and Col. Wade Dalton, one of 9lb. On Inverly water, Major Gen. Hills had three, of 7lb., 8lb., and 9lb.; four, of 7lb., 7lb., 8lb., and 9lb.; and one of 8lb. On the Cairnton water, Mr. T. Turner Farley has had five, six, and seven fish daily, of average weights. On the Durris section, Mr. Mekin had two fish daily on an average during week. On the Lower Dorris, D. Rae, keeper, landed eleven on Tuesday, seven on Wednesday, and six on Thursday (twenty-four in three days), ranging from 6lb. to 9½lb., and two and three every day since. On the Drum waters, Mr. Perry has had two fish on an average daily since the season opened. On the Park waters, Mr. Geo. Davidson and Capt. McNeil have had three and four fish daily, averaging from 6lb. to 8lb. On Sir Duff Gordon's Mary Culter water, six were got on Monday, two on Tuesday, three on Wednesday, and similar results since, while like sport has been experienced on the Kingcausie and nether reaches all over. The fly has been conspicuously the taking lure, the favourite patterns being the Gordon, Akroyd, and Black Doctor, dressed on 2½in., 3in., and 3½in. irons. Few clean fish have been got on the Don. The Ythan and Ugie open on Saturday. The North and South Esks are not doing well. On Monday, on Ballogie, Mr. Edward Drummond creel one of 6½lb.; Mr. Corbett, one of 9lb.; and Mr. L. H. Crake, one of 8lb. On Tuesday, Mr. Drummond had two, of 7lb. and 7lb., and similar sport on Wednesday. On the Borrowstone waters, Nicoll had one of 6lb., and one of 7lb.; and Mr. J. C. Deverell, one of 10lb. On Tuesday, on Dess water, Major D. F. Davidson had four, of 6lb., 6½lb., 7lb., and 8lb.; while Mr. Deverell had one of 7lb. on the Lodge section; while Dunn, Carlogie, had two, of 7lb. and 8lb. On Glentana section, Lieut. Col. Brinkman had two, of 21lb. and 9½lb., on Tuesday; while Mr. Merry had also two, of 7½lb. and 8lb. respectively. On the Ballater section fish are not yet plentiful, the pioneers only being met with, and sport is not so life as on the sections below. On Monday, Mr. Grandville had one of 7lb. on Cambus O'May section. On Tuesday, Mr. Frances and Mr. J. Miller creel two on M'naltrie, of 23lb. and 8lb.; and J. B. Miller a beauty of 20½lb., on the same day, on the hotel water; while Cameron, keeper, had one of 10lb. on Glenmuick water.—G. M.

Shin (Inveran, N.B.).—The angling tenant has been out more or less during the past ten days, but so far as can be ascertained only one salmon, weighing 9lb., has been landed. Conditions are unfavourable in every respect, and, besides, it is not supposed that only a few fish are in the river as yet. It is, however, expected that with a clearance of snow and change of weather, good sport will begin.—B.

South of Scotland.—The weather this week has been more settled, and the rivers have run down to their normal level. The Annan, Nith, and one or two other rivers of the district open for angling on Saturday (to-day). Should the weather continue fine, the prospects are slightly more hopeful than that of a week ago. None of the salmon rivers, however, afford good spring fishing. A few spring fish are caught here and there by the rods, and your correspondent has known several instances in which well-mended kelts have done duty for new run fish. The Esk opened last week, but fishing is confined to the lower reaches, and up to Canonbie glebe. The most of the lochs will be open next week for the rods, but yellow trout should not be killed before the beginning of April. On Saturday morning the whole of the Solway nets will be in fishing order for the season. In some of the rivers the salmon disease has made its appearance, but fortunately the disease is nothing like that of last year. It is said to be worst on the Esk. In the Annan less

than half a dozen salmon have been seen attacked with the fungus this winter.—HEATHERBELL.

IRISH REPORTS.

Ballinderry (Coagh, co. Tyrone).—Angling opens on Wednesday next, March 1. Just at present the river is in flood, and should no more rain fall the river will be in fine order for the opening day. In the past close time the river was well watched by the special bailiffs of the Foyle and Bann Fishery Company. Notwithstanding this, the pike are slowly but surely clearing out the trout, yet the Board of Conservators has refused to allow anglers of known integrity to fish during the close season for them. The well known Farmer's Hotel is now on the market for disposal.—J. A. B.

Bancom River (co. Cork).—Since the opening day (15th inst.) sport has been indifferent, chiefly owing to the unfavourable weather. Salmon anglers have done little or nothing, with the exception of Mr. J. A. Allman, who on the opening day had two very handsome fish of 16lb. and 12lb., and on the 16th inst. one of 12lb.—W. HAYNES AND SON.

Blackwater (co. Cork).—The river is still very high, yet a fair number of fish have been taken at Careysville, Mocollop, and other fisheries. Mr. A. Browning Priestley, on Thursday, 16th inst., landed three very handsome fish, 30lb., 22lb., 10lb.—W. HAYNES AND SON.

Bundrowes River (co. Donegal).—Owing to the almost incessant rainfall here during the past ten days no fishing of any consequence could be done on this river, as the water has been bank high and greatly discoloured, and continues so at present. Mr. James Johnston, on 20th inst., hooked and played several kelts, which are now returning seaward in great numbers from Lough Melvin and its tributaries. Fresh run salmon are reported passing through the river constantly in fair numbers to Lough Melvin since last report. On this fine lake some excellent sport should be had any time after 15th prox. should the weather then be favourable for angling.—M. ROGAN AND SONS.

Cork Rivers.—Sport was generally poor on all the Cork rivers open for angling, though the weather on the whole has been favourable enough, and the waters in better order.—T. J. D.

Corrib (Galway).—Last week this stream was practically unfishable from the rush of heavy, discoloured water—so heavy that the cribs could not be set till the end of the week. Spring fish are reported running in the estuary.—J. A. B.

Kerry Rivers.—Sport has been poor on all the Kerry rivers open for angling, though spring salmon were supposed to be numerous.—T. J. D.

Killarney.—Sport has shown an improvement, but not as much as justified the hopes of anglers.—T. J. D.

Lee (co. Cork).—There has been a good increase in the number of salmon anglers out and fish killed since last report. The river is in excellent order, but fish are sulky, owing to the amount of snow water in river. On Lee Mount Fishery, Mr. W. T. Crawshaw, two, 12½lb., 11½lb.; and A. C. Bonning, one, 5½lb. On Warren's Court, Mr. J. A. Jameson, two, 8lb. and 3½lb., the latter an extraordinary small fish. On Lord Bantry's water, Mr. G. Jevors, three, 9lb., 10lb., 10lb.; and Mr. H. E. Stanley, three, 18lb., 8½lb., 10lb. On Upper Nettleville, Col. Broderick, one, 22lb. On Farns, Capt. Douglas Pennant, 60th Rifles, two, 10lb., 5½lb. On Ballineadig, Mr. S. Haynes, one, 8lb. On other portions of the river, Mr. Ned Murphy, one, 7lb.; Mr. Maurice Lyons, one, 6lb.; Mr. M. Riely, one, 10lb.; Mr. J. O'Brien, one, 10lb. Trout anglers are doing well, some good sized fish being taken. Mr. W. Haynes, on the 17th, in two hours' fishing, had seven beauties, from 1½lb. to 3½lb., taken with the March Brown, in the tidal water at Sundays Well.—W. HAYNES AND SON.

Lough Currane (Waterville, co. Kerry).—Sport continues very bad, though the weather has been, on the whole, favourable enough, and the water in fair order for angling. Only three salmon have been had since last report, of about the usual weight.—T. J. D.

Lough Neagh.—With the improvement in the weather the pollen fishing has improved somewhat. The demand from London and other English markets is good. I hear that several big consignments of poached salmon and trout failed to reach their destinations owing to the vigilance of the police. A candidate or two under the new fangled L.G. Act are going in for the abolition of certain fisheries monopolies of the lough and the Bann river.—J. A. B.

Mountain Lakes (Waterville, co. Kerry).—The above waters are now all in good order, and sport has been good all round.—T. J. D.

Moy, Loughs Conn and Cullen (Ballina, co. Mayo).—River now in good order, and weather looking favourable, and a fair number of spring fish in the pools. On the 21st the manager of the Imperial Hotel drew first blood for the season by landing a good salmon, weighing 22lb., after an hour and a quarter's hard play. The fly that enticed this beauty is one of my new inventions, namely, the Kitchener.—PAT HEARNES.

SEA FISHING.

Baltimore.—Sea angling here has been suspended for a long time, owing to wild weather. At time of writing, however, the weather is fine and fish of different kinds numerous, and anglers have opened the campaign with good results.—T. J. D.

Darrynane.—Pollack anglers are now getting good sport in the Coomacaulane direction, red rubber eels being the best lures. Spring mackerel are now coming in in big numbers.—T. J. D.

Deal (The Pier).—Local fishing is still abnormally bad, the prevailing east wind marring sport of all kind. The pier has been but poorly patronised during the last

week, and the few attempts that have been made have proved almost fruitless. On Saturday last, Messrs. Gareau, Browne, Cooper, Bushnell, and Norman, all fished for several hours in the afternoon, the resultant catch being only three dabs, two pouting, and a small codling. The water had fished down considerably on Sunday, but Mr. Bowles and Mr. Gray only took two small dabs. Messrs. Gareau, Upton, and Smith had some sport in a boat, and brought ashore twenty-five whiting and three codling—the best catch lately recorded. Mr. Bowles did a little pier fishing on Monday morning, but without any result. A strong north-east wind prevailed on Tuesday, and the pier was without a single patron. The wind had somewhat abated on Wednesday, but Mr. Taylor, of London, who tried for the greater part of the afternoon, met with no success.—J. RICHARDSON (B.S.A.S.).

Deal.—Saturday brought a few anglers here, and nothing of importance was done however. On 19th Mr. H. Kent put out about 9 a.m. and returned about 6 p.m., and landed twenty-four codling, some fine ones amongst them, sixteen pouting and whiting, fishing mostly off Old Stairs Bay; To-day (Wednesday) a fresh breeze, easterly, and no prospects of fishing.—EDWARD HANGER (Agent B.S.A.S.).

Dingle.—Pollacking is now giving good sport on favourable days. On Saturday four local anglers took three dozen in about four hours with rubbers.—T. J. D.

Eastbourne.—Feb. 20.—The worst time for sea fishing is now upon us, and for the next two months at least it will be very little use for anglers to try this resort. But very few fish, I hear, are now being had by the professional fishermen, so anglers had better wait until the time for the deep sea fishing off the Sovereign Rocks commences, say, about the beginning of May. Pier fishing is very poor, only a few dabs, &c., being had. High water, Saturday, Feb. 25, at 10.50 and 11.30.—J. W. SODDY (B.S.A.S.).

Plymouth.—We are in hopes that all storms have passed, at least for the time, so that our fishermen can get to work. They have had a hard time of it for the last month or two, and if it had not been for friends giving them a little help I do not know what they would have done. There is very little doing now on the piers, as there is so much fresh water coming down the rivers that the fish get away in deeper water. Our trammels have been having fine sport with the red mullet, but they have not been fetching good prices. It is to be hoped that we get fine weather during Lent, or we shall have fish at a fabulous price. Hake and soles have been very scarce, but cod and ling fairly plentiful. We shall now commence to get our boats out and put in order so as to be ready for Easter.—WILLIAM HEARDER (B.S.A.S.).

Scarborough.—Fish are scarce at present, but during November and December last good sport was had with cod, both on the piers and from the rocks—north and south—two rods landing from 30lb. to 40lb. of cod by fishing off the piers in the course of a few hours.—H.

THE following table gives the nearest approximate tides for the use of sea anglers for the week ending Friday, March 3. Spring tides. Highest on Tuesday.

	Sat.	Sun.	Mon.	Tues.	Wed.	Th.	Fri.
	a.m.	a.m.	a.m.	a.m.	a.m.	a.m.	a.m.
Scarborough	4.19	4.47	5.16	6.46	6.16	6.48	7.25
	p.m.	p.m.	p.m.	p.m.	p.m.	p.m.	p.m.
	4.33	5.1	5.51	7.1	6.31	7.6	7.46
Yarmouth	9.18	9.49	10.17	10.47	11.18	11.51	0.9
	9.33	10.2	10.32	11.2	11.34	—	0.27
Lowestoft	10.0	10.30	10.59	11.29	—	0.16	0.51
	10.15	10.44	11.14	11.44	0.1	0.33	1.9
Aldeburgh	10.49	11.19	11.48	0.3	0.33	1.5	1.40
	11.4	11.33	—	0.18	0.49	1.27	1.58
Harwich	—	0.26	0.55	1.25	1.55	2.27	3.2
	0.11	0.41	1.10	1.40	2.11	2.44	3.20
Southend, Sheer- ness, and Leigh	0.48	1.18	1.48	2.18	2.47	3.15	3.49
	1.3	1.33	2.3	2.33	3.1	3.31	4.6
Margate, Broad- stairs, & Ramsgate.	—	0.20	0.49	1.13	1.48	2.18	2.51
	0.5	0.35	1.3	1.33	2.3	2.34	3.9
Deal and Dover...	11.9	11.42	—	0.31	1.5	1.40	2.16
	11.26	11.58	0.14	0.48	1.22	1.58	2.36
Hastings	10.49	11.22	—	0.11	0.45	1.20	1.56
	11.6	11.38	0.1	0.28	1.2	1.38	2.16
Eastbourne and Brighton.	11.17	11.50	0.6	0.39	1.13	1.48	2.24
	11.34	—	0.22	0.56	1.30	2.6	2.44
Newhaven	11.13	11.46	0.2	0.35	1.9	1.44	2.20
	11.30	—	0.18	0.52	1.26	2.2	2.40
Shoreham and Southwick	11.34	—	0.23	0.56	1.80	2.5	2.41
	11.51	0.7	0.39	1.13	1.47	2.23	3.1
Portsmouth and Hayling Island	11.45	0.1	0.32	1.4	1.36	2.8	2.41
	—	0.16	0.48	1.20	1.52	2.24	3.0
Plymouth	5.51	6.28	7.0	7.31	8.0	8.30	9.5
	6.12	6.45	7.16	7.46	8.14	8.48	9.22

STOP PRESS.

WEATHER REPORT.

BY TELEGRAPH.—FRIDAY, FEB. 24, 11 A.M.

DEAL.—N.E.; smooth.

DOVER.—N.E.; light; smooth.

RAMSGATE.—Calm; smooth.

MARGATE.—S.E.; smooth.

HASTINGS.—E.; smooth.

Angling Fixtures.

February 26.

Alma: Outing to Windsor.
Battersea Friendly: Match at Reading.
Battersea Piscatorials: Consolation match.
Brompton: Outing to Pangbourne.
Camden: Roving match.
Canning Town: Outing to Hatfield Peverel.
Clapham Junction: Outing to Windsor.
Cobden: Match at Henley.
Collingwood: Outing to Woking.
Earlsfield: Outing to Byfleet.
Elgin: Match at Henley.
Hearts of Oak: Lapsed prize outing.
Izaak Walton: Prize outing.
Lincoln: Outing to Sanbury.
North-East Brothers: Lapsed prize outing.
St. Alban's: Roving match.
Second Surrey: Match at Datchet.
Seymour Brothers: Outing to Goring.
Silver Trout: Outing to Hertford.
Walworth Waltonians: Lapsed prize outing.
Westminster: Match at Hampton.
Wimbledon Piscatorials: Outing to Weybridge.
Ye Olde Clapham Rovers: Outing to Amberley.

February 28.

Original Alexandra: A.B.S. concert.
Peckham Brothers: Visit.
Queen's Piscatorials: Visit.

March 1.

Enterprise: Visit.
Izaak Walton: Prize outing.

March 2.

Stockwell: Lantern lecture.

March 5.—Battersea Friendly: Consolation match.
" 5.—Campbell United: Match at Bourne End.
" 5.—Duke of Norfolk: Match.
" 5.—Good Intent: Match at St. Margaret's.
" 5.—Holloway: Outing.
" 5.—Original Clerkenwell Piscatorials: Outing to Hampton.
" 5.—Royal Oak: Roving match.
" 5.—Sundial: Outing.
" 7.—Bomere: A.B.S. concert.
" 7.—Earlsfield: Smoking concert.
" 7.—Hoxton Brothers: Smoking concert.
" 8.—B.S.A.S.: Lecture by Mr. C. O. Minchin.
" 8.—Brompton: Supper.
" 8.—Greenwich: Smoking concert.
" 8.—West Green: Reading by Mr. J. Tayler.
" 9.—Royal George: Visit.
" 12.—Forest Gate: Match at Bures.
" 12.—Queen's Piscatorials: Outing to Bourne End.
" 12.—United Brothers: Match.
" 12.—Walham Green: Roving match.
" 12.—Wimbledon Piscatorials: Cup competition.
" 13.—Albion Brothers: Visit.
" 20.—Kingston Piscatorial Society: Annual dinner.
" 20.—Piscatorial Society: Annual dinner.
" 23.—Thames River and Lock Keepers' dinner.
" 25.—Lynchobite: Benefit concert at the Champion Hotel.
" 26.—Amicable Excelsior: Match at Egham.
" 26.—Amicable Waltonians: Lapsed prize outing.

Reports from Clubs

We beg to remind Secretaries that their Reports must reach us not later than **SIX o'clock on Thursday Evening.** Address "Editor, FISHING GAZETTE, St. Dunstan's House, Fetter-Lane, London," marked "CLUB REPORT" outside envelope.

Anglers' Association.—This flourishing association held its February delegate meeting on Monday night at Foresters' Hall, Clerkenwell, when there was a crowded attendance, representatives from forty affiliated clubs being present. Mr. W. H. Beckett, the vice-president of the association, was in the chair, and stated that, with reference to the case of one of its members being interfered with on the association's fishery at Bures, the secretary (Mr. R. Ghurney) had made inquiries, and it now appeared that a mistake had been made on the side of the Merry Anglers. The secretary of that club wrote stating that to be the case, and tendering an apology to the member in question, and also to the association. He stated that that club's water adjoined the association's, and that was how the mistake arose. He added that the Merry Anglers had just placed a large number of trout fry in their water, which might, if they thrived, be of some benefit to the association, and also that he often during his visits to the club fishery saw that all was right on the L.A.A.S. water. He sincerely hoped that the good feeling between his club and the association would continue. The chairman characterised the letter as a very handsome apology, and it was unanimously agreed to accept and acknowledge the same. The association is very "down" on those who take undersized fish from its rented waters; hence, in consequence of a Grand Junction Canal bailiff's report, a member who had a jack of 15½ in. in his creel has been called upon for an explanation at the next meeting. A delegate reported that he had heard on good authority that while the Wey Navigation, near Byfleet (rented by the association), was recently drawn down for a brief period poachers secured a large number of fish, which were afterwards sold about the streets. It was decided at once to institute inquiries into the matter, the chairman remarking that that portion of the Wey had

always been a deal of trouble and anxiety to the association. The application for a railway privilege ticket to Maidstone is to be further reported upon, anglers who visited Tovil, on the Medway, stating that they could get back to town in time to weigh-in on Sunday night by walking to Maidstone and catching a certain train there. As visiting officers, Messrs. Harris, Abrahams, and Rowles made their usual reports, and a new club (the Limehouse Piscatorials) was stated to have been enrolled. —HON. REPORTER.

Anglers' Benevolent Society.—Since my last report I beg to acknowledge with thanks the receipt of £1 8s., Prince of Wales; £5 10s. 6d., Queen's Piscatorials; £1 13s. 6d., Queen's; £1 6s. 3d., West Ham Brothers, from their donation boxes; also £3 1s. from the Hoxton Brothers A.S., proceeds of their smoker on 14th inst. as follows: £3 4s. from the box, and donations—£1 1s., Messrs. G. H. Wood; 10s. 6d., J. Bartlett; 10s. 6d., J. Abrahams; 10s. 6d., A. Abrahams; 10s. 6d., Josh Cosnett; 10s. 6d., G. Leader; 10s. 6d., G. Stephens; 10s. 6d., C. Bramley; 2s. 6d., T. Dickson. —R. GHURNEY.

Anglers' Association (WESTERN DISTRICT) Visiting List.—On Feb. 16 a most enjoyable return visit was held at the Queen's A.S. On the roll call, eight clubs were well represented. The A.B.S. box contained £1 13s. 6d. The next visit will go to the Royal George A.S., Bateman-street, Soho; date later in the F.G. —J. HARRIS.

Albion Brothers' Angling Society, Frampton Arms, Wells-street, Hackney.—On Feb. 19 eight of our members fished at Coventry's waters for Mr. Coventry's 10s. and two prizes given by our members. All were crowned with success, the first and a special being won by Mr. C. Osborne with chub, perch, roach, and dace. Messrs. A. Skilleter, with perch and roach; A. Carey, A. Bowyer, and J. Alwright, perch; J. Jagot, sen., chub; and C. J. King, roach, dace, and perch, all weighed-in for yearlings. Several other members had fish, but were too late to weigh-in. We have a return visit on March 13. It was decided to go where you please for Mr. Allwright's prize on the 26th, for gross (bar jack). Also prize given by Mr. Sparrow, to be fished off at Coventry's, for gross weight of roach. Mr. Coventry has given another 10s. (all class of fish) for the 26th; one rod only. Please note all our fish are to be at the clubhouse before ten for special prizes. —C. J. KING.

Allason United Brothers' Angling Society, Duke of Sussex, Uxbridge-street, Notting Hill Gate, W.—Mr. Barker had a good show of Thames roach on Feb. 19, largest over 1lb. Mr. Turner a 4oz. dace from Colne, at Staines. We anticipate more takes on 26th. —BEN ABRAHAM.

Alma Angling Society, Coach and Horses, Portsmouth Place, Lincoln's Inn Fields.—On Feb. 19 the following weighed-in: Mr. Drew, perch and roach, 11lb. 0½oz.; Messrs. Seymour, Hopping, and Montgomery, smaller catches. Messrs. Johns and Habbijam have each given a prize for our outing on 26th, making, in all, six to compete for. Mr. Garrett has been elected a honorary member. —J. CHAMBERS.

Amicable Excelsior Angling Society, Prince Arthur, Arthur-street, Battersea.—On Feb. 26 we fish our next match at Egham, from the Varnish Works to the Bells of Ouseley; towpath only; jack barred; two rods. All to start first train, Clapham Junction, on morning. Since my last report several of our members have weighed-in. —J. R.

Amicable Waltonian Angling Society, The Fox and French Horn, Clerkenwell Green.—The outing to Boxmoor was a failure, not one of the members getting the required weight, although several weighed-in. The six prizes will be fished for on the 26th; go where you like. Will members please show up next week to decide how the remaining prizes are to be fished for? —G. MERRY.

Anchor and Hope Angling Society, Duke of Kent, Old Kent-road, S.E.—On Feb. 19 the following weighed-in: Messrs. J. Jones, roach, 4lb. 11½oz.; T. Bowling, 2lb. 9½oz.; H. Mallett and T. Pope also having roach; all from the Thames. The members decided on Wednesday to hold the annual dinner at the Thomas a'Becket, Old Kent Road, on Thursday, April 20. Our usual donation was voted for the river-keepers' dinner. —F. W. MARTIN.

Battersea Friendly Angling Society, Queen's Hotel, Queen's-road, Battersea, S.W.—On Feb. 19 Messrs. G. Mead, W. Thomas, and S. Aplin weighed-in. A roving match is fixed for Feb. 26, at Reading; bank only; jack barred. Trains, L.S.W. Railway, 8.30 Clapham Junction; return 7.30 from Reading. Five good prizes. A consolation match is also arranged for members who have not won a prize during season; match to be fished on March 5; open roving; overnight optional. Four substantial prizes. —A. JENKINS.

Bermondsey Brothers' Angling Society, Woolpack, Bermondsey-street, S.E.—Mr. J. Hobbs was the only member to weigh-in on 19th, saving the club from a blank with 6lb. of roach. Members are particularly requested to attend on Wednesday next, March 1, as there are still seven or eight prizes to be fished for. —A. CONN.

Bloomsbury Brothers' Angling Society, Rose and Crown, Broad-street, Bloomsbury.—On Feb. 19 Messrs. J. Taylor weighed-in perch, bream, roach, and dace, 7lb. 6½oz., one perch weighing 1lb. 1½oz.; J. Roach, roach, 6lb. 10½oz.; W. Bray, roach, 2lb. 8½oz.; C. Davis, perch and perch, 2lb. 5½oz., the perch weighing 1lb. 11½oz.; F. S. Pavett, H. Davis, and R. Lummes, roach. —T. PATEROSTER.

Bomere Angling Society, The Britannia, Clarendon-road, Notting Hill, W.—Our concert on behalf of the A.B.S. takes place on March 7. Messrs. J. Harris and Ben. Abrahams have kindly consented to take the chairs

respectively. There will be plenty of talent. Secretaries of clubs please notice change of clubhouse. —H. DAWORTHY.

Cambridge Friendly Angling Society, Fountains Abbey, Praed-street, W.—On Feb. 19 Messrs. Scutt and Fitzgibbon had roach from the Thames, the latter winning one of the prizes left over from outing. On Feb. 22 Mr. Warop had pike over 30lb., largest fish 21lb.; Mr. Hutchins 10lb. of nice roach from Thames. —W. SUTTON.

Cambridge Heath Brothers' Angling Society, The Good Intent, Mowlem-street, Bishop's-road, Cambridge Heath.—On Feb. 19 Mr. Jones took the remaining consolation prize with roach and perch. Also weighed-in: Mr. Yeo, jack; J. Golding, jack; R. Hubbard, roach and perch; Nursey, roach; Fairbairn, roach (heaviest 1lb. 4½oz.); H. Ward, one jack, 4lb. 15oz.; T. Benny, roach; Davis, roach; Millward, roach; being a pretty show of over 60lb. of fish. Our concert on behalf of the A.B.S. was a success, the box containing 13s. 7½d. —P. E. LOFT.

Camden Angling Society, The Locomotive, James-street, High-street, Camden Town, N.W.—Our outing to Broxbourne was very successful, the following members taking prizes in the order named: Messrs. Marshall, Fuller, Cook, Taylor, Carr. Roving match on Feb. 26. Hope the committee will come next Wednesday early, as we have some important business to discuss. —E. BOXALL.

Campbell United Angling Society, Sir Colin Campbell, High-road, Kilburn.—We fish a match at Bourne End on March 5; towpath only; usual conditions. Signal to be given at the Railway Hotel. Next Wednesday, March 1, being quarter night, I hope members will turn up and clear the books, and make date for our distribution. —A. C. QUICK.

Canning Town Angling Society, Marquis of Salisbury, Hermit-road, E.—Our last outing this season will take place on Feb. 26 at Hatfield Peveril. Dinner at the "Sportsman" at 5 o'clock. Hoping to see a good muster. —M. W. BROWNIE.

Central Association Visiting List.—The next return visit will be to the Peckham Brothers A.S., held at the Windsor Castle, Cator Street, Sumner Road, Camberwell, on Tuesday, Feb. 28, and being the first visit at their new headquarters, it is hoped anglers and their friends will muster in force. —W.

Clapham Junction Angling Society, The Clarence, Winstanley-road, Clapham Junction, S.W.—On Feb. 19 Mr. J. Thorne weighed-in a nice show of roach, 10lb. 13 z., largest fish 1lb. 2½oz. (four fish 3lb. 11oz.). Members are requested not to forget our next match at Windsor on the 26th inst. A consolation match will take place on March 5 for members who have not taken a prize during the season. Locale to be settled next meeting night. We have voted 3s. 6d. towards the Thames river and lock keepers' dinner. —G. T. JAMESON.

Clapham Strollers' Angling Society, Alexandra Hotel, Clapham Common, S.W.—Result of our last match was not very successful, the first prize only being taken by Mr. Down, with bream and dace. Messrs. J. Pasmore, H. Crowther, and H. Stanley also weighed-in. We have an open roving fixed for Feb. 26. —T. PASMORE.

Clerkenwell and District United Visiting List.—The next visit on the above will be to the Queen's Piscatorials, at the Queen's Arms, Chapel-street, Marylebone-road, on Tuesday next, Feb. 28. A good entertainment will be provided. —F. CASTELL.

Clissold Angling Society, The Cricketers, North-wold-road, Stoke Newington, N.—On Feb. 19 five members weighed-in, Osment and Eastwood being to the front with two good shows of roach. Our A.B.S. smoker has to be postponed on account of structural alterations to our clubhouse. —T. FAULKNER.

Cobden Angling Society, Kensal-road, W.—On the 19th Messrs. E. Baxter, A. Howland, J. Barnfather, T. Marsh, and W. Walker weighed-in roach. On the 26th a roving match will be fished from Henley Bridge to Hambleton Lock; two rods; all fish to weigh; each member to catch his own live bait; to go down by the 9.3 from Westbourne Park; to register fish at Ye Lion (corner of Queen-street and Friday-street) not later than 7.15. —T. TWYMAN.

Collingwood Angling Society, The Lord Nelson, Nelson-square, Blackfriars-road, S.E.—Mr. W. Beames had a nice show of roach from the Lea. Our monthly outing takes place at Woking on Feb. 26; all start from Waterloo by the 8.30 a.m. train, return 8.6 p.m.; roving; minnows and gudgeon can be carried. —W. H. STAFFORD.

Convivial Angling Society, City of London, Sidney-street, City-road.—On Feb. 19, at Rye House, our outing took place, two prizes being taken by the following members: Mr. H. Humphreys, first, jack; and Mr. G. Pratt, second, roach. The other three prizes were not taken, being consolation prizes. We have arranged to have an outing on March 12; place to be named at our next meeting night. —PHIL.

Covent Garden Piscatorial Society, King's Arms, Long-acre, W.C.—On Feb. 19 Messrs. Massey and Cnt-bush had a good show of roach and dace (all specimens). On Tuesday Mr. Curtis weighed-in roach and dace. —W. MASSEY.

Dalston Angling Society, Brownlow Arms, Brownlow-street, Dalston.—On Feb. 19 a few of the members were out. Messrs. H. Poore, T. Thompson, and G. Davies were the only gentlemen to weigh-in, they having a fine show of jack, roach, and dace. Members are requested to attend on Tuesday, the 28th; important business. —S. MALBY.

Dibdin Angling Society, St. Martin's Tavern, Pratt-street, N.W.—Some members out last Friday weighed-in fish: Messrs. W. Elton, roach and bream; M. Brothers, bream. Sunday, members out to Twickenham, Slough,

and Uxbridge: Messrs. D. Ansell, jack; R. Bennett, jack; J. Edwards, bream; J. Colman, roach. Wednesday's meeting, delegate's report from Anglers' Association read, and vote of thanks passed for same. We visit the Queen's Piscatorials on Tuesday next.—JOHNNY EDWARDS.

Drayton Park Piscatorials. Stanley Arms, Landseer-road, Holloway-road, N.—Outing on April 5. On the 1st, special. Will gentlemen of other clubs requiring information please apply to the hon. secretary, as above, any Wednesday evening.—GREG.

Duke of Norfolk Angling Society, The Apollo, All Saints'-road, Westbourne Park.—On Feb. 19 most of our members out, and weighed some nice roach and dace. On March 5 our last match of the season takes place.—W. JINKINS.

Eagle Angling Society, Red Lion, Tottenham.—On Feb. 21, Mr. T. F. Barlow had a fine show of roach and dace, weighing 12lb.; on the 22nd inst., Mr. T. F. Barlow had 11lb.; Mr. F. Reed had about 9lb. of good fish.—W. S. PRICE.

Earlsfield Angling Society, Half-way House, Earlsfield, S.W.—Our outing takes place on Feb. 26 at the club water at Byfleet; Park Bridge to Wisley Bridge; all fish to weigh. Members leave by usual train, 8.40 from Clapham Junction, returning from Weybridge 8.25 p.m. We have arranged to hold a supper, to be followed by a smoking concert, on Tuesday, March 7.—A. T.

Elgin Angling Society, Blenheim Arms, Blenheim-crescent, Notting Hill, W.—Messrs. Ryell and Billett weighed in roach and dace, and Mr. Bayless jack, on the 19th. Our concert on the 21st was a great success, our large room being crowded. The Allason, Bomore, Camden, Islington Brothers, Queen's, and several other clubs were well represented. Messrs. Clark, Linton, Shepherd, Nolan, Pett, Hoad, Adams, and Drury were among those who contributed to the harmony. I should like to again thank all those who were present for their kind support.—G. KING.

Enterprise Angling Society, City Arms, High Cross-road, Tottenham.—On Feb. 19 the following members weighed in: Messrs. Wells, 5lb. 14oz. dace and roach, one specimen dace 9oz.; one specimen roach 1lb. 14oz.; Phaesey, roach and dace, 3lb.; Horne, roach and perch, 1lb. 11oz.; one specimen perch 1lb. 2oz. Other members were on the warpath. On Wednesday, March 1, we hold our return visit.—W. LEFEVRE.

Forest Gate Piscatorials, Forest Gate Hotel, Godwin-road, Forest Gate.—On Feb. 19 the following weighed in: Messrs. Inman, Mendham, Durrell, and Creeke. We fish a match at Bures on March 11 and 12 for three prizes.—H. F. C.

Forest Piscatorial Society, Rose and Crown, Hoe-street, Walthamstow.—On Feb. 19 Mr. T. W. Marshall weighed in jack; and Messrs. H. Tisley and G. Beaumont roach, Mr. G. Beaumont's show of roach being a very fine one, all good-sized fish, the best weighing 1lb. 5oz.—H. TISLEY.

Golden Barbel Angling Society, Sir Isaac Newton, Union-street, W.—Mr. Ellins had a very nice show of fish on the 19th inst., and Mr. James also had roach. On the 21st Mr. King brought up some nice pike, the largest weighing just under 14lb.—J. E. LAWFORD.

Good Intent Angling Society, The Crown, Church-street, Shoreditch.—Messrs. Maybury and Thompson brought in roach and perch on the 20th. Mr. A. Coker brought in jack, one handsome fish 19lb., from Littleport, which has been sent to be put up by Cooper. It is the best fed fish I have seen for a long time. Our members will fish a peg-down match at St. Margaret's on March 5, for thirteen prizes, to wind up the season; all to start by the 9.8 a.m. train.—R. MURPHY.

Great Yarmouth Piscatorial Society.—At the pike match, held at Barton, on Feb. 16, sport was again slow, only three sizeable fish being taken. Owing to a paucity of entries only one of the prizes offered by the society was taken, and this by Mr. Arthur Williams. Mr. J. A. Williams was the umpire, assisted by Mr. R. B. Thompson.

Greenwich Angling Society, Morden Arms, Circus-street, Greenwich.—Our last smoking concert of the season will take place on March 8, at 7.30 p.m. prompt, Mr. G. H. Dowsett in the chair. A splendid programme is prepared by Mr. Gorton, who has charge of the musical arrangements, and we anticipate a full attendance of members and friends. Several members out last week, but only a few successful. Mr. Freak, a perch of 1lb. 3oz.; and myself, a roach of 1lb. 11oz. The number of members now on the books of the club is 106.—J. DRYDEN.

Harcourt Angling Society, Harcourt Arms, Harcourt-street, Marylebone.—We had a fine show of roach and perch on Feb. 19, but there is still five prizes to be fished for at Shiplake, and I hope, weather permitting, they will be taken.—A. E. PAYNE.

Hearts of Oak Angling Society, Ye Olde Crown, Brick-lane, Bethnal Green, E.—Mr. Jeffries and Mr. W. Ford had a show of roach. Our last prize outing was a blank. Members to fish for remaining prizes; to go where they like, on Feb. 26; all members to sign on Saturday evening at six o'clock or after; all members not signing will not be eligible.—C. SMITH.

Holloway Angling Society, Holloway Station Hotel, 295, Holloway-road, N.—Our meeting on Wednesday, Feb. 22, was well attended. Several members were out on Feb. 19, and had fair takes. Messrs. Stevens, Alec. McGaw, T. Johnson, and F. Clay, fishing with the McBrides at Teddington, had several bream, perch, and one tench. Mr. A. Clayton had a fair show of roach and perch. Messrs. Jones and Henniker, fishing from the bank at Teddington, on Monday, had a good show of roach and dace (best dace, 7oz.).—A. CLAYTON.

Highbury Angling Society, Globe Hotel, Upper Tollington-road, N.—Our outing at Sandy, on the 19th,

was most enjoyable. Takes were small, Mr. J. Parsons being first with four roach, weighing 3½lb. Mr. T. A. Shaw has also had a nice tray of roach, ten fish scaling 10lb. (largest, 1lb. 9oz.).—E. W.

Hoxton Brothers' Angling Society, Spread Eagle, Kingsland-road, Shoreditch.—On Feb. 19 Messrs. F. Newton, roach; T. Sowerbutts, jack; J. Huntley, jack. Members will compete for special prizes on the 26th inst. at Ware. Messrs. T. Stephens and C. Bramley have given a donation of 10s. 6d. each to the A.B.S., which now makes a total of £8 1s collected by our smoker. A grand Bohemian concert will take place on Tuesday, March 7; chairman, G. H. Shepherd; vice, G. Armstrong. Ladies cordially invited.—JOHNNY.

Islington Brothers' Angling Society, Myddleton Arms, Canonbury-road.—The following weighed in on Feb. 19: Mr. Croker, roach and dace; Mr. Burwash, roach and dace; Mr. Wilkes, roach and dace.—J. H. HERBERT.

Isaac Walton Angling Society, Old King John's Head, Mansfield-street, Kingsland-road.—The members will compete for three special prizes on Feb. 26 on any part of the Lea or Thames (private waters barred). There are also two "specials" to be fished for on Wednesday next.—C. H. B.

Jubilee Angling Society, Prince Arthur, Golborne-road, North Kensington.—Since my last report we have had two shows of fish weighed in. Mr. Moody, jack from the Welsh Harp; Mr. Gilder, roach and perch from the Thames.—I hope members will try and attend next meeting night.—G. BENCE.

Lincoln Angling Society, Metropolitan, Winchester-street, Pentonville, N.—On Feb. 19 the following showed some nice fish: W. Watling, A. Holmes, R. Watling, T. More, G. Johnson, C. Biggs, W. Bowdrey, J. Cook, W. Clark, and W. Bowley. On Feb. 26 next we fish our last match of the season at Sunbury, all to start by first train (7.50) on the morning from Waterloo Station, and return by the 8.10 from Sunbury at night. At our last meeting it was unanimously agreed that we forward 5s. to the River-Keepers' Dinner Fund.—W. WATLING.

Liverpool Angling Association, Bee Hotel, Queen-square.—Only a few members took part in the competition on the 16th, and though the Dee had run down considerably, fish did not feed at all well. Unfortunately, the top weight, Mr. White, exceeded the time for weighing-in, and a protest was lodged against his catch being registered. This has been left to the committee, but it is really better for everyone to abide by the conditions. Mr. White had a nice lot of dace, and two trout (rather backward in condition), 1lb. Mr. J. Pennington takes second prize. The superintendent of the parks informs me that 800 perch and roach will be placed in Stanley Park Lake (No. 2) this (Wednesday) afternoon, and courteously invites my opinion. Angling very slow, bar ponds and canals, at present.—RD. WOOLFALL.

North-East Brothers' Angling Society, Star and Garter, Green-street.—Result of match on the 19th inst. in rotation: H. Collins, W. Richards, sen., E. Lamb, W. Smith, Auvache, J. Bedwell. Members may go where they choose for prizes left from last outing. Start Feb. 26, and fish from bank only.—A. LEWIS.

Original Alexandra Angling Society, The Lamb, Three Colts-lane, opposite Bethnal Green Junction.—On the 19th inst. S. Orrow weighed in 5lb. 13oz. roach; G. Barra, jack; R. Brockett, roach; T. Javans, dace. Our Bohemian concert in aid of the A.B. fund will take place at the above on Feb. 28, Mr. S. Cole (Hoxton Brothers) in the chair. Ladies cordially invited.—J. BROCKETT.

Original Clerkenwell Piscatorial Society, Sutton Arms, Great Sutton-street, Goswell-road.—On Feb. 19 Mr. C. Widmer had a nice show of roach and perch; Mr. Davison, jack; Mr. Abbott, some fine roach; Mr. Beckett, roach. Mr. Isaacs had roach, but was too late to weigh in.—A. HILL.

Park Angling Society, Park Hotel, Park-lane, Tottenham.—Several of the members of the above were out on the 19th; the following had fish: Messrs. Thompson, Reitz, Carter, Coldwell, Tracy, Hopton, jun., Vylle, Lewis, Skeggs.—W. S.

Phoenix Angling Society, The Tavistock, Stibbing-ton-street, N.W.—On Feb. 19 we had a good show of roach by Messrs. Austin, Shaw, Carter, Carr, Reed, Sherlock, and Mares. The last two prizes of the season were taken by Messrs. Shaw and Carter.—R. C.

Peckham Brothers' Angling Society, Windsor Castle, Cator-street, Sumner-road, Peckham, S.E.—The return visit on the Central S.L.U.V. List comes to the above club on Tuesday next, Feb. 28. Mr. G. H. Shepherd, of the Bermondsey Brothers, will take the chair. Visitors from over the water would do well to get down at the Nelson, Old Kent-road, walk up Trafalgar-road and Sumner-road to Cator-street. Messrs. Stone and Childs won the prizes left over from last series.—GEO. ETHEINGTON.

Prince Albert Angling Society, Prince Albert Hotel, Woodfield-road, Harrow-road, W.—Members are requested to attend on Thursday next, which is our yearly night, for important business. Several of our members were out on Feb. 19, but only one, Mr. Derry, had any sport, he having a good show of roach.—W. B. F.

Queen's Angling Society, Latimer Arms, Walmer-road, Notting Hill, W.—Our return visit on Feb. 16 proved a great success. During the evening the following members of different clubs kindly assisted towards the harmony: Messrs. F. Steptoe, J. Hoad, Mew, Jones, Morgan, H. Hamilton, Adams, G. Love, H. Parker, G. Parebrother, J. Weeks, J. Jackson, G. Blades, H. Smith, Edgar Curren, J. Underwood, W. Kewell, &c. Our box was found to contain £1 13s. 6d.—C. DRAKE.

Queen's Piscatorials, Queen's Arms, 1A Chapel Street, Edgware Road, N.W.—On the 19th inst. the following weighed in: C. Brett, C. Shepherd, W. Brind, W. Shepherd, J. Winsby, and J. Taylor, a very good show of fish altogether. On the 12th March the club has its last outing of the season, an ordinary day's fishing; boundary from the Spade Oak Ferry at Burne End to the top ferry at Marlow, get out at either station, all fish to weigh.—GEO. KEENE.

Royal George Angling Society, Queen's Arms, Bateman-street.—On Feb. 19 most of our members were out, and the following weighed in: Messrs. Webber, Pope, Holder, Davis, and Spielman. We take a visit on the Western Visiting List on March 9, and wish all clubs to take this as an invitation, as we can guarantee them an excellent evening's entertainment on that occasion. A general meeting is called for Wednesday, March 1, when I hope to see every member attend.—J. GIBBONS.

Royal Oak Angling Society, Coborn Arms, Coborn-road, Bow.—On Feb. 19 the following weighed in: Messrs. G. Williams, dace and roach; Stanley, roach; F. Pignatelli, roach; J. Payne, perch; W. Tishaw, perch. We fish a roving match on March 5; all fish to weigh; three prizes; first train.—F. PIGNATELLI.

St. Alban's Angling Society, Rising Sun, Prince's-road, Kennington.—We fished a roving match on the 19th inst. Mr. J. Lewis, first, with roach and perch; Mr. Beatlestone, second; Mr. Goodacre, third; Mr. W. E. Page, fourth. Messrs. Every, Sands, F. Page, J. Leighton, and E. Leighton also weighed in. A roving match for all eligible members for seven consolation prizes will take place on Feb. 26; gross in rotation.—H. ALLAN.

Second Surrey Angling Society, The Sun, Boniface-street, Westminster Bridge-road.—On the 26th we fish for a series of prizes at Datchet, from the bridge to the lock; tow-path only.—W. ANSTEV.

Silver Trout Angling Society, Bedford Head, Maiden-lane.—On Feb. 26 outing at Hertford. Train leaves Liverpool-street 8.5 a.m., return 7 p.m.; all fish to weigh bar eels; two rods; three prizes. Messrs. Smith and Duckworth had a nice show of roach Feb. 19.—PELICAN.

South London United Anglers' Visiting List.—The next visit on the above list takes place on Tuesday next at the Peckham Brothers A.S., Windsor Castle, Cator-street, Peckham, when I should like to see a good muster.—ALF. PAINTER.

Stockwell Angling Socie'y, Old Queen's Head, Stockwell.—Two of our new members, Messrs. H. Payne, sen., and H. Payne, jun., had a nice lot of roach and dace from Hampton on Feb. 19, Payne the younger taking a 3lb. barbel, ledgering. At our last meeting, seven active and five hon. members were proposed, and will be elected next meeting night. I trust that brother anglers will turn up in force at Mr. Wade's lantern lecture, entitled "Fishing and Holiday Trips by S.E. Railway," on March 2. Our old friend Mr. Shepherd, Bermondsey Brothers, has promised to attend; it will be taken as a kindness by our members that they hope to reciprocate.—THOS. LUCAS.

Stratford Angling Society, Dorset Arms, Leyton-road, Stratford New Town, E.—The members of the above club fished a match at Hatfield Peverel on the 19th. Mr. F. Bates was first, with a few roach; and J. Grand second, with roach, there being two prizes only taken. F. Humphres weighed roach and dace from other waters; J. Friend also weighed jack and tench.—G. F. WEAVER.

Sundial Angling Society, Plough and Harrow, King-street, Hammersmith.—On Feb. 19 Mr. Hall weighed in roach, dace, and gudgeon, 2lb. 4oz. Mr. Barber, Brompton A.S., visited us on meeting night, and invited our members to a smoking concert on Wednesday, March 8, when the private prizes won in the outing between the two clubs on Feb. 5 will be given to winners. I hope to see a good muster of Sundial members.—C. E. LOCK.

True Caledonian Angling Society, 23, Caledonian-road, N.—On Feb. 16 eleven of our members fished for some prizes at Bourne End. All the prizes were taken, Mr. Mills being first with 10lb. 6oz. of fish. Mr. Miller on Friday, the 17th inst., took twenty-six roach, weighing 20lb. Mr. Mills on Saturday last weighed in a roach of 1lb. 9oz. from the Lea.—THOS. F. WARD.

Twickenham Piscatorial Society.—At the weekly meeting on Tuesday evening last Dr. W. Marston Clarke, a descendant of one of the founders of the T.A.P.S., was unanimously elected as President of the Society. The meeting was presided over by Mr. Hibblethwaite, and two additional members were elected. The weighing-in of fish has not yet commenced, but the following members reported their results: Mr. O. Smith and Mr. Simons, one day, 12lb. of roach, some fine bream, and a brace of perch weighing 2½lb.; Mr. Barrow, on Thursday, nine fine roach; Mr. Simons, on Friday, nine nice bream; and Mr. Cross, some bream and perch.—J. M. BROUGHAM.

United Brothers Angling Society, Druid's Head Tavern, Deptford.—Several members of the above were out on Feb. 19, Mr. C. Wilderspin, roach, and Mr. S. Drage, roach and dace. We fish a roving match on March 12 for several prizes.—H. TYLER.

Victoria Brothers Angling Society, Princess Victoria, Robert-street, Hampstead-road, N.W.—On Feb. 12 Mr. Bouffler, first prize. Feb. 19, Messrs. J. Toothill, second; W. Bond, third; F. Griffith, fourth; W. Toothill, fifth prizes. A very good show. I hope to see every member next Wednesday—important business.—W. H. B.

Waggoners' Angling Society, White Lion, Albert Embankment.—Since my last report the following have had fish: Feb. 12, Messrs. Clegg, roach; Allan, roach and dace; G. Clayton, dace. Feb. 19, Messrs. Allan, jack; Clegg, roach and dace. Our usual weekly meeting took

place on Tuesday last, with a good attendance. I hope to see a good muster on next Tuesday, when I have some important business to bring forward.—H. C.

Walham Green and Chelsea Angling Society. Black Bull, Fulham-road, S.W.—On Feb. 19 Mr. Glass weighed-in roach and perch, 4lb. 4oz.; Mr. Templeman, perch, 3lb. 5½oz., large 1lb. ½oz.; Mr. Dungate, barbel and perch, 2lb. 7½oz. I regret to report that our chairman is still very ill with rheumatics. Mr. Coombs brought his prize up to the clubroom—a splendid fly rod, to be fished for at our roving match on March 12.—W. H. BATCH.

Walton and Cotton Angling Association. Crown and Woolpack, 162, St. John-street-road, N.—We held our annual winter dinner at the Manchester Hotel, Aldersgate-street, on Feb. 16, at which fifty members and friends attended. Mr. U. B. Ladler, chairman; Mr. F. Symonds, vice-chair. The usual toasts were proposed, and heartily responded to. Mr. Isaac, replying for the Walton and Cotton, and Mr. John Crowley for the officers, congratulated the members on the flourishing state of the association, pointing with pardonable pride to its antiquity, claiming it to be the oldest in England. During the evening the company listened to some very excellent songs, music, and recitations from the following gentlemen: Messrs. Bateman, Clay, Komlosy, Allan, Milton, Davis, Bronghton, Musgrave, jun., Smith. We have had the following fish weighed-in during last week: Mr. Winter, twenty-seven roach, 16lb. 6oz.; other members, two roach 1lb. 8oz., one jack 3lb. 9oz., eight roach 2lb. 11oz., three jack 11lb. 3oz.—M. CUDDON.

Walworth Waltonians Angling Society. St. Paul's Tavern, Westmoreland-road, Walworth, S.E.—Result of last competition: Mr. W. Sparrow first, with roach and bream; Mr. W. L. Griffin, second, with roach. Only Mr. C. Pearson weighed-in, taking first prize. The lapsed prizes will be fished for on Feb. 26. Open (bank or punt).—W. WRAY.

West Green Angling Society. Black Boy Hotel, West Green, Tottenham.—Mr. James Taylor (Red Palmer), president of the Junior Fly Fishers', and ex-secretary of the Gresham, will on March 8, at 8.30 prompt, favour us with a reading on "Rain and Rivers." All clubs fishing the Lea are invited to send representatives.—ALFRED G. HILL.

Westminster Angling Society. The Telegraph, Regency-street, S.W.—On Feb. 19 Mr. A. Beck weighed-in barbel, roach, and dace. The February match will be fished on Feb. 26, from Molesey Bridge to the intake at Hnrst Park. Leave Vauxhall 8.20; return from Hampton Court, 7.20. Two rods; all fish to weigh except jack; all fish to be shown at station.—S. M.

White Hart Angling Society. The Volunteer, Chesnut-road, Tottenham.—On Feb. 19 the following weighed-in: S. Claridge, perch (heaviest fish, 1lb. 3½oz.); A. Langton, jack and dace; W. E. Beaumont, roach (heaviest fish, 16½oz.); Bastock, roach; W. Butler, roach and perch; H. Walton, roach and jack.—W. E. BEAUMONT.

Wimbledon Piscatorial Society. 28, Alexandra-road.—Mr. H. A. Rolt had a splendid show of roach and chub on Tuesday, the heaviest roach weighing 1lb. 3½oz. Mr. Bovie reported the capture of several good Thames perch and a 3lb. bream. The usual fortnightly outing comes off on the 26th inst. on club water, and members are reminded that the final competition for the silver challenge cup has been fixed for March 12 at Weybridge. There will be a "high tea" after the match, at the Mitre, at 7 p.m.—S. PESKETT.

Ye Olde Clapham Rovers' Angling Club. The Windmill, Clapham Park-road.—Several of our members were out on Feb. 19, Mr. Mrs. Gloster and Piper with dace. Our next prize outing will take place at Amberley on Feb. 26; three prizes; 6.55 train, London Bridge; all members are requested to attend club next Tuesday to arrange for the last prize outing this season.—N. LINDEN.

KINGSTON PISCATORIAL SOCIETY.

A MEETING of this society was held at the Sun Hotel, Kingston, on Monday, Mr. Arthur presiding, and there being a large attendance of members. Mr. Brough, of Clarence-street, Kingston, was elected a member, and Mr. R. Salt was proposed as a member. It was arranged that the club competition for Feb. 26th and 27th should be confined to the Thames. About thirty members gave in their names for the annual dinner on March 20. It was also decided to invite representatives of the *Fishing Gazette* and the *Angler*. A vote of thanks to Mr. A. E. Hobbs and Dr. Brownfield Bateman for the prizes they had given the society was carried unanimously, as was a vote of sympathy with Mr. and Mrs. Richardson in their recent illness. A roach competition will be held on the Thames on March 5th and 6th.

MONSTERS OF THE PAST.

THE *lias* is an English provincial name given to an argillaceous limestone, which, with marl and clay, forms the base of the Jurassic formation. *Zoophytes*, mollusca, and fishes of a peculiar organisation, and reptiles of an extraordinary size and structure are found in the *lias* clay. Cuvier exclaimed, when the drawings of the *Plesiosaurus* were sent him, "Truly, this is altogether the most monstrous animal that has yet been dug out of the ruins of a former world!" The *Plesiosaurus* belongs, as its name indicates, to the lizard family. A description of this animal reads as follows: "The *Plesiosaurus* was a marine, air-breathing, carnivorous reptile, combining the characters of the head of a lizard, the teeth of a crocodile, a neck of excessive length, resembling that of a swan, the ribs of a chameleon, a body of moderate size, a very short tail, and, finally, four paddles, like those of a whale. Its enormous long neck comprises a greater number of

vertebrae than the neck of either the camel, the giraffe, or even the swan. The body is cylindrical and rounded, like that of the great marine turtles. It was, doubtless, naked—i.e., not protected with the scales or carapace with which some authors have invested it, for no traces of such coverings have been found near any of the skeletons which have been hitherto discovered."

In England, in the quarries of Lyme Regis, have been found numerous remains of the *Ichthyosaurus*, another marine monster of ancient times. We are told that "in 1811 a country girl, who made her precarious living by picking up fossils, for which the neighbourhood was famous, was pursuing her avocation, hammer in hand, when she perceived some bones projecting a little out of the cliff." These bones, when they were carefully excavated, proved to be those of "a monster some 30ft. long, with jaws nearly a fathom in length, and huge saucer eyes, which have since been found so perfect that the petrified lenses have been split off and used as magnifiers." This was the complete skeleton of an *Ichthyosaurus*. These dragons of the sea had jaws 8ft. in length, and 160 teeth. Whenever a tooth was lost in the monster's head by contests with other animals, or in any other manner, Nature soon replaced it; for at the inner side of the base of every old tooth there is the bony germ of a new one. The eyes of this monster were larger than those of any animal now living, their size frequently exceeding that of the human head, and were an optical apparatus of wonderful power and singular perfection, capable of performing the office of microscope and telescope at pleasure. Its food was fish and smaller individuals of its own race, which it swallowed without masticating. It was essentially voracious and destructive.

The *Pterodactyl* was a still more wonderful creature of this period. In size and general form, and in the character of its wings, this genus resembled our modern bat and vampires, but it had a beak elongated like the bill of a woodcock, and armed with teeth like the snout of a crocodile; its vertebrae, ribs, pelvis, legs, and feet resembled those of a lizard, while it was partly covered with naked skin. "It was, in short," says a writer, "a monster resembling nothing that has ever been heard of upon earth except the dragons of romance and heraldry. With flocks of such-like creatures flying in the air, and shoals of *Ichthyosauri* and *Plesiosauri* swarming in the ocean, and gigantic crocodiles and tortoises crawling on the shores of primeval lakes and rivers—air, sea, and land must have been strangely tenanted in these early periods of our infant world."

The vegetation of the Jurassic period was peculiarly rich and abundant. The tree ferns of the carboniferous period had lost their enormous dimensions, but were still beautiful in form. The *Cycads* now appeared for the first time, and seem to be forerunners of the palms, which appeared in the next epoch. In the next, or Oolitic sub-period, mammals began to make frequent appearances. Hitherto, they had been limited to a single species. These early mammals exhibited the peculiar characteristic of the kangaroo and the opossum, in that the young were transferred in a half-developed state to an external pouch upon the abdomen of the mother, and there remained until they became perfected. During the Oolitic period bees, butterflies, and dragon-flies appear on the earth for the first time. The *Ceteosaurus*, the bones of which have been discovered in England, was a species of crocodile, and probably the largest creature that ever walked upon the earth. We are told by a modern writer that "a full-grown *Ceteosaurus* must have been at least 50ft. long, 10ft. high, and of proportionate bulk. In its habits it was probably a marsh-loving or river-side animal," and was not apparently carnivorous, which was certainly a great blessing to the smaller animals with which it was surrounded. The *Ramphorynchus* was a creature similar to the *Pterodactyl*, already described, except that it had a very long tail. The *Teleosaurus* was another formidable-looking reptile, about 30ft. in length, resembling a crocodile, and coated with a cuirass both on the back and belly. Corals appear in great abundance during this epoch. In the last formation of the Jurassic period we notice the first bird—the remains of a bird, with feet and feathers, having been discovered, but without a head.—*The Argosy*.

THE BOTTLE AND THE MESSAGE.

A FORM of ocean drift of special human interest is the bottle bearing its message from the shipwrecked, or about-to-be shipwrecked mariner. And of these, perhaps, the most remarkable is that which told of the burning of the *Kent* in mid-ocean. The ship was on fire, the end was approaching, there seemed no hope of rescue. An officer on board wrote a message to this effect and committed it to the sea in a bottle. Some months afterward the bottle was picked up near the shore by a fisherman, and the message it contained was sent to the very man who wrote it. He had been rescued at the last moment, and soon after received promotion in India.

But the bottle thrown overboard has also been used in the scientific study of ocean currents. Many such bottles have had remarkable voyages, and greatly increased our knowledge of the movements of the ocean. Sir James Ross, in his famous Antarctic voyage, threw overboard a number of bottles in latitude 51 degrees south to learn something of the great currents which run in that little known region in an easterly direction all round the globe. One of these bottles actually traversed the greater part of the earth's circumference, having come ashore off Cape Liptrap, in South Australia.—*Gentleman's Magazine*.

THE creatures known as ocean hydræ have no heart, no lungs, no liver, no brains, no nervous system; no organs save mouth and skin.

THE FLY FISHERS' CLUB.

At the adjourned annual general meeting of the Fly Fishers' Club, held on Thursday evening last, Mr. C. H. Cook ("John Bickerdike") was unanimously elected president for the year 1899-1900. A very hearty vote of thanks was given to Mr. Wm. Senior, the out-going president of the club, for his services during his year of office. A resolution was passed approving of the proposed experiment of stocking the Thames with salmon, which is to be made by the Thames Salmon Association, and a sum of 10 guineas for the fund being raised for the experiment was subscribed by individual members of the club.

Stoffings by the Way.

Too late for insertion last week came an account of the annual dinner of the Southampton Piscatorial Society from the hon. sec., Mr. D. K. Bridger: "Close on seventy sat down to a good menu, well served, and thoroughly enjoyed. After dinner the usual toasts were gone through, interspersed with music and songs, under the guidance of the chairman, Mr. J. Russell, in the unavoidable absence of the Mayor. A novelty was introduced by Mr. C. McPherson, who gave a bagpipe selection. The room was tastefully decorated by Mr. Davies and the afore-said Mac with fish (stuffed) in cases and (alive) in globes, rods, nets, &c. The proceedings closed at twelve o'clock with the National Anthem. Mr. W. Newman (of 'Ours') caught a 24lb. pike in the Itchen on Saturday on snaptackle and a small roach. Female fish; length, 44in.; width, 21½in." I note that on the menu there was a novelty (for an angler's dinner)—"Ananias pudding!" Wish I could have tasted it. Mine are all "Washingtons!"

MR. SAM THOMPSON, writing from Derby, says: "On Monday last, whilst pike fishing in the Black Pool at Weston-on-Trent, I took, amongst others, a grand female pike that scaled, when caught, 20½lb.; length, 3ft. 3½in.; girth, 23½in."

"A BIG pike," says Mr. R. Fortune, of Harrogate, "was sold by auction here last week, and it may not be uninteresting to record particulars. The fish is well cased and stuffed, and in excellent preservation. A label inside the case informs the curious that the fish was 'caught by Mr. C. Curtis in the West India Docks on Sept. 26, 1850, weight 20lb.' The fish measures 40in. in length. In one of the top corners of the case is fastened a small gorge hook, with which I presume the fish was captured. The hook seems to be fastened to fine wire, but this is corroded, so that it makes it difficult to determine without taking the front glass out."

THE first three volumes of Messrs. Dent's Haddon Library, which is under the editorship of the Marquis of Granby and Mr. George A. B. Dewar, will be (1) Sir Edward Grey's book on angling, (2) Dean Hole's on gardening, (3) Mr. Dewar's on wild life and sport in Hampshire. Sir Edward Grey's book is expected in March. The edition de luxe will be limited to 150 copies.

TRUTHFUL TOMMY writes: "Dear 'Drag,'—You will be sorry to hear that distinct coolness has arisen between the worthy chairman and the equally worthy hon. sec. of the United Cock Robin Brothers' Angling Club, which, as all the world knows, is held at the Frog and Frying Pan, Trotter-street, Q.C. The chairman is a self-made man, all honour to him, and lacking, through no fault of his own, the inestimable benefits of education, has a habit of pronouncing the Queen's English in a manner which is not usually accepted in circles ironically called 'polite.' At the recent annual dinner of the club it fell to the chairman's lot to carve a very fine boiled leg of mutton. Poising his carving knife and fork aloft, he looked round the table at the assembled guests, and inquired in persuasive tones, 'Does any gentleman say mutting?' The hon. sec., who is a bit of a wag, promptly replied, 'No; no gentleman says mutting.' There was a sarcastic emphasis on the two words in italics which roused the presidential ire. *Hinc illæ lachrymæ!*

If you want to get your tongue in a "kink" try this:—

"There was a young fellow named Tate,
Who dined with his girl at 8.8;
But I cannot relate
What that fellow called Tate,
And his tête-à-tête ate at 8.8."

A CORRESPONDENT sends the following: "A most singular event in pig breeding took place on Monday afternoon at Paddock Wood Farm, belonging to Mr. William Harris, of West Smithfield, when a sow of the Tamworth breed gave birth to nine little ones, amongst which was one with two perfect heads on what appeared to be one perfect body. This strange and doubtless unique freak of nature did not live long, and when dissected two entire sets of ribs were found growing together. The carcass, it is understood, is to be preserved by Mr. Harris."

A "COUNTRYMAN IN LONDON" writes to inform me that having a spare evening at his disposal, he is anxious to read a paper before some angling society. But before doing so, I should advise him to insure his life, make his will (remember me in it), and face the audience not only with a mailed fist, but a coat of mail and trousers to match. His paper will be headed: "On the extraordinary elongation and expansion of the truth as developed in the tale—not tail—of an angler, with suggestions as to the best method of treatment." The only perfect cure is to cut it short, and perhaps this treatment might cure my correspondent of reading papers.

He is also willing to give a lecture before the members of some learned society. The lecture will be "On the unusually unequal distribution of bald heads, red noses, and common sense amongst the inhabitants of the county of Middlesex in general, and the city and suburbs of London in particular, and the best remedy." I should advise him to borrow a balloon to study the subject properly, and then deliver his lecture before the Balloon Society, unless he gets lost up in a balloon. More ambitious or daring still, he would engage Exeter Hall, and lecture there "On the immortality of our ancestors, and the best method to convince them of the error of their ways." I should advise him not to do so at present, but if he really wishes to be "run in," he might attempt to deliver his lecture at one of the May meetings.

It was at a "club" which is not a hundred miles from Fetter-lane that two or three well-known anglers were discussing the prospects of sport, the state of the rivers—and other things. In the court outside a gentleman, evidently of foreign extraction, was performing a fantasia on one of those ear-splitting, nerve-torturing abominations called a piano-organ. A gorgeously attired female, dressed in the Roman fashion, with all the wealth of colour in her head-dress beloved of Italian women, entered the room. Approaching the group she held out her tambourine. "Un penny pliz, signor, por una povr' Italiana," she pleaded. "Good old Whitechapel!" was the not altogether polite comment of one of the anglers. "Right you are, gov'nor, you've guessed it in once; now give us a brown," was the astounding reply, but the reflections caused by this incident are not altogether comforting. These people have been sharp enough to find out that we English will give money to them if they masquerade as foreigners, while if they approach us as our fellow subjects they have to go without. The girl's smart reply in this instance caused much laughter, and a rich vein of copper rewarded her ready answer.

MR. G. ETHERINGTON, hon. sec. of the Peckham Brothers A.S., announces that a visit on the Central and S.L.U.V. Lists will take place on Tuesday, Feb. 28, at the Windsor Castle, Cator-street, Sumner-road, Peckham. Some talented artists will appear, and he hopes to see a good monster. Wal Gray will be the pianist. [Sorry I cannot attend, George; perhaps next time.]

MR. JAMES GIBSON, 81, Michael's-grove, Bolton-le-Sands, Lancashire, writes on Feb. 13: "Perhaps it might interest you to know that spinning in the backwater of the Lune on Wednesday (Feb. 8), above Lancaster, I ran and landed nineteen pike in four bours with Bartleet and Sons' Abbey Mills Spinner and preserved sprats. My success with this spinner since I exclusively adopted it prompts this testimonial to its merits."

MR. A. E. HOBBS, the honorary secretary of the Henley-on-Thames and District Fishery Preservation Society, sends us a copy of the table of fish placed in the Thames by that society from 1883 up to the present time. Altogether they have put nearly 200,000 fish and ova in, including 725 two-year-old Loch Leven, 700 one-year-old Loch Leven, 11,000 Loch Leven fry, 140,000 Loch Leven ova, 2276 two-year-old *Salmo fario*, 1750 one-year-old *Salmo fario*, 28 722 *Salmo fario* ova, 527 trout of various weights and kinds, 10,000 grayling fry, 210 bream (some of large size), 400 carp, 400 tench, and 300 roach, perch, and tench. The society is doing a good work, and is worthy of support. It may be well to mention that no inconsiderable portion of the funds is devoted to preservation, which is, without doubt, as useful and necessary as restocking.

Mrs. PAULA, the plucky reptile conqueror, who gives a sensational performance at the Royal Aquarium, having lost one of her alligators through pleurisy, procured a huge Zambesi one from the Zoological Gardens on Wednesday, and performed with it the same day. The Yachting Exhibition finishes on Thursday next, and will be succeeded by the eighth annual Fisheries Exhibition on the 8th proximo.

MR. F. H. AMPHLETT, of the Kingston Piscatorial Society, announces that the club competition on Feb. 26 and 27 is confined to the Thames. Also that the annual dinner will be held at the Sun Hotel on Monday, March 20. Tickets 5s. each.

"THE pollution of rivers," says the *Morning Post*, "is attracting a considerable amount of attention at the present time, and as a Rivers Pollution Prevention Bill is among the measures which will be brought forward during the present session of Parliament, there is some prospect of improvement in the near future. This question of pollution has often been referred to as being the most prolific cause of the deterioration of salmon rivers. It would probably be impossible entirely to depopulate a

river by the nets alone, however persistently they were employed, but the waste products from a single factory may suffice to render it uninhabitable for salmon. Neither does the evil end here. Health must suffer from such flagrant neglect of sanitary precautions, for in certain districts many people are accustomed to obtain their water supply from the rivers."

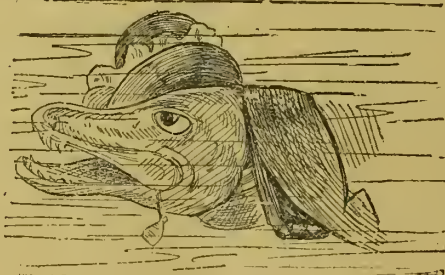
CURIOUS coincidences come about occasionally, even in the angling world. Displayed in the current number of the *Fishing Gazette*, says Mr. Carter Platts in the *Yorkshire Weekly Post*, in the advertisement of J. E. Miller, Station-street, Leeds, is a very clever fanciful drawing of a pike by Harry B. Neilson, of which the accompanying is a



sketch. Whether the drawing is quite new or not I do not know. Certainly it has never come under my eyes before, and yet here are my very words in describing it in the *Fishing Gazette* five years ago. After alluding to certain traits in the pike's character, which seem to fit him in some respects for a p'leecaman, I go on—

"But looking at the jack in this fanciful way he doesn't seem very consistent. His character shows too many phases. There appears to be too much of the 'all things to all men' business about it. The professional house-breaker is the very antithesis to the guardian of the law, and yet in the pike the two are to some extent combined. The overshot underjaw, the low forehead, and the savage gleam of the close-set eyes, all indicate the coarse brutality of a Bill Sikes. The policy of his daily life, too, is identical with that of the vulgar crib-cracker. Whatever he can lay his teeth on is his."

And then I go on, introducing this hasty sketch—



"KNOCKED 'EM IN THE OLD KENT ROAD!"

"While on this question of physiognomy there is another thing I should like to point out. I have noticed occasionally—oftenest in old pike—in the features of *Esoc lucius* a sort of raffish, roty grin. It is difficult to sketch the exact expression from memory, and I am afraid I have not succeeded very well; but I daresay you will remember having noticed it now that I mention it. It gives the wearer of it a certain "ikey" look—the air of a "chickaleary bloke" from the purlieus of Whitechapel or the Old Kent-road. All I can do is to offer my sincere apologies to Mr. Neilson for having unwittingly stolen the idea of his clever drawing some years before seeing it."

A CONSIDERABLE sensation, says the *Westminster Gazette*, has been excited in the Deeside district of Aberdeenshire by a report, which is generally believed to be correct, that the Queen has given up the seven miles of salmon fishing along the right bank of the Dee, from Invercauld Bridge down to Balmoral Bridge, which she has leased from the Earquhasons of Invercauld for more than forty years. The left bank belongs to the Balmoral estate, but the Queen wished to have both sides in her own hands. Her Majesty, however, has no idea of wasting money, and it is said that she positively declined the proposals of the managers of the Invercauld estate for a new lease, the objection being to a clause by which the rent was to be advanced from £900 a year to £1500, which

certainly appears to be a big rise. The Queen does not really require the Invercauld water, as the Balmoral and Abergeldie stretches extend for fourteen miles along the left bank, and the Duke of York is now the only member of the Royal Family who cares for salmon fishing.

"PERPLEXED" says the fish in his aquarium are dying off, and he does not know the cause. He has been feeding them on bread! There are close on a hundred fish in my little aquarium—carp, tench, roach, dace, minnows, gudgeon, and gold fish. The grand secret is to have running water; a small fountain is sufficient to keep fish healthy. Then, for food, we give them a change, such as gentles, chopped beef, small red worms, ants' eggs, and Thomas Ford's meat food. For one shilling, Mr. Ford, of Caistor, Lincs., will send enough food to last six months. The only objection I have to this fattening fodder is that it deposits a kind of greasy substance on the glass tank. Feed the fish regularly—say ten o'clock every night. Feed them sparingly, that is, do not give them all they can eat. Keep a plant or two growing. Gee, of 19, St. Andrew-street, St. Martin's-lane, London, keeps some fine "soldier plants"—and—there you are.

I HEAR that Mr. F. H. Amphlett, the hon. sec. of the K.P.S., has caught a roach of 1lb. 15oz. at Thames Ditton. This is, I believe, the largest roach taken in this district for some considerable time.

MR. HARRY N. CAMPBELL, of big pike fame, was fishing recently in a private pond with a friend, and in a few hours landed fourteen pike. The largest was only 10½lb., but they were all good fish.

MOST anglers are born bald, and other die so. A good remedy for that complaint would be much appreciated. Baldness breaks out in two forms—outwardly and inwardly. For outward baldness a new remedy has been discovered, and which is thus described: "A certain M. Menahem Hodara has communicated to the Constantinople Medical Society a new remedy for baldness. After much study and many experiments he has evolved the following process: He bores a hole in the scalp and inserts a hair, which sometimes takes root and grows. The worst of the system is that M. Hodara has to dig a hole for every hair that he plants." It is worthy of trial, and if the roots of the hair were watered with "Tatcho" they would be more likely to flourish. Hairs for this purpose may be very easily obtained from the head of any friend who has a good crop of hair and a hasty tempered wife. Tell him in her presence of some escapade he was the hero of, and a very pretty barmaid the heroine. In a marvellously short time she will extract from his head more than the quantity of hair you require. Inward baldness is much more difficult to cure, or perhaps the remedy employed by "Truthful Tommy," viz., drinking "Tatcho," might be of service. It must be an inward application, frequently applied. Dnnrrippe whisky might be given a trial, but not in too large doses, as it is apt to increase the complaint which is generally to be found in people with flourishing heads of hair.

A LITTLE brook, some twine, a hook,
A hazel stick for rod:
The bait some worms which Teddy turns
From underneath a sod,
And Neddy, lank, upon the bank
Sits waiting for the fishes.
While Teddy sees, in dreamful ease,
'Em smoking on the dishes.

Two brothers they nigh every day
Come trespassing a-fishing,
And once or twice from Farmer Joyce
Have "caught" a decent "swishing."

Joyce twigs 'em now, and wonders how
Their little game to finish;
He doesn't like to see his pike,
Etcetera, diminish.

So calls his dog, and off doth jog,
With business in his noddle;
His whip he takes—in brace of shakes
He to the brook doth toddle.

Ned's got a bite—oh what delight!
But Towzer he has got 'em!
Poor Ted and Ned limped home to bed
With breeches minus bottom.

SEA SHELLS are not very attractive looking objects when first picked up. They are dull, rough, and the exterior is usually of a uniform tint. The exquisite prismatic colours seen in the shells that are sold for decorative purposes are brought out by applying hydrochloric acid with a small mop. The work is easily carried out, and when the collector has once learned the process, he will find shell cleaning and polishing one of the most charming hobbies imaginable.

A SHORT time since I was riding down Oxford-street on an omnibus, and in front of us was a Great Western goods-van, laden with fish-boxes from Billingsgate, which gave forth anything but a pleasant odour. After several unsuccessful attempts to pass the van by the driver of the 'bus (the street was crowded with traffic at the time), the conductor appeared on the top with this exclamation: "Oi say, Bul, keep behind her as long as yer can. It makes me think I am having a week at Yarmouth!"

DRAGNET

Notes from the North.

THOSE anglers who have not yet put in an appearance at their spring angling quarters should lose no time now in doing so if they are within hail. The prospects have seldom been brighter, for the early months at least, during the past decade.

Every day last week sport was rife on every beat of the Dee, from the lower reaches at Culter and Kingcaussie right along the valley to the royal waters at Balmoral—a stretch of some sixty miles. The thick of the fish, however, are in the lower waters, which is all the better for months to come.

The Ythau and Ugie open to-day (Saturday), and the prospects on the tidal reaches are reported to be exceedingly gratifying.

Several important improvements are being carried out in the Ugie by those interested, among which may be mentioned the stocking of the river with some 10,000 sea trout ova, which was obtained from the Howietoun hatcheries last fall. Mr. Andrew Murray, advocate, the king of sea trout anglers, and a sportsman of the first water, has been working vigorously at the improvements for some time back.

The best fish yet got on the Dee was a beauty of 25lb., away up in the Glentana waters. Mr. Merry creelied it on the opening day, and almost at the first cast. Duncan, on the Elchies Spey water, had one of 24lb.; and Mr. Kemp one of 23lb. on the Aboyne Dee waters. These are the best fish up to date.

The favourite flies, and nothing is being accepted by the fish but the fly, are the Gordon, Akroyd, and Black Doctor, or kindred combinations. They are dressed on 2½in., 2½in., 3in., and up to 3½in. irons—mostly the larger sizes. Long may the fly reign.

The Nairn is yielding good results, although the opening was spoiled by the universal flood. A friend writes: "The prospects of the season are very good—better than for years back."

That was a lucky hole on the Lower Durris Dee water, where eleven clean fish were pulled out on Tuesday last week, six on Wednesday, and seven on Thursday—twenty-four in three days, all from one spot, averaging 8lb. each. Had this appeared in a sporting article, or been told at an anglers' dinner, it would have been deemed worthy of the kettle by some sceptic. Yet it's a fact, kettle or no kettle.

The Spey pollution case has advanced into the practical stage. An engineer or scientist of approved competency has to be agreed upon by the two parties concerned. Should they fail within a reasonable time, Lord Kyllachie will make the appointment himself. The party selected will have to examine the remedial works executed by the defender and report.

Mr. Smith, Fenghside Inn, Banchoy, N.B., writes: "Good sport is being had all over. Fish plump and good; average weights. I have let the second week in May, and am on the eve of letting the remainder of the month. June and July still open." It's a far cry to the month of June; but if I was asked to name one spot where an angling holiday may be had with a certainty of sport, if sport is a-going anywhere, being enjoyed, and comfortable quarters to boot at the minimum of reasonable cost, I would say Fenghside.

Sixty fish were killed on the Kincaidine O'Neil beats, including the Dess, Lodge, Borrowstone, Snie, Carlogie, Ballogie, and Commonty waters, and covering only about three miles of the river. It has been the best opening week for twenty years, and many of the pools were not got at till Wednesday and Thursday after the opening.

SPECIAL SCOTCH.

Provincial Notes

FROM BIRMINGHAM AND DISTRICT.

The monthly meeting of the committee of the Birmingham Anglers' Benevolent Society was held at the headquarters on Thursday evening last, Feb. 16. Mr. T. Coles presided, and Mr. C. White occupied the vice-chair. The meeting was well attended. The minutes of the previous meeting were read and confirmed, after which the secretary reported the death of a member of the Bell-barn Society, and the claim of £4 10s. had been paid out to the deceased member's relatives. The secretary also reported that the profit on the late *soirée* amounted to close upon £8. The whole of the committee were appointed to the four divisions, and the four chairmen were elected by them. It was also resolved to visit all the new societies affiliated with the Birmingham Association as early as possible. With this in view it was decided to visit the Canadian, Seymour, and St. John's clubs prior to the next committee meeting. A number of new members have lately been enrolled, and the present committee intend doing all in their power to augment the present number of members. The T.P.A. Society, I believe, have some forty members to be enrolled. Other clubs are also increasing their membership on the A.B.S. New clubs are being formed in all parts of the city of Birmingham, and all making application to the general

secretary for the necessary information with a view of joining the association. Visits are being paid by the members of the visiting committee, and reports will be presented on March 2 next. New clubs are being formed at the King's Head, Brearley-street, and at the White Hart, Warstone-lane. These will make six new clubs that have been formed this year, and will mean an addition of 240 members to the Birmingham and Provincial Angling Associations. Several new clubs outside Birmingham have applied for information to join the Provincial Angling Association, the chief amongst which are the Nene Association at Northampton and the Dart Association at Totnes, Devon. The new Bloxwick Association will be visited this day (Saturday) by Mr. T. Coles, the president of the association. In due course a number of new stations will be asked for for Banbury, Liverpool, and Warrington, independent of the privileges for the new associations. The Aston Britannia Society have decided to re-stock the Longmore pool, Sutton Park, which is rented by the society, and 1500 large roach, all over 6in. in length, and some up to 1lb. each, have been purchased by the society. The pool is very much patronised by the society, as it is only some five miles from the clubhouse, and easy to get at. No fishing will be allowed on the water until the 16th of June next. A large number of new members will, no doubt, join the society for the purpose of fishing this splendid sheet of water, which contains all kinds of coarse fish. Several of our clubs are making arrangements to fish contests prior to the close season coming in. The Lamp Society, which numbers some 200 members, have arranged to fish a contest in the canal at Rugely on March 12th next, no fish under 6in. to be weighed-in; and the Mermaid Society have arranged to fish a contest at Bidford in the river Avon on March 6th next, when prizes to the value of £7 will be competed for. No fish under 2oz. to be weighed-in. The Queen's Head Club concert in aid of their prize fund, was a great success, as over 350 tickets were sold. No doubt it will be fresh in the memories of the readers of the *Fishing Gazette* that a member of the Shrewsbury Angling Association was summoned last November for fishing in their portion of the river Severn for coarse fish without one of their special 5s. licences; the case was tried at Shrewsbury before a full bench of magistrates and dismissed. A case has now been made out for the Court of Queen's Bench, and will be tried on Monday next in London. We are having a change in the weather, as it has been bright and sunny during mid-day, with frosts at night; if this will only continue we shall have a chance of having some decent sport before the close time comes in.

FROM THE FEN DISTRICT (LINCOLNSHIRE).

It is a long time since winter anglers had such a good time of it as they have had during the present winter, with the exception of an occasional flood there has scarcely been any interruption to sport. The waters just now are in excellent condition, and fishermen are taking every advantage of the present fine weather. Although roach fishing is proving very remunerative on most waters, pike are claiming by far the greater share of attention, and since Saturday the trolling rod has accounted for some heavy baskets. The middle reaches of the Witham, and the lengths between Kirkstead and Boston have furnished remarkably good sport, and individual rods have captured as many as five brace in a single day. Forty-foot subscribers are also having a successful time of it. This week bags of pike weighing 27lb. (three and a half brace), 23lb. (three brace), and 19½lb. (two and a half brace), have been reported on the middle reaches, in addition to several nice dishes of roach. At the time of writing (Feb. 21) the weather was very settled, and there was every prospect of a continuation of the present successful sport.

FROM HULL AND DISTRICT.

We are still experiencing splendid weather for the time of the year in this district, causing angling to be a very pleasurable occupation; and as there is only about three weeks before the fence time commences, our local roach fishers are making the best use of their time. But all our local waters are more or less flooded and out of condition for successful operations, yet several good specimen fish have been taken in the top stretches of the river Hull, and odd fish of fair size have been met with in the tidal waters below Hempholme, and even as low down as Dunswell. On Monday last Mr. J. Chessman secured a nice roach that scaled 1lb. 3½oz. But the best fish recorded for the past week or so was from the neighbourhood of Brigham; it turned the scale at 1lb. 5½oz., and was caught by Mr. A. Marshall, a member of the Victoria Angling Society, which society will hold the first big event this season on the river, viz., an open angling match, which will take place at Dunswell on April 29, although a few smaller events will take place even earlier than that, for on the 26th inst. the Osborne Angling Association fish a sweepstakes at Hull Bridge; and on March 2 the Holderness A.A. will open their season at Wansford, near Driffield, the members leaving the Paragon Station at 1.10 p.m.; whilst on March 4 the Brunswick A.S. will fish their first match at Snakeholme. The committee of the Hull Amalgamated Anglers' Association were appointed to net the Stoneferry reservoirs succeeded in transferring several thousand small roach into the river at that place, also a few nice sized perch, but not the quantity of this species as had been anticipated; nevertheless it is a step in the right direction, and they should have the thanks of the Hull anglers for their persevering endeavours to benefit the river. The Yorkshire Fishery Board are again giving our local anglers some return for the outlay of the shilling trout licence. They have granted 500 yearling trout each to the Hull Angling and Preservation Society and the Driffield Hearts of Oak A.S. to be turned into the river at the different districts, so that our local river should soon become as noted for trout as it is

for large roach; at all events, their endeavours should encourage our local anglers to take out the licence without so much grumbling. A large company of about 150 anglers assembled together at the White Horse Hotel, in Carr-lane, on Tuesday evening (Feb. 14), to celebrate the second anniversary of the Central Hull Angling Society; the president, Mr. George Dixon, occupied the chair, and during the evening Mr. Fred Phillippson was presented with the society's gold medal for most points during the past season; and Mr. J. Woodhall, of the Navigation Angling Society, was also presented with that society's gold medal for the past season, but the most interesting part of the programme was the presenting of the annual prizes given by the proprietors of *Hull News* for specimen fish caught in the river Hull during the season of 1898. Mr. R. H. Barlow, of the North Myton A.S., was the recipient of a valuable marble timepiece for most points; and Mr. Mark Darby, of the same society, also a timepiece for the best sample of specimen fish, amongst which were dace up to 10½oz.; bream, 2lb. 2½oz.; chub, 2lb. 8½oz.; roach, 1lb. 10½oz.; and perch, 12½oz. Several other presentations were made, and the secretary's balance-sheet showed a balance of over £11 in hand to commence the season with. The proceedings were much enlivened at intervals with some first-class vocal and instrumental music.

FROM THE LAKE DISTRICT.

Trout fishing has commenced on two or three rivers in this district, which are presumably earlier than others in the same localities, and the opening of the season may thus far be pronounced satisfactory. There was a fair turn out of rods on the first day, and subsequently on the Petterell, Caldew, Bela, &c. On the 15th inst., on the first-named stream, trout were seen in large numbers, but they obstinately refused to look at a fly until about two o'clock in the afternoon. Then they began to feed, and for about two hours sport was very good. Mr. Steele in that time secured 6lb. of trout, and five other rods had ten, twelve, fourteen, eighteen, and nineteen fish respectively, all with fly. Worm has been the favourite lure on the upper portion of the Bela, and has proved fairly effective. Amongst local anglers, Messrs. G. Bland, Thompson, Jackson, and others have had from half a dozen trout upwards. The Kendal Angling Association on Wednesday placed a further consignment of 1000 yearling trout at various parts of the river Kent, in the neighbourhood of Kendal. The fish were obtained from the Wyresdale Hatchery, and all were found to be alive and in good condition upon arrival. The Kent Angling Association will hold their annual meeting on Tuesday next, at Kendal, and a quarterly meeting of conservators is fixed for the following Thursday.

FROM LANCASHIRE.

The Moss Side Socials have been noted for a very important meeting on the 27th at their new headquarters, the Alexandra Hotel, and the secretary urgently desires a good muster. Five of their members fishing a Cheshire mere last week-end met with fair sport, Mr. J. Lund secured two nice pike, 6lb. each, and Messrs. W. Taylor, John Fisher, D. Lattimer, and W. A. Leigh each obtained fair baskets. The County Palatine Angling Association have added two more clubs to their strength, viz., the Gorton Angling Society and the Brothers' Well Met Angling Society, Heaton Norris. Evidently this association is gaining in popularity, for each week recruits are being added to the roll-call. The premier association at Warrington is also progressing, and rapidly consolidating the fishermen of the district. Mr. S. Hall, Manchester, has kindly consented to officiate as referee in the Seventh Annual Shield Competition, promoted by the Worsley Canal Fishery. This year the competition will be on slightly different lines, as clubs can send one or more teams, a concession granted in response to urgent pressure made by several well wishers of the fishery. This concession will enable more season ticket holders to participate, and obviate the heartburnings of previous seasons. Arrangements are being made for organising plenty of fishing matches at Leigh and Astley. At both places events are arranged—two at each. At the former place Mr. Dawson is the moving spirit, and at the latter Messrs. Unsworth. There will be in each case a match and a sweepstakes. The annual dinner of the St. Helen's Association was held recently, and the report says it is a record in every way. The viands were excellent, the harmony far above the average, the report very acceptable, and the balance-sheet satisfactory; in fact, the best they have had so far. These results are only what was to be expected from such a body of men and such an enthusiastic and capable executive. Success always follows the efforts of such officials.

FROM MANCHESTER.

A very important and interesting discussion took place at the Grand Hotel on the 21st, when the members of the Manchester Anglers' Association considered an article by Sir Herbert Maxwell, Bart., M.P., entitled "Do Salmon Feed in Fresh Water?" This is not the first time that important questions have been discussed in this club-room, and it seems a pity that such a great educational function cannot be enjoyed by the rank and file; it would do a lot of good. The South-West Manchester Angling Society had a good meeting on the 21st, every member being present, so they were enabled to negotiate a lot of business. They arranged a match for March 12, for which there are a lot of valuable prizes, and decided to fish the match at Irlam; Mr. S. Hall will officiate as referee. Mr. J. H. Hall was appointed to represent the club at all general and other important meetings. The second annual dinner of the Horseshoe A.S. will be held on March 4 in their new palatial headquarters at Pendleton. Mr. Leigh, Buckland Anglers, Ardwick, fishing the canal at Poynton last week-end, caught a nice lot of fish, including seven perch, one of which was 1lb. 5½oz., and a bream of 11oz. A great deal of expectation, not to say curiosity, is in evidence at Loughsight re the lecture to be given on a

ANGLERS' HOTELS, FISHING QUARTERS, &C.

FORTINGALL HOTEL, GLENLYON, PERTSHIRE.

8½ miles from Aberfeldy Railway Station and 2½ miles from Fearnan Pier, Loch Tay. This new First-class Hotel is beautifully situated near the "Famous Pass of Glenlyon, with Mineral Well." Good spring salmon fishing on the River Lyon opens Jan. 15. Trout fishing free. Posting. Post and Telegraph Office two minutes' walk.

PAUL MACPHAIL, Proprietor.

SALMON FISHING ON LOCH TAY.

For Boats, apply to

H. J. MAISEY, Killin Hotel.

FOYEAS HOTEL, LOCH NESS.

Re-decorated and most comfortably re-furnished throughout. Electric light.

THIS Hotel, which is most beautifully situated, overlooking Loch Ness, and commanding finest views of the Great Glen, has the right of Salmon Fishing on Loch Ness, which will be free to visitors staying at Hotel, also Trout Fishing on River Foyers, Loch Bran, Loch Garth, and Loch Farraline. Boats for use of visitors. Terms moderate.

S. TILSTON, Proprietor

Good Spring Salmon Fishing.

BOATS TO LET ON LOCH TAY.

Visitors Fishing on River Lyon Free. Apply W. KNIGHT, Hotel, Kenmore, Perthshire.

SALMON ANGLING.

LOCH AWE HOTEL.—Superb and extensive additions since last season. Excellent TROUT and SALMON FISHING on Loch Awe, Free. Experienced boatmen. Boats towed by Steam Launch to the best Fishing Grounds. Magnificent views of mountain, lake, and river scenery obtained from the Hotel.

DALMALLY HOTEL, GLENORCHY, under the same management.—Guests have nine miles FREE SALMON FISHING on the beautiful and celebrated salmon river ORCHY. Parties wiring to ascertain plying of river promptly answered.

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CROOM, Co. LIMERICK.

The Mague, Comogue, Morning Star and Luby, Lough Gur, and Tory Hill Lake.

TWENTY miles of the best free Salmon and Trout fishing in Ireland to be got on the above rivers. The lakes are teeming with coarse fish—Pike, Roach, and Perch—and are also free. CROOM HOTEL, which is now one of the prettiest and best laid out in the country, with sanitary arrangements perfect, is built on the Mague, and stands central to all the others, viz., Comogue (half mile), Morning Star (four miles), Luby (seven miles), Tory Hill Lake (one mile), Lough Gur (five miles). Cars are supplied at the hotel at special low rates. BOATS FREE. Tariff very moderate.

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ROSSES WHITE AND BROWN TROUT FISHERY.

Crolly and Longbanure Salmon Fishery.

HAVING obtained a lease of above excellent SALMON FISHERY, and the sole rights of fishing, anglers can now fish the Crolly and Longbanure. Splendid salmon and sea trout fishing can be had on the Crolly and Owenatorr rivers as well as on Longbanure lake, three miles in length, and three miles from Dungloe. There are over 100 lakes in the Rosses Fishery alone, with about twenty boats and first class gillies. Sea trout run to 6lb. and brown trout to 4lb. Large numbers of Loch Leven and Rainbow trout turned out of hatchery every season. Dungloe, in the Highlands of Donegal, is centre of fishery, ten miles from Fintown railway station (Donegal Railway Company). Best fishing lakes within easy reach of the three hotels in Dungloe, where excellent accommodation can be had. Travellers can leave London at 8.30 p.m. and reach Dungloe at three o'clock next day. Mail and day car to and from Fintown station. Good sea fishing, rock pigeon and seal shooting. Telegraph office, bank, post office, &c. Fishing terms: Rosses Fishery, April 1 to June 30, 2s. 6d. daily; 12s. 6d. weekly; 30s. monthly. July 1 to Oct. 31, 3s. 6d. daily; 16s. weekly; 40s. monthly. Crolly and Longbanure, March 1 to Oct. 31, 5s. daily; 20s. weekly; 50s. monthly; and 5s. per day man and boat, which holds two anglers. All information can be had from

S. HANLON, C.P.S.,

Manager and Salmon Licence Distributor.

HANLON'S PRIVATE HOTEL, DUNGLOE, CO. DONEGAL.

S. HANLON,
Manager of Rosses Fishery.

ROSAPENNA HOTEL, CARRIGART (Co. DONEGAL).

THIS Hotel, built in 1892 by the late Earl of Leitrim, is situated on the Rossall Peninsula, midway between Sheephaven and Mulroy Bay. Tourists and Anglers will find superior accommodation at the above Hotel. It contains over sixty bedrooms, spacious billiard, drawing, and public rooms. Salmon fishing in the famous Glen Lough, Owencarrow and Lackagh Rivers, is free to Hotel visitors from Feb. 15 to end of July. Salmon licences can be had at the Hotel. Free access to numerous lakes and rivers on the estate for white and brown trout fishing. No charge for boats. Excellent sea bathing. Golf links, eighteen holes in a circuit of 3½ miles, encircle the Hotel. For terms and further information apply to the Manager.

FREE SALMON AND TROUT FISHING.

Commencing: Salmon, February; Trout, March.

GENTLEMEN staying at the PORTH HOTEL, LLANDYSSIL, SOUTH WALES, have two and a half miles of the Teifi for Salmon and Trout (large) fishing, strictly reserved. Also about ten miles of other trout fishing can be had in the neighbourhood. Splendid scenery. Fourteen miles from the sea. Vide, "Across England in a Dogcart," pp. 230. A. E. SMITH, Proprietor.

LAKE VYRNWY.

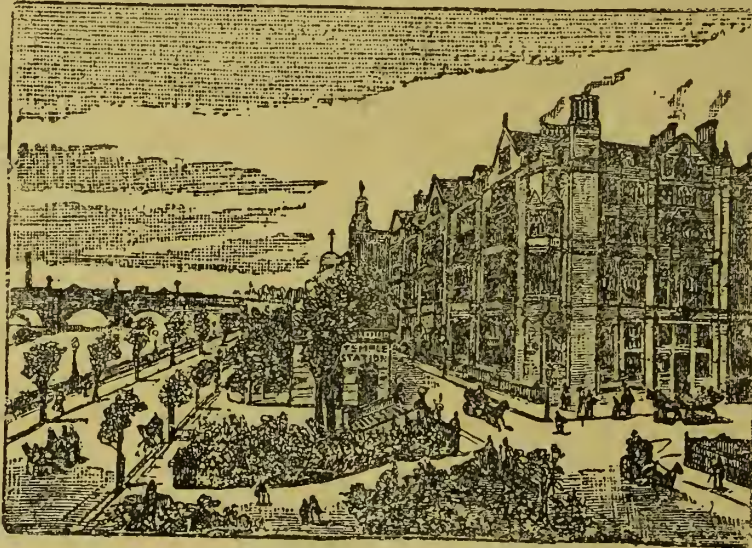
Splendid trout fishing in the lake and rivers; fish average 3½ lb., and give grand sport. Easy of access. Every comfort and luxury provided in the Hotel. Good boats and steady boatmen. Splendid cycle track (twelve miles). Bracing climate, and magnificent scenery. Season begins on March 1. First-class Grouse Moors and Rough Shootings to Let. Railway station, Llanfyllin.

Post and Telegraph Address: "LAKE VYRNWY HOTEL, OSWESTRY."

"Among the best and cheapest Hotels special reference should be made to the Arundel."—Charles Dickens.

THE ARUNDEL HOTEL,

LOSE TO THE TEMPLE STATION ON THE DISTRICT RAILWAY, THE LAW COURTS THEATRES, STRAND, THE RIVER, &c.



(HEAD QUARTERS OF THE FLY FISHERS' CLUB.)

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One of the finest positions in the Metropolis.

BED, BREAKFAST, AND ATTENDANCE FROM 6s

LIVE FISH FOR STOCKING.

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The Price List (gratis) contains the Largest Variety of British and Foreign Fish offered by any dealer in the world. It includes Trout (all the leading kinds), Salmon, Grayling, Char, Pike, Eels, Goldfish, Tench, Carp (sundry strains), Orfe, Perch, Roach, Dace, Bream, Chub, Rudd, Gudgeon, Burbot, Minnows, &c., &c. Apply to

THOMAS FORD,

MANOR FISHERY, CAISTOR, LINCOLNSHIRE.

N.B.—Special Lines in Rainbows, Carp, Fish Food, Ground-bait, and Perfection Carriers

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CAN BE HAD AT THE

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Price 2s. 6d. Post Free 2s. 9d.

SHANNON & LOUGH DERG, KILLALOE, IRELAND.

MOST reliable information as to Salmon, Grilse, and Trout Fishing in free and preserved waters, river, and lake, at this station; also as to accommodation and board in private cottage close to river. Expenses, shortest route from England and Ireland, on application to S. J. HURLEY, Killaloe, Co. Clare, Ireland. N.B.—The Green Drake season on lake commences about last week in May, when the big trout are about in thousands.

SHIP HOTEL, LEIGH, ESSEX

Local Headquarters of British Sea Anglers' Society.

THIS Hotel, which is now under entirely new Management, can offer high class accommodation at moderate charges to Gentlemen visiting Leigh for Fishing or Commercial purposes.

F. HOMEWOOD

(Agent B.S.A.S.), Proprietor.

Boats and men engaged on receipt of wire or letter.

TORCROSS HOTEL,

Near Kingsbridge, S. Devon.

GOLF, GAME and RABBIT SHOOTING, SEA FISHING. Fishing for Pike, Perch, Roach, and Rndd. Billiards and Tennis. Dark Room for Photography. Five Coaches leave the Hotel daily.

W. VICKERY, Proprietor.

THE FOX & HOUNDS HOTEL, Eggesford Station, N. Devon.

TWENTY MILES of FREE FISHING on the private waters of the Earl of Portsmouth and other gentlemen on Mid Taw and Little Dart to hotel guests only. Rivers recently re-stocked. Moderate inclusive tariff.

R. PORTMAN MARSHALL, Proprietor.

Season commences March 1.

GOOD FREE

PIKE and GENERAL FISHING

EVERY ACCOMMODATION. HOME COMFORTS. Bait and all requirements. Punte free to visitors. Moderate charges. Wire or write:

A. SCARD,
FERRYBOAT INN,
HOLYWELL FERRY, HUNTS.

THE RED LION HOTEL, DULVERTON.

OVER twenty miles of preserved water on Exe and Barle Free to Visitors. Special terms to anglers. Tariff and full particulars of

J. A. MOYLE, Proprietor.

MAELOG LAKE HOTEL,

TY CROES, ANGLESEY (L.N.W. Main Line).

BRIGHT bracing climate; no east wind. Trout fishing; rivers and lakes open Feb. 1. Snipe, Duck, Wildfowl, and Rabbit Shooting till March 1st, excellent sport in dry and frosty weather. Capital Golf Links surround hotel, and adjoin sea coast. Furnished apartments in Private House for a large family. Moderate inclusive terms. Proprietor, T. J. COTTELL.

THE CARNARVON ARMS TROUT FISHING.

FIVE MILES in Rivers Exe and Barle; free to visitors staying; opens on Feb. 14. Five hours from London.—Carnarvon Arms Hotel, Dulverton Station (G.W.R.).

ROCK HOUSE HOTEL, Llandrindod Wells.

FULLY LICENSED.

(Ninety minutes from SHREWSBURY.)

EXCELLENT TROUT FISHING FREE FOR HOTEL VISITORS.

Electric Light by own installation.

MODERATE TARIFF.

30 Miles Preserved TROUT FISHING

Free to the guests of the HOTEL DES ARDENNES, Diekirch (Luxembourg). Opening day April 1.

For all particulars about hotel and fishing write for the illustrated prospectus, sent post free. Inclusive pension terms 4s. 2d. a day. Proprietor, A. HECK.

visit to Ireland and the capture of large sea trout of 8lb. to 10lb. Many would like to know such a piscatorial El Dorado, and make immediate arrangements for a lengthy visit to catch some. The Welcomb Angling Society, Hnlme, at their last meeting elected three new members, and decided on fishing a match to wind-up the season now almost at an end. The Sun at their last meeting got through a lot of business, although the attendance was poor; they resolved on one or two steps which are bound to do the Society good. Money is to be spent on private waters, &c., and as the entrance fee has been reduced no difficulty is expected in completing the complement of members.

FROM NOTTINGHAM.

There has been more doing amongst our anglers, who have benefited by an agreeable change in the weather. Roach have shown improved sport to the cockspar worm at Holme Pierrepont, Radcliffe Bend, Colwick Park, Clifton, and Wilford, Beeston Bend, Barton, and Trent Lock. Most of the fish taken were got by tight-floating, and some of those brought in from Clifton weighed above 1lb. 5oz. each. One of 1½lb. was captured in the Colwick Park stretch. Roach are now in the pink of condition, and there is no mistaking their gameness when hooked on light tackle. Derby anglers have been amongst the pike at Weston Cliff (Black-pool), and a big catch was reported from the Thrumpton district on Monday. Few rods appear to have patronised the Shardlow waters, which last year yielded splendidly as regards big roach, and not much has been passing in the reach adjoining. Members of the Shoulder of Mutton Association have been trying to pick up a trout or two in the circling pool formed by the outflow of the Greet into the Trent at Fiskeiton, and a few fish have been creelred with the worm in the Dover Beck, below Lowdham. It is believed that salmon (fresh run fish) have already reached Sawley weirs. Chub have been creelred at Wilford with bread paste, and in a day or two the river will be right for the use of pith and brains and greaves.

FROM SHEFFIELD.

With the continuance of the fine weather, which has fortunately lasted all the past week, anglers have had a much better time of it, and as there has been no rain for several days, the rivers have had a chance of getting rid of some of the flood water, and they are now running almost at their normal level. The improvement in the weather has been warmly welcomed by the patrons of the Wye and the Derwent, as very little fishing has been carried on in these two streams of late. The upper portions of the latter stream have yielded several nice grayling and dace, whilst the members of the Darley Dale Club have met with some satisfactory sport. Anglers have been out almost daily in the Matlock district, with varying success, but the sport is improving. Several nice Loch Leven trout have been taken. Bottom anglers have fared very well at Ambergate, Whatstandwell, and Holmesford, where roach and perch have fallen victims to the luring effects of worms, whilst a few heavy trout have also helped to swell the total weight. Trout are reported to be rapidly getting into condition, and soon rodsters will begin to devote more attention to them. Visitors to the Chatsworth Club waters will regret to hear of the death of Mr. Harry Harrison, of the Chatsworth Hotel, Edensor. Recent sport in the Trent has showed a decided advance on what was obtained a few weeks ago, and the river is now running in much better trim. Roach have provided plenty of sport, anglers having done very well with cockspar worm as bait. Pike fishing can now be looked upon as being at an end, and, taking everything into consideration, the season has not been a bad one. The floods appear to have wrought a marvellous change in the waters in the Lincoln district, and in the middle Witbam, between Lincoln and Bardney, some capital fishing has been obtained by rodsters hailing from the cathedral city, their numbers having been reinforced from Saffield and Leeds. Worms have been chiefly relied upon as bait, and with gratifying results, some very heavy baskets having been secured. Pike anglers have also done remarkably well near Chapel Hill, where a large number of very heavy fish have been landed, whilst a not inconsiderable number of perch, many of them weighing over 2lb. each, have also been taken. The condition of the Bain has lately been all that could be desired, and special attention has been paid to it. Maggots and worms were found to be very attractive to roach, and the anglers have had the satisfaction of getting well filled baskets of roach in fine condition, in addition to a lot of nice chub. Trout anglers will regret to hear that in consequence of the running off of the large dam near Beauchief Station, a large number of trout have been killed in it, and also lower down the Sheaf towards Sheffield.

FROM WORCESTER AND DISTRICT.

We have a nice change in the weather, and it looks as if we were in for a spell of dry weather; the wind is in the E. to N.E., which makes the mornings and evenings chilly, but the general sunshine in the middle part of the day has been most enjoyable. The heavy water has run off very rapidly indeed, and the rivers are again in good condition for angling. A good few fishermen have been out on Severn, Teme, and Avon, some fair sized pike were taken and some nice roach, but sport has been anything but brisk; but with the weather we are having, with the wind in

another quarter, the fish will feed better no doubt. The salmon nets, which were through the flooded state of the river lying idle, have been at work again, but so far the take of fish has been very poor indeed, not sufficient to pay the men for their labour. What fish there were have, no doubt, gone up the river some considerable distance, and I trust will give joy and gladness to anglers and netmen in the upper part of the Severn, who should have the pleasure of catching many of them; certain it is, if salmon fishing in the upper reaches of the Severn is not good this year it never will be again. There has been no netting in the estuary, a long continuance of high water, and nothing to obstruct the passage of the fish up the river. Several meetings have been held at many of the clubhouses in the city, but with one exception they have been of an ordinary business character. A new club has been formed at the Albion Hotel, Bath Road, Worcester, and at an enthusiastic meeting on Thursday last, it was determined to call it the "Westward Ho!" Mr. Maurice Shipway was unanimously elected chairman, Mr. G. Gibbons, hon. secretary, and Mr. Hornidge treasurer; the first general meeting has been fixed for 6th March, and continued the first Monday in every month afterwards. This looks like making a strong club; they have already a large number of members with a goodly array of hon. members, which will be a backbone to the club. I stated in last week's issue that the annual dinner of the Worcester United Working Men's Club would take place on Monday next, which was an error, it is down for March 6th.

FROM YORK AND DISTRICT.

Angling prospects have greatly improved with the change of weather, the flood waters in the rivers having subsided considerably, and the streams resumed to a large extent their natural colour. There have been several days of almost perfect spring weather, and fishing, if not in a very large measure successful, has on this account been most enjoyable. Spinning for pike of late has yielded the best results. In a few instances large catches have been made, as many as thirty fish, one of which weighed 14lb., having been taken by two rods in private waters. If only the weather continues favourable for a little while trout fishing will open under cheering auspices. The fish are numerous, and, after the floods, are strong enough to boot, so that excellent sport may be anticipated. Angling visitors to Harrogate may expect to find first-class trout fishing on the Nidd and the Crimpe. The Harrogate and the Knaresborough Clubs have done much to improve the Nidd waters, and both societies are flourishing. Altogether the Knaresborough Club has placed nearly 500,000 yearling trout and fry in the Nidd; and also bought 1000 yearling rainbow trout, and proposes to lay down 3000 rainbow ova in the hatching boxes. Mr. W. H. Ashford, fishery officer, reports to the North-Eastern Sea Fisheries Committee that during the quarter ended Dec. 31 throughout the whole of the district there was a considerable increase in the quantities of fish landed, and a corresponding increase in the value thereof. The Board of Trade returns show that the quantity landed during September, October, and November reached the enormous total of 1,173,293cwt., of the aggregate value of £729,161, against 1,000,066cwt., of the value of £674,403, for the corresponding period of 1897. The members of the Fulford (York) F.A.S. held their annual dinner at the Bay Horse Inn a few nights ago, when Capt. Key, J.P., president, occupied the chair. Various complimentary toasts were honoured. The York North-Eastern A.S. have held their yearly meeting in the city, when the secretary presented a satisfactory report. Mr. O. S. Wake was re-elected chairman, and spoke approvingly of the recent action of the Yorkshire Fishery Board in presenting 500 trout to the York Amalgamation and other coarse fishing societies.

Correspondence

[We do not hold ourselves responsible for the opinions expressed by our Correspondents.]

THAMES RIVER AND LOCK KEEPERS' ANNUAL DINNER.

DEAR SIR,—May I ask for the usual half-crown or so towards the cost of the annual dinner to the river and lock keepers and others who have assisted in the preservation and protection of the fishery during the past year.

The dinner (which it is again intended to hold in London), at the Criterion, Thursday, March 23, is of great service in bringing many working friends of the society together, and affords an excellent opportunity for clubs, anglers, and others, who are not regular subscribers to its funds, of showing an appreciation of the good work done by so many volunteer helpers. An increased number have now to be entertained, and as the society's moneys cannot be used for the purpose, but are exclusively devoted to the objects for which they are subscribed, I feel sure you will cheerfully aid us with a donation on this social and special occasion. By kindly returning the enclosed form to me with a remittance at your earliest convenience you will greatly oblige.—Yours faithfully,

H. W. HIGGINS

(Hon. Sec. and Hon. Treas. T.A.P.S.)

12, Regent-street, W.

[We hope all who are interested in Thames fishing will respond to Mr. Higgins's appeal. We shall have much pleasure in giving each of the keepers a briar pipe as in former years.—Ed.]

LAKELAND NOTES.

DEAR SIR,—In your article, headed "A Few Lakeland Notes," in the *Fishing Gazette*, 11th inst., I notice that

the water between Lakeside and Newby Bridge is described as the river Leven; whereas Newby Bridge is the actual foot of Windermere Lake and on the same level. Wordsworth describes it as the river lake, as it narrows considerably. The river begins below the bridge at the weir. It is necessary to mention this, otherwise the information is misleading to anglers who wish to fish Windermere Lake, the entire lake being free as far as Newby Bridge—a 2s 6d. licence only being required, obtainable at the post-office across the bridge, opposite the hotel.

Your correspondent states he only saw visitors trolling with artificial minnows. That may be so. And I have known some grand fish, up to 6lb. 4oz., taken that way. Still, a lot of fly fishing is done. One instance that I remember was 13lb. weight of trout taken, varying from 5lb. to 1½lb., during two hours in the morning, and the same in the afternoon, and all with the fly.

A good spring fishing is anticipated after the extremely mild and open winter. The fish are reported as being in forward condition, and even now are constantly rising.—Yours truly,

W. T. R.

Swan Hotel, Newby Bridge, Ulverston.

LANDSCAPE AND FISHING.

DEAR SIR,—In answer to "F. W.," Kelvedon cannot be correctly described as an old thatched village, although there are some old thatched cottages in the place, nor is there any trout fishing in the neighborhood; there is, however, excellent pike, roach, and perch fishing in the Blackwater here. The landscape scenery is also good, and for health I do not think it can be beaten. There is no difficulty in obtaining comfortable lodgings here. Kelvedon is forty-two miles from Loudou.—Yours very truly,

M. BEDFORD.

BIG FISHING MATCH.

DEAR SIR,—We are having a big fishing match here on March 24th and 25th, when about £100 worth of live fish is to be given in prizes. The match is confined to clubs in Lancashire and Yorkshire.—Yours truly,

ANDREW HENRY, Secretary.

The Wyresdale Fishery,
Scorton, Garstang, Launce.

FISHING BEYOND MID-STREAM.

GENTLEMEN,—I write to you asking if you can give any information as regards the following:

The Carlisle Angling Association have a certain stretch of water rented on one side of the river only. Can we or any member cast over to the far side of the water on that stretch, or only half-way or mid-stream, or is there such a point as mid-stream? Your kind information on this point will extremely oblige.—Yours very truly,

X.

[If you have only one side, and the opposite owner objects, you must not fish beyond the middle of the stream. The law looks at the bed of the river, and you must stick to your half of the bed. This point has been settled in the courts.—Ed.]

THE STONE FLY AND ITS LARVA.

DEAR SIR,—Enclosed please find bottle of Stone Fly larva I found in the Yore to-day. From your description it is evidently that of Pictet's *Perla cephalotes*. You will notice the various sizes of the larva, the smaller ones are those just hatched out, the larger, as far as I can judge, are insects from six to eight weeks old, and large enough to use as bait with a small double hook usually employed in creeper fishing. The larva of the Stone Fly is greedily taken by trout, grayling, chub, &c., from its first small creeper stage, and the fish continue feeding on it as it increases in size, and then rise freely at it when it has undergone the metamorphosis as fly. Some of the creepers are very forward this year, doubtless owing to the open winter and the wonderful mild weather we have experienced lately. Amongst the old school of Yorkshire anglers the Stone Fly is called the "May Flea." Even Jackson, who, of course, was more a practical than a scientific angler, describes it on page 22 of his excellent work, "The Practical Fly Fisher," as "May Fly." His dressing for it is as follows, viz.: Wings, feather from the inside of a grey goose's wing; body, two strands of yellow and one of drab ostrich herl, neatly ribbed, tie with brown silk; legs, brown hackle; horns and tail, rabbit's whiskers. But it is only in a high wind and coloured waters that any imitation of so large a fly will kill well, besides, there is no need to fish anything else but the natural fly, as during the ten or twelve days it is on there is no great difficulty in obtaining an ample supply. I purpose sending you a month to-day another bottle of larva, and others on April 21 and May 21; also some flies, both male and female. I can also send you a few alive, you will then be able to judge what progress they make. Pictet says: "That the larva of the Stone Fly are found in the roughest parts of swift streams." This may be the case in rivers of which his observations have been made, but certainly not in ours. We find them in shallow waters, amongst stones, at the bottom of a "dub" or pool, and at the sides of streams. If one gets in the rough in attempting to escape, it is quickly washed out into more shallow and quieter water. Some of the larva emerge from the eggs, in mild winters, in January, but the majority are not hatched until February or March; it therefore takes them about twelve or thirteen weeks to attain their full growth. The general change from larva to fly takes place usually during the last week in May. Much, however, depends on the season, and I've known it as late as June 7 and 8. The male fly predominate in numbers, there being ten gentlemen (locally called Jacks) to one lady. The fish feed

TO SPORTSMEN—Barberrys, of 20, Haymarket, London, will offer (till the 24th inst.), at half price, their 1898 model and stock sporting garments, viz.: gabardine (unlined) shooting coats, 21s.; long overcoats, 21s.; long leggings, 7s. 6d.; gaiters, 5s. 3d.; golfer caps, 2s. 6d.; gabardine combination shooting coats, 26s. 3d. and 31s. 6d.; K. B. breeches, 21s.; knickerbockers, 15s.; long overcoats, 31s. 6d.; kilt coats, 21s.; Highland capes, 21s.; Barberrys capes, 31s. 6d.; rain-proofed tweed shooting coats, 26s. 3d. and 31s. 6d.; Highland capes, 26s. 3d.; weatheralls, 31s. 6d. Sent on approval on receipt of cheque covering.

on both, but prefer the female fly, and being much the largest it makes the best bait and floats better when impaled on the hooks. The Stone Fly is seldom seen on the wing; if dropped from off a bridge, and there be no wind, it falls perpendicular on to the water, very rarely indeed taking flight, and then only for a yard or two. They certainly do not deposit their eggs "as they fly over the water;" the eggs are dropped from off stones at the water's edge. I frequently pick up the female fly with a bunch of eggs attached to her.—Yours truly,

J. E. MILLER.

Northern Anglers' Depot, 19, New
Station-street, Leeds.

ANGLERS' ASSOCIATION RE-STOCKING FUND.

DEAR SIR,—Since last report I beg to acknowledge receipt of £2 2s., first donation from the West Green Angling Society towards the above fund.—Yours truly,
ALEX. WRIGHT (Hon. Treas.).

FISHING AT EXMOOR.

DEAR SIR,—I should be much obliged if you can give me some idea as to where to find out about Exmoor fishings. Is it possible to get any free streams on the moor, where fair fishing can be had at Easter; and, if so, how can I find out about them? Do you know if there are any free waters at Simonsbath or near Dulverton?—Yours truly,
JOHN G. A. NICHOLSON.

[In reply to Mr. Nicholson, there is plenty of fishing up on the moor free, or can be fished for the asking:—Simonsbath: Mr. Fry, The William Rufus. Exford: Mr. S. Baker, White Horse Hotel. Winsford: Mr. D. Evans, Royal Oak. Wythpool: Mr. Count, Royal Oak. Dulverton: Mr. W. Woodbury, Lamb Hotel; Mr. J. Moyle, Red Lion Hotel; Mr. Babb, Higher Marsh Farm. Any of these will give Mr. Nicholson any information he may wish for re lodgings, &c.—ED.]

FISHING IN SWITZERLAND.

DEAR SIR,—Will you or any of your numerous readers kindly tell me where I can get any decent trout and grayling fishing in the rivers and lakes of Switzerland, especially in the neighbourhood of Thun and Interlaken, during the months of April and May (excluding the Rhone Valley), near good hotel accommodation, as one of the party is an invalid?—Yours very truly,
AN OLD SUBSCRIBER.

FISHING BAG WANTED.

DEAR SIR,—In reply to "Wrentail's" query re trout bag, I beg to suggest an "Improved Freke Bag," with movable rubber lining, which Carters' supply at about half-a-guinea.

As a rule the bad point of a bag is the difficulty of keeping it free from slime after having had a few weeks' wear. The movable rubber lining overcomes this difficulty, and is in many other ways most convenient.—Yours truly,
A. S.

DEAR SIR,—If "Wrentail" will communicate with us, we think we can send him a bag that will suit him.—Yours truly,
D. AND W. H. FOSTER.
Ashbourne, England.

DEAR SIR,—I observe "Wrentail's" letter to you. In my own humble opinion, all fishing bags, especially in hot weather, and if fairly full of trout, are quite a mistake. The fish will rub together, and soon get a very unmistakable look, and they are apt to get limp and flabby too, quite unfit for the taxidermist.

What is wanted is a pannier or creel where the fish are kept in the dark, and where, whilst sufficient air gets in to admit ventilation it does not shrivel up the trout till they resemble dried haddock.

I confess I know nothing better than my own invention, and which I hope you, sir, can speak for. It is a lining of black glazed India rubber. To attach it to the inside of the creel a split cane is first inserted within the inner rim. The lining is then fitted with large hooks (curtain hooks I fancy they are), and, of course, the glazed side of the rubber lining is kept next the fish. Further, a free lid of India rubber (two thicknesses, glazed on both sides) is cut out roughly to something like the inside measurement of the creel, and this is placed over every fresh layer of trout. Now and then I give it a wash in the cool stream, and replace it over the trout to keep them sweet and clean.

I can have no possible object in puffing it up. I simply say I know, and I wish, nothing better, and it has stood with me the test of years and of hundredweights of trout, "for bye."

It costs quite as much as the basket itself, but these are its advantages:

1. A specimen trout does not shrivel up—skin and fins—till it is hideous.
2. The trout do not rub together, as in a bag, till all their glorious markings are lost.
3. They keep cool, and come out bonny and fresh.
4. The slime from the skin of the trout does not work its way any longer into the basket-work and decompose there, and so one can take one's creel into a railway carriage, even after a few consecutive weeks' fishing, in hot weather, and not have all the inmates looking at you and wondering if you were one of the great unwashed or a savage!
5. Any fool of a servant (and there are many knocking

GRANT'S CHERRY WHISKY.—This attractive "pick-me-up" is a pleasant combination of Kent Cherry Juice and very soft old Scotch Whisky. This and Grant's Morella Cherry Brandy are sold by Wine Merchants.

(about) can lift the hooks off the split-cane attachment, sponge the bag clean, and fix it up again in two or three minutes.

6. The basket lasts twice as long, as it never needs to be washed at all, and never gets foul.

Its worst fault is that it is not patented, and all the world are free to use it. It could possess no greater fault. Ask fishing tackle makers if you doubt me.—Yours truly,
E. M. TOP.

THE IRON BLUE.

DEAR SIR,—If it is not asking too much, I should like you to answer the following, or rather to help me.

I have been much puzzled in trying to find, get, or make a really killing imitation of the little Iron Blue Dun (May) and little Yellow Dun of May.

I may say that I have tried all best known tackle shops, including Foster's, Ashbourne, &c., &c., but without success. On the streams where I have fished (Mid and North Wales) I find that the natural flies (Iron Blues) have not the olive colour legs or body, but seem to be a beautiful deep iron blue throughout, with perhaps the exception of the body, which has a slight purple tint.

I should consider it a great favour if you would tell me where I should be able to get a pattern, also descriptions of, say, one or two dressings for same. Or, if dressing and pattern could be had, I would gladly pay for same. Wishing you F. G. every success.—Yours truly,
IRON BLUE.

[If our correspondent has not tried Mr. F. M. Walbran's Iron Blue, we advise him to do so. The body is a steel blue, with a little purple in it. We have found it kill well in Hampshire when the Iron Blue was on. Mr. W.'s address is 10, Infirmary-street, Leeds.—ED.]

TROUT FISHING IN SPAIN.

DEAR SIR,—Would it be trespassing too much upon your courtesy to ask you if you or any of your readers can put me in the way of getting information about trout fishing in the west or north-west of Spain, say, in May, either by referring me to back numbers of the *Fishing Gazette*, some book, or through your correspondence column? I am desirous of getting what information I can in regard to the best headquarters, size of fish, tackle, accommodation, &c.—Yours truly,
MORGAN J. M. WILLIAMS.

DEATH IN THE OIL LAMP.

DEAR SIR,—The grave announcement that the Home Office intends to introduce a Bill in the present Session which, without raising the flash point, will place further restrictions upon the oil and lamp trades, induces me to trouble you with the following considerations.

It is hardly necessary to point out that this action of the Home Office officials will prevent any legislation taking place this Session in the direction which you, in common with the Press of the whole of this country, have asked for.

The Government, having a Bill of their own, will be bound to oppose Mr. Reckitts' Bill for raising the flash point, which has secured a very early date, and there is very little doubt that they will be compelled to withdraw their own Bill by the opposition of these two powerful trades.

The cardinal fact upon which we should all insist is that, if the flash point be raised, it will be found that no further legislation whatever is necessary, and trade interests will not be harassed.

I hope you will see your way to take this matter into consideration, with a view to making some reference to it in your columns.—I am, dear sir, yours faithfully,
THE EDITOR OF THE "STAR."

[We hope that the Government will do something to prevent the terrible waste of life caused by the use of bad oil in bad lamps, now so common throughout the country. The *Star* deserves the thanks of the community at large for the great efforts it has made, and is still making, in this matter.—ED.]

WHY DO WE PAY FOR TROUT LICENCES?

DEAR SIR,—Can any of your readers tell me why we pay a rod licence?

For my own part I have taken out a licence for thirteen years or more, because I was taught to do so when a boy, but never once have I been asked to produce it, though I may say I have fished as much as most enthusiastic fishers do, both north, south, east, and west of our little island.

The following case came under my notice last year. Some very fine trout collected in a pool near the mouth of a small stream. The men who were lucky enough to take one or two were naval officers without a licence. A local police officer was put up to ask these gentlemen for their licence, but was promptly told he had no authority to do so!

In another district where I frequently fish, the boys go out and take as many as 100 to 200 small trout (about thirty to the pound) from streams which they have previously stirred up to colour the water. In the same district night lines are frequently set for the large trout, many of which, no doubt, are caught. In other parts of England I not only know, but have seen cross-lines and "otters" used.

Why should we pay for a licence to witness the wholesale destruction of the precious trout by those who pay nothing, or rather, I should say, why, having paid (presumably to have trout protected), should we have the opportunity of seeing such things and be perfectly powerless to stop them? Why have not the police authority, nay, orders, to demand a rod licence, and why is not a limit put to size of fish to be taken?

Is it not time the matter was taken up to prevent the wholesale destruction of our favourite fresh-water fish?—Yours faithfully,
FLY.
Hayle, Cornwall.

BREAD CRUST AS BAIT FOR ROACH.

DEAR MARSTON,—Mr. Alfred Jardine writes that the discoverer of bread crust for roach bait deserves a tomb in Westminster Abbey. Now I think I can give the straight tip. We had as a member a Mr. Straight, who fished at Richmond, and weighed in large roach; one of his is in a case in our museum, which weighed 1lb. 14oz., caught on Feb. 7, 1874. I was with him at the time he caught all his big roach with bread crust, my gentles only enticing the smaller fish. We baited with bread and bran, and as the scraps of bread floated down, the big fellows were at the end of the swim having a feast. It was the first time I saw bread crust used, or even heard of it being tried, and think Mr. Straight was the pioneer. McIntosh, the waterproof maker at Charing Cross then, and our late friend Mr. Klastenberger, declared that a monument should be erected to his memory in Trafalgar-squares for his useful invention.—Yours truly,
T. R. SACHS.

FISHING IN THE LAKE OF PATRIA.

SIR,—The following note is taken from Colonel Maseroni's memoirs (Vol. I., pp. 366-7), and may be interesting:

"Should any of your readers have the good fortune to sojourn at Naples, I particularly advise them, if they are anglers, to visit Patria, and take up their abode for a week or two in Pagliara. In the lake of Patria, which is six miles round, they will find plenty of 'spinoli,' in England called bass, in natural history *Perca punctata*. These fish are very like trout to the taste, are very voracious, and take a bait like a large trout or pike. Many of them are ten and fifteen pounds weight, but an average may be struck at five. The angler must be furnished with spinning tackle; the artificial baits sold at the tackle shops will catch them well, provided they be all white and silvery, and about four inches long. The bass will also take a worm, but it is only accidentally that he will be caught in that way, in which I never took more than two."

"Proceeding from the lake up the river Patria, which I have already described, the angler fond of float fishing will find a satiety of sport with large tench and roach. In order to fish this water, which is about eight miles long and fifty yards wide, he must have a small punt of the country, there called a *londra*. In fact, he must, at first, have one of the people of the place to take him about the intricacies of the little canals, wilds of reeds, and forests of myrtles. The river has, properly speaking, no banks, there being twenty feet of water under the floating masses of reeds that form the apparent margin of the water. Here and there are solid masses on which a man, or several, may stand. It is well to fix upon and keep to a 'post,' as we used to call our fishing stands, a due regard being had to the depth of water, absence of weeds, &c. This spot being ground-baited with boiled grain, &c. (probably wheat or barley), every day, thousands of fish will congregate around it, and you will have no interruption to your sport."

I might observe in passing, that, in spite of ground-baiting so constantly with 'grain,' he nevertheless says:

"The best baits are 'gentles' for roach; for the tench I used either a large lob worm or a lump of paste, properly worked up with cotton wool, of the size of a large cherry."

Personally, I do not like to use paste "worked up with cotton wool." He continues:

"Williams, Gill, and myself, being each furnished with his canoe or 'londra,' used to take our stations with the canoe beside us. I fished with three rods, one in hand for roach, which were usually caught three at a time as fast as you please; a long rod on each side of me for tench, of which we have each caught a hundredweight in a day." MARKIT.

FISHING AT ANGOULÊME, FRANCE.

DEAR SIR,—Can you or your readers give me any information as to whether there is good fishing at Angoulême (Charante), France; and, if so, whether free or otherwise?—Yours truly,
"ANGOUË."

THE *Architectural Review* for February is a truly magnificent number. "Disappearing London" is again a feature, the photogravure plate, "Davies-street, West," being one of the finest drawings Mr. Emanuel has yet done. An article on the work of Chas. Price-Boyce, R.W.S., is fully illustrated; and there are other fine articles on "The Arts of Ancient Egypt," "Cyprus," and other subjects specially interesting to artists and craftsmen, and full of information for the general reader.

THE *Spalding Free Press* reports this week that Mr. Brown, of Pote Hole, bailiff of the Spalding Angling Association, on Saturday caught a monster eel in the North Drove drain. He was using a pilger, and brought up an eel weighing 6lb. 2oz., and measuring 4ft. 4in. This is the largest specimen ever caught in the district, and is believed to be a record for a fresh-water eel caught anywhere in the country. The eel was skinned, and the skin has been sent away to be preserved.

BACKING THE FAVOURITE does not always bring pleasure or profit to those concerned in it. Frequently the horse no one thinks much about wins, and those who gain anything are few and far between. This cannot be said with reference to Holloway's Pills and Ointment, for they never disappoint those who place faith in their merits. With reference to the Ointment, medical men are so convinced of its merits that they recommend it to patients as the best remedy within their experience. The Pills, also, have a marvellous effect upon the system; and it can be truly said that whatever the cause of the trouble may be the combined medicines will restore the patient to health.

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THE FISHING GAZETTE is published every Saturday, and can be obtained at Messrs. W. H. Smith and Son's Railway Bookstalls and of the principal Newsagents and Fishing Tackle Dealers in London and the Provinces.

Communications relating to the Literary Department, Fishing Tackle for Notice, Books for Review, &c., should be addressed to R. B. MARSTON, Editor of the FISHING GAZETTE, St. Dunstan's House, Fetter-lane, London.

Correspondents are requested to write on one side of the paper only, and give their real names and addresses, not necessarily as signatures to their letters, but as a guarantee of good faith. Unless this rule be adhered to no notice will be taken of such communications.

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For One Year, post free to any part of Great Britain and Ireland	10s. 6d.
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The Fishing Gazette

WITH WHICH IS INCORPORATED

ANGLING AND CLUB GOSSIP.

SATURDAY, MARCH 4TH, 1899.

SOME RECENT DISCOVERIES CONCERNING SEA FISH.

As is familiar to most of our readers, the great bulk of our marine food fishes do not deposit their eggs on the sea bottom. The ova, when extruded, instead of falling gradually, commence to rise, and eventually remain suspended, like Mahomet's coffin, not, however, in air, but in water. The exact level at which these eggs float differs with the species of fish and the specific gravity of the water.

The fish whose floating eggs have been studied are the following: The grey and red gurnards, the lesser weaver, the mackerel, the skulpin, the cod, the haddock, the pouting or bib, the whiting, the coalfish or saithe, the ling, the rocklings, theorsk or tusk (the last eight forms all members of the cod family), the halibut, the long rough dab, the turbot, the brill, the sailflake or carter, the Norwegian or Eckström's topknot, the plaice, the flounder, the dab, the smear dab, the long flounder, the sole, and the solonette (all members of the flounder family). Of the herrings, the herring proper deposits its eggs on the bottom, while those of the sprat, anchovy, and

pilchard float. This flotation seems in all these fish to be due to the lessened specific gravity of the eggs themselves, although the earlier observers were of opinion that it was due to the presence of a large globule or two of oil within the egg sphere. This has been disproved by the fact that many free-floating eggs have no oil globules, while some which rest upon the sea bottom are so furnished. Moreover, there is one important fish, the angler (*Lophius piscatorius*), whose eggs do not float separately, but are imbedded in a mass of mucus which, to a great extent, acts as the floating agent. It is not to remind the readers of this paper of well-known facts such as these that this article is written, for by no stretch of the imagination can the discovery of the pelagic or free ocean-floating eggs of the cod be described as a recent discovery, seeing that it dates as far back as the year 1864, when O. Sars, the great Scandinavian naturalist, came across it while making an investigation into the Loffoden Islands cod fisheries. It is only, however, since the matter has passed into the hands of practical embryologists of the school of which the late George Brook was such a brilliant example, that the science of the matter has been carefully worked out. In parenthesis it may be here said that upon many people the word "science" has a most repellent effect; they look upon all science as dry, unintelligible, and useless for practical purposes. The word has, however, no such meaning; "science" is only "knowledge," and we all know that "knowledge is power"; further, curiosity is natural to every created sane healthy being, and the acquirement of knowledge is attained by the practice of disciplined curiosity. The only reason then apparent why scientific information should be dry, unintelligible, or useless, is that the reader has not sufficient preliminary training to grasp the technical matter, or else the writer has not sufficient mental perspective to enable him to make himself understood of the people. All purely scientific works and treatises are, or ought to be, written in such language as to enable them to be understood by the specialists of all other countries; but at the same time it is the duty of some person to endeavour to boil down, simplify, and communicate to the public generally such "science" as may aid the average citizen intellectually and practically.

We in Great Britain have at the present moment a band of scientific workers investigating the wonders and secrets of the sea. The results of their labours to a great extent lie hid in the pages of the Journal of the Marine Biological Association and in sundry Blue Books, whose awesome official colour deters even the boldest from attempting their perusal.

Yet within these pages are recorded the results of many an investigation having the greatest practical bearing upon the future welfare of our sea and fresh-water fisheries.

Thus, for instance, although it has been known since 1880 that the eggs of most of our food fishes were pelagic, and that the reason why they floated was that their specific gravity was equal to that of the surrounding sea water, still the manner in which they became so much lighter than those of other fishes had not been described. It must be remembered that a cod's roe is a pretty solid substance, and not at all likely to float.

Numerous theories were started to explain how the eggs absorb water after they are extruded, thus accounting for the change in size. Dr. Wemyss Fulton, the scientific superintendent of the Scottish Fishery Board, decided to investigate the matter for himself, and the results of his investigations were published in the last annual report of the Fishery Board for Scotland.

Before the publication of this report the following facts were known:

1. That the floating eggs of our food fishes were lighter than the immature eggs of the same species, and were much more transparent in colour.
2. That the marine food fishes, having floating ova, deposited many more eggs than their fresh-water brethren.
3. That in the cod, plaice, &c., only a portion of the eggs were ripe at any one time, and that, therefore, the period during which spawning is carried on is much longer than in the fresh-water fishes.

Dr. Fulton devoted his research to an investiga-

tion of the eggs while developing in the ovaries of the fish, while Dr. T. H. Milroy, at the request of the Board, investigated the chemistry of the subject.

The results may be given as follows. The floating eggs of the food fishes were found to undergo a certain change in the ovary immediately before becoming ripe. This change consists in the absorption somewhat suddenly by the egg of a quantity of fluid secreted by the ovary, which distends the ovum to three or four times its previous size, dissolves the yolk globules, and thins the capsule. This change only takes place in a few of the eggs at one time, and occurs at that period of development when a rearrangement takes place in the contents of the egg, rendering it able to be fertilised. As Dr. Fulton says, this stage "has, so to speak, in the pelagic egg, been seized upon and exaggerated by natural selection for another purpose, namely, to enable the eggs to float and to become widely dispersed." This absorption of fluid also takes place in the demersal or non-floating egg, but to a much less degree.

The effect of this absorption is:

1. That the egg just before extrusion becomes three to four times larger.
2. That it becomes transparent.
3. That it is greatly lessened as regards specific gravity.

Take for example the egg of the plaice. From definite observation it was found that the immature egg, with a diameter of 1.21 millimètres, of a volume of 0.9276 cubic millimètres, and of a specific gravity of 1.084 became, when thus suddenly matured, 1.88 millimètres in diameter, 3.764 cubic millimètres in volume, but of a specific gravity of only 1.025. Of course, there are slight individual differences, but these figures may be given as the mean.

With the non-floating or demersal eggs of the herring the mean diameter was for the immature opaque eggs 1.18 millimètres, with a volume of .86 cubic millimètres, and a specific gravity of 1.087—1.090; whereas the mature eggs averaged 1.33 millimètres in diameter, had a volume of 1.23 cubic millimètres, and a specific gravity of 1.066.

In plain English this means that the mature egg of the plaice had got four times larger than the immature, and at the same time was practically reduced to the same specific gravity as the surface of the sea, instead of being about 5 per cent. heavier. With the herring ova, however, the egg only increases about half as much again in volume, and the specific gravity remains still more than 3½ per cent. above that of sea water.

The question then arises as to what the fluid is that is absorbed. At first it was thought to be sea water, but as the specific gravity of that fluid is 1.025—1.026, it is difficult to account for the reduction of a specific gravity of 1.084 by that means. Drs. Fulton and Milroy have set the matter at rest by testing the fluid which they find to be secreted by the follicles of the ovary of the ripe haddock, cod, and plaice, and found that the specific gravity ranged from 1.015—1.017.

There is but little doubt that the same changes take place in all ova, but, as Dr. Wemyss Fulton has said, they are specially modified and magnified in the floating eggs of our marine food fishes.

What, then, is the practical outcome of this investigation? When all is said and done, that is the query of the average man in the street. Many points hitherto obscure have been cleared up by this research, thus:

1. It explains how it is that cod and other sea fish can contain millions of eggs against the few thousands shed by fresh-water fish.
2. It explains why most sea fish have a protracted spawning period, and, therefore, why they, unlike those forms which, distended with ripe eggs, are unable to feed, migrate in search of food, and, aided by the surface currents, distribute their ova far and wide.
3. It explains why the young are buoyed up by the yolk sac until it is gradually absorbed in the feeding of the infant fish.
4. It explains why the young, fed with a watery yolk, containing but little nutriment, are at first not so brisk and vigorous as are those of our fresh-water fishes.

The large number of ova contained in the cods and the flat fishes is necessary, owing to the many

enemies, including man, which prey upon them. In this last investigation it was calculated that of twelve forms which deposit their ova on the bottom, the average is 24,700 eggs per female; while of thirty species with floating eggs the average per female is 2,388,000. A female cod (the diameter of the unripe egg of which is about one-third to one-quarter that of the salmon) weighed 14lb. 10oz., and had a total volume of 6250 c.c.; the ovaries, partly emptied, weighed 3lb 3oz., and were of a volume of 1682 c.c. "It was calculated that the number of eggs present was 4,560,000, which, in the mature distended state, would occupy a volume of about 6261 c.c., or considerably greater than the bulk of the fish." Again, a flounder, which weighed close upon 2lb., had a gross volume of 951 c.c., and the roe weighed 6½oz., and had a volume of 170 c.c. The number of eggs was estimated at 2,733,000, the volume of which, when matured, would be 1114 c.c., that is to say, a quarter more than the total bulk of the fish, roe and all.

But when it is remembered that only a few eggs become ripe at a time, it is understood that the spawning is greatly protracted, that the fish continues feeding during that period, migrating gradually into deeper and deeper water, many obscure facts in the history of the cod, haddock, and flat fish bid fair to be explained.

The reason for migration will then be sought for through the food supply rather than by accounting for all the movements as being due to that wonderful sexual instinct which is so well marked in the salmon and the herring. The day may perchance come when popular science books, such as the Royal Natural History, will no longer disfigure their pages by misstatements such as that of the cod coming inshore to breed during the winter months. As all sea anglers know, he comes inshore to feed, and gradually works northerly and into deeper water as the spring approaches and the spawning season arrives.

As to the buoying up of the young or larval fish; this is a most practical point. When the first descriptions were written on the development of the floating eggs, it seemed to be taken for granted that the young remained at the top because they were lighter than the water; this is quite an error, the young developing fish is heavier than sea water and would sink were he not buoyed up or able to keep himself afloat. Before he is able to aid himself, the yolk bag keeps him floating until his own organs grow into usefulness.

One extremely practical point remains to be dealt with, depending entirely upon the result of the application of the facts here described. Space will not permit of more than a reference to it here, but it is necessary that some notice should be here taken of the subject. It should be remembered that money is being spent yearly in the endeavour to artificially hatch and rear sea fish, especially plaice, at the Marine Hatchery at Dunbar, presided over by Mr. Harold Dannevig. At present the eggs have to be got by collecting ripe fish from the trawlers. Owing to the fact that each fish has but few eggs ripe at any one time, and that the fish are liable to be injured by the trawl, this has been weary work. Nevertheless, from 1894 to 1897, both years inclusive, 117 millions of fry have been hatched and turned out into the sea. What is asked for is sea water enclosures in which to retain adult fishes till they have shed all their eggs, and also to shelter the young till able to find for themselves.

At the same time the investigation at present appears to throw a doubt on the value of artificial hatching as a method of counteracting the destruction of immature fish. We stand but little chance of getting anything like an increased stock by artificially stripping fish whose eggs only mature a few at a time, and whose young must have a superabundant supply of food almost within a day or two of their being hatched out.

Much has been lately done in discovering the food of the young fish, and this I hope to deal with in a further article.

CHARLES S. PATTERSON.

ROD TO LET ON THE ITCHEN.—Price £25 for the season.—Rod to let on the Upper Itchen, below Alresford; nearly one and a half miles of water; limited to three rods. Apply by letter only to "Colonel R.," care of R. B. Marston, St. Dunstan's House, Fetter-lane, London.

THE MAY FLY (*EPIHEMERA* *VULGATA*).

In some parts of England the May Fly is known as the "Cadow"; it is also called the "Green Drake," "Grey Drake," "Death Drake," "Spent Gnat," &c.

These names all refer to the same fly. When the insect first leaves the water and emerges from its larval coat (as will be described presently) it generally has more or less of a green or olive green appearance about the wings, which (*i.e.*, the wings) become of an iron grey colour after the fly has thrown off its light overcoat and nearly finished its existence.

Nearly all the old books on angling refer to two kinds of May Fly, viz., the "Green Drake," which appears first, and the "Grey Drake" following it. Cotton says: "His tail turns up towards his back, like a mallard—from whence, unquestionless, he has his name of the green drake."

I should think it was much more likely that the fly became known as "green drake" and "grey drake" because our earliest fly fishers and writers on the art almost always recommended that the wings of the artificial green fly should be made of the white grey feather of a wild drake mallard dyed an olive green or yellow colour, and the grey fly with the black or dark grey feather of the wild drake mallard.

Some of the old writers make a great point of the feathers being from the *wild* mallard, and from the *drake* and not the duck, and it seems to be a pretty general rule that feathers from male birds are to be preferred as being stronger in colour, gloss, and fibre than those from hen birds.

To Charles Cotton belongs the honour of giving the best description of the out of water life of the May Fly which had been given by an angling, or perhaps any, writer up to his time, though he appears to have supposed its larvæ live in a case. He describes how the fly emerges from the larval coat, or case, on rising to the surface of the water, but does not mention the second change of garment when the whole covering of the wings, body, &c., is cast off.

On pages 167 to 169 of Bagster's 1808 edition of "The Compleat Angler" there is a note by the editor, Sir John Hawkins, in which he says that when he was preparing his first edition of the "Angler," he found in Bowler's "Art of Angling" an account of the history of the May Fly, which, Bowler said, had been "communicated to him by a gentleman." Sir John tells us that he afterwards discovered that the same account had been communicated to the Royal Society by Mr. Peter Collinson, a London tradesman, well known among botanists and collectors of natural curiosities. Collinson's account of the May Fly was read before the Society, and published in the "Philosophical Transactions" for 1746, page 329, No. 481.

Hawkins says the account is "miserably written, ungrammatical, and otherwise obscure." All the same, it is valuable as a description from personal observation, and interesting as being an account of the rise of May Fly on the Itchen more than 150 years ago.

Mr. Peter Collinson describes how, when walking by the side of the river at Winchester on May 26, 1744, he "was shown the May Fly, which lives all the year, except a few days, on the bottom or sides of the river, and rises, when mature, to the surface of the water, splits its case, and appears an animal (he means fly), having a slender body and three long hairs at the tails, and four blackish veined transparent wings, the under much the smaller, and the upper having four black spots. Having disengaged itself from its exuvia or skin (of which he saw 'innumerable floating on the water'), the next business of the creature is to fly about to find a proper place to fix on, as trees, rushes, &c.; and that, having fixed on one, it waits for another change, which in two or three days is completed. The first hint I had," he says, "of this wonderful change I took from the appearance of their exuviae hanging on the hedges." He collected many of the flies, and "could easily discover when they were ready to put off their old clothes though so lately put on."

"He says he had the pleasure to show his friends one of the flies that he held on his finger all the while it performed this great work, and that it was surprising to see the back part of the fly split open and produce a new fly, which left the case of the head, body, wings, legs, and even the three-haired tail of the old one behind it. He adds that after it had reposed itself awhile it flew abroad with great briskness to seek a mate."

At this point Hawkins, who evidently has no notion that he is dealing with the observations of

a most accurate, though not, trained, observer, says:

"After an enumeration of some particulars, which I choose to omit, Collinson goes on with his account stating, 'He observed when the females were impregnated they left the males and betook themselves to the river; where, darting up and down, they were seen to eject a cluster of eggs, which seemed a pale bluish speck, like a small drop of milk, as they were sinking to the bottom of the river; and that then by the elasticity of their tails the flies sprang up off the water and darted down again, and continued to do so, till having exhausted their stock of eggs, together with their strength, they were able to rise no more, and became an easy prey to the fish. This is the end of the females.' Of the males he says that 'after they have done their office, they drop down, languish, and die among the trees and bushes.'" (The males die on the water also.)

"The conclusion of his (Collinson's) letter, I give in the author's own words, for I am tired of abridging it," says Hawkins:

"The flies appear at six o'clock in the evening. On the 26th of May I perceived a few; but on the 27th, 28th, 29th, and 30th it was a sight very surprising and entertaining to see the rivers teeming with innumerable pretty, nimble flying animals, and almost everything near covered with them: when I looked up, the air was full of them, as high as I could discern. And yet this wonderful appearance totally disappeared in three or four days after the last of May."

The rise of May Fly on the Itchen now lasts much longer than to the 3rd or 4th of June, as for many years past I have looked on the 3rd of June as about the first day for the trout to feed steadily on the fly, which continues to appear for a fortnight or more. The date of Collinson's observation was May 26 to June 4, 1744, or eight years before the "new style" of reckoning time was adopted in this country. Our new or Gregorian style of reckoning time being eleven nominal days in advance of the old or Julian style, makes the actual time of year when Collinson saw the May Fly rise of 1744 coincide much more closely with our experience than the nominal dates do. This also may account for the name of the fly, as in the Julian Calendar—the calendar of the old angling writers—it was more of a "May" fly than a June fly. Now it must be considered chiefly a June fly. Ronalds, for instance, heads his list of "Flies for June" with it. Of course, the time of its appearance varies in different parts of the country, and in Ireland, on the lakes, it is much earlier than on our South of England streams, and they are not the latest.

The following account of the life history of the May Fly is taken chiefly from Pictet's "*Histoire naturelle des Insectes Neuroptères—Famille des Ephémérides*," unless otherwise stated.

THE EGG OF THE MAY FLY.

As described by Collinson, the impregnated female May Fly flies to the river and drops her eggs on to the water, where they sink to the bottom. They are left completely to chance, for the Ephemeridæ do not show the remarkable instinct exhibited by some of the Phryganidæ (sedges), which, although aerial insects, go down to the bottom of the water to lay their eggs, thus sacrificing their own lives to ensure the safety of their posterity. Not that the May Fly gains much by her maternal indifference, for she does not survive her egg laying, and both sexes die very soon after fulfilling their reproductive duties.

Mr. Frederic M. Halford, in his splendid work, "Dry Fly Entomology," quotes the Rev. A. E. Eaton's account of the methods of egg depositing among the Ephemeridæ as follows: "Others extrude them gradually, part at a time, and deposit them in one of the following manners, viz.: either the mother alights upon the water at intervals to wash off the eggs that have issued from the mouth of the oviducts during her flight, or else she creeps down into the water (enclosed with a film of air, with her wings collapsed so as to overlie the abdomen, and with her *setæ* (tails) closed together) to lay her eggs upon the underside of stones, disposing them in rounded patches, in a single layer evenly spread, and in mutual contiguity."

This would appear to contradict Pictet's remark

* It is a pity he abridged it at all, for I believe this is the earliest detailed English account of the life of the May Fly out of the waters given from actual observation. However, it is doubtless still to be seen in the "Philosophical Transactions" for 1746, No. 481. An English translation of Dr. Swammerdam's "Life of the Ephemerion," from the Dutch, by Dr. Ed. Tyson, was published in 1681.—R. B. M.

as to the Ephemeridæ not entering the water to deposit their eggs.

The May Fly eggs having been deposited in the water in May or June, how long do they require to hatch out? I do not think Pictet answers this question, and I believe Mr. Halford was the first to answer it by actual experiment, as, with the assistance of Mr. T. P. Hawksley, he kept some eggs laid on June 9, which hatched out on Aug. 15 following, and he adds that a Test river-keeper of great experience has collected thousands of May Fly eggs in large bottles, and says they hatch out in about three weeks. Mr. Halford gives the number of eggs laid by one May Fly as averaging 6500.

How long the larva lives in the water before changing to the fly is uncertain, probably from two to three years. Pictet says that as soon as hatched their first care is to construct a house to live in. This takes the form of a tubular straight, or slightly arched, gallery, which it digs out horizontally in the clay or mudbanks of the river. This hole is excavated by means of the mandibles and front legs, and is slightly larger in diameter than the body of the larva, but not large enough for them to continue to live in all their larval life (two or three years). So a new hole is made when the old one gets too small. In some places the rise or fall of the water may make them shift their quarters, for they like to be near the surface, and yet they must be under water. Some of the rivers of Holland and France, which run over a solid bed of clay, have their banks pierced by a multitude of these little holes or tunnels, the present or former homes of an enormous quantity of these larvæ.

As to the distance to which the larva will burrow into a mudbank, I remember many years ago Major Turle telling me that when getting larvæ for transplanting they had in cold weather to follow them sometimes two or three feet. This would refer, I imagine, only to soft muddy banks, and not to solid clay. As the time for their change to the fly stage approaches, they leave their holes, and crawl about in the mud at the bottom of the river. I have often scooped out quite a number with a net in April and May, and also caught trout and grayling full of them. They will live for days in a tightly-corked bottle of water, and are beautiful objects. Pictet says it is difficult to get an exact idea of the life of the larva as he found the common May Fly (*Ephemera vulgata*)—the only one of the digging division of the kind he had been able to observe—very difficult to keep alive long. He could never do so more than for a few months.

The only difference between the larva and the nymph larva is that the latter, being older, is larger, and shows the dark wing cases on the back. These wing cases hold the wings folded up, but growing inside them to be ready for use when the little creature leaves the water to change into a fly. Pictet says that he has found the remains of little insects and water worms in the stomachs of May Fly larvæ. Pictet gives the above figures as being twice the natural size. They seem to me to be rather more than twice as large as any I have seen alive.

CHANGE FROM THE NYMPH STAGE TO THAT OF ITS FIRST STATE AS A FLY.

The nymph of the May Fly may often be seen, says Pictet, swimming up to the surface of the water, and there promptly changing into a winged insect. This operation, which has often been described, is analogous to that which takes place in the case of the Stone Flies, &c., only it is more rapid in the case of the Ephemeridæ, and instead of having to find a rough surface on which to claw on to while pulling themselves out of their larval coats, the May Flies can change theirs while floating on the water and sitting on their old skins, which serve the purpose of a boat, keeping the fly dry while it is unfolding its wings. This old skin is like a mackintosh suit, covering the insect completely, and when the fly emerges and the waterproof is no longer wanted it is left behind on the surface of the water. Anglers call these transparent empty skins "shucks," and on rivers where there is a big rise of May Fly they may be seen coming down on the surface in thousands, and piled up in the corners and eddies in little heaps. Pictet says that the supple, soft, and delicate nature of the May Fly's body enables it to squeeze out of its old skin more rapidly than



FIG. 1. PICTET'S LARVA OF MAY FLY (*Ephemera vulgata*).
(Rather more than twice the natural size.)



FIG. 2. PICTET'S LARVA OF MAY FLY (*Ephemera vulgata*) IN ITS NYMPH STAGE.
(About three times the natural size.)
The two dark pieces on the back are the wing cases.



FIG. 3. MAY FLY. GREEN DRAKE (*sub-imago*).
As it is when it first leaves the water. Wings are more opaque and tails shorter than after changing the skin. The wings also have little hairs on them, easily seen with a glass; these are wanting on the perfect fly.



FIG. 4. MAY FLY. GREY DRAKE (*imago*).
As it is finally, after shedding the *sub-imago* skin. Wings are more glassy and tails and legs longer.



FIG. 5. ORANGE DUN.
This is only given to show the general resemblance in shape between the May Flies and the smaller Duns.

the Stone Flies and Sedges, which are stiffer and harder, and less supple in their bodies. Anyone who has held a newly-hatched May Fly by the wings knows how the yellow wax-like body squirms and bends about in all directions.

CHANGE FROM THE FIRST OR IMPERFECT FLY STAGE (*Sub-imago*) TO THE STATE OF THE PERFECT FLY (*Imago*).

English authors, says Pictet, in order to distinguish between the two states of the fly, call it *pseud-imago* before the fly changes its first fly skin, and *imago* after, when in the perfect state, but he prefers Burmeister's suggestion of *sub-imago* for *pseud-imago*, as indicating better that that state will be followed by that of the *imago*. I think so, too. You know that a sub-lieutenant expects to become a lieutenant, and a sub-inspector an inspector, but if you called a naval officer a pseudo-lieutenant it would be at your own risk!

Unless one has seen and noticed them, the difference between the May Fly in its last but one and its last state are not very noticeable in illustrations or easy to describe. It is the same fly, and yet not the same. If the larva skin may be compared to a mackintosh, then the *sub-imago* skin may be compared to a dust coat. Pictet says that when first hatched and in its *sub-imago* state, which lasts some hours, sometimes less than an hour, the fly is more sluggish in its movements and heavier on the wing than when in the perfect state. When the change is about to take place it seeks a firm place, like the trunk of a tree, a wall, window, stone, &c., where it undergoes something analogous to its previous change out of the nymph skin. The skin distends, heaves up, and opens on the back of the fly, which disengages itself by drawing its feet out of their skin, getting a fresh foothold, and then drawing out its abdomen and tails from their envelope. Then it draws out its wings, and as soon as they are released the old skin, which so lately covered them, shrivels up, and the old skin now resembles the "shuck" or skin of the nymph, which, as we have seen before, was left floating on the water. These shrivelled wing remains appear to be entirely rudimentary.

Under the eaves of a straw thatched fishing hut near the river is a sure find for these cast off "dust coats," as I have called them. Except that the winged cases are shrivelled up and collapsed like a child's punctured air balloon, the skin is a perfect hollow cast of the fly, even to the cornea of the eye (not "corner of the eye" as the printer slyly put it last time—evidently looking out of the corner of his eye at a fisherman's tale).

"And now," says Pictet, "Ephemera has no farther change to undergo, and merits the name of 'perfect insect.'"

THE PERFECT INSECT.

The Ephemeridæ having arrived at the perfect state are entirely aerial beings, and the short life of some species often passes quite without rest. Their usual flight is vertical, up and down. You see them ascend in a straight line, and on getting to a certain height, they descend by spreading out their wings and long tails, which act like a parachute; then with a rapid side movement some of them change their positions and recommence rising and falling as before. Being but little heavier than air they require but little exertion to keep afloat in it. This last remark applies more to some of the smaller Ephemeridæ than to the May Fly.

There can be no difficulty in distinguishing the sexes in the May Fly and other Ephemeridæ, as the male is provided with nippers at the end of his body, like those on the business end of the earwig, only much less formidable. Their object is to clasp the female fly in the act of impregnation, which takes place in the air, and the female fly then makes a bee line for the river, and drops her eggs, not all at once, but, as Collinson describes, by flying down to the water, just touching it, then springing up again, and so on, until both her eggs and her strength are exhausted. This action must not be mistaken for that of the newly-hatched fly, which often flops down on the water and floats down a bit, then rises and flops down again, and so on, until it gets stronger in its wings, or a trout takes it. The male fly continues his dance in the air, waiting until another female comes his way.

What anglers call the "Spent Gnat" is the May Fly of both sexes exhausted; its work is done, and

it can no longer rise from the surface of the water, but flutters along. Soon one wing gets wet, and lies flat on the surface, and then the other, both stretched out at right angles; and so it floats down, often motionless, then, with a quivering motion, sending little rings away from it. "Spent Gnat" is, as Mr. Halford says, a misnomer for so large a fly as the May Fly. "Spent May Fly" would be better, and lucky are you if you are on the spot when the fish are taking it, and have a good imitation, and the difficulty is to get the fish to see your imitation when hundreds and thousands of the natural flies are coming down. The magic time is when the spent fly is beginning to come down, and every trout can take every fly which comes over him; and the best place is in a strong stream, where the fish remain in one place, as in the pools below they go roaming about, sucking in the flies, all over the place.

The male fly is smaller than the female, and in both the legs are larger and the tails much longer, and the wings much more transparent than in the *sub-imago* state. Exposure to air and sun seems to bleach the flies, and makes the nervures or markings of the wings very dark, and the wing material more glass-like, brittle, and shiny than in the first stage.

It is difficult to say why May Flies have deserted some rivers, but I firmly believe that the removal of bushes and trees is one great factor.

Major Turle's successful experiments in transplanting the May Fly, and Sir Wm. Pearce's in transplanting the grannom, are to me two most encouraging facts for us fly fishers. Trout we can easily stock suitable waters with, but if there are few or no flies for them to rise at, where do we as fly fishers come in?

I am glad to say that, as I have noted elsewhere, a new edition of Mr. Halford's "Dry Fly Fishing" is in the press, and I hope some day a new and cheap edition of his admirable "Dry Fly Entomology" will be published.

R. B. MARSTON.

THE "FISHING GAZETTE" LEAD (REGISTERED).

THE "Fishing Gazette" lead, invented by Mr. R. B. Marston (the editor of the *Fishing Gazette*), can be taken off or put on to a trace without unfastening the trace or anything but the curved wire pin of the lead. To use it, unfasten the pin as you would the safety-pin of a brooch, pass the trace into the curved eye, then wind it into the

LEAD FITTED TO LINE.



1 1/4" INCH.

LEAD OPEN.



1" INCH.

curves of the pin and secure the latter in the catch—the lead cannot slip—the wire loop or eye should hang uppermost on the trace. This lead is made in large and small sizes.

The only makers of the "Fishing Gazette" lead are Messrs. S. Allcock and Co., of Redditch, who have recently improved the manufacture, and now supply it on a neat card with directions for use.

MCCALL'S "RACING CHRONICLE."—We have received from Mr. Wm. McCall (Turf Steam Press Works, 7, Hunter-street, Liverpool) a copy of his very neatly got up "Racing Chronicle and Pocket Turf Calendar Steeplechase Supplement." It gives particulars of all the steeplechases and hurdle races run from Nov. 29, 1898, to Feb. 25, 1899, and will be found a most valuable addition to McCall's "Racing Chronicle, 1898," which contains full returns of last year's events, both on the flat and "between the flags."

GRANT'S CHERRY WHISKY.—This attractive "pick-me-up" is a pleasant combination of Kent Cherry Juice and very soft old Scotch Whisky. This and Grant's Morella Cherry Brandy are sold by Wine Merchants.

THAMES ANGLING PRESERVATION SOCIETY.

At the monthly meeting of the executive, held on Tuesday last, the president (H. L. W. Lawson, L.C.C.) reported that he had been in communication with the Lord Chamberlain, respecting the reduction of the number of swans generally and the removal of the barren swans during the coarse fish spawning season, and regretted to say that the swans belonging to the Queen, the Dyers and Vintners' Companies, if removed would, as stated on previous occasions, on account of the expense, have to be paid for. That in the interests of the "humble angler" he had notified his intention of paying the amount, and the swans therefore, he hoped, would be removed this season. The society also had before it an application to subscribe to a proposed fish hatchery on the Thames, but having in view what in the past, under the ablest of supervision, had proved so abortive, it did not feel justified in promising any of its funds for the purpose. A quantity of technical work absorbed a considerable amount of time, and the executive adjourned after an abnormally lengthy sitting.

HON. SEC.

JAPANESE FLY FISHING.

THE Japanese are old hands at the art of fly fishing, and as those who know them are aware, very deft and skilful in the use of their hands. They have no close seasons; most of their streams are therefore fished practically every day in the year by men who depend for their livelihood largely on their catch with the fly.

Many, if not most, of their trout streams are as clear as crystal; and this, in connection with the constant education of their trout by uninterrupted fishing, make their fish extremely shy and wary, and should be almost enough to prove that whatever method they successfully employ under the difficult conditions existing is a good and worthy method.

Now I shall proceed to try to describe their method, and in doing so shall doubtless ramble and be rather lengthy, so prepare yourself, and use your discretion as to cutting and curtailing.

I shall begin by saying that three of us—all old residents of Japan—finding feathered game greatly reduced by its constant pursuit in the small radius of twenty-five miles in which we foreigners are allowed the use of the gun near the "treaty ports," were led to go in for trout fishing.

We had often, in the country districts, eaten trout in Japan; had occasionally seen a Japanese fisher take one; but had been led to believe that they could not often be caught on the artificial fly. Many fishermen—some English and some American—of varying degrees of skill, had tried in their own way to catch trout with the fly; but reported, almost to a man, that it could not be done, and that the Japanese depended on nets for their main supply. Not deterred by these reports, we began a careful investigation and found that, while netting and trapping are, I am sorry to say, much used, still a very large part of the catch was made by the artificial fly. Thus encouraged, we ventured on a trial. By some travelling we discovered a stream which, after a rain, grew quite discoloured, and offered conditions apparently favourable to taking trout in the regular method as practised in England and America.

One of our trio is an Englishman and a very fair fly fisher, having fished with good results, as compared to those fishing at the same time as himself in the streams of England, Scotland, and Wales. He soon began, in discoloured water after rain, to take a few fish in the regular wet fly style of fishing. But to his surprise, and on occasion after occasion, he found that after he had "whipped a pool" in the most approved style without result, his Japanese attendant would step on the same rock he had left, and take, in the Japanese style, several good fish from the water he had gone over. This occurred not once, but always. The unvarying result of this competition of varying methods led me, who am a novice at fly fishing, to suspend my practice at the regular method, and holding myself open to conviction, to study and practice the Japanese style. I followed and carefully watched the Japanese

fishermen; and shall try to give you, from my observation and carefully made notes, a description, and, I hope, an explanation of their method.

First as to tackle. The Japanese fisher selects from a grove of growing bamboo a dry shoot of the straightest and lightest growth, trims the leaves and gets a rod of about 10ft. to 13ft., with a top tapering to the fineness of a small cord, and just as impossible to break at the end by bending as it would be to break a fishing line by simply bending it. This rod is fitted to a lower joint of bamboo about 6ft. to 8ft. long, chosen so that the upper joint fits snugly into the hollow end of the lower piece. This gives a rod of, say, 16ft. to 18ft., weighing about 7oz. to 9oz. The rod is stiff to within a short distance of the top, where it is as pliable as a light whip. To the upper end of the rod is attached a light line, usually of three horsehairs, or an equal thickness of silk, some 12ft. to 15ft. long; to this is tied the thinnest of gut leaders about 5ft long; and to this is fastened a single fly. Both gut and line are light and delicate. The flies are always plain hackles, and only two shades are used, greyish yellow and reddish brown. The bodies vary greatly, and at the individual caprice of the tyer, who is expert at fly-tying, and can usually sit by the brookside and tie a fly in a very few minutes.

The Japanese fly has very few bristles or hackles, and these are tied to stand perpendicularly to the shank of the hook, not dropping as ours do. The appearance of the Japanese fly is something as here shown as compared to ours.

The method of casting is to stand at the brookside or in the brook, and cast up and across directly at the hole, rock, or ripple where the fisher, who knows every likely lurking spot, thinks the trout is lying. The cast is made by a quick, strong motion of the wrist and forearm, the rod not going back beyond the perpendicular and sharply brought down and forward to almost the horizontal; a slight twist of the wrist prevents snapping the fly off. This cast shoots the line, with the fly at the end, straight out across the water. As the fly drops the tip is slightly raised so that the fly, and the fly alone, alights on the stream literally as quietly as the often talked of "thistle-down." At once the fly touches the water, the tip of the rod is agitated quickly, but slightly and gradually elevated, the fly making a series of little jumps and struggles, so life-like as often to be taken by the onlooker for a live insect. Only a few feet of water are covered, and then the fly is quickly picked off with another cast to nearly the same spot. The fly is never allowed to sink under water, but is kept on the surface and in almost constant motion. The cast is repeated again and again at well-known or likely places, and seems to me to resemble closely Mr. Taylor's "teasing," as described by you.

It is difficult to describe in words the operation of the fly, and probably only an actual witnessing of it can fully convey the true style and the life-like looks of the struggling insect. Its leaps are very short, and it probably never moves above an inch at a time, and usually much less. The slight struggling motion is difficult if not impossible to convey to the fly with our rods, owing to their "whippiness" and pliability, extending, as it does, from tip to butt. The length of our trout rod also prevents the cast extending above 20ft. to 25ft., as the rod must be lifted so that no line is in the water; but with the Japanese tools a cast of 30ft. to about 40ft. can be successfully made.

This roughly outlines the method. It cannot be mastered at the first effort, but requires much practice and patience, as all good methods do.

I may say that after watching the successful Japanese fishers, and then faithfully practising, I have arrived at a degree of skill which (while far short, as is natural, of the long-practised and really professional Japanese fishers) enables me to catch not only more fish, but larger fish than my friend who used the wet-fly method.

Careful study and comparison of results have now led all of us to adopt the Japanese method, at least for the clear water and middle hours of the fishing day.

We have noticed that the Japanese fly-fisher takes most of his fish between the hours of 9 and 4.30, and he almost invariably rolls up his line as it grows dusk. This seems to agree with the dry-fly fishing, which is reported as successful largely, if not entirely, in the "middle hours."

I think the Japanese method is superior even to the dry-fly style, and for the following reasons: On a bright day in clear water even a single link of the finest gut floating and turning in the moving stream is clearly visible to the fisherman's skilled eye, and its shadow on the white sand of the brook's bottom often resembles the size and contortions of a sea serpent. It seems probable the trout's eye is at least as sharp and quick as the human eye. The line and gut must usually pass over the feeding fish in dry-fly-casting, while in the Japanese style the fly only touches the water, and the line and gut are often (always when possible) pointing in a straight line from the fish into the fair, and visible practically only in cross section and behind the fly; while the shadow of the line in the air is infinitely less than lying upon the surface surrounded by globules of the water, which increase the size of shadow.

As to the wet or drowned fly method, I can only say that in the clear water in which we fish the few fingerlings which, among the wary inhabitants of these constantly fished waters, are found to take the wet fly are too small and too few to make it worth practising. As yet the smallest English midges on the finest of dry-fly gut have failed to deceive the feeding fish in our clear water. They pick out the invisible (to us) floating gnat within an inch of our flies, but, except for a very occasional impressive fingering, leave our daintiest lures severely alone. Still, we feel that in water a bit discoloured and late in the day there may be chances for the wet or dry fly.

I could give instances without number of trials of the methods side by side. One of the most marked was witnessed by our party of three. Our English friend carefully whipped a fine pool without a rise. After he finished, I, who am as yet but a duffer, stepped to the bank, cast some dozen times over the best part of the pool, rose, struck, and landed the largest trout we have yet caught in our stream. This is but one of numerous cases, and is mentioned, I suppose, largely from vanity—still, it helps to support my arguments for the new method.—J. O. AVERILL, in *Forest Stream*.

(To be continued.)

THE NEW EDITION OF MR. HALFORD'S "DRY FLY FISHING."

WE are glad to announce that, after long being out of print, Messrs. Vinton and Co., Ltd., will publish early in April an entirely new and revised edition of "Dry Fly Fishing," Mr. Frederic Halford's standard work on the subject. All matter in the book will be brought up to date, and it will be dedicated

In Memoriam,

GEORGE SELWYN MARRYAT.

All dry fly anglers will look for the appearance of this new issue with much interest.

THE NATURALIST'S DIRECTORY FOR 1899.

MR. L. UPCOTT GILL, 170, Strand, has just published the fifth annual revised edition of "The Naturalist's Directory," at the popular price of one shilling.

In this edition an attempt has been made to include all British naturalists, as well as foreign and colonial lists, and the work is invaluable to all collectors and students of natural history. There is also a trade directory, list of societies, field clubs and museums, natural science magazines, books of the year on the subject. Anglers have to ransack the world for feathers, and we advise those who want scarce feathers to make a note of this most carefully produced Directory.

MESSRS. FARLOW'S NEW CATALOGUE.

THIS new catalogue is the best we have seen from the well-known firm in the Strand. We notice that it has again increased in number of pages, and there are some novelties, which we shall refer to next week.

EARLY SEA TROUT ANGLING.

WITH the advent of March comes the early sea trout season; not that there is any run of heavy fish (two, three, and four-pounders), but shoals of lithe, lively, silvery finnock, averaging from $\frac{1}{2}$ lb. to 1 lb., and sometimes a little over. March and April are the best months for these maiden *Salmo trutta*, or grilse sea trout.

After the first run of the early spring salmon these lively little fish are found plentifully enough in the estuaries of our salmon streams all round the east and north coasts, and give delightful sport on the fine tackle with which they must be looked for. From the constantly increasing demand for early finnock and sea trout quarters, it is evident that the game qualities of this most acceptable little fish are by no means overlooked, and that their value as a sportive and edible fish are by no means on the decline. It is rather the case that the popularity of early finnock fishing on such streams and rivers as afford reliable and certain sport is in the ascendant, and that the demand in the near future for such favoured spots will be as keen, comparatively speaking, as good salmon angling is at present.

True, there is a run of finnock in the autumn, but then they are not nearly so sportive as a rule, nor so readily creeded as those of the early spring migration. In some rivers the autumn run is even more abundant by far than the early spring run, yet the same baskets are seldom made unless in exceptionally wet and spatey seasons.

The sea trout proper, i.e., the adult fish, usually put in an appearance with the June and July grilse. They are often found together on the nether half of such rivers as the Dee and Spey, and especially in the tributary streams running into them. In some later streams it is August till the sea trout make their appearance, and even later should a timely flood not come to help their inward progress. When grilse and sea trout run simultaneously, the former may form the angler's objective during the early hours of the morning, and the latter during the night, especially if a bit of a breeze spring up, when at such times sport comes fast and furious, the like of which there is no parallel to in the realms of angling.

From now right on to the end of April the finnock will be working out and in with every tide that flows and ebbs. They go in shoals of various sizes, from the small dribble of a dozen or so tiny half-pounders to the myriads of all sorts and sizes, working in and out over the mussel scalps and shingle beds, growing in size and improving in condition as the season advances and disappearing up stream as mysteriously and suddenly as the rising flood or the favouring wind suits their inclination. Sometimes they seem to hang about the estuary for weeks and weeks on end, and sometimes they disappear *en masse* in a night's time, and their favourite haunts seem deserted till another shoal or two takes their place.

During the early spring months of March and April the finnock rise freely to the fly. In the early days of the season there is nothing to beat the March Brown as the taking lure, and especially in a slight breeze of wind. If the water is clear the tackle must be of the lightest sea trout order, but the flies themselves are usually of the largest patterns, and about double the size in the early days of March compared with those which will be found most acceptable again towards the end of April. Here the temperature seems to rule the order of the day as to the size of the iron, much after the same fashion as in spring salmon angling, and as the thermometrical readings rise from 38 degrees to 43 and 45, so must the sizes of irons decrease in a like ratio. The most popular finnock flight of three hooks in these northern parts consists of a March Brown as a trail, which is seldom if ever changed. It may be renewed. In fact, sport is very slack indeed if one does not go through a good half dozen in a day; but they are all duplicates. As droppers, Lord Saltoun holds an easy first, and as a third fly or a fourth, as the case may be, if the angler prefers four of a flight, Greenwell's Glory, Zulu, Blue Jay, Bumble, and all the range of named sea trout flies are at his disposal to choose from, according to his fancy or local leanings.

There are upwards of 150 named sea trout flies, but of the whole range of these the most popular

for early sea trout angling are the half dozen or so referred to above, and the March Brown in preference to all others. So deadly is the March Brown, and so popular with finnock fishers, that when fish are rising freely to it they very often have three of them at the same time on their flight.

When the finnock has taken to the fresh waters out of the tidal reaches, he affords as brisk sport as when chasing and feeding on the crustacea below, but may be a little shier to rise. The best baskets are then made overnight, and the tackle need not be of the same delicate character. Less law, and so stronger stuff. The finnock, like its progenitor, comes with a jerky pull. He continues the jerk, dashing here and there, and tearing out a few yards of line at every dash. When the series of dashes and jerks have been expended, and the winding in or tightening up process commences, then the surface gyrations so characteristic of the tribe have their sway, indicating the determination to die hard and game to the very last. It is at these surface floppings that the tyro at finnock and sea trout angling loses nerve and head too, and, thinking he is playing the fish too tightly, yields up line—a most fatal proceeding usually, and in nine cases out of ten results in the hold giving way, and the loss of the fish. With little experience, however, which of course is usually dearly bought, he soon learns that when the gyrations and lashing on the surface has been performed for the space of a minute or two on a tight, or even tightening, line, the sooner the landing net is under the quarry the better; or, if fishing from the bank, he backs easily, yet steadily, and safely brings his unwilling guest ashore.

When fresh from the sea, there is nothing in nature to rival the sheen of the armour with which the finnock and sea trout are so thickly coated, but they soon lose their dainty colour in the fresh water, much more so than a fresh run salmon or grilse would do in the same time, although there are differences here, as in many other details, according to the nature of the river they affect.

On Saturday last, the 25th ult., the last batch of salmon rivers in Scotland were freed of the legal fetters of the close season, including the Ythan, Ugie, and Cruden Burn in the north, and the Solway streams in the south, of Scotland.

The Ythan and Ugie are minor salmon streams compared with the Tweed, Tay, Dee, and Spey, but they are *par excellence* the finest early sea trout and finnock streams in the kingdom. There may be better autumn reaches in the Kyles and insular fisheries, but it will take a lot of beating to get any to come near the Ythan, and especially the Ugie, as sea trout and finnock fisheries on the mainland. The Findhorn is good, and the Lossie yields a considerable amount of sport, to which may be added the Deveron, Don, and such like, when there is a bit of flood on; but the Ythan, with its miles of estuary and tidal influence, and the Ugie, with its long winding sandy course, seem specially marked out as the favourite haunts of this second cousin to *Salmo salar*, as far as average size is concerned, and full brother when its game and edible qualities come into play.

It is very gratifying to notice that while the interests of many splendid salmon streams are being, and have been, so sadly neglected, that their rentals are not now worth half or even the quarter of what was easily got a few years back, such as many reaches of the Don and Spey, those interested in the success of such famous finnock and sea trout waters as the Ugie are alive to the signs of the times, and have been quietly, but surely and effectively, putting their house in order against the growing popularity and increasing demand for early sea trout angling.

Colonel Ferguson, of Piffour, in East Aberdeenshire, has been most approachable in the matter; and a brief summary of what has been done to enhance the value of this little river may be a help to others similarly situated, and a stimulus to go and do likewise. But, in addition, as the benefits are to be open to all, such public-spirited beneficence should be as widely known as possible, in order that tourists, anglers especially, and those at a distance, who have a preference for such royal sport as the sea trout and finnock afford, may know where to pitch their tent.

The fishings extend from the village of Longside to the sea, a distance of over eight miles.

The former tacksman's lease having expired, a gentleman, a native of Peterhead, now in Edinburgh, secured a lease for a term of years wholly for angling purposes. He has placed the management in the hands of a local committee to let them by day (2s. 6d.), month, or season ticket, as may be desired. The nets being removed, and the pools properly staked against poaching, additional watchers have also been placed, trees removed, and dykes and weirs improved, so as to provide easy access for the fish to the pools above; 30,000 eyed ova, partly *S. levenensis* and partly *S. ferox levenensis*, are in the hatchery at Inverugie House, and these will be distributed throughout the river when fry are ripe for removal. Under the new and improved conditions of treatment the Ugie promises to be one of the most popular streams, along with the Ythan, for early sea trout angling.

G. M.

FRONTISPIECE TO "THE ANGLER'S COMPANION."

ONE of the most charming illustrations we know in any book on angling is that entitled "A Day's Fishing," which formed the frontispiece to the 1847 edition of "The Angler's Companion," by the late Thomas Tod Stoddart. It was drawn



FRONTISPIECE TO "THE ANGLER'S COMPANION."

By Thomas Tod Stoddart.

by James Giles, R.S.A., and engraved by Thomas Steuart. Of course our reproduction is not so good as the original, but will give a good idea of it. We lent the block for the menu and toast list of the Fly Fishers' Club's annual dinner.

SOME NOTES ON THE OLD RIVER, ETC.

So soon as I could hold a rod—or, rather, willow-withe, for this was my first rod—and land a fish, I gave up that back-aching job catching stone loach in the village dyke and carrying about a glass bottle three-parts full of water, in which to put my much cherished red throats. In spring, summer, autumn, and winter I was never more happy than when I was wandering along the banks of the famous old river, or wading and swimming in its waters. What have I not gone through for it? The meals I lost, and the thrashings I suffered! I have seen it under many conditions. When, for instance, it has been bank full, and the broad and mighty torrent sweeping onward in all its strength and glory to the sea. *Per contra*, like a sheet of glass, and calm as a wayside pond. When the crested waves have

come curling on its sandy flats like a miniature sea. I have seen it peppered with hailstones like peas; and I have seen it as thick as soup, and clear as crystal. In a passing thunderstorm I have seen it look as black as ink; anon, gleam in the sun like molten silver, too bright to gaze upon. I have seen a fog lift from it, revealing a fairy scene such as no theatre ever displayed. I have listened to its murmurs at all hours, and once I saw it a mass of ice as far as the eye could reach, with not a hole large enough for a waterfowl to dip in. I have crunched along across miles of frozen snow on its banks, and speared eels in its muddy depths; in short, for years, in every aspect and every charming change, it was to me a companion and a friend. And to sit by the old river's bank in the still quiet of a summer's evening, with rod in hand watching my quill, with nothing to disturb the stillness but the splash of a leaping barbel or the peculiar cry of a moorhen, when cattle might be seen standing in the shallows cooling themselves, quietly flicking the flies off with their tails, and the swallows skimming the surface, was the greatest happiness of my life. The old grandad would bring home some beautiful barbel; another relative, a splendid take of bream; the fat exciseman, a grand lot of roach; or old Jack Sharp, the sweep, a lovely dish of sparkling dace. Enough! This was more than

from experience, not only where the various fish were to be found at certain periods of the year, but the best baits with which to catch them, always, of course, taking into their calculations the state of the water and the temperature; and although their rods, reels, and lines could not be compared with those of the present time, I noticed that they always made a point of using the finest gut they could obtain consistently with safety. Another thing I was struck with was the trouble "ode Jarge" always took with his worms, all of which he and his grandsons gathered. He would never have more than a certain quantity in each tub or pancheon. There is no doubt that if too many are put in a pancheon or tub without sufficient moss, they soon become heated and turn sickly. He would have about 400 in a largish tub, with plenty of moss, and in the height of summer, about every fourth day, he would turn out all the worms and moss from each tub, put in a fresh supply of damp moss pressed pretty well down, and then put the old moss with all the worms on the top, and all those worms, except the half dead and sickly ones, soon worked down into the fresh moss, the stale moss was then removed, and so his worms were always clean, bright, tough, in good condition, perfect in colour, and a treat to look at. In gathering, say, 2000 lobbs, dew, or squirrel-tailed worms, as they are sometimes called, the young angler will be certain to find a considerable number in his pail or can much smaller, shorter, and brighter in colour than most of the remainder, every one of which are without the knot or clitellus, and there may be from twenty-eight to thirty-two rings in front of the clitellus, and 106 behind it. Those worms, then, that do not possess the knot or smooth glistening brown part so different in appearance from the rest of the worm, are commonly called maiden-lobbs, and should be picked out from the others, and kept in a vessel to themselves, with plenty of damp, clean, well-washed moss, with the water squeezed out of it like a sponge, and they should be used for the hook alone. This will save him no end of bother and trouble.

General remarks.—If the novice wishes to become a clever angler, he should take every opportunity he can, and carefully watch experts at the game, be they pegging for bream, paying out one for dace or barbel, Lea roaching, ledgering with or without a float, &c. Books may be all very well in their way, but seeing a thing carried out in a clever, finished style, with the most perfect appliances, creates a greater interest in the mind, a more intense desire as it were to learn, than the most carefully and cleverly written dissertation.

When he has spotted his man, let the tyro rivet his eyes upon him and mark his every movement, from baiting his hook to striking a fish 40yds. off. Not only will the observant novice, desirous of becoming an expert, carefully note the baits used and how they are put on the hook to the best advantage, but he will make any sacrifice and never rest until he possesses similar articles, without which all his striving after excellence will, to a very great extent, be thrown away. By comparing one angler's style with another, even a novice may soon see whether a man be a bungler or not. I mention this in passing, because I have been surprised at the number of so-called anglers I have met who have been unable to perform the very simple operation of baiting the hook with a worm. Other anglers, again, have been as helpless as children when they have caught an eel, coolly holding it off the ground and so allowing it to tie the gut in any number of knots instead of dropping it on the ground and severing its backbone with a penknife. Others, again, have been as much abroad in the kneading of ground-bait to a proper consistency to suit the current or shots; casting a bait, ledger, float, or pellet, striking either when ledgering or floating, plumbing the depth, and even in unhooking fish, &c. Therefore, to the novice I say spot your man, and whether he be a Woodard, Wheeley, Walbran, or Wallis, watch him intently; and, let him never rest until he has mastered every difficulty and every drawback, and it is just possible that in course of time he may become as clever as any of them.

OLD ANGLER.

I could stand, and the very next day I would absent myself from school at all risks, and try and emulate these clever anglers, for it goes without saying, they were clever. Sometimes I escaped, but frequently I did not. That malicious, sharp, cruel "Snuffy Gray" would question me very closely, and on one unfortunate occasion, I was fool enough to say that I had been getting carrots for the cow, at a period when one could not have obtained a carrot for love or money.

This man, whom I detested from the very bottom of my soul, who had made striking the hand with a long, rather thin ruler a special study, never said a word, but called on the governor and told him the excuse I had made for being absent. "Carrots, carrots," said the pater; "I have not a single carrot in the place; give the little d— a good hiding." Accordingly, for days I suffered the greatest pain in my fingers—but I am digressing.

In due time I saw that the anglers referred to above were clever, for they studied everything in connection with their beloved sport, and they made the most of every opportunity. The river being in what they termed "good ply," they left no stone unturned to ensure success. The fact is, all these men being born anglers, they had learnt

THE AUSTRALIAN WHALING INDUSTRY.

At one time it was anticipated that whaling would become a staple Australian industry, but the almost universal use of kerosene for domestic and other purposes has so decreased the demand for sperm and other oils, that not even the heavily-enhanced price of whalebone, occasioned by its scarcity, affords much inducement for the prosecution of whaling in Australian waters, despite the abundance of the animal during certain periods of the year. The Australian whaling industry dates from the earliest years of settlement, but, according to Mr. Coghlan, Government Statistician of New South Wales, it was not until 1823 that Australian whale oil was mentioned in British official records. In that year entries were made in the English Custom-house of sperm oil imported from the colonies, chiefly from Sydney, although the whole quantity so introduced was only 6083 tuns, the colonial oil being partly the produce of vessels fitted out for the trade from Sydney and Van Diemen's Land. In all probability this oil was that obtained from the black, or right whale, the breeding-grounds of which animal were to be found in Cook's Straits, where what in whaling parlance were termed "shore parties" established themselves for the purpose of killing the whale, the produce of which was sent on to Sydney. The value of the trade in whale oil may be appreciated from the fact that during the year 1827 the total quantity imported into England was 5552 tuns; and in 1828 the total produce of the New South Wales fisheries alone was 298 tuns of sperm oil, 50 tuns of black oil, 118 tuns of the oil of the sea-elephant, and 7647 sealskins. The English import fluctuated considerably, but reached its maximum in 1831, when it was recorded as 7605 tuns. In 1830, no less than seventeen ships belonging to Port Jackson were engaged in whaling, a number which had grown to thirty-five in 1833, and in 1834 to forty, the largest vessel being of 365 tons, and the smallest of 80 tons burthen. In the first years of the colony's history the sperm and black oil fisheries, particularly the former, presented a fair field for the investment of capital on a large scale; but by this time the sums embarked in the industry were so considerable that further enterprise had little encouragement. Moreover, the immediate returns were of so precarious a character, and the risks and losses so serious, that a speedy and steady return for capital invested could not be expected, and speculators preferred to put their money into pastoral pursuits; wool always paying better than whale oil. The value of the whale fishery to Australia in 1834 may be seen from the fact that while the vessels sailing from Sydney numbered forty, the total number engaged from English ports in whaling in all parts of the world was ninety, of from 300 to 400 tons burthen. In 1839, no less than 1229 tuns of black oil, valued at £41,341, were exported, principally to Great Britain; and 1279 tuns of sperm oil, valued at £111,280. In 1840, the importation of sperm oil into Great Britain was 5,722 tuns, of which quantity 1719 tuns were from Australia, exceeding slightly the importation from America, which was 1717 tuns, but the latter had to pay the high duty on foreign "take" of £24 10s. per tun. With the reduction of the duty, the Australian industry began to suffer, being handicapped by expenses and difficulties from which American and other whalers were free. The practice of Australian whalers of killing the calves, in order to secure the capture of the mothers, did great damage to the fishery by wastefully thinning out the product, and in 1843 the animal was remarked as becoming somewhat shy and scarce in the Southern seas. By the year 1847, when the industry had died out entirely in Tasmania, it was noted that it was likewise declining in southern waters generally, and that Australian shipping was engaging more exclusively in colonial trade, although many craft were still at work in whaling on different parts of the coast; and the "take" for years afterwards comprised an export of much value. In 1850 this amounted to 576 tuns of sperm and 16 tuns of black oil, and nearly 14 tuns of whalebone, together of a total value of about £29,000; while during the following year the export was 588½ tuns of sperm and 13 tuns of black oil, and

nearly 67 tuns of whalebone, together of a value of close upon £26,000. The value of the total quantity of whale oil exported from New South Wales has been estimated at about £3,000,000, and from Tasmania at about £1,200,000. Early in the fifties the whaling industry gravitated to New Zealand, which was found to be central to the fisheries in the south seas, and a convenient position for the establishment of "shore" parties. Indeed, to this day it is usual for old whalers to animadvert on the New Zealand method of securing the cetacean as having, more than anything else, conducted to the diminution of the animal in southern seas, although it is as abundant as ever in the Antarctic ocean. The New Zealand fishery was initiated by Captain Eames, from Auckland Harbour, early in the year 1852; but the decline in the industry was henceforward very rapid. In 1850 there were upwards of 400 whaling vessels in the southern seas alone; while in 1872 there were but seventy-two ships in the middle ground. In fact, the fishery totally died out; but of late years it has again attracted attention, and a small number of vessels prosecute the industry during the season, their general success showing what might be done, if a means could be devised for extending a market for whale oil, the falling off of the wholesale slaughter of whales having led to their increase in number in various places most free from the intrusion of man.

JOHN PLUMMER.

Sydney, New South Wales.

PISCATORIAL SOCIETY.

MR. C. BUTLER presided most genially over Monday's meeting, and was supported by a goodly company of members. Angling experiences were related by those who had been sufficiently venturesome to brave the frost and cold. Mr. W. T. Gomm, who sent up a fine shaped pike of 17lb., reported that he had done well amongst the "scourge and tyrant of the watery plains" at Christchurch, having taken, besides the one exhibited, others of 13lb. 8oz. and 12lb., with several smaller below those weights. It may be mentioned, by the way, that the otter which Mr. Gomm was good enough to present to the society a short time since, has been received. It has been beautifully preserved, and will form a handsome addition to the museum. Mr. C. H. Bywaters had good news for trout fishers, inasmuch as he stated that there was a nice lot of fish showing in the Moor stream at Newbury. Indeed, he had "marked down" several for April! Dr. Patterson, at Tring, had creeled any quantity of pike, but, strange to say, all were comparatively small in size, the biggest being a fish of some 6lb. odd. One fish he opened had no fewer than eleven small roach inside it! *Quel gourmand!* Mr. J. W. Zaehnsdorf had taken a 7lb. pike in the Kennet, and as regards the Society's new water at Uxbridge, both Mr. R. Bradford and Mr. A. R. Matthews gave flattering accounts of it, the last named gentleman having made a heavy bag of fine roach when last he visited the fishery. Mr. C. H. O'Dowd intended to have treated the members to one of those splendid displays of chub which have so often been the admiration and envy of his brother Piscatorials. *L'homme propose, &c.* He fished till midday at Datchet on Monday, but the water was running at such a terrific pace that chubbing had to be abandoned. He only had one small fish, and afterwards tried for perch and roach. He had some good specimens of the former, and any number of roach which were madly on the feed. In three hours 20lb. weight of the red fins fell to his rod, though none were of any particular size. Mr. H. H. Brown was responsible for a small pike. He gave some amusing items of news from *La pêche moderne*, and told a funny jack story which was warranted to be absolutely veracious. Mr. Evans was soon on his legs with a real "banger." So the evening passed in a most pleasant and enjoyable manner, and was fittingly closed with the never omitted toasts of "absent friends," and the chairman.

M. G. E. DE C.

BRITISH SEA ANGLERS' SOCIETY.

The usual ordinary meeting of this society was held at the Cannon Street Hotel, on Wednesday, March 1. Mr. Henry J. Moore in the chair. Reports from stations were read. Mr. Croft Handley reported the pier fishing at Southend as very poor. Mr. Wood reported that at Southwick, on Sunday, one local man made a small catch. Mr. Tucker reported fishing at Dover, but only small catches of pollack. He found the new bronze wire lines snapper, especially while raining. The water, especially in shore, was most unusually cold.

A general discussion ensued, and the chairman gave notice that on Wednesday next, March 8, Mr. C. O. Minchin would lecture on lobsters, crabs, and shrimps, and requested members having sons to bring them as visitors.

The usual vote of thanks to the chairman closed the meeting.

CHARLES S. PATTERSON (Hon. Sec.)

CREWE No. 1 ANGLING SOCIETY.

The members of the above society held their annual dinner at the Royal Hotel on Saturday evening last, Feb. 25, when about 170 members and friends sat down to an ample repast provided by Mrs. Welch, which was of the

usual standard of excellence. At the conclusion of the dinner the cloths were removed, and a meeting was held, which was presided over by the popular president of the Society, Mr. Wallace Lumb, J.P., who was supported by Messrs. J. Edwards, C.C. (Hastington Hall), R. Cole (secretary), Abram (Crewe), E. Bowers (Nantwich), L. Boyle (Nantwich), J. Harding (Nantwich), Atherton (Wigan), Gibson (Wolstanwood), Bolderstone (Wolstanwood), G. Welch (Harleston), J. Welch (Worleston), H. Price (secretary Free Anglers'), J. Wright (chairman Izaak Walton), A. Butt, W. Jones, R. Blore, and E. Speare. The following free life members were also present: Messrs. P. McCluskey, J. Fotherby, J. Kilshaw and J. Settle. Several letters apologising for the absence of various gentlemen were read, including the ex-Mayor (Councillor Pedley), J. W. Wilding, A. N. Hornby, W. Eardley (president Izaak Walton A.S.), Poole (Marbury Hall), C. P. Roberts (president Northern Anglers' Association), Mr. Redford (secretary Northern Anglers' Association). A telegram was also received from Mr. Sutherland, J.P. (Wigan), regretting his inability to attend. The chairman proposed "The Queen and the Royal Family," which was enthusiastically honoured. The chairman next submitted "The Army, Navy, and Reserve Forces," which was responded to by Mr. E. Evans, chairman of the society. Mr. J. Wright (chairman of the Izaak Walton A.S.) in proposing "Success to the Crewe No. 1 Angling Society," said it was a source of great satisfaction to them to know that such a good feeling existed amongst the different angling societies in the town. They all recognised that it was only by joining together and assisting one another that they could increase the privileges they at present enjoyed, and promote the best interests of their respective associations, and he coupled with the toast the name of the President (Mr. Wallace Lumb). Mr. Lumb, who had an enthusiastic greeting, said for the twenty-third successive year it fell to his lot to appear before them as the President of the No. 1 Angling Society. There had never existed the slightest friction between himself and the other officers of the society, and, speaking for the other members generally, it was most gratifying to be able to say that during the whole of the twenty-three years there had not been a single abuse of the privileges which were granted to them to fish in various waters in the immediate neighbourhood of the town, as well as in the out districts. He did esteem it a great honour to be permitted year after year to occupy the position of president. He also gave a brief history of the society for the benefit of the younger members, which was very much enjoyed. Mr. Lumb afterwards distributed the prizes to those who had been successful in the club's competition, the recipients being as follows: Mr. W. Butt, champion prize for the year for roach (a copper kettle), with second and third for roach, third for chub, and third for dace. Mr. G. Capel, first and second for trout, and an extra prize of 10s. 6d. for best trout, given by J. W. Wilding, and second prize for chub. Mr. H. Leigh, first for chub, and an extra prize given by Mr. Kettell, and second for dace. Mr. J. Hughes, first for bream, first for gudgeon, first and second for ruffe. Mr. J. Shenton, first and second for pike. Mr. J. Dunn, first for dace, and an extra prize of 10s. 6d., given by a friend. Mr. F. Martin, first and second for rudd. Mr. T. Latham, first for perch, also Mr. Manley's sealed prize, which fell to best perch. Mr. R. Ford, second for perch. Mr. Jackson, third for pike. Mr. F. Talbot, third for trout. During the evening a capital musical programme was gone through, and was much enjoyed. Mr. Atherton, of Wigan, acquitted himself most successfully in the two popular songs, "Down in the Deep" and "In Cellar Cool," and other songs were given by Mr. Townly; and the meeting closed by the company singing the National Anthem.

G. CAPEL.

CENTRAL ASSOCIATION OF LONDON ANGLING CLUBS.

A MEETING of the general committee was held on Monday last, when arrangements were completed for the Central's annual smoking concert, which is to take place at the Bedford Head Hotel, Maiden-lane, Covent Garden, on Monday, March 20th, when Mr. Walter Emden, J.P., L.C.C., has kindly consented to preside. A capital list of talented *artistes* was submitted, and the programme arranged, will, it is confidently anticipated, prove worthy of the high merits of the association. An application was received from Mr. H. W. Higgins soliciting a donation towards the River-keepers' Dinner Fund, and it was unanimously agreed to recommend the usual donation. A new society, called the Twickenham Piscatorials, applied for affiliation. From the statement submitted it appeared that a very influential list of members were supporting the new venture, and to have the prospect of a most successful future. The committee decided to provisionally enrol the society, subject to the confirmation of the delegates at the next meeting. Several other important matters received consideration, detail of which it is unnecessary to publish at present. A very hearty vote of thanks was accorded the chairman, Mr. C. A. Medcalf. The usual monthly meeting of delegates will be held at the Bedford Head Hotel, Maiden-lane, Covent Garden, on Monday next, March 6, at 8.30 p.m.

THE 8th Annual Fisheries Exhibition will open on Wednesday next, at the Royal Aquarium. It will be a representative and good display, and anglers will be much interested in a number of frozen trout which are on their way from New Zealand, forwarded for exhibition by the Waitaki and Waimate Acclimatization Society. The usual facilities to angling societies are offered, and secretaries can obtain tickets at 4s. per dozen for their members, by applying to Mr. Ritchie or Mr. Wilkinson.

REPORTS FROM RIVERS, LOCHS, &c.

River Reporters who want forms and envelopes should send a post card to the Manager of the FISHING GAZETTE, St. Dunstan's House, Fetter-lane, London.

Time of High Water in the Thames.

To find the time of high water in the Thames at any of the following places, to the time of high water at London Bridge given below.

30 min. for Chelsea.	55 min. for Kew.
Add 40 " " Putney.	75 " " Richmond.
45 " " Hammersmith.	80 " " Twickenham.
50 " " Barnes.	85 " " Teddington.

EXAMPLE.—If it is high water at 2 o'clock at London Bridge, it will be high water at Teddington at 3.25, or 85 minutes later.

N.B.—A strong wind up-stream accelerates the tide very much, and one down-stream retards it.

TIME OF HIGH WATER AT LONDON BRIDGE.

		Morning.	Evening.
Saturday, March 4	.....	5.45	6.6
Sunday, " 5	.....	6.25	6.56
Monday, " 6	.....	7.27	8.4
Tuesday, " 7	.....	8.49	9.39
Wednesday, " 8	.....	10.29	11.15
Thursday, " 9	.....	11.54	—
Friday, " 10	.....	0.26	0.53

HIGH WATER AT AMBERLEY AND PULBOROUGH.

		Morning.	Evening.
Saturday, March 4	.....	6.25	6.46
Sunday, " 5	.....	7.9	7.36
Monday, " 6	.....	8.7	8.44

These times show high water at Houghton Bridge, Amberley. Pulborough will be 2h. 40m. later.

ENGLISH AND WELSH REPORTS.

Lower Thames.—GENERAL REMARKS.—We are fast drifting into another close season, and with little prospect of getting much further sport before the general angling season comes to a termination. There has been lately but disappointment to the anxious anglers who have been floundering amongst fog, flood, filth, and furious water in the hope of getting a favourable interval. I always find the first intimation of the close time is the heading up of the dace, and this was received last week in the Hampton Court report from the pen of the venerable and honest William Milbourne, and then the greatest care and watchfulness is necessary in the Teddington district to prevent any illegal means being adopted at the time they are massing up for their final move to the upper waters. There is no law against the ordinary process of angling for them, but then the fish are rough and unclean, and are not worth the trouble of catching. The next fish which gives the greatest cause and anxiety to the officials of the T.A.P.S. is that of the perch, as it really requires the housing and removal of the swans, for which the committee are at the present using every effort to accomplish. And I expect, if the Lord Chamberlain and the Vintners' and Dyers' Companies refuse to be at the expense, it will be done out of the large balance the society has now in hand, and can only be allowed in the housing of the barren birds, as the removal of the nesting ones would not, under any circumstances, be permitted. At one time it was considered necessary to make some protection for the roach at their spawning time in the tidal waters, and especially at Twickenham; and this was generally carried out under the personal superintendence of the late Mr. A. J. Little, who then took an active part in the work as a member of the committee. His plan was the placing of boughs or sticks in the spawning places, and protected the ova thereon deposited from being eaten by the swans and ducks by means of wire netting, which was found very effective.—B.

—(Datchet).—John Keene writes: "I have been out three days with Mr. Walter Back, who has during that time creoled 90lb. weight of chub, roach, and perch, many of the roach weighing from 1lb. to 1½lb. each, and the largest chub 4lb.; another day, with Mr. Dawson and friend, 26lb. of roach and chub; and another day, with Mr. Thomas, 40lb. of perch, many of them up to 1½lb. each."—B.

—(Datchet).—The river is in first-rate order—looks fit for anything—but still the fish are very fickle. I am in hopes with the change to-day the jack will move. I was out on the 26th ult., and had six dozen perch; on the 27th, a few perch and a few roach, the two largest roach weighing respectively 1lb. 13oz. and 1lb. 9oz., one jack 3lb., one chub 3lb.; out to-day, had a miscellaneous bag—two chub, one over 3lb., the other 2½lb., and a few roach and perch.—G. LUMSDEN.

—(Eton).—The water is now in first-class order. The only drawback is that there is too much stream, but the weir tackle will now be replaced in a day or two, when the angler who wishes to float his line down again for the chub should be at once on the warpath. Some good fish have been taken during the past week. Mr. F. Sharratt, of Surly Hall, accompanied by Mrs. Sharratt, who is a keen angler, and as well able to manage a punt as Frank himself, took, in two hours, four and a half dozen very fine roach and dace and one good jack. That genial and enthusiastic angler, Mr. Amplett, and friend were here on the 27th ult., when I had the pleasure of starting them on their way to fish down to Staines. I hear they found a few chub at home in one or two favourite swims before they reached Old Windsor, and I hope they succeeded in securing a good heavy bag before they finished up.—CECIL HOWLETT.

—(Mallford).—My old fisherman, and now assistant river keeper, Edward Rosewell, writing to me on Monday last, says: "On Friday last I put on my knee boots and took my landing net, and went down to Walton Bridge and caught from the Thames meadows fifteen jack out of the small inlets where the flood had left them,

weighing from ½lb. to 2lb. each, which I put back into the river above Walton Bridge, and also some small roach and chub left in some of the holes. I am going round the Eyots to-morrow at Halliford to see if I can find any more. I think if all were to do the same thing we should save a lot. I shall do my best." Bravo, Rosewell! It is a good example to all fishermen, and especially to those holding deputations, and their clients will appreciate the value of the work.—B.

—(Hampton).—Mr. and Mrs. Palmer, of London, fishing with J. Longshaw, in one day creoled four dozen of splendid perch, weighing altogether 26½lb., having been weighed at the Red Lion Hotel, the largest scaling 1lb., the greater portion were returned to the river again.—B.

—(Hampton Court).—William Milbourne, writing on Tuesday, says: "The water is in good order for all fishing. I have been out two days with Mr. Sturges, who caught five dozen nice perch, and out of those he returned about three dozen to the river again. There was a great number of bank anglers out on 26th ult., and most of them had done well with roach and dace. Mr. Gunn took yesterday (Monday) a fine perch, 1½lb.; and the same angler, out with a friend to-day, took eight dozen of dace."—B.

—(Henley (March 1)).—The water is now in splendid condition for all-round angling. The weirs are shutting down, but there is still a strong stream running. Some good bags of roach and perch have been made, and plenty of small jack between 3lb. and 4lb. The largest I have seen was one of 8½lb., taken by Mr. Norman, fishing with W. Vaughan, on the 24th ult., which topped a bag of roach and perch weighing 26lb. On the 23rd ult., Messrs. Read and Ward had a nice bag of perch weighing 26lb.; Messrs. Tod Pulling and T. Riggs, out with G. Arlett, four jack (best fish, 4lb.) and two dozen perch; and Dr. Jeston, fishing with Bob Young, eleven jack (best fish, 3½lb.) and fifty-one brace of perch, retaining twenty-nine brace weighing 20lb. On the 24th ult., Mr. Escombe, out with G. Arlett, four jack (best fish, 5lb.) and one dozen perch (best perch, 1½lb.); and Mr. Carter and friend, out with J. James, 10lb. of perch (best fish, 1½lb.). On the 25th ult., Mr. Escombe, out with J. James, three jack and 20lb. of perch; Messrs. Coborn and Jones, out with G. Arlett, four dozen roach and six brace of perch; Mr. Ross, out with W. Vaughan, four jack (best fish, 5lb.); Mr. Batt, fishing alone, four jack and five chub (best chub, 4½lb.); and Dr. Jeston, fishing with Bob Young, thirty-eight brace of perch, weighing 30lb., and nine jack (best fish, 3½lb.), besides returning fifty of the first named fish. On the 26th ult., Messrs. Carter and Hooper, a nice bag of perch; Mr. Clements and friend, out with G. Vaughan, three and a half dozen perch and two jack; Mr. Holloway and two friends, a good bag of perch (best fish, 1lb. 8oz.); Mr. Batt, thirty-three perch and two jack; Mr. Moore and friend, out with J. Sargeant, had a good bag of roach and perch; Messrs. Coborn and Jones, fishing the back eddy of Beggar's Hole with G. Arlett, had a good bag of roach, weighing close on 40lb. A great many bank anglers were down on this date, but did little good among the roach. On the 1st inst., Mr. Elliott, out with J. James, a bag of roach and a 4lb. jack, weighing 20lb.; Mr. Martain, out with W. Vaughan, three jack (best fish, 8½lb.); and Dr. Shields, out with J. Sargeant, thirteen jack, weighing 40lb., and 7lb. of perch (best jack, 4lb.). Other anglers have been taking some roach, perch, and jack, up to 4lb. One thousand trout are to be turned into the river to-day.—STANLEY MEAD.

—(Kingston).—John Johnson, one day with Mr. Gunston, landed twenty-nine bream, and on other days with other anglers a few bream and some roach and dace. John Knight, one day with Mr. Wells and friend, four dozen of good roach and dace; and another, with Mr. Wells, two dozen of roach.—B.

—(Richmond).—The fishermen report generally they have been getting some roach and dace.—B.

—(Richmond).—The river is now in good condition. Job Brain, jun., out with his patrons, took in four days fifty-two bream, largest 2lb., and six dozen roach, largest 1½lb. Three anglers in another punt twelve dozen dace.—GAYNOR AND SONS.

—(Teddington).—W. McBride, one day with Mr. C. Merton Orme, seventeen bream and ten brace of fine perch, many of them ½lb. each; two half-days with Mr. Port, of Teddington, four bream and ten brace of perch, the largest perch weighing 1½lb.; another day with Mr. Hedsup, of Wimbledon, forty-three bream, of which thirty were returned, and eight brace of perch, four of the best perch weighed 4lb. 2oz.; and another day, with Mr. J. Hollyman, four bream, five brace of perch, and a chub of 1lb. There is an unreported take of the previous week with Mr. Clay and friend, of the Holloway Angling Society, of twenty bream, a tench of 2½lb., and four brace of perch. The water, on Wednesday, was described as being in good condition for perch fishing.—B.

—(Twickenham).—C. Browne, one day with Mr. Carter and Mr. Cox, 110 dace, and in three other days, with other anglers, 20lb. of dace and one bream. R. Moffat, in one day, nine dozen of roach and dace and two bream. R. Spong, in two days, 20lb. of roach and dace, and one bream.—B.

—(Weybridge).—Mr. C. H. Wheeley has been successful in landing a nice pike of 7lb. at Walton, and other anglers are reported as having done well with the perch.—B.

Ancholme District.—The coarse fishing season is now coming to an end. It has been a good average year. The largest pike taken so far was 16lb. I saw the water bailiff on Saturday last, and he tells me he has seen some very large king carp about the Cake Mills, Brigg; and some fine large trout of several pounds weight have been observed at the same spot, and also near Brandy Wharf.

The close time for coarse fish also shuts out the trout, which would be more likely to capture during the spring than at any other time. The commissioners should allow angling for them under certain restrictions.—THOMAS FORD (Caistor).

Arun (Pulborough).—Only a few anglers visited here on Feb. 26, who found the river in good order; the sport was disappointing. Mr. Randall, Great Northern Brothers, took three jack, the largest about 4lb., but other takes were small. This (Tuesday) night, the river is in good order and well clearing [after recent floods].—W. G. HOLLMAN.

Bottisham Locks (Waterbeach).—During the week from last report, up to March 1 (time of writing) pike are still on the move, and are just on the dock. Numerous, but not over 4lb. each, as a rule, at present had. Bank angling clean, and to-day (March 1) W. wind; spring weather; no frost. Live baits on the spot. Fifteen minutes' walk from G.E.R. station. Comfortable lodgings.—J. O. GEORGE, Beche-road, Cambridge.

Coln, Leach, &c., Bibury (East Gloucestershire).—The warm weather at noon during the past week has caused several Duns and Gnats to hatch out. On Saturday, Feb. 25, I had a live May Fly sent me from Bibury, on the Upper Coln; it was caught in the Swan Hotel gardens, right up amidst the Cotswold Hills. I think this is a record. The fly (a Green Drake) caused considerable interest at Cirencester on Monday, where it was on view. Mr. Warn, of Tetbury, reports some excellent sport from the Estcourt lakes with pike, a brace of fifteen pounders being amongst them. Some fine pike have been recently got in the Churn, and several small ones from the Thames and Severn Canal. The Gloucester Angling Club are about to restock the Robinswood Hill reservoirs with trout, and they are to be fished for with fly only.—PAN.

Dart (Totnes and District).—A number of rods were on the river to-day (Wednesday) for the opening of the season, but at time of writing only a few reports have come in. The weather, however, is too bright for much sport, and the frosts are very severe. Mr. Holmes secured one and a half dozen nice trout; Mr. E. Distin, fifteen; and Mr. Parnell, a dozen. Several other takes of about a dozen were made in the waters up to Staverton. Buckfastleigh anglers, too, met with fair success. Flies recommended are Blue Upright, Edmond's Palmer, and Half Stone. Ten fine salmon were netted at the weir. A number of salmon are lying in the well-known pools between Totnes and Buckfastleigh, and anglers have been trying their luck. The conservators this week decided to grant no free licences, understanding that they have no legal powers. As much of the fishing on the moor is understood to be granted by the Duchy on condition that tenants have free licences, it will be interesting to see how this decision will affect anglers who patronise the moorland waters.—DEVONIAN.

Devonshire Streams.—Most of the streams are now in capital trim, but the frosts and bright days have been drawbacks to good sport. Salmon fishing should have a better season than last year, as reports show that a number have ascended. Several rivers opened on Wednesday. The Tiverton Fishing Association are affected by the bad season of 1898, their receipts having considerably diminished. Only fly fishing is now permitted on the Otter, the artificial minnow and worm being both prohibited. Many of the riparian owners on this river have announced their intention of controlling their own fishing, and consequently a big stretch of water is preserved for the first time.—DEVONIAN.

Dove and Tributaries.—Water is now in good condition for the fly, though somewhat low and clear for this time of year. A few fish have been taken by the February Red. Trout are not in good condition, though forward for this time of year, and another week or ten days will make a difference in this respect.—D. AND W. H. FOSTER.

Exe and Canal (Exeter).—Salmon fishing opened here yesterday, March 1, but on the lower lengths of the river little sport was met with, the waters having dropped in very rapidly, and the day being bright throughout. The same bad conditions have also kept trout down, small bags being the general experience for past week. Mr. A. J. Roberts secured another brace of pike near Thorverton, largest 9lb.—RED PALMER.

Fen District (South Lincs. and Cambs.).—Winter angling is returning to its normal conditions, and sport in both departments is described as good. Those following the fresh-water shark have no reason to complain, whilst those seeking roach are credited with good baskets. In some of the drains the water is still running very fast. From Surlfleet I hear that roach are feeding in earnest. One visitor the other day caught 28lb., and had besides six tench, weighing 11lb., and a fine perch, 3lb. 3oz.—LIMPET.

Idle District (North Notts).—Very few reports come this week from the Idle. The river and drains in the lower portion have scarcely yet settled down. Some few chub are noticed as taken from the upper lengths, and an odd catch or two of roach and dace have been obtained about Bollam. The Ryton has also furnished a few roach and dace, and also a few chub, one of the latter weighing 2½lb. Canal fishing at Clayworth has been fairly good.—L.

Lea.—The water has run down and fined very nicely, and there is a favourable stream running now for all-round angling. Roach have not fed as well as was expected, but in some parts nice takes have been secured. The Rye House district has furnished a roach of 1lb. 10oz., and some good roach have also been landed at Waltham, St. Margaret's, Ware, and Hertford. Large numbers of anglers were out in the upper reaches early in the week. A fine dace of 14oz. has been taken in the Hertford district, and Mr. Shelsey, at Dobb's Weir, Hoddesdon,

has brought to bank a pike of nearly 16lb. Mr. Taylor has taken a pike there of 4½lb. Here and there other fair sized pike have been secured, while a rnmour reaches me that two heavy specimens have been captured in the Broxhorne district. Peich up to 1½lb. have been landed at St. Margaret's, where a fine trout has been seen to feed. Roach, perch, and pike have been taken in the Stort, but no heavy baskets are reported. The river is in good condition.—IZAACK WALTON.

Lugg and Arrow (Leominster).—Both these noted trout streams are now gone down, and have cleared nicely, and are greatly improved, and in good order for fishing, and there is every prospect of some good sport being had amongst the trout on both streams. Thursday was the opening day, and there were a fair number of anglers getting ready. There has been some flies on the water during the warm parts of the day, and the fish have been rising. The best flies for use will be the Blues, February Red, and Palmers. The Pinsky is in good order, and some good fish will be caught in it.—GWYNNE.

Lugg, Arrow, and Pinsky (Kingsland).—Rivers are fishable, yet still on the heavy side. We have had beautiful fine and warm days, followed by very sharp frosts at night, and these will keep both trout and insects back. Flies to commence with should be Blue Dun, February Red, Red Palmer, Cowdngg, and Male Willow.—R. T. WILLIAMS.

Nene (Peterborough).—Great improvement in fishing prospects can be reported this week, for the water in the river has been considerably reduced, it having ran off so rapidly that the water gauge shows a difference in height this week as compared with last of about 2ft., and, besides, the colour of the water is materially improved. The weather to-day (Wednesday) is spring-like, and if it continues our anglers now may be induced to turn out. Some have had good sport hream fishing at Alwalton, and several large ones have been landed, one scaling over 6lb.—about the largest this season.—E. A. S.

Otter (Budeleigh Salterton).—To-day (March 1) the Bicton Estate water and other important parts of the Otter opened their season under very unfavourable conditions. There was a sharp frost last night, and a bitter north-east wind was blowing to-day. At midday, the sun came out powerfully, and made things cheerful for everything but fishing. The few anglers who plied between this and Ottery did next to nil, and grumblings on all sides are the order of the day. The few fish taken were in bad condition, and everything points to an unusually backward spring fishing. The river is very clear and rather low. South winds and warm showers must be waited for. Flies for the next few weeks should be Blue Upright (wingless for choice), February Red, Iron Blue, and Hare's Flax Upright.—HERON.

Ouse (Great Paxton, St. Neots).—Pike are well on the feed. Good baskets are still made. The water perfect.—W. DUCKER.

Ouse (Holywell Ferry).—Jack have been right on the feed for a fortnight now, and still mad on, so anglers should avail themselves of the chance. The water is in splendid condition, and six or seven good fish coming home with each punt, and ranging from 3lb. to 9lb. I quite expect to have to report a record fish before March 15, when our season closes here. The frosts have done us a deal of good.—A. SCARD.

Ouse (St. Neots).—The water is now in first-rate condition, and large numbers of jack have been taken during the last few days. They have, however, been principally small ones of 4lb. or 5lb., and up to 7½lb. The weather is all that can be desired.—WM. NASH.

Plymouth.—March 1 is on us again, and the fishermen are eager to be on the river to renew their acquaintances of last year. From reports I have received from all rivers, they appear to be in very good condition, and there are plenty of fish up. The mildness of the climate has brought on the fly much earlier than usual, therefore the trout will be in better condition than is usual at this time of the year. I have received the licences and tickets for the Tavy and Plym district, the Dart, and tickets for the Avon and Erme Fishery Board, and I have issued several to fishermen who always go out on the first. One thing I notice with the Dart, which is a great advantage to fishermen coming for a few days' fishing, that he can get a day ticket to fish for salmon or trout at 2s.; if for trout only, 1s.—WILLIAM HEARDER.

Severn, Vyrnwy, Tanat, and Cain (Llanymynech).—All these rivers are in the best possible condition for the fly, and the water little above the summer level, and although the nights are somewhat frosty, the sun shines brilliantly throughout the day, so that anglers in pursuit of grayling are having good sport, but these fish are now getting out of condition, yet anglers are allowed to take them from the Tanat all the year round, as they are said to master the trout when too abundant. There is every prospect of a good season for trout fishing, as for some time past they have been rising greedily at the fly, and two have been landed at one cast on the Tanat, which, of course, were returned to the river. Several good sized pike have been taken from the Severn and Vyrnwy, and it is to be hoped that trollers will persevere and make as much havoc amongst them as the pike do amongst other kinds of fish. The close season for coarse fish will commence shortly, and although they are now in poor condition, they continue to afford good sport. It is most gratifying to hear that several salmon have been seen in this neighbourhood, but none as yet have been captured, for the simple reason that they have been so scarce in recent years that it was a waste of money to take out a licence to angle for them, but perhaps brighter days are in store for the salmon angler in this neighbourhood.—VYRNWY.

Stour (Bures, Suffolk).—The water is now in splendid condition for angling, but fish are not well on the feed. Sport on the 26th nit. was very slow, hardly a fish of

any sort being taken—the wind being in the east no doubt being the cause. A few good fish have been taken since, and bags up to 10lb. in weight, gentles being the best lure. The water is in good condition for jack fishing, and some good fish ought to be taken as soon as the wind alters.—W. T. BAINBRIDGE.

Sussex Rivers and Chichester Canal.—Frost in the early mornings and summerlike days have been the order of the week. Rain has held off, and rivers are all in excellent order. Good sport has rewarded visitors to the Ouse, and pike especially have been to the fore. Mr. Shaw, of Tofield, recently captured 32lb. weight of nice fish, the heaviest turning the scale at 10lb. Chub have been well on; the heaviest recorded weighed 3½lb. Roach have taken gentles, but are not feeding freely. The Cuckmere has not fished well in the fine water. The best angling is found here after a flood. The Rother is in good trim, and is well worth a visit, especially to the artist angler. The scenery is grand. Pike up to 6½lb. have been taken by spinning and paternoster. Gudgeon seems the favourite bait, and are easily obtainable in this water. Chichester Canal fishes well. Pike of 4½lb., 3½lb., and 3lb. are the largest I hear of, but several fish have been taken with hand-lines and bank runners, which the pot hunters' basket, and say nothing about. Live gorse is here the leading mode of capture.—GEORGE F. SALTER.

Teifi (Lampeter, Cardiganshire).—After several weeks of flood, the river is again running low. Trout fishing commences to-day (March 1). Prospects good, but water low. Only two salmon have been taken here as yet.—H.

Teme (Ludlow).—The Teme in this district has now gone down to a nice level, and has cleared, and is now running in good order for either fly or bottom fishing. The weather has now turned fine, and with sharp frosts at night and the sun shining all the day it has brought a good few flies out on the river; and there is an excellent prospect for the opening days of the trout season, which commences on Thursday, and the best time to fish for the present will be between eleven and three in the day. The best flies to use will be the February Red, Blue Dun, Iron Blue, and Palmer, and good dishes of fish should be landed. During the past few weeks a very large otter has been seen fishing the water under Whitcliffe. This is one evidently missed last year by the hounds, and along the bank can be seen where he has had fish and left the scales. During the end of last week a few coarse fish were taken with paste. The Ony, Corve, Clun, and Ledwyche are all running clear and a nice level, and in good order for fishing, and some good trout will be taken with worm.—S. LUDLOW.

Teme (Tenbury).—The Teme in this part has now gone down and cleared, and is running a nice level, and has got into good order for fishing, and is in a better condition than was expected a few weeks back for the opening of the trout season on Thursday, the 2nd. Angling up to the present has been very slow, and anglers have been getting ready for trout, and there is a good prospect of some good sport being had in this district, as there are plenty of good fish in the district, and good baskets of fish should be landed. A good few flies have been out on the water. The Rea, Kyre, and Ledwyche are running in order.—WORCESTER.

Welland and Gwash (Stamford District).—Mr. Harden, a member of the Stamford Angling Association, has secured as his own property the challenge cup of the London Piscatorials (for grayling), having won it three years in succession; his last catch was six fish, totalling 9lb., the largest weighing over 2lb. It is announced that 500 yearling trout have been turned into the Gwash. In both rivers sport has been, on the whole, satisfactory during the past season.—E. A. S.

Witham, &c. (Mid-Lincolnshire).—The drains about Boston are said to have yielded some good roach lately, and especially in the Mount Pleasant district. A few rudd have also been taken. Sport about Bardney and towards Lincoln, on the river, has fallen off, but those who have visited the Sincil Dyke have done fairly well with yellow paste. Sport on the Bain, about Coningsby, has been good, and roach takes have usually been topped with chub. Some of these have run up to 3lb. Some good pike have been taken at Flnsby, and a few decent fish have come from the Witham end of the Horncastle Canal. The best fish reported was 12lb.—LUCR.

Wye (Herefordshire).—On Saturday last Messrs. Costage and Bradbury, two well-known anglers, had some excellent sport at Ross. In two and a half hours they caught twelve fine pike ranging from 3½lb. to 13lb. each. The total catch weighed 89lb. This is believed to be a record for the Wye.—PISCATOR.

Yore, Swale, Wharfe, Nidd, Derwent, &c.—With the exception of a dense fog on Monday we have had a week of brilliant sunshine. Two or three of the night frosts have been very keen, but the weather, for either pike or grayling fishing, has been what is often termed typical, but the water in the upper reaches of all the Yorkshire angling streams has run down to summer level, and could not possibly be filtered brighter than it is now. This, with the fact that the larger grayling are going off in point of condition, has prevented many anglers turning out, and matters will be quiet now till the opening of the trout season. I have not seen or heard of anyone being on the upper Yore. A Harrogate gentleman had an exceptionally good day on Saturday last, his basket containing twenty-eight splendid grayling. The smaller grayling are in fine condition, yet many of them about 4oz. being apparently barren fish. A few pike have been caught in the neighbourhood of Borough Bridge, and on Saturday Mr. Thomas secured a nice fish of 4½lb.—the only one caught out of four rods. Little has been done in the way of grayling fishing on the Swale at Catterick Bridge, but I am pleased to hear prospects for the trout from this point

up to its source are reported good, and some fair dishes of roach and a few pike have been caught in the lower waters. The Derwent is at last in good trim for fishing. There are plenty of pike in the neighbourhood of Malton, and we should hear of some good captures soon. At Yeadingham, on Tuesday, Messrs. Pickersgill and Gunny had respectively 10lb. and 8lb. baskets, among the former being three roach turning the scale at 4lb. On the Wharfe, on Friday last, some nice perch were caught by Messrs. W. G. Royston, R. Boston, and J. E. Miller, jnn., five of the perch weighing over 4lb.; and on Wednesday, on the same water, Mr. Boston again had good sport. From Nidderdale I hear some decent sport has been met with on the waters of the Harrogate Angling Association by several anglers, the best basket being one of twelve grayling, ten dace, and four chub; Mr. Hinchliffe securing half a dozen nice grayling. Several pike have been caught in the lower reaches below Hunsingore. Trout and grayling anglers will be pleased to hear that the fresh-water shark has been practically exterminated from the upper reaches of this water. There are a few vacancies in this club. The water extends over twenty miles of good fishing, and contains a large number of both trout and grayling, beside all kinds of coarse fish, from the gudgeon to the pike. The annual subscription being only one guinea, and no entrance fee, intending subscribers should not lose time in sending in their application to the secretary, Mr. R. Fortum, Harrogate.—J. E. MILLER, Northern Anglers' Depot, 19, New Station-street, Leeds.

BY TELEGRAM.—The Yorkshire rivers are very low in the upper waters, but the lower reaches are in fine trim for pike fishing. Weather brilliantly fine, but a boisterous north-westerly wind prevails.—J. E. MILLER, Northern Anglers' Depot, 19, New Station-street, Leeds.

SCOTCH REPORTS.

Border Esk.—Although fly fishing opened on the Border Esk in the middle of last month, little has been done up to the present; indeed, few anglers have been out. With the advent of fine weather the river has been in order for fishing; but, with the exception of Dr. Anderson's (Esk Bank, Canonbie) 19½lb. salmon, which he killed in the mid reaches after a splendid run of some duration, nothing worth recording has taken place. The spawned fish are still numerous, and the doctor had good sport with them, landing no fewer than eight kelts, which were, of course, returned to the water. There is little yet doing in the upper and lower reaches. The Esk is very clear of fungus this spring, and if the present fine weather holds good, fair sport may be anticipated.—GILNOCKIE.

Carron (Easter Ross, Ardgay, N.B.).—King Frost still holds land and water under its iron grasp. Curriers are busy, and anglers idle, as they have thrown up the rod with despair until a change comes. Not a fish caught yet on the Carron this season.—B.

Deveron (Banffshire).—For some time neither rain or snow has fallen in this district, and the water in the river Deveron is now almost fallen to its normal condition. Keen frosts have been pretty prevalent, which has interfered somewhat with the rod fishing; but during the evening of Monday, and on Tuesday, the weather appeared to be undergoing a change, a slight shower of rain falling on the morning of the latter day. Except on the Huntly Lodge section, which does not open until April 1, and several other sections, anglers have been out, and fish of 6lb. to 10lb. grassed, one beautiful clean run salmon of 19½lb. being killed by the keeper on the Avochie section (Mr. Wm. Walker) on Saturday last. Although the net fishermen have been plying the nets night and day on the river beside the Raik cottages, they have scarcely got a fish, and very few trout. Matters are similar on the sea. There are some half a dozen bag nets on this part of the coast, and, although the weather permitted them to be examined several times daily, not a dozen salmon have been taken from them for the week past, and for the first half of this week only a small box was sent to the market from the Deveron district, and one on Tuesday from the Gardenstown coast.—H. W.

Loch Ness (Foyers Hotel), N.B.—On Feb. 22 Miss Tilston killed a nice salmon of 29lb. On the 23rd Mr. R. T. Annan killed one of 21lb. and one of 16lb.—S. TILSTON.

Loch Tay (Kenmore, Perthshire, N.B.).—On the hotel water, on the 22nd, Mr. D. Carson killed two salmon, 22lb. and 16lb. On the 22nd, on the reserve water, Mscdiarmid, the keeper, killed salmon, 20lb. 25th, on the hotel water, Mr. W. Herring killed salmon, 17lb. 27th, on hotel water, Mr. W. Herring killed salmon, 16lb. 27th, on the reserve water, Mr. Montague Campbell killed salmon, 16lb. Loch in good ply.—W. KNIGHT.

Loch Tay (Killin, N.B.).—On Feb. 22nd Mrs. Midwood had a salmon, 15lb.; Mr. Kessler, one, 17lb. On the 24th, Capt. Williams, one, 15lb. On the 27th, Mr. Clegg, one, 20lb. On the 28th, Mr. Clegg, one, 16lb. Only one boat out. Loch in good play.—H. J. MAISEY.

Naver Bettyhill (Thurso, N.B.).—No sport got on this river since last reported, although several anglers, including Gen. Hume (Syre Lodge), Col. Frier (Dalvina Lodge), and others, have arrived. The weather could hardly be worse for angling—keen frost by night and a blazing sun by day. On Tuesday there were indications of a change.—B.

North-East of Scotland.—Owing to the falling in of the river, heavy frosts over night, and excessively bright sunshine during the daytime, sport has not been so brisk during the past week as in the preceding one. On the Ballater and upper waters there are few fresh fish as yet. On the South Cambus O'May water, Col. Eddis and party have had one, two, and three daily, scaling from 6lb. to 8lb. On the Glentana waters, Lieut.-Col. Brinckman had one of 9lb., on Monday, and one of 8lb. on Tuesday; while Mr. Merry (from Profits Hotel), had one of

8lb. on same water. On the Aboyne reaches, Mr. Crawshaw had one of 6lb.; Mr. Borwick, two, of 8lb. and 8lb.; and Mr. Hebburn, one of 7lb. On the Ballogie water, Mr. Edward Drummond creelred one of 6½lb., and three, 6lb., 6½lb., and 20½lb.; while Mr. Corbet had one of 9lb.; and Mr. L. H. Crake, one of 8lb., on same water. On the Borrowstone water, Nicoll, keeper, has landed one and two daily; while Dunn, on the Carlogie section, has had similar success, all running from 6lb. to 9lb. On the Dess water, Major Davidson creelred four, of 6lb., 6½lb., 7lb., and 8lb.; three, of 7lb., 8lb., and 9lb.; and one of 8½lb., making twenty-five fish on this small water since the season opened. On the Lodge water, Mr. Deverell creelred one of 10lb., one of 7lb.; while Sir John Gladstone had several of average weights on the Commonby and Upper Blackhall waters. On the Cairnton, Mr. Farley creelred two and three daily, while Mr. Duncan Davidson, on the Inchmarlo, the Hon. Otto-Powlett, on Blackhall Castle, and Mr. McKin, on Durris, have only had fair sport. On the King-Causie section, Miss Fortescue had "first blood" for the season the other day in a beauty of 8lb., while Mr. Irvine Fortescue creelred four, scaling 6½lb., 7lb., 7lb., and 9lb. The Ythan and Ugie opened on Saturday last, when Mr. Gordon, Ellon Castle, had a fair basket on the Ellon waters, and several other anglers similar results on the tidal reaches. On the Kingcausie water, Mr. Irvine Fortescue landed one of 7½lb. on Monday, and two, of 19lb. and 8lb. on Tuesday. Sir John Gladstone, on the Commonby and Woodend waters, creelred twenty-one fish in four days' angling; and Mr. Farley is getting six, seven, and eight fish daily on the Cairnton. On the Aboyne waters, Mr. Sharp had one of 20lb. on Tuesday; Mr. Crawshaw three, of 6lb. each; and Mr. Borthwick two, of 5lb. and 7lb. On the Monaltrie water, on Monday, Mr. Herbert landed one of 8lb.; while Mr. J. B. Millar had one of 7lb. on the Ballater water; and Lundie, Her Majesty's keeper, three, of 7lb., 8lb., and 12lb., on the Balmoral waters, which were duly despatched to the Queen at Osborne. With the advent of fresh weather sport has revived all over, and the prospects on the Dee are brighter than ever. Plenty of fish on the lower and mid sections, and now rising freely.—G. M.

Shin (Inveran, N.B.).—The weather still continues very frosty, with clear sunshine; in fact, angling conditions could hardly be worse. During the past week the angling tenant, fishing from the Sutherland Arms, only landed two salmon, one weighing 9lb. on Tuesday, and a 10-pounder on Saturday. No sport expected until after a thaw, of which, as yet, there is no appearance.—B.

South of Scotland.—The Border rivers opened for angling on Saturday morning under most unfavourable conditions. There was sharp frost for two or three nights prior to the opening, and the waters were very clear and a trifle low for salmon fishing, nevertheless a few rods were out, but nothing was done on any of the waters. Very few salmon have been seen moving since the floods of a fortnight ago, and none are running in the Solway. Since the nets opened in the firth not a single spring salmon has been caught at two of the principal netting stations. The Eden gave a number of spring fish to the rods at the beginning of last week, but the sport has now fallen off again. One trout has been caught. In the Nitb and Annan nothing was done by the rods on the opening day, and anglers are of opinion that there cannot be any sport until some rain falls to heighten the rivers. Any fish landed have been kelts, which were put back to the water. Yellow trout have been caught in some of the waters, but these fish are still in poor condition, and should not be taken for another month. The weather is mild, with no immediate signs of rain.—HEATHERBELL.

Tweed, Teviot, and other Border Rivers.—During the past fortnight the rivers in the Borderland have been running in very poor angling form, and a good many disciples of the rod and line are out trying their luck in various ways—some for salmon, others for trout, while the pike fishers have not been idle. The weather has not been the most favourable on all occasions, however, and many blank days have been recorded on all the waters. At the same time a few catches of salmon have been made, but those have all been killed in the lower waters, and even in that district the reports are to the effect "that salmon are very scarce in the river, and apparently none coming up the main stream—Tweed—further than Norham, in the meantime. There has been no salmon angling on the Floors Castle famous waters as yet, nor yet on the Hendersyde casts, and the same remark applies to the Makerstoun and Rutherford fastnesses. Of those who have been most successful since the season opened we may mention the Right Hon. Lord Dundas, the Hirsell (son of the Earl of Home), who, on the Birgham water, belonging to his father, killed, yesterday, three fine salmon, of 14½lb., 14lb., and 14lb. respectively; on Feb. 16, Mr. James Steel, Kelso, had a grand clean run salmon of 17½lb., killed on the "Bushes" cast on the Sprouston water. Capt. P. M. French, on Feb. 16, on the Till, had one salmon of 8lb.; on the 18th he killed a beautiful 14lb. salmon on the Tweed; on the 21st, on the same river, he had a nice 9lb. salmon; and on the 27th, on the Till, he killed a fine fish of 11½lb. The above are all the fish recorded as being killed up to date. Of those who have been on the pike killing job, Mr. Alexander Hogarth, Heiton Mill, Kelso, had one of 2lb. on the Teviot on Feb. 18; and yesterday (Tuesday), on the same stream, Mr. Richard Ormston, Haybank House, Kelso, with spoon bait, killed three of these fish, weighing respectively 2lb., 3½lb., and 4lb.—two of these having been got in the Gogram Pool, and the other in the cast known as the "Room." There has not been much done in the way of trout fishing, but a few nice small baskets have fallen to a few of the Waltonians, the weights of which ranged from 3lb. up to 6lb., the latter including one trout of

1½lb. The net fishings for salmon in the Tweed are very poor as yet, the yield being most unsatisfactory, the river not being in good fishing trim. Salmon are very deficient in quantity, and only some twenty to thirty trout are being caught daily. One day last week half a dozen salmon were landed in the nets, and that is the largest number got any day since the season began. On Tuesday, at the Yarrow fishery, a clean salmon of 2lb. weight was caught, and this is said to be the smallest salmon on record, but if I remember aright there was one got in the Kelso district some years ago which only weighed somewhere about 1½lb. A seal was also got in the nets on the Yarrow fishery the same day as the small salmon. Prices are: Salmon, 2s. 8d. per pound; trout, 2s. 9d. per pound. Last year at same time prices were 2s. 3d. per pound.—MAXWHEEL.

IRISH REPORTS.

Bandon River (co. Cork).—Sport very indifferent for past week, very few salmon being killed by any of the rod anglers. Mr. H. E. Stanley had a good fish of 10lb., killed on the Woodlands water; and McCarthy, a local angler, one of 8lb.—W. HAYNES AND SON.

Blackwater (co. Cork).—Sport has slightly improved for past week. On the upper Kilbarry water, Mr. M. Dennehy, Feb. 23, one, 25lb.; 24th, one, 10lb.; 25th, one, 17lb.; 27th, one, 26lb. Some good fish were also taken at Mocollop and Careysville Fisheries.—W. HAYNES AND SON.

Boyne (Navan Section).—The fishing so far has not been equal to that in February of the past two seasons. Heavy and continuous floods in the latter part of January and early part of February, combined with high temperature, carried the first run of heavy fish past this section, and since the season opened on Feb. 12 hard frosts and bright sunny days have kept the fish back. Far as I can ascertain, the best sport has been had in the Slane Castle Water, where the tenant and friends have caught fifteen or sixteen fish, the weights of which I did not hear. On Upper Black Castle water, Mr. Francis Ley and friend had thirteen fish—10lb., 14lb., 15lb., 15lb., 17½lb., 18lb., 18lb., 19lb., 19½lb., 20lb., 21lb., 23lb., 26lb. On the Blackwater, Mr. Boylan had four, 17lb., 18lb., 23lb., 24lb. On the Stacellan water, Messrs. Jamieson had four or five fish. On Ardmulchan, Murphy, the fisherman, had two. On Lower Black Castle, Mr. Fletcher's guests had several fish from 9lb. to 20lb. each. I also hear that some good fish have been caught at Trim, including one of 23lb. Sport will not revive until we have rain, as the river is at low summer level.—CLARET FLY.

Bundrows River (co. Donegal).—This river got into nice fishing order towards the end of the past week, when Mr. T. Feely succeeded in landing three very handsome fresh run salmon of 10lb., 10lb., and 9lb. respectively, on the 23rd, 24th, and 26th ult. Capt. Austin, of the 2nd Dorset Regiment, also took a salmon on 25th ult. A good show of fresh run salmon in the river during the past week, and prospects of sport seems at present very good.

Lough Melvin.—The Rev. Wm. Verner tried this lake during the past week, and took four splendid brown trout, in fine condition, of 7lb., 3½lb., 3½lb., and 3lb. respectively, on 23rd and 24th ult. Mr. Verner also hooked a heavy fresh run salmon on 24th ult., but unfortunately lost same after some ten minutes play. Should the weather continue as mild as it is at time of writing, good sport will be had on this lake from this forth.—M. ROGAN AND SONS.

Cork Rivers.—The weather being favourable, and the waters generally in fair order, sport has shown up somewhat since last report on the rivers open for angling, and is expected to be good later on if the conditions keep favourable.—T. J. D.

Kerry Rivers.—Sport is still very backward on the Kerry rivers. In fact, it has seldom or never been so poor at this time; but the prospects for the next few days are somewhat better.—T. J. D.

Killarney.—Sport has shown a slight improvement since last report, though it is still very poor. It is quite unaccountable how matters have been so backward, as there were good grounds for supposing that spring salmon were numerous even at the commencement of the season. On the mountain lakes brown trout fishing has given fair sport on many days, the best baskets being had on Lough Quittane.—T. J. D.

Lee (co. Cork).—Salmon fishing for past week has been anything but good. Numbers of fish are to be seen in every pool, but they refuse to look at anything. On Ashton Fishery, Col. Rock had two, 9lb. and 8½lb. On Mashonoglass, Mr. F. Barry, three, 10½lb., 9lb., 8lb. On Lord Bantry's water, Rev. Canon Archdall, two, 11lb., 9lb.; Mr. G. M. Ievers, two, 7lb., 9lb. On Ballineadig, Capt. Richards, Hampshire Regiment, one, 6lb. On Fargus, Capt. Douglas Pennant, 60th Rifles, one 8lb.—W. HAYNES AND SON.

Lough Currane (Waterville, co. Kerry).—There has been a complete absence of sport in the line of salmon since last report, and only a very few sizeable brown trout were taken. All the most approved lures were tried, but all to no avail, as the salmon would not look at anything in the shape of either fly or minnow. Spring salmon continue to arrive in fair or average numbers.—T. J. D.

Lough Mask (Clonbur, co. Galway).—The preservation of Lough Mask in the past three years is now bearing its fruit. Notwithstanding the rather unfavourable weather since the season opened, trout fishers have had fair sport latterly. On Saturday a local gentleman, Mr. Gavan, killed 21lb. of brown trout on the fly, the largest being 3½lb.; and other local anglers since have had good bags, clearly proving that improvement on sport on what was formerly one of the worst poached waters in Ireland. March, April, and May are the best fly fishing months on this lake, and Joyce's Mount Gable Hotel, Clonbur, the best station for fishing it. The Mask trout

run up to 7lb. and 9lb., but these are generally killed by trolling during the summer and autumn months.—J. A. B.

Lough Neagh Pullen Fisheries.—In the past week Messrs. Alan Hornsby and Cecil Roche, H.M. Inspectors of Irish Fisheries, held inquiries at Antrim, Tootbridge, and Stewartstown, re an application to have a limit set on the number of pieces in the trammel nets used by the Lough Neagh pullen fishers. From the evidence adduced, it seems that the nets—for which £1 licence is paid—consist of from seventy to a hundred pieces, and sometimes extend over 5000 yards, or almost three miles. A net of thirty pieces of 1500 yards was suggested, and a proposition was also made by the conservators that a licence of 5s. should be placed on each section. The inquiry terminated at Stewartstown.—J. A. B.

Mountain Lakes (Waterville, co. Kerry).—Sport has been good, considering the early stage of the season, on all the above lakes. The weather has been favourable and the waters in nice order; and the fish took the flies well throughout each day—the best killing flies being small Claretas. The mountain lakes in the district contain brown trout only, natural obstructions preventing the passage of sea trout up beyond the lower levels of the mountain little plateaus.—T. J. D.

Moy, Loughs Conn and Cullen (Ballina, co. Mayo).—The river is in good order, but frost and cold east wind has prevented fish from taking the fly. Captain Palmer on 25th ult., lost a good fish after twenty minutes' play; Mr. Benson on 28th lost a fish almost ready for the net. The loughs are coming in to order.—PAT HEARNES.

Shannon and Lough Derg (Killaloe).—In consequence of the long continued stormy weather along the south coast of Ireland comparatively few spring salmon have up to the present ascended the Shannon from the Atlantic. The ever welcome beautiful fish are, however, now beginning to show in greater numbers, thanks to the mild weather which has prevailed inland for the last week or ten days. In the Killaloe section of the river Sir Daniel Gooch, Bart., who has rented Mr. Robert Twisse's Parten water and residence attached for a term, has within the last few days killed three very handsome spring salmon, weighing respectively 33lb., 16lb., and 14lb. Mr. R. W. Rickards, The Priory, Usk, Monmouthshire, who has been fishing my preserves for some days, went out on the river on Saturday at 10.30 a.m., and before 11 a.m. he had in the boat a nice springer of 17lb. I am fully confident that March and April months will turn out very satisfactory, because when fish do not run up early they invariably come later on; such, at least, has been my experience for very many years on the Shannon. We shall have amongst us in a few days (here at Killaloe) a good many English gentlemen anglers, who have spent many seasons on the beautiful salmon, grise, and trout reaches, both above and below the bridge.—S. J. HURLEY.

Ulster Rivers.—A large batch of rivers opened for angling on Wednesday, the 1st inst., in Tyrone, Antrim, Derry, and other parts of Ulster, in beautiful weather. These included the Bann, Upper Bann, Maine, Blackwater, Moyola, Erne, Ballinderry, &c. Most of these are in fair order after the spell of dry weather of the past week. The nightly frosts, however, are against trouting.—J. A. B.

SEA FISHING.

The following table gives the nearest approximate tides for the use of sea anglers for the week ending Friday, March 10. Neap tides. Lowest on Tuesday.

	Sat.	Sun.	Mon.	Tues.	Wed.	Th.	Fri.
	a.m.	a.m.	a.m.	a.m.	a.m.	a.m.	a.m.
Scarborough	8.9 p.m. 8.35	9.3 p.m. 9.35	10.13 p.m. 10.58	11.44 p.m. —	0.31 p.m. 1.11	1.47 p.m. 2.17	2.45 p.m. 3.11
Yarmouth	0.46 1.7	1.30 1.55	2.25 2.59	3.45 4.36	5.25 6.9	6.46 7.18	7.47 8.13
Lowestoft	1.28 2.49	2.12 2.37	3.7 3.42	4.28 5.18	6.7 6.51	7.28 8.0	8.29 8.54
Aldeburgh	2.17 2.39	3.1 3.26	3.56 4.31	5.16 6.7	6.51 7.40	8.17 8.49	9.18 9.43
Harwich	3.39 4.0	4.23 4.48	5.18 5.53	6.38 7.29	8.18 9.2	9.29 10.11	10.40 11.5
Southend, Sheerness, and Leigh	4.26 4.49	5.14 5.41	6.12 6.51	7.37 8.26	9.15 10.0	10.37 11.7	11.34 11.58
Margate, Broadstairs, & Ramsgate	3.28 3.55	4.14 4.42	5.12 5.48	6.31 7.16	8.12 8.56	9.34 10.7	10.34 10.59
Deal and Dover...	2.58 3.21	3.45 4.11	4.43 5.21	6.3 6.49	7.34 8.14	8.48 9.16	9.41 10.6
Hastings	2.38 3.1	3.25 3.61	4.23 5.1	5.58 6.29	7.14 7.54	8.28 8.56	9.21 9.46
Eastbourne and Brighton	3.6 3.29	3.53 4.19	4.51 5.29	6.11 6.57	7.42 8.22	8.56 9.24	9.49 10.14
Newhaven	3.2 3.25	3.49 4.15	4.47 5.25	6.7 6.53	7.38 8.18	8.52 9.20	9.45 10.10
Shoreham and Southwick	3.23 3.46	4.10 4.37	5.8 5.46	6.28 7.13	7.59 8.39	9.13 9.41	10.6 10.31
Portsmouth and Hayling Island	3.22 3.45	4.10 4.37	5.11 5.52	6.38 7.27	8.14 8.55	9.29 9.58	10.24 10.47
Plymouth	3.42 10.3	10.28 10.57	11.32 —	0.14 1.3	1.53 2.40	3.21 3.57	4.27 4.55

Deal (The Pier).—A few anglers have patronised the pier daily during the past week, but their catches have proved very meagre. The codling seem to have moved

farther south, and a few dabs and plaice have constituted the only returns. Sunday's visitors were Messrs. Gareau, Upton, Smith, and Linton, but the day proved quite devoid of sport, the only catch being a small dab taken by a local angler. Mr. Bushnell and Mr. Chittenden each fished for several hours on Monday afternoon, the former getting five small dabs and plaice. Tuesday's fishermen were Messrs. Meacock, Filmer, Cooper, and Bushnell, but the day's catch only totalled eight small flat fish. The same anglers put in an appearance on Wednesday afternoon, when sport again ruled very slow indeed, only six small dabs being taken.—J. RICHARDSON (B.S.A.S.).

Deal.—Although the weather has been very fine lately, nothing worth mentioning in the way of fishing has been done. It looks as if the fish have left for deeper water, and any gentleman wishing to try his luck close to the Goodwin Sands, I advise him to bring some fresh herring for bait, as we have none here. Tides suit the latter part of this week and early part of next, but, of course, fine weather is required for this kind of fishing.—EDWD. HANGER (Agent, B.S.A.S.).

Plymouth.—The weather at the time of writing is very springlike, and makes one anxious to see their boats afloat. Pollack and bass are coming closer inshore again. There is not so much fresh water coming down the rivers, and the sea is clearer. Some fine bass have been taken at the Great Western Docks. They seem to take better at dusk, or after the lamps are lit. Mullet are still being caught near the dock gates and inner basin, but they are very spasmodic in their feeding. Mackerel are making their appearance to the westward. This is early, and it is to be hoped that we have a much better season with them than we had last year, which I believe was the worst on record.—WILLIAM HEARDER (B.S.A.S.).

Southend and Leigh.—March 1.—The weather here has been superb; fishing good. Flounders are just now at their best—full of roe—but they should be gutted and cleaned as soon as caught. The best bait is lug worm. The barometer is unusually high, to-day's reading being 30.7 in., steady; wind S.W., very light; sea smooth; weather clear. May I once more ask brother anglers who have had good sport to drop me a postcard to Bramford, Westcliff, so that their successes may be duly recorded. Week-end prospects very favourable.—CHARLES HUSSEY (B.S.A.S.).

Angling Fixtures.

March 5.

Battersea Friendly: Consolation match.
Campbell United: Match at Bourne End.
Clapham Junction: Match at Woking.
Clapham Strollers: Outing to Weybridge.
Drayton Park Piscatorials: Outing.
Earlsfield: Prize outing.
Good Intent: Match at St. Margaret's.
Great Northern Brothers: Match at Broxbourne.
Harcourt: Outing to Shiplake.
Holloway: Outing to Teddington.
Izaak Walton: Lapsed prize outing.
Jolly Butchers: Match at Chertsey.
North London: Match at Teddington.
Original Clerkenwell Piscatorials: Outing to Hampton.
Royal George: Match at Bourne End.
Royal Oak: Roving match.
St. John's: Lapsed prize outing.
Sundial: Outing.
Victoria Brothers: Outing to Taplow.
Walworth Waltonians: Match at Yalding.
Wellington: Consolation prize outing.
Wimbledon Piscatorials: Roving match.
Ye Olde Clapham Rovers: Match at Windsor.

March 7.

Bomere: A.B.S. concert.
Earlsfield: Smoking concert.
Hoxton Brothers: Smoking concert.

March 8.

B.S.A.S.: Lecture by Mr. C. O. Minchin.
Brompton: Supper.
Greenwich: Smoking concert.
Izaak Walton: Lapsed prize outing.
West Green: Reading by Mr. J. Taylor.

March 9.

Royal George: Visit.

March 11.

Lychnobite: Competition.

March 12.—Amicable Excelsiors: Match at Cookham.

" 12.—Bermondsey Brothers: Prize outing.
" 12.—Duke of Norfolk: Match.
" 12.—Forest Gate: Match at Bures.
" 12.—Lychnobite: Competition.
" 12.—North Lambeth: Match at Bures.
" 12.—Queen's Piscatorials: Outing to Bourne End.
" 12.—Stockwell: Match on the Thames.
" 12.—United Brothers: Match.
" 12.—Walham Green: Roving match.
" 12.—West Ham Brothers: Match on the Lea.
" 12.—Wimbledon Piscatorials: Cup competition.
" 13.—Albion Brothers: Visit.
" 20.—Kingston Piscatorial Society: Annual dinner.
" 20.—Phoenix: Visit.
" 20.—Piscatorial Society: Annual dinner.
" 20.—Stockwell: Concert.
" 22.—Bostonsians: Lantern lecture.
" 23.—Thames River and Lock Keepers' dinner.
" 25.—Lychnobite: Benefit concert at the Champion Hotel.
" 26.—Amicable Excelsior: Match at Egham.
" 26.—Amicable Waltonians: Lapsed prize outing.

Reports from Clubs

We beg to remind Secretaries that their Reports must reach us not later than **SIX o'clock on Thursday Evening.** Address "Editor, FISHING GAZETTE, St. Dunstan's House, Fetter-Lane, London," marked "CLUB REPORT" outside envelope.

Anglers' Benevolent Society.—Since my last report I beg to acknowledge with thanks the receipt of 15s. 7½d., proceeds of the Cambridge Heath Brothers' Bohemian concert; £1 1s., J. Trowers, Robinson Crusoe, Earl-street, W., as a life member; and £23 16s., proceeds of the Windsor competition. At the last meeting £17 were voted for three applications. The next committee meeting will take place on Friday, March 10, at 8.30.—R. GHURNEY.

Anglers' Association (WESTERN DISTRICT) Visiting List.—The next visit will take place on Thursday, March 9, to the Royal George Angling Society, held at the Queen's Arms, Bateman-street, Soho. Messrs. Gibbons and Steptoe promise some good talent.—J. HARRIS.

Acton Piscatorial Society, George and Dragon, Acton.—Fifth punt competition of the above took place at Twickenham on Feb. 26, twelve competitors taking part in same; the weather, also the fish, were not so kind as they might have been, but each member tried his best to gain the prizes given by donors. Upon weighing-in at clubhouse the following were returned winners: Special prize, by Mr. Carrington Smith, Mr. G. Sizmar, 1st; prize value 21s., by F. E. Blake, Mr. Vollmer, 2nd; prize rod, winch, line, by Mr. C. Brown, Mr. C. Palmer, 3rd; prize by Mr. Chick, value 10s. 6d., won by Howell, 4th; prize by Mr. T. Parlett, cruet, won by Mr. N. Cbick, 5th; prize by Mr. J. Spong, tackle case complete, won by T. P. South, 6th. Punts by Mr. J. Spong, Twickenham.—W. HOWELL.

Albion Brothers' Angling Society, Frampton Arms, Wells-street, Hackney.—On Feb. 26 several members were out for prizes, Mr. King taking Mr. Allright's prize for gross weight; Mr. C. Osborn taking Mr. Coventry's prize, also winning first sweepstakes; and Mr. Andrews, second sweepstakes; Mr. Smith had two nice chub; Mr. Thompson, two good bream; and Mr. Pearce, several nice dace. On March 5, the clock, by Mr. Sparrow, for gross weight of roach, also 5s., and 5s. gross weight of perch from Coventry's, and two dace prizes of cash. All members of the association are eligible to compete for the cash prizes, but must show their card before signing the book at Coventry's.—C. J. KING.

Allason United Brothers' Angling Society. Duke of Sussex, Uxbridge-street, Notting Hill Gate, W.—The members met on March 1st, and the previous minutes were confirmed. Messrs. Shepherd, Abbott, and Ben Abrahams had roach, chub, &c. Ben had one roach, 14½oz. Several other members' reports of fish were heard.—BEN ABRAHAM.

Alma Angling Society, Coach and Horses, Portsmouth-place, Lincoln's Inn Fields.—On Feb. 26 the members fished a match at Windsor for six prizes. The following were the winners: Mr. Drew, perch and dace, first; Mr. Hall, perch and dace, second; Mr. Chambers, dace, third; Mr. Butlin, perch, fourth. Mr. Hall won the special prize for the heaviest fish with a perch 10½oz. There is one prize left to compete for on March 5; roving. I hope to see a good muster.—J. CHAMBERS.

Amicable Excelsior Angling Society, Prince Arthur, Arthur-street, Battersea.—Our next match will take place at Cookham on March 12, from Cookham Church to Bourne End Bridge; towpath only; all to go by first train on the morning. On Feb. 26 we fished our match at Egham, when the prizes were won by the following: Mr. G. Taylor, first, with perch; Mr. G. Rich, second, with perch; and Mr. G. Pope, third, with dace.—J. R.

Amicable Waltonian Angling Society, The Fox and French Horn, Clerkenwell Green.—The outing of the above for a series of prizes was a great success, some fine shows of fish being the result, the following members having the best takes: Lambarth, roach and dace; Payne, roach; Hutchings, jack; Millin, roach and dace; Nunn, sen., roach. Several other members also had shows of fish. Some good prizes for the next two Sundays; members go where they like.—G. MERRY.

Battersea Friendly Angling Society, Queen's Hotel, Queen's-road, Battersea, S.W.—Our roving match at Reading on Feb. 26 proved very successful, the prizes being taken by the following members: Messrs. A. Ansty, first; F. Ireland, second; A. Jenkins, third; W. Thomas, fourth; W. Hersant, fifth. Also weighed-in, Messrs. E. Guy and F. Apin. The consolation match for non-prize winners this season is fixed for March 5; open, roving; jack barred. Can go overnight.—A. JENKINS.

Battersea Piscatorials, Winstanley Arms, Winstanley-road, Clapham Junction, S.W.—Since last report several of our members have weighed-in fish. Mr. C. Harris, perch; T. Tringham, perch and bream, Mr. S. Death being first in consolation match. Remaining prizes to be fished for on March 5. Members to go where they like, from bank only. We had much pleasure in nominating Mr. F. Simpson a working member, and have more to follow.—T. TRINGHAM.

Bermondsey Brothers' Angling Society, Woolpack, Bermondsey-street, S.E.—On Feb. 26 Mr. J. Hobbs weighed in 13lb. of roach, and Mr. J. Smith 13lb. of roach. On March 1, Host G. H. Shepherd weighed in 33lb. of perch, and Mr. J. Martin 12lb. of jack, from the Thames. The competition for the remaining six prizes will be fished for on March 12, place and conditions to be decided at the

meeting on the 8th. There is also a half guinea prize for the largest roach caught on Sunday from any waters (open), from this date until the last Sunday in March.—ALF CONN.

Blackfriars Angling Society, The Imperial, Southwark-street, S.E.—Several members out on Feb. 19. Messrs. Whiley, Farmer, Stump, and Wheelhouse, grand show of roach and dace; J. Foster, roach, dace, and perch; G. Howard, roach and dace. On Feb. 26, Mr. Wheelhouse, dace, roach, and bream. We have decided to fish our March series of prizes (roving) anywhere. Mr. Cope, our host, has kindly offered us another guinea for our last outing, when I hope to see all members weigh-in from anywhere.—J. WHEELHOUSE.

Bloomsbury Brothers' Angling Society, Rose and Crown, Broad-street, Bloomsbury.—On Feb. 26 Mr. J. Taylor weighed-in perch, bream, and roach; Messrs. F. W. Stocker, W. Bray, F. S. Parett, roach; C. Davis, perch. On March 1 Mr. W. Taylor was elected a working member.—T. PATERNOSTER.

Bomere Angling Society, The Britannia, Clarendon-road, Notting Hill, W.—On Feb. 26 several members were out with the following results: Messrs. P. Harley, 5lb. 10oz. roach and dace; H. Cowan, 3lb. 14oz. roach and dace from Pangbourne; Messrs. H. Dagworthy, H. Hamilton, sen., and H. Hamilton, jun., had a splendid show of roach and dace from Petersham. Our A.B.S. concert takes place next Tuesday, March 7, at 8 p.m. The chair will be taken by Mr. J. W. Harris, faced by Mr. Ben Abrahams. Pianist, Mr. G. Charlton, of the Elgin Angling Society.—H. DAGWORTHY.

Bostonian Angling Society, Dalby Tavern, Dalby-street, Prince of Wales-road, Kentish Town.—On Feb. 26 Mr. Billings had a nice take of chub; also Mr. A. Jones, chub; Mr. Jennings some good roach. On Wednesday, March 22, at 9 o'clock p.m., Messrs. Ward and Jones will give, with the assistance of the lantern, to the members of the society and their friends, an original production of "Facts and Fancies." The vocal and instrumental music will be under the direction of Mr. A. Jones.—J. H.

Brothers Well Met Angling Society, King Edward VI., King Edward-street, Liverpool-road, N.—Our sea outing on Feb. 19 turned out a complete failure, only seven or eight fish being taken. On the same day H. C. Canton, roach, two large 11b 2oz. each; A. Field, roach, largest 14lb.; H. Bodien, 13lb. 11oz. of roach, largest 11b. 9½oz. On Feb. 22, H. Bodien, roach, 3lb. The match on Feb. 26, at Cookham for five prizes, four being won by the following: H. C. Canton, first, 8lb. roach; C. Smith, second; J. Dean, third; W. Veecham, fourth.—HY. TAME.

Cambridge Friendly Angling Society, Fountains Abbey, Praed-street, W.—A peg-down match at Henley on March 12, usual conditions. Members wishing to compete please attend next Wednesday concerning prizes. Mr. Hutchins won the last prize remaining. Mr. Fitzgibbons, roach; Mr. Scutt had roach and chub on Feb. 26.—W. SUTTON.

Camden Angling Society, The Locomotive, James-street, High-street, Camden Town, N.W.—We had a good show of fish on Feb. 26. Messrs. White, some good jack and roach; Cook, perch and roach; Fuller, jack and roach; Taylor, jack; Golding, jack. We have a concert in aid of the A.B.S. on March 13; admission by programme.—E. BOXALL.

Clapham Junction Angling Society, The Clarence, Winstanley-road, Clapham Junction, S.W.—On Feb. 25 Mr. A. Bowater weighed-in a nice show of roach, 17lb. 9oz.; and Mr. Geo. Cook, 3lb. 14oz. roach. Result of match at Windsor on Feb. 26: First, C. Ball; second, J. Thorne; 3rd, H. Moore; 4th, T. Ree. A consolation match will take place on March 5, at Woking, for six prizes; boundary from iron fence to wooden fence; all to cease fishing by 6.30; train from Clapham Junction 8.44; return from Woking by 7.56.—G. T. JAMESON.

Clapham Strollers' Angling Society, Alexandra Hotel, Clapham Common, S.W.—On March 5 we fish a match at Weybridge, all fish to weigh; train, Clapham Junction, 8.40.—T. PASMORE.

Clissold Angling Society, The Cricketers, Northwold-road, Stoke Newington, N.—On Feb. 12 we were saved a blank by Mr. E. Hunt with small jack. Wednesday, March 1, committee arranged prizes for outing on the 12th. Members will regret to hear that Mr. W. Browning, our esteemed chairman, has been dangerously ill with an attack of pleurisy; we wish him a speedy recovery to health.—T. FAULKNER.

Central Association Visiting List.—The return visit on this list was paid to the Peckham Brothers A.S., at the Windsor Castle, Cator-street, Peckham, on Tuesday evening, when a very large company assembled, and thoroughly enjoyed the excellent programme arranged by this society. Mr. G. H. Shepherd occupied the chair in his usual genial manner, and was accorded quite an ovation on the toast of "Health of the Chairman" being submitted, with musical honours. Mr. T. Gibbs ably occupied the vice-chair. On the roll-call, representatives from twenty-four societies were found to be present. Next visit goes to the Phoenix A.S., Tavistock Arms, Stebbington-street, N.W. Date in next issue.

Clerkenwell and District United Visiting List.—A visit on the above was paid to the Queen's Piscatorials on Tuesday evening, Mr. Andrews, of the Camden, in the chair, faced by Mr. Moore, of the Brompton. The following thirteen societies answered the roll-call, viz.: Lincoln, Eustonian, Bloomsbury Brothers, Alma, Camden, Phoenix, Queen's Piscatorials, Prince of Wales, Didden, Harcourt, Brompton, Royal George, and Golden Barbel. The next return visit will be to the Prince of Wales; date later.—F. CASTELL.

Cobden Angling Society, Kensal-road, W.—On the 26th the following members were declared the winners of the nineteen prizes fished for at Henley: Messrs. E.

Baxter, T. Collins, J. Dunn, W. and C. Walker, J. Reddel, G. Perham, A. Duncan, A. E. Newell, J. Brown, T. Twyman, C. Scrafield, W. Buck, T. Marsh, F. Hannabus, J. Barnfather, A. Howland, E. Baker, E. Morris. Also weighed-in, A. E. Fisher, who did not take a prize. Twenty-six members competed and twenty members weighed-in. Will members attend early next Tuesday, as I want to get away to the Bomore A.B. concert?—T. TWYMAN.

Collingwood Angling Society, The Lord Nelson, Nelson-square, Blackfriars-road, S.E.—The result of our match at Woking was as follows: Mr. Arron, with chub, first; Mr. Ash, with perch, second; Mr. W. Beames, roach and dace, third. Members wishing tickets for the Fisheries Exhibition at the Royal Aquarium should apply for them as soon as possible.—W. H. STAFFORD.

Covent Garden Piscatorial Society, King's Arms, Long-acre, W.C.—On Feb. 26 Mr. Curtis had a splendid show of roach.—W. MASSEY.

Dalston Angling Society, Brownlow Arms, Brownlow-street, Dalston.—On Feb. 26 a few of the members were out. The only gentlemen who weighed-in were Messrs. T. Swain, G. Davies, and H. Poor, who had a very handsome show of roach, perch, and jack. Members please note that the financial year is drawing to a close, and I wish to present a clear sheet to the auditors. Some prizes in hand to be competed for.—S. MALBY.

Dibdin Angling Society, St. Martin's Tavern, Pratt-street, N.W.—On Feb. 26 members went to Bures, Windsor, Uxbridge, and Twickenham. The following weighed-in: W. Elton, roach; A. Edwards, chub; T. Coltman, dace. Wednesday, D. Ansell, jack; R. Bennet, roach and perch from Medway. Quarter night, good muster.—JOHNNY EDWARDS.

Drayton Park Piscatorialists, Stanley Arms, Landseer-road, Holloway-road, N.—On the 5th outing. All particulars of—GREG.

Duke of Norfolk Angling Society, The Apollo, All Saints'-road, Westbourne Park.—Some of our members were out, when Mr. Beamy weighed-in 18lb. 6oz. of roach, from Henley; Mr. Barns, roach; Mr. Tucker, roach. Our match will take place on March 12, not the 5th; roving; usual conditions.—W. JENKINS.

Eagle Angling Society, Red Lion, Tottenham.—On Feb. 23 Mr. Dumbleton weighed-in jack, best fish 4½lb. On Feb. 24 Mr. G. Baynton also weighed-in jack up to 4½lb. A committee meeting will be held on Wednesday next, 8th inst.; special business.—W. S. PRICE.

Earlsfield Angling Society, Half-way House, Earlsfield, S.W.—On Feb. 26 Mr. Marter took the cup with perch and chub; the other two prizes were not taken. We have arranged another outing for March 5; first prize, a silver cup, presented by Mr. Geo. Adams; second and third prizes, the balance left over from last outing.

Members are requested to attend the supper on Tuesday next, 7th inst.—A. T.

Elgin Angling Society, Blenheim Arms, Blenheim-crescent, Notting-hill, W.—We fished our match at Henley on Feb. 26, and nine out of the ten prizes were taken in the following order: Messrs. Ryell, Bayliss, Wilson, Drury, Bridge, King, Carroll, Cox, and Billett. I beg to remind all members that next Tuesday, March 7, will be the end of the quarter. I hope all will try to attend. We shall have a short meeting, and then go to the Bomore concert.—G. KING.

Forest Gate Piscatorialists, Forest Gate Hotel, Godwin-road, Forest Gate.—On Feb. 26 Mr. Willett weighed-in jack, and Mr. Durell, chub.—H. F. C.

Globe Angling Society, Earl Russell, Isledon-road, N.—We have had some good shows of fish lately, Mr. Stebbings and C. Ellis weighing-in roach; Messrs. R. Sharpless, A. Hoggett, and R. Sharpless, jun., some fine perch; and H. Evans, dace and roach. Monday, March 6, being quarterly night, all members are requested to attend and clear up arrears in contributions.—W. LAWRENCE.

Good Intent Angling Society, The Crown, Church-street, Shoreditch.—Mr. Thompson brought in roach and perch, and Mr. Maybury roach, on Feb. 26. Our members will fish for fourteen prizes on the 5th inst. at St. Margaret's; all start by the 9.8 a.m. train; leave off fishing at six o'clock; pegged-down; jack and perch fishers to have the roach.—R. MURPHY.

Great Northern Brothers Angling Society, Robin Hood, Southampton-street, Pentonville.—The first competition for the handsome silver cup given by Mr. Osborne will take place at Broxbourne and Rye House on March 5.—J. A. FITCH.

Harcourt Angling Society, Harcourt Arms, Harcourt-street, Marylebone.—We had a poor show of fish on Feb. 26, only a few roach and perch being weighed-in. There are still several prizes to be taken at Shiplake, so I hope the members will go for them on March 5.—A. E. PAYNE.

Hearts of Oak Angling Society, Ye Olde Crown, Brick-lane, Bethnal Green, E.—On Feb. 26 Mr. Russell won a prize—the only fish shown in the club. Members to go where they like for remaining prize. To sign on at clubhouse at six o'clock or after. All members not signing on Saturday night will not be eligible.—C. SMITH.

Holloway Angling Society, Holloway Station Hotel, 295, Holloway-road, N.—Our meeting of March 1 was well attended, Mr. F. Clay in the chair. Several members have recently had good sport with the roach and perch. Messrs. Caines, Stockton, and Horner, fishing the Colne at Drayton, had a fine show of roach, dace, and perch; Mr. F. Hawes, fishing with Vaughan at Shiplake, had several good perch and jack. Mr. A. Stevens, on Friday last, had good sport with the roach. Amongst his take were six fish over 1lb. Our outing on March 5 will

take place at Teddington. The arrangements are in the hands of McBride.—A. CLAYTON.

Hoxton Brothers Angling Society, Spread Eagle, Kingsland-road, Shoreditch.—On Feb. 26 members competed for special prizes at Ware. Only four were won, by Messrs. W. Bishop, jack and perch; H. Bailey, jack; T. McGrath, roach; S. Gillett, perch. A grand Bohemian concert, in aid of the A.B.S., will take place at the above house on Tuesday evening next (March 7). Chairman, Mr. G. H. Shepherd (Host Bermondsey Brothers), faced by Mr. G. Armstrong in the vice. Mrs. L. C. Pendry will preside at the piano in place of Mr. Bert Ingram, as announced on tickets. A grand array of talent has promised to attend. Ladies cordially invited.—JOHNNY.

Isaac Walton Angling Society, Old King John's Head, Mansfield-street, Kingsland-road.—The members competed for three special prizes on Feb. 26. Only two were taken; the remaining one, with two added, will be competed for again on March 5, at Pangbourne. The two special prizes offered for competition on Wednesday last were not taken. They will be fished for again on Wednesday next, March 8, on any part of the Lea or Thames; private waters barred.—H. B.

Jolly Butchers Angling Society, George the Fourth, Walnut Tree-walk, Lambeth, S.E.—We fish our next match at Chertsey on March 5, members to leave by the first train from Waterloo; to cease fishing at 6 p.m. Our supper on Feb. 22 proved a success. I beg to tender Mr. Flowers, of the Wellington Angling Society, our thanks for his prize.—G. EDWARDS.

Jubilee Angling Society, Prince Arthur, Golborne-road, North Kensington.—Since my last report we have had two shows of fish weighed-in by Messrs. Bence and Gilder from the Thames. I hope members will attend next week, and clear themselves on the books.—G. BENCE.

Kingston Piscatorial Society—On March 5 and 6 a roach competition will be held on the Thames; one rod only; two largest individual fish only to take the prizes. The chub competition on Feb. 26 and 27 resulted as follows: Mr. M. Gunn, first; Mr. F. H. Amphlett, second. Members intending to be present at the annual dinner on March 20 are requested to send their names to the hon. secretary as early as possible.

Lincoln Angling Society, Metropolitan, Winchester-street, Pentonville, N.—On Feb. 26 we fished our outing at Sunbury, the prizes being won by the following: Messrs. Cook, 1st, 3lb. 1oz. of perch; R. Watling, 2nd; T. More, 3rd; W. Bowdrey, 4th; Holmes, 5th; Clark, 6th; Palmer, 7th. Messrs. Johnson, Gilbert, Rackham, and Bowley also weighed-in roach and gudgeon. There are some consolation prizes to be fished off on the last Sunday; particulars to be obtained at the club.—W. WATLING.

Liverpool Angling Association, Bee Hotel, Queen-square.—Our twentieth annual dinner was held at

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THE

NINETEENTH CENTURY

A MONTHLY REVIEW. EDITED BY JAMES KNOWLES.

(No. 265.)

MARCH, 1899. Price 2s. 6d.

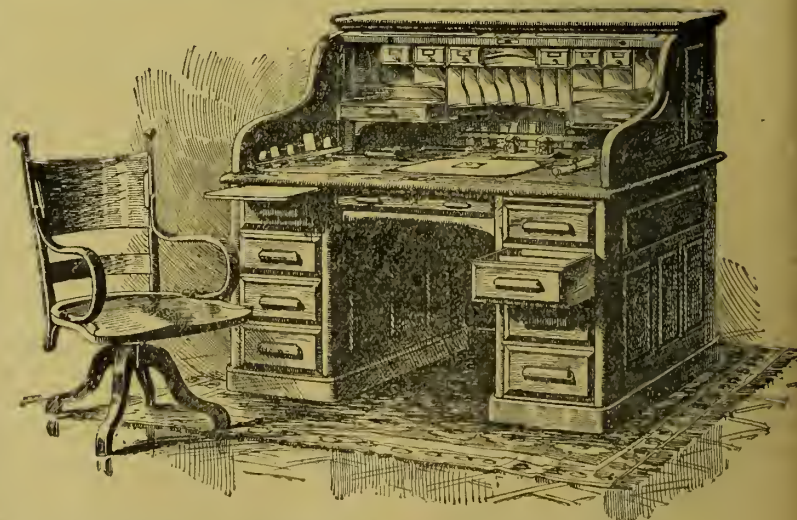
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the Bee Hotel on the 23rd ult. Capt. McNab presided, and he was assisted by the president, Mr. Veale. The function passed off successfully, though the attendance of members was somewhat meagre. By invitation the representatives of the East End, the West Derby, and the Central Associations were present. The usual toasts were given, honoured, and replied to. Messrs. Harber and Heard rendered some good songs, and Mr. Oxford was first-class as an able accompanist. After an enjoyable evening the proceedings were duly brought to a finish at 11—a reasonable hour. A severe frost has prevailed for the last few days, which has brought the pike on, and Mr. White has had some nice takes of dace and roach, with here and there a lusty trout.—RD. WOOLFALL.

Lychnobite Angling Society, Ben Jonson, Shoe-lane, E.C.—Next competition takes place on March 11th and 12th, at Waltham. "Champion" concert takes place on March 25, at Champion Hotel, Aldersgate-street. Tickets now ready. Mr. W. Eady, on Feb. 24, weighed-in some nice fish, among them being a 1lb. roach, and four others, weighing together 3lb.—SID RANSOM.

North-East Brothers' Angling Society, Star and Garter, Green-street.—On Feb. 26 Mr. Thorn took seventh prize. Out of match: E. Lamb, Richards, sen., H. Hart, H. Collings, and J. Eaton. Members may go where they choose for the prizes left over on March 5, and start on the day and fish from bank only. 2s. 6d. was voted to the Thames river and lock keepers' dinner fund. Mr. J. Eaton also gave 2s. 6d., making 5s. together. Mr. H. Collings gave 5s. for largest perch during the last two Sundays. Special meeting March 8, to take into consideration a special prize outing for March 12.—A. LEWIS.

North Lambeth Angling Society, Newcastle Arms, Hercules-road, Lambeth, S.E.—On last match of the season will be fished at Bures on March 12. Members may leave on Saturday if they please. Five prizes to be fished for.—E. ROWLES.

North London Angling Society, Tap House, Holloway-road.—On Feb. 26 the following weighed-in: Messrs. Ayton, Elston, S. Harris, perch; and Hayes roach. Mr. T. Harris, jack fishing in the Lea at Broxbourne, had a run with a jack, as he thought, but, after an excitable five minutes, brought his fish to bank, which proved to be a trout of quite 6lb. The hook was carefully extracted and the fish returned to the water. We fish for lapses prizes in the tidal at Teddington on March 5.—H. STRETCH.

Original Alexandra Angling Society, The Lamb, Three Colts-lane, opposite Bethnal Green Junction.—We were saved from a blank on Feb. 26 by R. Brockett with one roach. Our second Bohemian concert in aid of the A.B.F. took place at the above on Feb. 28. It was fairly attended, and the box was well patronised. We were honoured by the presence of Mr. G. H. Wood and members of the Hoxton Brothers. Also a good muster of the Good Intent and the Cambridge Heath Brothers, as usual; and members from the Hearts of Oak, &c., for which I beg to return sincere thanks. Our next concert will take place in the latter part of this month.—E. BROCKETT.

Park Angling Society, Park Hotel, Park-lane, Tottenham.—Several members were out on Feb. 26, the following having fish: Messrs. Thompson, Carter, Reitz, Coldwell, Tracy, Vyell. Hopton, jun., had a nice show of roach and perch (13lb.).

Peckham Brothers' Angling Society, Windsor Castle, Cator-street, Sumner-road, Peckham, S.E.—The return visit of the Central and S.L.U. List was a great success. In answer to the roll twenty-four clubs responded for the Central and thirteen for the South London List. Mr. G. H. Shepherd was in the chair, supported by several well-known anglers. Our house was packed from top to bottom. The Peckham Brothers return their sincere thanks to the visiting clubs. The vocal and instrumental talent was perfect.—G. ETHERINGTON.

Phoenix Angling Society, The Tavistock, Stibington-street, N.W.—On Feb. 26 we had a big show of roach, chub, and dace by Messrs. Bouffier, Austin, C. E. Sherlock, and Carter. The next visit on the Central Association is to us, on Monday, March 20.—R. C.

Queen's Piscatorial, Queen's Arms, 1A Chapel-street, Edgware-road, N.W.—On Feb. 26 the following weighed-in: Messrs. C. Strayton, J. Reeve, C. Brett, W. Shepherd, C. Shepherd, and J. Winsby. Our visit on the Clerkenwell List on Tuesday last was an absolute failure, only for two or three clubs showing up the room would have been quite empty.—GEO. KEENE.

Royal George Angling Society, Queen's Arms, Bateman-street.—The following returned with fish on Feb. 26: Messrs. Webber, Pope, Holder, Davis, Burrell, and W. Allport. Mr. Webber showed a grand tray of perch. We fish a competition at Bourne End on March 5; usual conditions. Hope to see all members on that occasion. On March 9 we take a visit on the Western Visiting List. Will all clubs take this as an invitation?—J. GIBBONS.

Royal Oak Angling Society, Coborn Arms, Coborn-road, Bow.—On Feb. 26 the following weighed-in: Messrs. Dornford, one jack, 9lb. 12oz.; E. Perry, 3lb. 3oz. roach, largest 1lb. 4oz.; Tishaw, perch; J. Payne, perch. All members to book from Coborn-road Station for match on March 5.—F. PIGNATELLI.

St. John's Angling Society, The Empress, St. John-street-road, Clerkenwell.—Our outing to Shiplake on Feb. 26 was not a success, as only two prizes were taken. All the remaining prizes are to be fished for on March 5th and 12th; any waters. Members are reminded that Wednesday, March 8, is quarterly night, and end of financial season.—F. THORLING.

Second Surrey Angling Society, the Sun, Boniface-street, Westminster Bridge-road.—At our outing on Feb. 26 Mr. W. Wright was the only successful member, he taking first prize with roach and dace. Messrs.

Richards weighed-in dace, and W. Bignell, jack. We fish remaining prizes at Datchet under same conditions.—W. ANSTY.

Seymour Brothers' Angling Society, King and Queen, 1, Foley-street, Fitzroy-square, W.—A few of our members were out on Feb. 19, when the following were successful: Messrs. W. Roach, 8lb. 12oz., roach; Campbell, 5lb. 6oz., roach; E. Burden, 1lb. 4oz., roach; B. Smith, 3lb. 15oz., roach. On Feb. 26 our competition was fished, when the following members were successful: Messrs. J. Barnes, 1st, 2lb. 6oz., roach; S. King, 2nd, 2lb. 2oz., roach; W. Roach, 3rd, 2lb. 2oz., roach; Campbell, 4th, 1lb. 5oz., roach; Wells, 5th, 7oz., roach; B. Smith, 6th, 7oz., roach; Arrigoni, 7th, 4oz., roach.—W. ALDIS.

Silver Trout Angling Society, Bedford Head, Maiden-lane.—On Feb. 26 our outing at Hertford was not very successful. Mr. Smith took first prize with dace, the largest 6oz.; Mr. Woolton caught a nice trout in good condition, but, of course, it was returned to the water. Tuesday next is quarterly night.—W. BRADSHAW.

South London United Anglers' Visiting List.—The return visit on the above list took place on Tuesday last at the Peckham Brothers' A.S., Windsor Castle, Cator-street, Peckham, when thirteen clubs were represented. The next visit goes to the St. Alban's A.S., Rising Sun, Princes-road, Kennington Cross; date later.—ALF. PAINTER.

Stockwell Angling Society, Old Queen's Head, Stockwell, S.W.—Since my last report several members have been out, all having fish, but as we have no gross weight prize they were mostly returned. The concert and sports committee have the programme fully arranged for the grand evening concert, to take place on March 20, at Gresham Hall, Brixton. We fish a sweepstakes match on the Thames on the 12th inst. Time of train and conditions will be fixed next meeting night.—THOS. LUCAS.

Stratford Angling Society, Dorset Arms, Leyton-road, Stratford New Town, E.—The following weighed-in on Feb. 26: Mr. J. Friend, perch and jack; F. Humphrey, roach; and F. Sandilands, bream. Will secretaries please note change of address of the secretary of the above club: No. 12, Maldon-terrace, Millias-road, Leyton, Essex.—G. F. WEAVER.

Sundial Angling Society, Plough and Harrow, King-street, Hammersmith.—We have an outing to Bourne End on March 5. Members to go by the 8.40 from Westbourne Park, and return by the 7.42; all fish to weigh. There are six club prizes, and several private prizes.—C. E. LOCK.

Twickenham Piscatorial Society, Black Dog, London-road, Twickenham.—Members report having had very bad sport. Messrs. Ogden Smith and G. Barrow, however, had taken a few good perch. Mr. W. Beard was elected a vice-president, and one new member elected. Half-a-crown was voted to the T.A.P.S. Keepers' Dinner Fund.—J. M. BROUGHAM.

United Brothers Angling Society, Druid's Head Tavern, Deptford.—On Feb. 26 Mr. G. Marsh, pike and chub; H. Richards, pike; H. Tyler, pike; J. Oakley, J. Payne, roach; H. Fordham, roach; S. Drage, chub; W. Harvey, roach. We fish a roving match on March 12 for several prizes. 10s. 6d. has been voted to the T.A.P.S.—H. TYLER.

Victoria Brothers Angling Society, Princess Victoria, Robert-street, Hampstead-road, N.W.—On Feb. 26 Messrs. W. Toothill, roach and perch; J. Toothill, roach and perch; C. Bathke, perch. Last prize outing on March 5, at Taplow.—W. H. B.

Walham Green and Chelsea Angling Society, Black Bull, Fulham-road, S.W.—On Feb. 26 Mr. Duffield weighed-in perch, 2lb. 2oz. Mr. Elmore has promised to bring his prize up to the club-room on Wednesday next. He will also bring with him Mr. Wade's prize—a jack rod—so I hope members will do their best to be present. Please do not forget our last match of the season on March 12; open; roving; two rods; bank or punt. We have one gross weight prize, given by Mr. Coombs.—W. H. BATCH.

Walthamstow Brothers' Angling Society, Essex Arms, Forest-road, Walthamstow.—Mr. J. Skelsey was fortunate enough to capture a very fine jack, which scaled 15lb. 2oz. Messrs. Howel, Johnson, Knight, Riley, and Thompson also weighed-in.—H. WIGG.

Walworth Waltonians Angling Society, St. Paul's Tavern, Westmoreland-road, Walworth, S.E.—Messrs. W. Wray, J. H. Risdon, and A. Piolaine were first, second, and third respectively in our last competition. A competition will be held on March 5, at Yalding, for our pictures; no member clear of the books barred. A competition for three prizes (bank only) is on for Wednesday next. Mr. W. Sparrow weighed-in a nice bag of fish from the Thames, including some fine chub.—W. WRAY.

Wellington Angling Society, Prince George, Hillingdon-street, S.E.—Our supper at the Jolly Butchers' A.S. club was a great success; all our members who went had a most enjoyable time. Since my last report Mr. Papworth has weighed-in a fine show of roach; gross, 21lb.; heaviest fish, 1lb. 10oz. We fish for our con-

solation prizes on March 5, where and how you like.—F. WESTOBY.

West Green Angling Society, Black Boy Hotel, West Green, Tottenham.—Mr. James Tayler ("Red Palmer"), of the Junior Fly Fishers' and Gresham A.S., will give us a reading on "Rain and Rivers" on March 8, at 8.30 sharp. We shall be pleased to see any visitors. On Feb. 26 Mr. P. W. Brooks had a nice chub; Mr. Sparling, a pike and perch.—A. G. HILL.

West Ham Brothers' Angling Society, Coach and Horses, The Grove, Stratford.—Since my last report the following members weighed-in fish: Messrs. John Newton, James Newton, C. Miller, T. Miller, F. Horner, all weighed-in roach; Mr. R. Lowther, jack. We have a peg-down match (the last for the season) on the Forty-guinea water on the Lea, on March 12, for six prizes; one rod only to be used; all to go down with the first train on the morning, which leaves Stratford at 7.44 a.m.—R. LOWTHER.

Westminster Angling Society, The Telegraph, Regency-street, S.W.—Our match at Hampton Court fell through, no member having enough fish to take a price; but Mr. Eccarius (not competing) weighed-in roach and perch.—S. J. H.

White Hart Angling Society, The Volunteer, Chesnut-road, Tottenham.—On Feb. 26 the following had fish: Messrs. W. Butler, roach and dace; W. Bragg, jack; D. Knight, jack. On March 5 we fish for Mr. Hoy's prize, two oil paintings; all fish; open. I should like to see all members attend next meeting night, on very special business.—W. E. BEAUMONT.

Wimbledon Piscatorials, 28, Alexandra-road.—Only one prize was won on the 26th ult., Mr. C. Pain being the successful competitor. Mr. Enever reported the catch of several perch in the Thames, including a fish of 1lb. 4oz.; and Mr. W. Bovie, roach. A roving match is arranged for the 5th inst. on the Thames; weigh-in at headquarters by 9.30 p.m. Three prizes are offered.—HON. SEC.

Ye Olde Clapham Rovers' Angling Club, The Windmill, Clapham Park-road.—Our match at Amberley, on Feb. 26, I am sorry to say, was a failure, no prizes being taken. We purpose fishing at Windsor, on March 5, for the same three prizes.—N. LINDEN.

YORKSHIRE ANGLERS' ASSOCIATION.

THE members of this association held their annual meeting recently at Powlony's Rooms, Leeds, Mr. J. W. Reffitt, the retiring president, in the chair. The annual report and statement of accounts, which were read by the hon. secretary (Mr. F. W. Branson), showed that during the year an important length of the Eden, at Edenhall, had been acquired by the association, and that leases had been arranged for this and also for the Brongham, Carleton, and Winderwath fishings. During the year the total expenditure had amounted to £431 8s. 1d., including £48 15s. for yearling trout from Scotland, Surrey, and the Wharfe. On Dec. 31 the membership was at its full limit of one hundred, and the list of candidates for the next vacancy contained over twenty names. At the dinner, at which covers were laid for fifty, the president, in responding to the toast of the "Yorkshire Anglers' Association," said he did not hesitate to say the association was the best in Great Britain, taking the salmon and trout fishing together. He viewed with pleasure the adoption by the Eden Fishery Board of a by-law shortening the trout season to Oct. 1, the date which had been adopted by the Yorkshire Anglers' Association and the Yorkshire Fishery Board for some years past. In speaking of the qualifications necessary in the angler, the president said that he must know not only the habits, but, what was equally important, the habitat of the trout, and he must persevere and master all the technical details of the art, before he could hope to return in the evening with a full creel. Referring to the different styles of fly fishing, the chairman alluded to the dry fly, which was very suitable in its home—the deep slow-running southern streams—but, in his opinion, out of its place in our rushing northern rivers, except in certain situations and conditions of the water. In conclusion, the chairman spoke of the growing popularity of the sport, and contrasted the numbers thirty years ago with those known to practise the art at present—10,500 trout licences having been issued last year in that portion of Yorkshire controlled by the Yorkshire Fishery Board. His reason for this ever-growing popularity was that the sport seemed to retain its attractiveness, and the loyalty of its votaries long after middle age had caused other sports to be relinquished. The other toasts were given and responded to by Messrs. J. H. Davis, H. E. Dewhurst, J. A. Godwin, J. D. Johnstone, and E. H. Tetley. An excellent programme of songs, &c., was contributed by Messrs. G. W. Atkinson, C. Bedford, H. Denison, J. A. Godwin, B. Hess, J. Hess, B. Johnson, and W. Nicholson.—Yorkshire Post.

STOP PRESS.

WEATHER REPORT.

By TELEGRAPH.—FRIDAY, MARCH 3, 10.30 A.M.

DEAL.—Smooth; W.
DOVER.—Smooth; N.W.
RAMSGATE.—Smooth; N.W.
MARGATE.—Smooth; W.
HASTINGS.—Smooth; N.W.

Mr. W. H. BURROWS, one of the hon. secs. of the Cardiff Piscatorial Society, delivered a lecture before the members on "Sea Fishing," on Feb. 23. The chair was taken by Mr. R. Harris. A most enjoyable evening was spent.

SOW THE SEEDS of good health, prune and strengthen sickly and weak branches of the tree of life, with the aid of Holloway's world renowned pills and ointment. The pills improve the appetite, strengthen the digestion, and regulate the liver. Under treatment with the ointment, bad legs become sound, scrofulic skins cast off their scales, and scrofulous sores cease to annoy. When rubbed upon the abdomen, it checks all tendency to irritation in the bowels, and averts diarrhoea, and other disorders of the intestines frequently prevailing through the summer and fruit seasons. Heat bumps, blotches, pimples, inflammation of the skin, and enlarged glands, can be effectively overcome by using Holloway's remedies, according to instructions given to each purchaser.

Doings by the Way.

THE monthly delegate meeting of the Central Association will be held on Monday evening, March 6, at the Bedford Head, Maiden-lane, Covent Garden.

MESSRS. HARRY DAVENPORT, Frank Lincoln, and Leslie Stiles, of the "Belle of New York Co.," with Mr. Dyson Lacy, have been taking some good pike from the Lea, at Broxbourne. Mr. Davenport landed a fine fish of 10½lb., and several others from 6lb. and under were caught. Mr. Lacy also caught one of 6lb., and two others were taken, the smallest 3lb.

MR. W. L. RENWICK, of Templemore, Yorkshire, relates the following curious incident: "On Tuesday, Feb. 21, I was fishing for perch in a lake near Templemore. I landed three, and again cast my line. Noticing that the float did not 'sit' properly in the water, I drew it out, and discovered that both hooks (with worms on) had disappeared. I searched the ground and bushes around me, but failed to find the books. The following day I again visited the lake, and commenced fishing at the same spot (a favourite one). Imagine my astonishment to see a blackbird suspended from a tree near me, and almost touching the water. With a friend's assistance I reached the bird, and removed bird, books, and branch. It would appear that one of the hooks had become entangled in the tree, leaving the other hanging or resting on a branch. The bird saw the worm, swallowed it, and with it the book. The other hook, being fastened, the bird was 'hooked,' and so met its death in a very curious manner. The bird, hooks, and branch (as found), are still in my possession."

A CORRESPONDENT sends the following: "Anglers on the Dart are much interested in a proposal to purchase the salmon net fishery at Totnes Weir, and therefore improve the salmon rod fishing of the river. On one hand it is stated that the fishery association exists for the benefit of the river, and it was recently announced that £100 would be probably set aside by them for re-stocking the river and providing ponds for the rearing of salmon from the ova. The statement that the fishery association exists for the benefit of rod fishermen has been adversely criticised in many quarters, reference being made to the fact that the season following the great storm of a few years since, when the passes at Totnes Weir were washed away, the pool was netted as persistently as ever, with the result that salmon were scooped out by the hundred, without a chance to ascend to the higher waters. If the fishery could be purchased, and all netting stopped after the bare expenses had been paid, it is thought that the Dart would provide the best salmon rod fishing in the west of England."

It's always the way, if I tell a little tale or nursery rhyme, some readers are sure to want to go one better. Last week I wrote about "a young fellow named Tate," and my indiscretion, if I may so term it, has brought a shoal of letters. Many thanks, dear boys. I wish I had room for all your effusions, but as I have said more than several times, this is not an indiarubber paper, and therefore must content myself by giving only one. Here it is:

"A tutor who tooted the flute
Tried to tutor two tutors to toot.
Said the two to the tutor, 'Is it harder to toot or
To tutor two tutors to toot?'"

MR. R. W. VERNON writes from lovely Ilfracombe re "Monsters of the Past":

"The *Plesiosaurus*—monstrous fish—you tell us in your columns, is found amidst the marl and clay geologists call *lias*; But where, 'Dragnet,' I prithee tell, are found the monstrous fishes Of which we hear, but never see, from fishermen or *liars*?"

Where are they found? Well really! hang it! blow it!

I think that if you asked my youngest daughter, That she, though but a child, would prove to know it, And would reply "They're found, Sir, in the water."

"TALKING about patience," says "Halcyon" in the weekly supplement to the *Leeds Mercury*, "reminds me of a good tale which the late Mr. Pritt was wont to relate. He said that a Preston friend of his was commencing fishing one fine summer's morning on the Ribble, about ten o'clock, and noticed an individual intently watching one of those ingenious mechanical engines termed a dredger at work. When he was returning home in the evening, about six, he found the man still sitting in the same place, and then his curiosity was somewhat aroused, and he approached him, and gently tapped him on the shoulder. 'My friend,' he said 'I do not wish to be inquisitive, but what makes you take such a great interest in that machine?' 'Well,' quoth the man, 'I have watched here all day, and I shall stop all night, and if I stop for a week I am going to see the end of that chain and those buckets.' And that, my dear friend, is the exemplification of that cardinal virtue, patience. By the way, is there not another old adage—viz., that 'virtue brings its own reward?' Well, all I can say is, sometimes it does, and sometimes it doesn't."

Two of the finest pike taken from Milford lake, in Highclere Park, for many years have been captured this

week. One of them scaled upwards of 23lb., while the second weighed 18½lb. The latter was secured by a party of three anglers from Newbury—Messrs. Stanley Hickman, Frank Metcalf, and W. Skinner—who had a tough struggle with the fish, which, in its endeavours to escape, almost upset the boat. Both fish are in the hands of Mr. Ralph Alder, of Bartholomew-street, for preservation.

ANOTHER of those Bohemian concerts for which the Hoxton Brothers are becoming so famous will be held on Tuesday evening next, March 7, at the Spread Eagle, Kingsland-road, N. Mr. G. H. Shepherd will be the chairman, and Mr. G. Armstrong vice. Bert Ingram at the piano; commence at 8.30; and ladies invited.

MR. G. H. DOWSETT, president of the Greenwich A.S., is to preside on Wednesday evening next at a special smoking concert at their headquarters. Secretary Dryden sends me an invite, and also a copy of their rules. From what I can see of them (the rules) you must be a bit of a fisherman to take a prize in the Greenwich. "No fish under Thames measurement to be shown in the club-room, except for the purpose of bait." Another item is that "salmon not less than 6lb." shall be taken from the Thames! Bravo Greenwich! I can't quite remember whether my name is on your books, but if I cannot get to your whitebait dinners, I must have a go at the salmon—and we shall have Thames salmon soon.

THE grand smoking concert in aid of printers' charities, to be held at the Champion Hotel on March 25, will be one of the best ever held under the auspices of the Lychnobite anglers. Tickets 1s. each, should be secured as possible. Messrs. Sid Ransom and T. Pedley will be pleased to send them on application to the Ben Jonson, Shoe Lane.

MR. W. HOWES, of Barton Mills, says that jack fishing is pretty good just now. Mr. Gardner has taken ten, and Mr. Marshall five. Roach and dace are well on feed. The annual dinner and meeting of this flourishing society (the Lark) will take place on Thursday next.

"THE May Fly is up!" So runs the report from East Gloucestershire. "Pan" says: "On Feb. 25 I had a live May Fly sent me from Bibury on the Upper Coln; it was caught in the Swan Hotel Gardens, right up amidst the Cotswold Hills!"

ANGLERS will be glad to hear that their brother angler, Rudyard Kipling, is, according to a wire from New York (March 2) "gaining strength every moment. His temperature and pulse are nearer the normal. . . . The doctors are almost certain of his recovery." [Bravo!]

MR. H. BUTT, hon. sec. of the Izaak Walton Angling Society, The Old King John's Head, Mansfield-street, Kingsland-road, N.E., informs me that on Feb. 26 Mr. F. Baker (a member), at Broxbourne, succeeded in capturing a fine pike weighing 20lb. It was beautifully marked; length 27in., girth 21½in. It was landed unaided, and has been sent to Mr. Cooper, Radnor-street, St. Luke's, for preservation.

MR. T. W. GOMM, fishing the Dorsetshire Stour subscription water at Iford, on Feb. 24, 25, and 27, took the following pike: 17lb., 13lb., 13½lb., 12lb., 11lb., 11lb., 9lb., 8lb., and twenty under 8lb. Mr. Bristowe, on Feb. 28, 19lb., 9lb., 9lb., 8lb., 4lb., and two under 4lb. Pike fishing closed on Feb. 28.

THE Welsh National Festival, which is annually held at St. Paul's Cathedral on the eve of St. David's Day, was duly celebrated on Tuesday evening last, when upwards of 14,000 persons, chiefly Welsh, were present, as well as Englishmen, Scotchmen, and Irishmen. The service was in Welsh throughout, and the singing was a treat seldom enjoyed. The only thing to be regretted was that Mr. Ben Davies, the celebrated Welsh singer, was unable to be present, owing to a severe cold, which prevented him from singing two Welsh solos, as he had kindly promised to do.

Hand and Heart is responsible for the following: In one of the many picturesque little hamlets which stud the banks of the river Ayr, one of Her Majesty's Inspectors was examining a class on Scottish history, and, wishing to elicit the historical fact of James the Fifth's quarrel with his queen, Mary of Lorraine, asked the question: "Why was Mary Queen of Scots born at Linlithgow?" When up starts a bright little fellow, and shouts: "Because her mother was there." This wee laddie evidently has a logical mind. There is no arguing with such an incontrovertible answer, and the boy should evidently be hoard of again; doubtless, he will be.

"THERE is a popular idea that fish," says the *Westminster Gazette*, "being cold-blooded animals, are immune from tuberculosis. Whether fish are or are not often consumptive remains to be proved, but in the meantime, and in view of the present anti-tuberculosis war, it may (writes a correspondent) be interesting to recall two proved cases of tuberculosis—one in carp and the other in trout. As to the first: In 1897 some tuberculous matter from a consumptive patient was thrown into a pond in France, in which were some carp. The fish were observed to sicken, and some of them to die. On being microscopically examined, the fish were shown to be tuberculous. Further experiments with healthy fish from other ponds tended to show that fish could be infected in the same

way with the tubercles from the carp of the pond first affected. In this way certain French *savants* claimed to have discovered that fish were not immune from tuberculosis.

"THE discovery, however, was not a French, but an English one, and was made in 1890, as the result of some investigations into the nature of the disease from which some very attenuated and strange-looking trout in a lake in the Hebrides were suffering. The fish in question were long and lank, and had a most prominent paunch. They were used as bait for lobster creels until one of them happened to attract the attention of an angler, who discussed their condition with some medical men, and with their skilled aid first formulated and then verified a diagnosis of the disease from which the fish were suffering. The fish at first appeared to be affected merely by the presence of large ovarian cysts, but a closer examination revealed diseased livers, while microscopic inspection resulted in the discovery of the deadly tubercle, and proved that the fish were consumptive."

UNFORTUNATELY, I was not able to be present at the first ladies' night held under the auspices of the Hastings and St. Leonard's Angling Association on Feb. 24, but I see from the very tasteful programme to band that they must have had a most enjoyable time. Dr. Travers presided, and the evening commenced with a quick trip by lantern to Paris, personally conducted by Mr. A. Brooker and Mr. Jules Mastin, and illuminated by means of the oxy-hydrogen limelight. Among the artists who contributed to the pleasure of the company were: Messrs. A. A. Barker, J. B. Guy, W. G. Scott, Wilding, J. Harvey, P. T. Bridgen, and Madames Tupper, Addie Love, Gertie Ball, and Peplow. This is the first, but will not be the last, ladies' evening held by this prosperous association.

"A DISPATCH to the *New York Sun* from Delavan, Wis.," says *Forest and Stream*, dated Jan. 29, says that "while fishing through the ice, Tim Smiley hooked a 22lb. pickerel. Attached to the fish was an aluminum tag, fastened by a ring through its tail. On one side is stamped, 'The Fisheries Building'; on the other, 'From the Fisheries Exhibit at the World's Columbian Exposition, 1893. Age, five years. Weight, 14lb.' The tag has the appearance of oxidized silver, but is very hard. The edges are worn away, but the engraving is clear and distinct. Smiley intends to have the fish preserved, with the medal attached, and may present it to the Field Columbian Museum. Fishermen here think the dates and weights will be valuable in determining the age of fish of this species."

THE natives of Kottiar are in the habit of digging every year in the summer-dry banks of the Vargel river for fish, which they dig out by hundreds, just as they would potatoes. The mud lumps are broken open, and the fish, perhaps 8in. or 10in. long, will always be found alive, and often frisky, as if just removed from its supposedly native element—the water. In the dry bed of several African rivers a similar practice is often pursued. A kind of mud fish buries itself whilst the bottom is still moist, and remains there all the summer, waking up when the rains commence again.

ONE of the latest developments in the art of angling was recently revealed in the police courts. It appears this enterprising individual professed to fish with a walking stick, or rather flat lathe, instead of the usual orthodox article. He used no line, but the rod was baited with some stickphast article, and his happy fishing grounds were the bars of public houses. In one of these one day he entered, and after having a drink, ordered another, and, in paying for it, let the money slip over the counter on to the feet of the barmaid. Whilst she was stooping to pick up the coin, he continued to hand two other coin from the shelf behind the bar, and which were two sovereigns. He departed rather abruptly, which aroused suspicion, and the loss was discovered in a short time. The landlord was, about an hour afterwards, explaining the affair to some friends, when who should walk in again but this identical angler, and he was at once recognised, and, after a sharp struggle, himself got landed in the lock-up.

Last Saturday evening a festive party to the number of thirty odd sat down to an admirably-served leg of mutton supper provided by the host of the St. Ann's Tavern, Carter-lane, Ludgate-hill—the occasion being a "send-off" to two of the leading members of the Lychnobite Angling Society, both of whom have for some years past been members of the *Times*' companionship. The late hon. sec. of the Lychnobites (Mr. J. E. Griffiths) was in the chair, faced by Mr. Fred Jones. During the concert which followed, at which there were about eighty present, the guests—Messrs. Pullam and Williams, who are about to try their fortunes at the Cape, sailing per the *Norham Castle* from Southampton on the 4th inst.—were each presented with a case of pipes as a slight token of the esteem with which they were regarded by their friends. "When two such dear old bosom chums call round to say 'Good bye,' it somehow puts you in the 'glums,' and makes you blink yer eye; and when they show yer round the ship it kinder makes yer bot, and then to say, 'Good-bye, old Pip!' Well—that's what touches the spot." These two good boys have the best wishes of every angler with whom they have come in contact, and none wish them health, wealth, and prosperity more heartily than their brother member DRAGNET.

Notes from the North.

KEEN frosts over-night and brilliant sunshine during the day have reduced sport somewhat all over from what it was during the previous week on the Dee. The pools, however, are more come-at-able, and wading practicable on most of the more favoured reaches.

The Ythan and Ugie opened on Saturday along with the latest batch of salmon streams, when anglers were forward in fairly large numbers, and some really good baskets of finnock made on the tidal reaches. Most of these waters were free to the finnock and sea trout angler, but now a daily ticket is issued at charges ranging from 2s. 6d. to 5s. per day, according to the value of the water. Many of the old hands are resenting this innovation, and according, did not turn out on Saturday.

"Baggots" or unspent autumn fish are very common in the Dee this spring, and some of the heavier weights got about; Aboyns and Glentana are of this class. The fish were disturbed too much during the late autumn on the spawning redds on the lower reaches, and got separated, and hence the large percentage of baggots.

The question of the disposal of distillery sewage occupied the attention of the Banff Sheriff Court during all last week, when Messrs. Cowie and Son, distillers, Mortlach, raised an action against the Commissioners of the Burgh of Dufftown, claiming the right to empty their effluent into the village sewers, which the defenders have refused to grant. A very large number of experts, including Dr. Macadam, Edinburgh, were examined, and the sheriff took the case to Avazandum.

The Aberdeen Rock Fishers' Association held their annual dinner on Saturday, in the Northern Hotel. Kindred associations were represented from Newtonhill, Stonehaven, and other places. Mr. Cables, the secretary, was made the recipient of a handsome marble timepiece, and Mrs. Cables a gold brooch, "as an appreciation of valuable services in the promotion of the healthy sport of rock angling."

The association numbers between 200 and 300 members on its roll, and has been in existence in promoting sea angling for over a dozen years.

Duncan Murray, while fording the Shin near his mother's house, in Sutherlandshire, on Saturday, was carried away with the heavy current then running, and drowned. Young Murray, although only twenty-one years of age, was well known as an obliging and active gillie to gentlemen visiting that part of the country for sport.

Ninety fish have been got on the Kincardine O'Neil section of the Dee since the opening, twenty-five of which has fallen to the rod of Major F. Davidson and friends on the little water of Dess alone.

Tourists' tickets are now to be issued between London and Aberdeen all the year round. The question of week-end returns between the metropolis and the north is presently under consideration.

The Cruden Bay Hotel—one of the finest in the north, if not the finest—was opened on Wednesday. Anglers, golfers, tourists, and seekers of health generally, will be glad to know that the house is at last in working order.

There is not much angling in the Cruden Burn *per se*, but the bay fishing is as prolific of sport as any spot in the kingdom, and there is also excellent rock angling. The Ugie is being put in trim, and, as it is only an easy few miles drive from the New Hotel, the tourist angler, who is willing to pay reasonably, will have a chance of health and sport which cannot be matched elsewhere.

John Harvey, "a gentleman from the corporation lodging-house, Aberdeen," as he described himself, was discovered salmon poaching on the Dee, the other evening, by the bailiffs. Mr. Harvey was accordingly introduced to the sheriff on Friday last, for about the twentieth time, and fined £5, with £1 19s. 4d. of expenses, or thirty days. Immediate payment was asked for by the prosecutor, while Harvey asked delay; but his lordship, seeing "the gentleman" had no effects, refused to grant any indulgences, and accordingly Mr. Harvey, shaking hands with his friends, went into "spring quarters" for a month.

Nothing has been done on the Don, and the fears that there is a single head of fish in the water are being daily realised. The Don used to be one of the best tidal finnock fisheries in Scotland; but as far as I can ascertain, not a single fin has been got since the season commenced. So much for pollution.

The preserved gudgeon was much in evidence last week. In fact, since the fish have shown signs of going off the take, almost every conceivable lure has been requisitioned. Some sport was got, but chiefly with kelts. One gentleman went through two dozen baits, and had to do with as many kelts in the course of two days without touching a single clean fish. A friend coming immediately after him killed three fine fish to the fly. Such is anglers' luck.

SPECIAL SCOTCH.

Provincial Notes

FROM BIRMINGHAM AND DISTRICT.

We are to have a trades' exhibition at Bingley Hall, Birmingham, which will open on March 20 next and remain open until May 13, and the manager, Mr. G. Stanley, in order to make the exhibition as attractive as possible, has made arrangements for the Birmingham angling clubs to place on view their specimen and rare fish. A small committee have been appointed, and Mr. C. White is acting as hon. secretary to the affair. As an inducement to the clubs and the members, the manager of the exhibition has offered the sum of £20 for prizes, and also offered to pay the costs of printing and postage, &c., so that the prize money may be given in full, and also that the Birmingham Association will be put to no expense. A judge will be appointed from outside Birmingham, so that absolute impartiality may be assured. The presidents and secretaries of clubs sending fish will be allowed a free pass during the run of the exhibition, and each individual exhibitor will also be supplied with a free pass. Prizes will be given to the clubs who exhibit the largest collection, and prizes will be given for rare specimen fish. Special books of tickets will be issued to all the clubs belonging to the association, which will admit the members at half-price. The show of fish will no doubt be a large one, and it will be an inducement for clubs to preserve specimen fish, taken by their members in the future. One grand collection of fish is promised by the Midland Piscatorial Society, which will be for show and not for competition, this is very kind of the society, as they could clear the board of all the prizes. As it is, the smaller clubs and their members will have the full benefit of the prize money. The change in the weather has brought with it a good time for the anglers, as from all parts reports are coming to hand of good sport. On the Severn, pike, roach, and dace are being taken, all the fish being over the average size. Mr. W. Mounds, of Kidderminster, keeps up his reputation as a pike fisherman and has been having some good fish from the Severn. Mr. H. Cane caught one over 18lb., just above Stourport Bridge; from Lincombe Lock up to Hampton Lode a large number of pike are to be found just now, and anglers should not miss the opportunity of trying this part of the river, as the water is just in prime condition, and the fish are well on the feed. Good sport is also being had in the Trent, in the Alrewas district, now that the river has gone down to its normal level. Several of the Midland Piscatorial members have had some good pike and roach from the water. On the Anker, at Tamworth, the members of the Birmingham Heath and St. George's Club have had some very good catches. Mr. Griffiths, of the latter club, caught six very nice perch, the largest weighing over 1½lb. From the Avon and Arrow good sport has been had with the pike, roach, and dace. The Mease, which is rented by the Hearts of Oak Club, has been fished well by the members, and some very fine roach and dace have been taken, the largest roach being over 1½lb., which has been weighed in at the club. The Midland Canals have been well patronised, the best report coming from Tenny Compton, where several good catches of roach have been had during the past week. Mr. A. Lacey had a nice show of fish from the Blythe, and Mr. Dare took a nice pike of 14½lb. from the Trent at Alrewas, on Friday last; the fish was taken on one of Allcock's salmon gut bottoms. The Anglers' Pride Society, which hold their meetings at the Royal Oak, Barr-street, Hockley, intend to keep up with other clubs in the district. They have now gone in for a silver challenge cup. Several donations have been promised, and in order to make the cup as valuable as possible, they intend holding a special concert on March 7 next, at their clubhouse, the proceeds of which will go toward augmenting the cup funds. The Aston Britannia Society's dinner takes place at the Holte Hotel, Aston, on the 17th inst. next.

FROM THE FEN DISTRICT (LINCOLNSHIRE).

So far as the general conditions are concerned, the closing weeks seem to be more favourable than any previous period of the angling season. The waters are now in fine trim, and pike fishermen especially are having a good time of it. The fish are showing increased activity, and some nice specimens have been captured during the week. A brace fell to one rod in the Tattershall district of the Witham, on Saturday, weighing 17lb., and another sportsman secured, amongst other fish, three fish, below Dogdyke, weighing, respectively, 9lb., 6½lb., and 6lb. Other good bags are also mentioned, one of the best lots for enumeration being five and a half brace, which averaged close upon 4½lb. Subscribers also continue to land some sizeable fish from the Forty-foot. One rod, on Monday, secured, south of Donington Bridge, three fish, which turned the scale at 14½lb. Nothing exceptionally large, however, has been captured on this water, the average weights being from 3lb. to 5lb. Roach fishing is still affording excellent sport, and both the worm and paste baits have accounted for some satisfactory bags from the Witham, the drains in the Boston district, and the Glen at Surfleet.

FROM HULL AND DISTRICT.

Our roach anglers have had a splendid time of it during the past few weeks, for the weather in this district has been all that could be desired for successful operations at this time of the year, and our local waters have all more or less fished down to their normal level and condition, causing sport to be plentiful, and catches of roach going from 3lb. to about 29lb. have been shown at the different anglers' rendezvous in the city, the latter catch being a splendid sample of fish, taken by Mr. Arthur Marshall, a member of the Central Hull Angling Society, from the

top stretches of the river Hull. Mr. T. Oliver, of the Victoria Angling Society, has also had a very meritorious catch from above the lock, weighing, in the aggregate, 11lb. 8oz., his two best fish scaling 1lb. 3½oz. and 1lb. 3½oz. respectively. Mr. T. Downsworth has also had a take of 12lb., and Mr. William Henry Barker a very good catch of roach, eight of his fish weighing close upon 6lb., the heaviest scaling 1lb. 1½oz. From Hull Bridge, Aike and Arram beck-ends, and Leven Lock some nice mixed bags of roach and perch have been made, weighing up to 5lb. each in the aggregate. Some fine dace up to 10oz. each have also been shown from the upper waters, and a chub of 2lb. 8½oz. The Brunswick Angling Society fish their first match of the season at Snakeholme to-day (Saturday), and, as the river is in fair condition in this neighbourhood, some fair sport among roach, dace, and perch should be the result. Mr. J. Cheeseman has secured a few good roach in the Wawne and Cicey district, the heaviest going 1lb. 2½oz. and 1lb. 1oz. respectively. As the lower waters at Weel, Wawne, and Dunswell are in fair condition for bottom fishing, and the flounders and eels are now more on the run, a few decent catches having been made during the past week, our early match fishers will no doubt give a good account of themselves, especially if the weather continues anything like it is at present. The Bowling Green A.S. open their match fishing season at Weelferry, on Saturday next, March 11; whilst on March 31 the Waltonians and the Starr A.S., of Stoneferry, both open their season on the river, the former at Weel and the latter at Figham. The Market Weighton Canal has also furnished our local pike fishers with a fair amount of sport during the fine weather, and several good sized fish have been creelied both from the neighbourhood of Newport and Sod House Lock; and the top ponds are in first class condition, either for pike, perch, or roach fishing, and from near the Foulness Dam some very nice perch have been taken with worm, and one angler secured a nice chub of about 2lb. The Duke of York A.S. have a smoking concert at the Gainsborough Tavern in High-street, on March 7; and the annual supper of the Bowling Green A.S. has been postponed to March 10.

FROM THE LAKE DISTRICT.

There has not been much successful angling during the past week on the few rivers yet open for trout fishing. Although the weather may be described as, on the whole, very fine for the time of year, it has not, at the same time, been such as to induce a large turn out of anglers. The days have been bright and sunny, with sharp frosts at night, although on Wednesday a change for the better took place, the air being milder. The near approach of the open season was made apparent by the holding of the annual meeting of the Kent Angling Association, on Tuesday evening, in the Museum Library, Kendal. Mr. W. Evershed presided, and there was a fair attendance of members. The statement of accounts showed: Balance from previous year, £8 8s. 0½d.; subscriptions for 1898, £13 1s.; bank interest, 8d.; the expenditure being represented by £10 for 1000 yearling trout; hire of room and printing, £1 7s. 5d.; secretary's and treasurer's expenses, 8s.; leaving a cash balance on general account of £9 14s. 3½d. Donations to the re-stocking fund amounted to £12 5s., and the outlay on this account has been—1000 yearlings, £7; carriage and expenses, £1 3s.; leaving a balance in the bank of £1 2s. A quarterly meeting of the local board of conservators was held on Thursday, further details of which must be left until next week.

FROM LANCASHIRE.

The Tyldesley and District Anglers' Association have completed arrangements for winding up the present coarse fishing season by a contest in the Worsley Canal, at Astley, to take place on March 11 next. The membership of this society has been largely increased since the New Year, the two names added to the roll-call at their last meeting on the 26th ult. bringing the total to sixteen new members. Good progress is also recorded in other directions in club life. The Wigan and District Amalgamated Anglers' Association recently held their thirty-third annual meeting at Crofton Arms, Hallgate, Wigan, under the chairmanship of Mr. Councillor Levi Booth. The agenda was an extensive one, and included several motions which were successfully passed. It was also decided to fish an All-England contest in the Worsley Canal in the coming season, when £10 will be offered. The auditors brought some very satisfactory statements before the notice of the members as to last season's working, and the secretary also reported the recent affiliation of several Wigan Clubs, together with some from Newton, Golborn, and Skelmersdale. It was also stated that several of the clubs already members of the association had lately been largely strengthened numerically. These two reports were very well received, and there is every prospect of success attending them in the coming season. The new season's travelling cards will shortly be ready for circulation. At the usual monthly meeting of the Victoria Angling Society, Warrington, the prize list for specimen fish to be weighed in during the coming season was brought before the notice of the members, and confirmed. The secretary reported that already some very fine roach, dace, perch, and pike had been registered on the books this year. Continual steady progress is being made towards making the club thoroughly efficient in every way. Our Liverpool friends seem to have no limit to their enthusiasm, as all through the winter they have kept things lively. Late reports credit Mr. S. Wainwright with a perch, 1lb. 2½oz. Sixteen members of the West Derby Angling Society fished a match in the local canal, but only had moderate sport. Members of the Centrals report good sport, strange to say, in the same canal. Several members of the Leigh Angling Society have been doing good things in the canal near to that town amongst roach and gudgeon.

ANGLERS' HOTELS, FISHING QUARTERS, &c.**FORTINGALL HOTEL,
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8½ miles from Aberfeldy Railway Station and 2½ miles from Fearnan Pier, Loch Tay. This new First-class Hotel is beautifully situated near the "Famous Pass of Glenlyon, with Mineral Well." Good spring salmon fishing on the River Lyon opens Jan. 15. Trout fishing free. Posting. Post and Telegraph Office two minutes' walk.

PAUL MACPHAIL, Proprietor.

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LOCH TAY.

For Boats, apply to

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THIS Hotel, which is most beautifully situated, overlooking Loch Ness, and commanding Finest Views of the Great Glen, has the right of Salmon Fishing on Loch Ness, which will be free to visitors staying at Hotel, also Trout Fishing on River Foyers, Loch Bran, Loch Garth, and Loch Farraline. Boats for use of visitors. Terms moderate.

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Visitors Fishing on River Lyon Free.

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SPRING SEA TROUT FISHING.

Under the Distinguished Patronage of the Crown Prince of Siam, &c., and the Nobility and Gentry.

**UDNY ARMS HOTEL,
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YTHAN, reckoned one of the best sea trout rivers in Scotland, five minutes' walk from hotel, fished from bank and boat; experienced gillies; tariff moderate; fine golf course in close proximity; accommodation limited; communicate early. Particulars from

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LOCH AWE HOTEL.—Superb and extensive additions since last season. Excellent TROUT and SALMON FISHING on Loch Awe. Free. Experienced boatmen. Boats towed by Steam Launch to the best Fishing Grounds. Magnificent views of mountain, lake, and river scenery obtained from the Hotel.

DALMALLY HOTEL, GLENORCHY, under the same management.—Guests have nine miles FREE SALMON FISHING on the beautiful and celebrated salmon river ORCHY. Parties wishing to ascertain fully of river promptly answered.

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The Mague, Comogue, Morning Star and Luby, Lough Gur, and Tory Hill Lake.

TWENTY miles of the best free Salmon and Trout fishing in Ireland to be got on the above rivers. The lakes are teeming with coarse fish—Pike, Roach, and Perch—and are also free. CROOM HOTEL, which is now one of the prettiest and best laid out in the country, with sanitary arrangements perfect, is built on the Mague, and stands central to all the others, viz., Comogue (half mile), Morning Star (four miles), Luby (seven miles), Tory Hill Lake (one mile), Lough Gur (five miles). Cars are supplied at the hotel at special low rates. BOATS FREE. Tariff very moderate.

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FREE SALMON, CHARR, TROUT, and PIKE FISHING.—Subscriber begs to intimate to Anglers and Tourists that his HOTEL is now OPEN for the reception of Anglers. The house is situated in that lovely sheltered glen close to the Police Barracks; most charming scenery, wood and mountain, and overlooking Lough Cullin; within ten minutes' walk of pontoon bridge on Lough Conn, celebrated for its salmon and trout fishing. Now bath-rooms, and sanitary arrangements on most modern system. Terms—board and lodging, with men and boats, £3 10s. per week. Subscriber begs to announce that he has now secured the Right of 2000 Acres of good Shooting convenient to Hotel.—For further particulars apply to the Proprietor, P. HEALY, The Angler's Hotel, Pontoon, Foxford, co. Mayo, Ireland.

LOCH KATRINE—STRONACHLACHAR HOTEL.

THIS Hotel, the only one on the shores of Loch Katrine, is most beautifully situated in the heart of Rob Roy's country, Glengyle and the romantic graveyard of Glan Gregor being in close proximity, and as a fishing station it is unsurpassed. The fishing is free on Loch Katrine, Loch Ohon, and several hill lochs, to people staying at the hotel; excellent boats and experienced boatmen are kept. The hotel is replete with every comfort, and is reached by way of Callander and Trossachs and Loch Katrine steamer, or by Loch Lomond steamer and coach from Invernauld, or by Aberfoyle and Trossachs and Loch Katrine steamer, there being a full service of coaches and steamers by these routes during the season. Post and telegraph office in hotel.

DONALD FERGUSON, Proprietor.

ROSAPENNA HOTEL, CARRIGART (Co. DONEGAL).

THIS Hotel, built in 1892 by the late Earl of Leitrim, is situated on the Rossagull Peninsula, midway between Sheephaven and Mulroy Bay. Tourists and Anglers will find superior accommodation at the above Hotel. It contains over sixty bedrooms, spacious billiard, drawing, and public rooms. Salmon fishing in the famous Glen Lough, Owencarrow and Lachagh Rivers, is free to Hotel visitors from Feb. 15 to end of July. Salmon licences can be had at the Hotel. Free access to numerous lakes and rivers on the estate for white and brown trout fishing. No charge for boats. Excellent sea bathing. Golf links, eighteen holes in a circuit of 3½ miles, encircle the Hotel. For terms and further information apply to the Manager.

FREE SALMON AND TROUT FISHING.

Commencing: Salmon, February; Trout, March.

GENTLEMEN staying at the PORTH HOTEL, LLANDYSSIL, SOUTH WALES, have two and a half miles of the Teifi for Salmon and Trout (large) fishing, strictly reserved. Also about ten miles of other trout fishing can be had in the neighbourhood. Splendid scenery. Fourteen miles from the sea. Vide, "Across England in a Dogcart," pp. 280. A. E. SMITH, Proprietor.

LAKE VYRNWY.

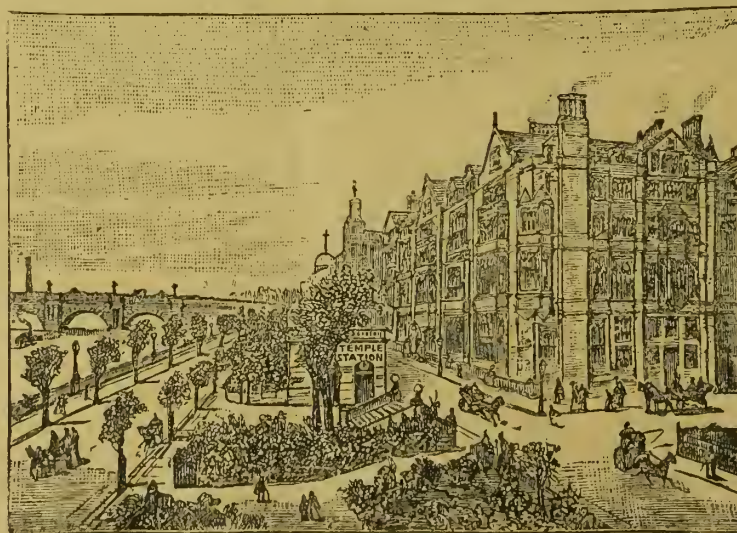
Splendid trout fishing in the lake and rivers; fish average 1½ lb., and give grand sport. Easy of access. Every comfort and luxury provided in the Hotel. Good boats and steady boatmen. Splendid cycle track (twelve miles). Bracing climate, and magnificent scenery. Season begins on March 1. First-class Grouse Moors and Rough Shootings to Let. Railway station, Llanfyllin.

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Local Headquarters of British Sea Anglers' Society.

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TWENTY MILES of FREE FISHING on the private waters of the Earl of Portsmouth and other gentlemen on Mid Taw and Little Dart to hotel guests only. Rivers recently re-stocked. Moderate inclusive tariff.

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GOOD FREE**PIKE and GENERAL FISHING**

EVERY ACCOMMODATION. HOME COMFORTS. Baits and all requirements. Punts free to visitors. Moderate charges. Wire or write:

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OVER twenty miles of preserved water on Exe and Barle Free to Visitors. Special terms to anglers. Tariff and full particulars of

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(Midway between Church Stretton and Ludlow.)

EXCELLENT TROUT and GRAYLING FISHING on a mile of the River Onny for visitors staying at the Hotel. Lovely scenery, beautiful valleys; charming walks and drives. Suites of rooms by the day, week, or month. Cyclists' Union headquarters. Capital railway centre. Selected stock of wines and spirits. Every comfort guaranteed. Posting in all branches.

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OVERLOOKING the English Channel, 20 yards from the beach, bracing climate, golf, fishing, tennis, billiards, dark room for photography. Torcross Ley abounds with pike, perch, roach, and rudd; no close season; no charge to visitors for boats on the Ley; good sea fishing; excellent bathing; five coaches leave the hotel daily. Boarders, 8s. 6d. day.

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HOTEL convenient for sport, surrounded by the Golf Links, sea coast adjoins, excellent bathing. Capital Trout Fishing in adjoining Lake and River Grygill. 3d. fare to Coron Lake, Bodorgan; all best for sport in the early months. Trap from station, golf links, and boats, all included in moderate weekly tariff, forwarded on request.

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FIVE MILES in Rivers Exe and Barle free to visitors staying; opens on Feb. 14. Five hours from London.—Carnarvon Arms Hotel, Dulverton Station (G.W.R.).

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For all particulars about hotel and fishing write for the illustrated prospectus, sent post free. Inclusive pension terms 4s. 2d. a day.

Proprietor, A. HECK.

FROM MANCHESTER.

The County Palatine Angling Association on Saturday last received about 600 mature fish, which were safely turned into their canal in Derbysire. The liberal stocking done by this association is bearing fruit, only a week or two since the Good Intent Society reported favourably of a visit, and now the Clarendon Society say the same, one of their members, Mr. J. Roston, a few days ago took a fine roach of 11lb. 9oz. in the very best possible condition. The Lancaster Angling Society have decided to pay a visit to the Worsley Canal Fishery next week end by way of winding up the season. Some little mistake has been inadvertently made in reference to the trout to be dealt with in a forthcoming lecture; they have been described as sea trout, but it should have been lake trout, as they were taken in Lough Corrib, a place well worth a visit just now, for March and April are splendid months for fly fishing. A nice fish of 6lb. was taken last week, the 25th, by Mr. H. Smith. The Levenshulme Angling Society added 200 rudd to their private waters last week end, which are now well stocked and doing well. The Welcomb Angling Society have decided to wind up the season with a visit to the Worsley Canal Fishery, when they will fish a match. Two important meetings are to be held in this city in the present month—viz., that of the Manchester centre of the Northern Anglers' Association, and the other the annual of the board of management of the Worsley Canal Fishery. It is an open secret that all difficulties have been now overcome with this movement, and that it is now an assured success. A little more support is needed from Manchester, and then a liberal programme of stocking could be adopted. It is well understood that all waters controlled by either local associations or clubs are to be rigorously closed from March 15th to June 16th. This will give the fish a chance to replenish the stock. Mr. Furness, of the County Anglers' Association, writes that they have received over one thousand fine roach and perch, ranging from 2lb. to 14lb., and that all have been turned into their waters at Edgeley Park. Under anything like favourable conditions the members are certain to have good sport in the coming season, as they have plenty of waters, and all well stocked with fish.

FROM NORFOLK.

Some fine catches of pike have been secured during the past week. On 26th ult., three anglers fishing on a private broad took thirty fish, largest 11lb. On Monday, two rods had fifteen fish, largest 9lb., private water. Another party, fishing two days, had twenty-two fish. Fishing on the Waveney, near Beccles, Mr. A. W. Jordan took a nice fish weighing 13½lb., and on the same water on 26th ult. some members of the Working Men's Angling Club, Beccles, had three ten-pounders. All waters are perfect, and good sport may be had almost anywhere. The annual general meeting of the Yare and Bure Preservation Society will be held on Monday, March 6, at the Bell Hotel, Norwich, for the election of officers for the ensuing year, passing accounts and other business.

FROM NOTTINGHAM.

Chub anglers could not possibly have the Trent in better condition for the enjoyment of sport, with such seasonable baits as pith and brains and greaves. Numbers of experts have patronised the lower waters; and fine samples of fish have been shown at the various clubs, from Gifford, Wilford, Home Pierrepoint, Stoke, Hazleford, Fickerton, and Averham. At Shardlow, Mr. F. W. K. Wallis has excelled with a trio weighing over 9lb., though these fell to bread paste. From some cause or other coarse fish will scarcely look at a worm on the Shardlow stretch, and a like remark applies to the fishing at Rolleston, Staythorpe, and Averham weirs. Last season, on both fisheries, scores of grand roach were creelred with the cockspur; this season good bags have certainly been few and far between. Last Saturday afternoon, at Staythorpe, members of the Shoulder of Mutton Association (lessees) engaged in their final match prior to the advent of the close season. Seventeen took part, but the whole experienced a terribly bad time. Mr. W. Bellfield carried off first prize, and his brother, Mr. S. Bellfield, secured the second. Other prizes were not won. Before the contest Mr. J. Truman, the president, landed a pike of 6lb. odd, and Mr. A. J. Wootton creelred, with the tail end, a brace of chub scaling over 5lb. Six handsome chub were got with pith by Mr. F. J. Lindley and Mr. H. Coxon on Tuesday. Members of the Nag's Head Society decided their closing pegged-down match at Girtton, below Collingham, on Thursday. There were fifteen competitors, and the chief awards fell to the prowess of Mr. W. Packer and Mr. W. Stevens. In the early days of last week a pike of 20lb. odd was caught in Weston Cliff Pool by a visitor from Derby. It is highly satisfactory to learn that several salmon have been seen during the week "pitching" in the streams at Wilford and below Beeston Weirs. They were fresh run fish, and thus early the season's prospects for the rod are exceptionally bright.

FROM SHEFFIELD.

With the improvement in the weather there has been a gratifying improvement in sport, and numbers of anglers from Sheffield have availed themselves of the opportunities for a little fishing. The Trent has gone down considerably, and is now practically at its normal level. Pike fishing is, to all intents and purposes, at an end in all parts of the river, although during last week several nice fish were taken at Thrumpton. Pike fishing will be carried on at Weston Cliff until the end of the month. In various parts of the river female pike are beginning to be heavily laden with ova. Anglers after bream have fared very well at Sawley, whilst the sport obtained amongst these fish at Beeston and Barton has left no room for complaint. At nearly all the well-known spots roach have been well on the feed, taking cockspur worms with great eagerness,

and many heavy fish have been landed, whilst here and there several capital chub have been secured. The Rytton has been moderately well looked after, with the result that a few lots of dace have been taken, whilst a small number of chub have also been obtained. The river Bain has recently been providing first class sport, roach having been followed with splendid success. With maggots a lot of fish have been killed, and at Coningsby Mill the takes have been augmented by several weighty chub. The Lincoln anglers have had their best recreation in the Sirel Dyke, where dew worms have proved very killing with roach. The middle Witham, between Bardney and Lincoln, is now showing signs of recovery after the floods, and more attention is being devoted to it. The Boston district has been the haunt of very many fishermen, and the Mount Pleasant drain has been especially prolific in sport, yielding large quantities of fine roach, worms having proved to be the most effective bait. The Glen, at Surfleet, has now fished down, and a few days ago a Sheffield rodster had a very heavy basket of roach, as well as a fine perch and some nice sized tench. Another week or ten days will see the end of grayling fishing in the Chatsworth Club waters, and if the weather will only continue fine anglers are hopeful of accounting for some heavy specimens. Between Matlock Bridge and Matlock Bath a few nice trout have been taken, whilst at various places on the river coarse fish anglers have done fairly well. The Amber has provided a few heavy trout, which have generally been secured in the deep holes. Re-stocking operations are being carried out by the Matlock and Cromford Angling Association, and some fine trout are being put into the river. The trout season is promising well. The Sheffield Anglers' Association recently carried out a much needed reform in revising their rules, and every one of the 12,000 members will now be able to understand them.

FROM SHROPSHIRE.

Severn trout fishing has rarely opened under more favourable conditions so far as weather and state of water are concerned, and there is every probability of good sport being obtained among the big fish by those anglers who are skilled in the use of spinning tackle. Minnow spinning is an art very much in vogue among local anglers, and it is usual for some heavy fish to be taken by this means during the opening months of the season. Trout weighing between 5lb. and 6lb. are occasionally met with, and, as big pike are numerous, stout tackle is essential. A larger number of salmon than usual are in the upper waters of the Severn and Vyrnwy this season, and, as the water is now low enough for both net and rod, some satisfactory captures will no doubt be recorded at an early date. A Shrewsbury angler, while pike fishing last week, hooked a fine salmon near Atobam, but the fish smashed his tackle and escaped. Anglers generally will be doing good service if they take advantage of the present favourable state of the river to capture some of the large pike and chub which are to be found in almost every part of the water.

FROM WORCESTER AND DISTRICT.

We have been favoured with a week of glorious weather—sharp frosty nights and days of unclouded skies and glorious sunshine—which has tempted numerous anglers to the waterside. The rivers are down to a nice level, and of good colour, and in the Severn a nice lot of roach and chub have been taken, and some good pike, but the latter are far advanced in spawn. The Avon has also afforded good sport, in the Pershore and Evesham part of the river in particular. Mr. F. Champkins, of Pershore, had a fine lot of roach, and some chub up to 3lb. in weight, and some good pike; and Mr. Baynes and others had some fine pike in the Evesham water; and Mr. Rock, chub up to 2½lb. with the worm. It is much to be regretted that illegal netting has been resorted to in the Fladbury district. A few days ago some forty jack were taken with the trammel net, and were hawked about Evesham streets at a few pence per lb., and these nets are being used continually, and destroying an enormous quantity of fish, and must be very injurious to sport in the river. Two fellows were summoned a fortnight ago by the Evesham Fish Preservation Society for illegal netting in the portion of the Avon rented by them, but through some miswording of the summons were discharged. It is to be hoped that those interested in the fishing in this portion of the Avon will unite and put a stop to these destructive proceedings. Salmon fishing in the Worcester district has improved, and some good sized fish have been taken. The largest I have heard of was taken in Webb's net, and weighed close on 28lb. Price still keeps high.

FROM YORK AND DISTRICT.

Capital pike fishing has taken place of late, the fine, bright, and frosty weather having been very favourable to angling. Waltonians have pursued the favourite pastime under delightful conditions, wintry nights in succession being followed by glorious spring-like days, and with fish well on the feed more than ordinary pleasure was experienced. At the time of writing the frost has disappeared, and mild weather prevails. First class sport with trout is anticipated, the fish being plentiful and well forward on most of the Yorkshire rivers. The Anglers' Association of the county held their yearly meeting a few days ago, when the report read showed that during the year an important length of the Eden, at Edenhall, had been acquired, and leases had been arranged for this and the Brougham, Carleton, and Winderwalk fishings. On Dec. 31 the membership was at its full limit of 100. The president, Mr. J. W. Refitt, spoke of the association as the best in Great Britain, taking the salmon and trout fishing together. Speaking of the qualifications necessary to the angler, he said he must know not only the habits, but, what was equally important, the habitat of the trout, and he must persevere and master all the technical details of the art before he

could hope to return in the evening with a full creel. Alluding to the different styles of fishing, he spoke of the dry fly as being very suitable in its home—the deep, slow-running southern streams—but it was out of place in our rushing northern rivers, except in certain situations and conditions of the water. He spoke of the growing popularity of the sport, and contrasted the numbers thirty years ago with those known to practise the art at present, 10,500 trout licences having been issued last year in that portion of the county controlled by the Yorkshire Fishery Board. His reason for this ever-growing popularity was that angling seemed to retain its attractiveness and the loyalty of its votaries long after middle age had caused other sports to be relinquished.

Correspondence

[We do not hold ourselves responsible for the opinions expressed by our Correspondents.]

STONE FLY AND MAY FLY.

DEAR SIR,—*Perla bipunctata* is the one we have on the Coquet. They are thick at Weldon. In the Aln I have only seen a specimen at long intervals. The Aln, I think, is too muddy for them. I have seen a decent rise of May Fly on the Aln, but not on the Coquet. So there you are. The May Fly likes the mud, the Stone Fly the gravel.—Yours truly, JNO. J. HARDY.

Alnwick.
[Several anglers have kindly promised to collect water flies and larvae, and we have sent them bottles.—Ed.]

SALE OF IMMATURE SOLES.

DEAR SIR,—Don'ts have been thrown on my statement that soles could be bought at 1d. per pair. I venture to send you herewith a sample of those sold at 4d. per dozen. It was bought of a fishmonger, and I think is stronger evidence than any word of mine can be of the urgent necessity of a Marine Mundella Act.—Yours faithfully, CHARLES HUSSEY.

[The specimen Mr. Hussey sends is just 6in. in length. It is a great pity something cannot be done to stop this wholesale slaughter of what in the fish market are called "slips." We believe trawling is responsible for the death of the fish, and if you cannot trawl without killing immature fish they may as well be sold as thrown into the sea. We say if, as we believe no practical method has been found by which immature fish can be saved from death in trawling.—Ed.]

BREAD CRUST AS BAIT.

SIR,—I am able to assure Mr. Sachs that the bread-crust bait was known long before 1874. About five years ago I asked J. Spong, of Twickenham, with whom I fish occasionally, how long he had used bread crust for bait. His reply was, "for twenty-five or thirty years." This would bring the date down to 1869 or 1864. Between 1855 and 1858 I was staying with a Mr. Gregory, at Iwer, near Uxbridge. An old angler, of nearly seventy years of age, named Tew, used to pass our window every morning, about nine o'clock, and proceed to fish the West Drayton water. I soon got into conversation with him, and found that his favourite bait for roach was bread crust. In 1847 and 1848 there were a good many anglers in Chelsea, the town where I lived. The bait was then well known, and we boys used it, and paste (for gentles could not be procured so easily then as now) in the Serpentine, Eel Brook, Black Sea, Brent, and, surreptitiously, in the "Enclosure," and Chelsea Hospital ponds, where there were some very heavy roach. Also, I remember a Lea fisherman, named Williams, who lived in Radnor-street, Chelsea, who used to provide me with (i.e. give) hair lines for my outings, and his opinion was that it was superior as a lure to all others. There were about a score of us boys, who constantly used the bait, but where we gained the knowledge I could not say; but it seems to me that we fished as "fine" then as they do now, with our hair tackle, which tackle we made up for ourselves. For ground-bait we used ebowed bread; but very sparingly. I hope to use the lure on Monday next, piloted by J. Spong, in waters where I have never taken a roach under 1lb. When a lad I have made the carp in the Hampton Court ponds follow me round by throwing in a few pieces of broken bread crust. I was glad, however, to see Mr. Sach's letter, as it will effectually dispose of all professors' claims of invention. I am personally unknown to Mr. Sach, but I believe that I am, by marriage, a connection of his, upon the Helm side.

I may mention that Mr. J. L. Toole, when an amateur, once cuffed my ears soundly for sneaking off to the Serpentine to fish, and poor William Hill stood by and laughed at it.

Trusting that you will be able to find room for this rather long epistle.—Yours truly,

J. JEFFERY ("Straw Hat").

Epsom, Feb. 28.

"BREAKING OF THE SHROPSHIRE MERES."

DEAR SIR,—In the *Fishing Gazette* of the 11th ult. a correspondent asks for a satisfactory explanation of what is known as the "breaking" of the Shropshire meres. Mr. W. Phillips, F.L.S., of Shrewsbury, has very carefully studied this phenomenon, and I am indebted to him for a reprint of an article which he contributed to "The Midland Naturalist," in the year 1893. He states "The phenomenon consists in the periodical appearance of a turbid condition of the water of certain meres, arising apparently from some material of a green, or yellowish

green, matter floating in it, or collecting as a scum upon its surface, and usually, after a time, emitting a putrid odour. When in this state the water is altogether unfit for domestic purposes, and the effect upon the fishes is so pernicious that they become disinclined to take the bait, and fishing has to be abandoned. The usual time of its appearance is in the autumn, but it occasionally occurs in the early spring, and lasts from a few days to a month. The Germans speak of it as 'Wasser-blüthe,' i.e., water blossom, and the French name is of similar meaning, viz., 'Les Fleurs d'Eau.' The real cause of breaking is the extension and rapid growth of certain very minute water plants belonging to the algae, whose entire brief existence passes while submerged in water." Mr. Phillips gives the names of seven species of algae which cause the breaking of the Shropshire meres. The species oftenest met with seems to be *Anabaena Hassallii*, which occurs in at least nine of the thirteen meres enumerated by Mr. Phillips.

Of course the "breaking," or "working" of ponds is not confined to Shropshire, but has been observed in Scotland, Ireland, and the Continent.—Yours faithfully,
G. R. JEBB.

[Curiously, the notice about "Breaking of ponds, &c.," which we printed some time ago as from the New York *Forest and Stream*, was a notice, which appeared originally in the London *Field*, of an interesting paper by Sir Thomas Wardle, F.G.S. The paper is entitled "The Breaking of Copmere," and is published by Vyse and Hill, Chesham-street, Stoke-on-Trent. Sir Thomas Wardle has kindly sent us a copy, and we hope to refer to it shortly. We note Sir Thomas refers to the account of the matter given by Mr. Phillips.—Ed.]

FROZEN SEA TROUT FOR THE ROYAL AQUARIUM.

The following letter has been sent to Mr Josiah Ritchie, managing director of the Royal Aquarium:

Waitaki and Waitake Acclimatisation Society, Parnara. Jan. 18, 1899.

DEAR SIR,—By the New Zealand Shipping Company ss. *Waikato*, which leaves New Zealand about the end of this month for London, the Waitaki and Waitake Acclimatisation Societies are sending to your address three cases of frozen trout. Thirty of these fish, weighing 67lb., were caught in the Waitake, in South Canterbury, on 4th and 5th of January, by a number of members of the society, who formed a fishing bee, with the object of obtaining a supply of fish to send to the Fisheries Exhibition. The four larger fish were caught in the Waitaki river on the 5th by the following gentlemen: Mr. T. Y. Duncan, M.H.R., one fish, 10lb.; Mr. John Duncan, one fish, 10lb.; Mr. John Young, one fish, 15lb.; Mr. John Sinclair, one fish, 14lb. The fish are fair samples of those that are taken in New Zealand waters, and the society hopes they will prove acceptable as exhibits to the Aquarium authorities, and of interest to the public.

Thanking you for the interest you have taken in previous exhibits, and anticipating a like interest for the present shipment.—I remain, faithfully yours,
(Signed) HENRY MACINTOSH, Sec.

A FEW LAKELAND NOTES.

SIR,—In response to Mr. W. H. Pearsall's inquiry in last Saturday's issue, I may say that I only tried wet flies on June 27, and then only late in the evening in the private water. They killed fairly well. What they were I am unable to say. They were lent to me by the keeper, and seemed to be Snipe Hackles. The light was failing, and I had not a good opportunity of judging, as I returned them when I left the water. The experience of previous years taught me that wet flies in the open water were useless, at least in June, July, and August.

I used the natural minnow on a Chapman Spinner for the pike. I also tried it just above the bridge, and twice I tempted a large trout from under the bridge with it; but he was content with following it for a short distance and then returned. He was very conspicuous, as a third of his body was a patch of white, probably fungus. I wanted him out for the sake of other fish.

On June 28 I was trolling with a small perch when I hooked and lost the fish between Lakeside and Newby Bridge.

I am much obliged to Mr. Pearsall for the hints as to Cholmondeley Pennell's Hackle. If dressed rather small it makes a very excellent dry fly, and I hope to give it a trial later on.—Yours truly,
B. E. F.

THAMES RE-STOCKING ASSOCIATION.

DEAR SIR,—Will you allow me to state that I have received a donation of one guinea from the Gresham Angling Society, per Mr. Alex. Wright, hon. secretary, on behalf of the T.R.A. The cheque I have handed over to Mr. Hanks, hon. secretary of the T.R.A., who will forward receipt.—Yours truly,
F. H. AMPHLETT.

LOBSTER FISHING.

DEAR SIR,—The article on the above by E. Milliken, in your last week's issue, is very interesting for those who have not seen this class of fishing.

It is by no means restricted to the east coast; they are used almost everywhere. We use the same kind of net here, but with smaller mesh (with which we take prawns, shrimps, whitebait, and smelt), and we work them in the same manner.

With regard to the lobster and crab ones, of course, the mesh is much larger—sometimes as much as 3in. We also have what I think is an improvement upon the plain ring. We sometimes use these about 4ft. to 6ft. in diameter, with two hinged joints across the diameter, so that the hoop can be closed up like the mouth of a purse. It is slung in such a way that it falls flat on the ground,

but the moment you tend to raise it the two sides fold up, and you pull it up like a bag, and it is impossible for any fish to escape.

This is very desirable when you get flat fish, pouting, or whiting.—Yours truly,
WILLIAM HEARDER.
195, Union-street, Plymouth.

A TWENTY POUND LEA PIKE.—FISHING BAGS.

DEAR MR. MARSTON,—I have just had the pleasure of inspecting a beautifully-shaped pike taken from the Lea between Broxbourne and King's Weir by that veteran angler, Mr. Francis Baker, of Bethune-road, N.

The fish just pulled down the scale at 20lb., was 37in. long, and 21½in. in girth. It was taken with a live bait, and gave three-quarters of an hour's play, having been hooked on very fine tackle.

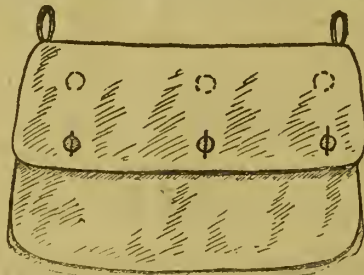
It was the best of about forty pike taken from the Lea this season by the same angler, and has been sent to Cooper for preservation.

I note that some of your correspondents are exercised in spirit because their fishing bags become unsavoury after use. Why not try a simple plan I have adopted for years, viz., to carry half a dozen small bags of close canvas, about 6in. broad by 10in. deep, and each holding a pound or so of trout comfortably. It is very little more trouble to slip a fish into one of these than to drop him loose into the large bag, and the latter is thus easily kept clean, and the fish brought home in good condition, as even when all your small bags are full there is air space round each as they lie in the large one.

Of course, they should be washed each time of use, and will be found useful to hold other things besides fish.—Yours truly,
J. P. WRIGHT.

[Glad to hear of such a good fish being taken from the Lea.—Ed.]

SIR,—We have a speciality in bags that we think will meet your correspondent "Wrentail's" want. It is a bag much used here, and we call it "The Dove Anglers' Bag." It is made of a thick, washable material, white, gusseted;



dimensions, 19in. by 12½in.; two rows of stout buttons, rings, &c., and one large division inside to the front, and two at the back inside.

The price is 9s. 6d. net; 4d. extra parcel post.—Yours truly,
J. C. PERFECT.
204, 205, Station-street, Burton-on-Trent.

TROUT LICENSES.

SIR,—"Fly," in his letter to you, published in your issue of Feb. 25, does not specify the board or boards of conservators of whom he complains, neither does he say whether he has made any remonstrance to them on the subject.

If he has done so ineffectually, I should recommend him to make a formal complaint to the Board of Trade, pointing out how the conservators have neglected their duty, and at the same time requesting that an official inquiry may be at once instituted.

My slight experience of the courteous officials of the Fishery Department of the Board leads me to believe that any well-founded complaint would receive their immediate attention, and their action would do more to remedy the state of things than any amount of magazine or newspaper correspondence.—Yours faithfully,
A WHITE-HEADED NOVICE.

TROUT FISHING IN SPAIN.

DEAR SIR,—A few years ago I wrote to the *Fishing Gazette* on this subject, but cannot now refer to the letter.

I advise your correspondent to try Vigo, in Galicia. It is an out of the way corner of Spain, but there is a good steam service there from Liverpool, and I believe also from London. It is some years since I was there, but the character of the country is, I believe, unchanged, and, excepting for railways, much as it was in the days of Gil Blas.

There are several streams that can be reached from Vigo, some of them tributaries of the Minho; and you can get fair accommodation at the Hotel Nacional, and at a cheap rate, say, six or seven pesetas a day, or about 5s. The currency has, however, changed in value lately, but the sterling value, I suppose, is much about the same, or, if anything, less.

I was called away before I was able to do any fishing, but I saw men who had very good sport, the trout being numerous and fine up to 3lb., 4lb., and 5lb. and some larger, but of course a good many much smaller.

I must add, that excepting in the towns there is no accommodation, the village inns being detestable, but from the radius of Vigo you can select your headquarters. I was told that any of the ordinary larger flies were suitable for the water, as the fish had not been rendered over-wary by constant fishing, and I should try an ordinary selection, though I should think Parlow has had some experience on the subject. I speak with the more confidence about this

place, as the Duke of Edinburgh fished it for some time, and had excellent sport. I must add that outside the principal towns, no Spanish hotels are first-rate nor even second-rate according to English ideas.—Yours truly,
CHAS. T. BULKELEY-JOHNSON.

SIR,—Together with a friend or two I have tried during the two past years many of the rivers in the north and west of Spain, and with almost uniform success. We fished in the provinces of Oviedo, Santander, Coruña, Vigo, Orense, &c. The months were March and April. May and June would be too bright and hot. The fish have been all poached out of the rivers. Nets, lime, and dynamite are used everywhere.
FULANO.

FISHING IN LAKE GENEVA.

DEAR SIR,—Can you or any of your readers tell me if there is any trout fishing in Lake Geneva during August and first part of September? I shall be very glad to receive any particulars about the fishing.—Yours truly,
SPINNER.

[We think that "Spinner" will get some fly fishing in the streams, and by spinning blue and red phantoms in the lake, fished deep, he may get some of the big lake trout. We have seen them up to 30lb.—Ed.]

FISHING IN NORMANDY.

DEAR SIR,—I am going to Avranches (France) for April, can you tell me anything about the fishing there?—Yours truly,
EPHEMERA.

[The "Anglers' Diary" says: "The rivers Léez and Celune fall into the Bay of Mont St. Michel at Avranches. The trout fishing close to the town is not good for much, but by going a few miles up either river good sport can be had. On the Léez, Tirpiéd (six miles from Avranches), Bricey (ten), and Caves (twelve), are the places to put up at, though the accommodation is very rough. On the Celune, Ducy (seven), and Les Biards (thirteen); accommodation very bad at the latter place, but the fishing good. The diligences run close to all these places. Leave is easily obtained. Salmon may sometimes be taken."—Ed.]

FISHING NEAR LUTON.

DEAR SIR,—Can you give me any information as to the fishing at or between Chiltern Green and Luton, whether free or subscription, or who to get permission of for coarse and general fishing? An early answer in your valuable paper will be esteemed a great favour by—Yours truly,
J. A. KIRKHAM.

[Luton-on-Lea; Hotel, Red Lion. These is little fishing in the Lea in the county of Bedfordshire, except in the Luton Hoo Park, which is strictly preserved, leave being most difficult to obtain.]

FISHING AT INGLETON.

DEAR SIR,—You will see from an account of our annual meeting, which took place recently, that the Ingleton Angling Association is in a very flourishing condition. We have about eight miles of very fair mountain stream fishing, which anyone can fish at the nominal sum of 5s. season, 2s. 6d. for fourteen days, and 1s. per day; and there are plenty of good lodging-houses in Ingleton, where accommodation can be had very reasonably. The fish do not run very large, but I have occasionally got one or two up to 1lb. I have seen that people in your excellent paper inquire where they can get a few days' fishing for a moderate sum.—Yours faithfully,
Geo. H. PADGETT.
Ingleton, Kirkby Lonsdale.

FISHING NEAR ANDOVER.

DEAR SIR,—I should feel very much obliged if you or any of your readers could give me any information as to what free fishing could be obtained in, or near Andover? I would not mind paying a small premium for really good trout fishing.—Yours truly,
BLACK GNAT.

[Andover, Hants, on the Anton, trout and grayling. Hotels: Star and Garter, White Hart. The Anton joins the Test at Testcombe Bridge, and — Dupresse, Esq., of Lymington, holds most of the water, once forming the Anton Club, from whom information might be obtained. If a letter to this gentleman fails, "Black Gnat" must try and get permission from the principal land owners.]

FLOAT LEDGERING.

DEAR SIR,—I have been reading a popular work on "Angling for Coarse Fish," which contains a method of fishing for roach, viz., "tight corking," or ledgering with a float. I understand by what I read no shot are used on the line to make the float cock. Consequently the same will lay flat on the water, as bait and bullet are on the bottom; and if there is much of a current, would not the float be drawn under? I should esteem it a great favour if you or any of our correspondents would explain this method of fishing for me.—Faithfully yours,
A BEGINNER.

[The mere fact of "A Beginner's" float going under shows that it was too near the bullet. If the water is 4ft. in depth, the bullet must be put, say, 4ft. 6in. from the float in a gentle eddy or stream, and from 18in. to 24in. deeper in a moderately fast stream, and so on. The nose of the float can then be easily held above the surface, the stream aiding the angler in this operation.]

YORKSHIRE FISHING QUERIES.

DEAR SIR,—Perhaps you or some of your readers would be kind enough to answer the following questions: Is it necessary to take out more than one trout licence to fish Yorkshire rivers near Bradford, Sheffield, and Hull? What is the cost of the licence? What trout fishing there is to be had near Bradford, either free or by daily or weekly ticket?—Yours truly,
SURREY.

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NOTICE.

THE FISHING GAZETTE is published every Saturday, and can be obtained at Messrs. W. H. Smith and Son's Railway Bookstalls and of the principal Newsagents and Fishing Tackle Dealers in London and the Provinces.

Communications relating to the Literary Department, Fishing Tackle for Notice, Books for Review, &c., should be addressed to R. B. MARSTON, Editor of the FISHING GAZETTE, St. Dunstan's House, Fetter-lane, London.

Correspondents are requested to write on one side of the paper only, and give their real names and addresses, not necessarily as signatures to their letters, but as a guarantee of good faith. Unless this rule be adhered to no notice will be taken of such communications.

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The GAZETTE can be had by sending Postal Order or Stamps to Messrs. Sampson Low, Marston and Co., Limited, the Proprietors, St. Dunstan's House, Fetter-lane, London, to whom all money payments should be made.

For One Year, post free to any part of Great Britain and Ireland	10s. 6d.
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— The —

Fishing Gazette

WITH WHICH IS INCORPORATED

ANGLING AND CLUB GOSSIP.

SATURDAY, MARCH 11TH, 1899.

SALE OF BAIT DURING THE CLOSE TIME

(MARCH 15 TO JUNE 15).

As usual at this time of the year we have inquiries as to whether it is legal to sell as bait live or dead fresh-water fish protected by the Acts 1878 and 1884.

Mr. Willis Bund, one of the best authorities on fishery law living, says in his last edition of "Oke's Fishery Laws" that "The sale of fish for bait or for scientific purposes during the close term is illegal. Thus those tackle shops that offer live bait for sale could clearly be prosecuted, even if they only sold minnows; the persons who hawk eels about the streets are also liable to prosecution, unless they can prove the eels were bought in a place to which the Act does not apply; and it is very doubtful if the persons who sell fish for the birds in the Zoological Gardens are not liable to be prosecuted."

It is not illegal to catch bait for use in trout fishing, only you must not buy or sell them, so that a professional Thames fisherman can supply bait to his customers who go out with him live

baiting or spinning for trout, but he must not sell them.

One fishing tackle maker asked us recently if he could supply a customer with bait which he (the fishing tackle maker) had bought before the close season commenced. We can see nothing in the Act to prevent his giving the bait to oblige a customer, but sell he must not. Another writes to say he has several hundred bait in his tanks, and wants to know if he will have to destroy them. We have advised him to dispose of the fish before the 15th of this month if he can do so.

There are many absurdities in the Fisheries Acts, such as protecting eels which are always in season in fresh water, and are greater destroyers of fish spawn and fry than all other agencies put together.

THE "BLOOMING" OR "BREAKING" OF LAKES AND PONDS.

(WASSER-BLÜTHE—FLEURS D'EAU.)

As this "Blooming" or "Breaking" of Lakes and Ponds often has very important effects on fish, we are glad to give the following very interesting extracts from a paper read by Sir Thomas Wardle, F.G.S., F.C.S., on Feb. 17, 1897, entitled "The Breaking of Copmere," and published in the *Transactions* of the North Staffordshire Field Club*:

"Copmere is a small lake of about 44 acres, about 2½ miles from Eccleshall, beautifully situated in a natural and shallow depression in the New Red Marl. Whether this depression has been gouged out by glacial action, which is probable, or caused by dissolved salt deposits, is somewhat uncertain.

"Copmere nowhere exceeds a depth of 9 feet of water; its average depth is about 6 to 7 feet. It has probably 15 feet of mud below. It is almost square, very picturesque, and clothed on all sides by a dense fringe of tall lake-sedges and bulrushes, in which the sweetly-sunged sedge-warblers enjoy an undisturbed summer's stay. Copmere bears a close resemblance in miniature to Fritton Broad in Norfolk, having in addition to its deep fringe of tall aquatic plants, picturesque and well-wooded steep banks on its east and west sides.

"It is a great resort of wild ducks, coots, water-hens, the crested grebe, herons, swans, and sedge-warblers.

"We noticed two species of ducks, the Mallard and Dun Duck (a local name for the pochard), of which there were a considerable number.

"Besides these we counted about 100 coots, six crested grebes, and twenty swans. The coots are excellent fliers.

"Stafford lies to the south of Copmere about six miles away. The River Sow runs through Copmere before it passes through Stafford, receiving on its way an excellent trout stream named the Meece.

"The flow of the Sow through Copmere may have some influence, not yet known, upon the production of the phenomenon of 'Breaking,' which it is the object of this paper to describe, for, singularly enough, in a lake at Pershall occupying a smaller depression in the same valley, and separated from Copmere by a distance of only a quarter of a mile, but through which the Sow does not flow, no such phenomenon exists. Its water was perfectly clear and fresh, whilst that of Copmere partakes of the peculiarities I am about to describe. Singularly enough, the Sow flows through a water called Walk-Mill Pool only half a mile before it enters Copmere, and this pool never breaks. Strangely enough, about two miles higher up the river the Sow flows through a small mere, called Bishop Offley Lake. This water breaks like Copmere, and about the same time of the year.

"On a previous visit to Copmere, and not long before our pleasant Field Club excursion of Aug. 20 of last year, I saw nothing abnormal in the water, it was pellucid, containing the ordinary water plants, of which the American *Anacharis* was conspicuous, and the lake bottom covered in places with ordinary green algae of the usual and larger species.

"The lake abounds with fish—pike, roach,

perch, and eels being predominant, also fine tench are taken.

"But the lake presented quite a changed, and to all of us a novel and unexpected appearance on this our autumn visit. Its colour was a bright emerald green, but not that of green colouring matter in solution.

"By a close inspection with our lenses, we saw the water to be permeated through its entire depth by minute bright green particles, so numerous and pervading as to give the appearance of a green liquid, even when a glassful was held up to the light. With the pocket lens the appearance was decidedly pea-soupy, and invited closer microscopic definition.

"George Faulder, the Water Bailiff, furnished me with an old physic bottle which I filled and brought home, determined to unravel the mysterious appearances. I say appearances, because in addition to the permeation of these bright emerald particles, there was also a green scum floating on the surface, thickest amongst the sedges, where it had been drifted by the wind, also unresolvable by the unassisted eye, evidently possessing points of difference, mainly of specific gravity, from the particles suspended below the surface; besides this, the green was of a darker tint. Each single drop contained a number of these green specks.

"Before describing what the microscope revealed, I will now first say something about the phenomenon itself, as indicated by the title of my paper, 'The Breaking of Copmere.'

"The term has no meaning in a scientific sense. It is simply a colloquial expression, best known and used in Shropshire where meres occur more frequently than in our county, and where the phenomenon is well known to the mere-dwellers. It is also called "cruddling," no doubt from a resemblance to the breaking of milk into curd and whey on the introduction of rennet. But the term 'breaking' is said to be derived from an analogous appearance in brewing, when fermentation takes place.

"In Germany it is called Wasser-blüthe or water-blossom, and in France, Les Fleurs d'Eau.

"At certain times in each year, generally in autumn, the Shropshire meres become turbid with these green particles, the water becomes unfit for domestic purposes, and it defies the powers of filtration, soon clogging up the pores of filters. Fish become sickly in it, and in some instances die, and in others are easily caught.

"A Mr. Southwell relates that in a lake of about five acres, in very hot weather in June, the lake broke, and there shortly appeared on the surface large numbers of eels, which attracted the attention of the villagers, who took to the boats, and with spears and other implements many were captured, quite in a sickly and stupefied condition.

"This condition of things continues in varying periods from a few days to months. After a time the water emits a very putrid odour from the decomposition of the green particles. In Copmere last year the turbidity commenced about the middle of July, and it was not until the middle of October that it subsided, after which the mere cleared and seemed to have undergone a veritable purification by the process, so much so that it conveys the impression of being a sanitation of Nature to purify the silted organic deposits which almost fill these meres.

"Copmere was about fourteen days before the decomposition of the green scum set in; the surface of the water then began to give off a putrid odour.

"The prevalence of these green appearances is variable. They disappear and reappear, and occur in greater quantities in various parts of the Shropshire meres, but in Copmere last year they were generally diffused throughout.

"Copmere did not break in 1895, it remained very clear all summer and autumn; but a very singular fact is connected with this exception of breaking, in that a great quantity of fish died that year of a fungus-growth disease, whereas in 1896 none died, notwithstanding the mere broke badly.

"It is said of Blake Meer, one of the meres near Ellesmere, that this phenomenon does not occur, and the water there is selected for drinking purposes whilst the other meres are in the breaking state.

"In times past it was thought that the shedding

* Printed by Vyse and Hill, Church-street, Stoke-on-Trent.

of the seeds of the aquatic plants which grow on the borders of the meres was the cause of the breaking; but some years a commission of inquiry of three members of the Caradoc Field Club was appointed to investigate the subject, and much as I had hoped botanically to have had something entirely new to communicate, I have to confess that the murder was out before I knew of the phenomenon. The effect was traced to its cause, and in a paper read before the annual meeting of the Midland Union of Natural History Societies at the Quinta, Shropshire, by Mr. William Phillips, F.L.S., a scientific and explanatory account is given. I have the pleasure of acknowledging my indebtedness to this paper and also to Dr. McDowd, our encyclopedia of natural history, for telling me of its existence.

"I happened also to have a copy of Dr. Cook's voluminous work on British freshwater algæ, which helped me to identify what the microscope revealed.

"You will now be prepared to know that this breaking of the meres is due to microscopic algæ, of which various species cause the phenomenal appearance.

"Dr. Drummond found the green colour of the water of Lake Glaslough in Ireland owing to vast quantities of a flocculent oscillating alga.

"In Loch Hainining in Selkirkshire a rich purple colour occurs on the surface owing to the presence, according to Dr. Greville, of an alga of the genus *Lynghya*. In a loch near Aberdeen a species of *Rivularia* caused the peculiar appearance; another species, *Anabaena flos-aquæ* was also present.

"In the north-west of Shropshire occur, as is stated by Mr. Phillips, an extensive series of lakes interspersed with marshy land and peat-bogs drained by several small rivers, tributaries of the Severn. It is supposed that this lake region was, until post-glacial times, the site of one continuous inland lake through which the Severn flowed.

"In the Shropshire meres, upwards of half a dozen species of algæ cause the 'breaking.' I will briefly mention the meres and the species which severally cause the breaking, and later on I will show the magnified appearance of them in the lantern. The broken water is characterised by various colours, sometimes green, brown, purple, or red.

"In Marton Pool, the source of the River Rea, a tributary of the River Severn, *Clathrocystis æruginosa*.

"In Betton Pool, *Aphanizomenon flos-aquæ*.

"In Loch Hainining, Selkirkshire, it is *Lynghya vulgaris*.

"In Apley Pool, near Wellington, it is *Oscillaria ærugescens*.

"In Blake Mere, near Ellesmere, *Anabaena Hassalli*.

"In Berrington Upper Pool, near Shrewsbury, *Anabaena Hassalli* and *Cœlosphaerium Kutzingianum*.

"In Ellesmere, *Rivularia echinata* in July and August, but in November there occurs *Anabaena Hassalli*.

"In Newton Mere, the mere that breaks most in Shropshire, near Welshampton, 21 acres in extent, on Aug. 25, 1881, *Nodularia Harveyana* caused the breaking.

"In the Arctic Regions, *Protococcus (Palmella) nivalis*, red snow, gory dew.

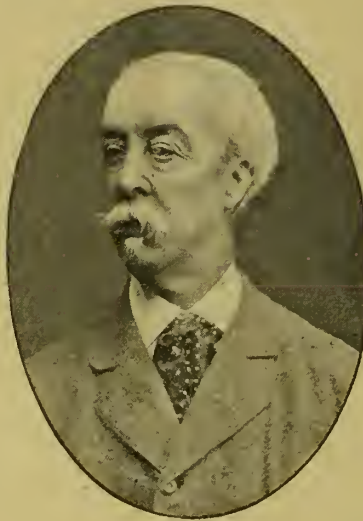
"Most probably these minute algæ, having been born of last year's spores, remain at the bottom of the lakes during the winter and until they find a need for further growth and development, and for this, according to Mr. Blunt, they begin to absorb carbonic acid which they find dissolved in the water; and, in Mr. Blunt's words, 'under the influence of light the carbonic acid is decomposed, the oxygen is set free, and, thus liberated, adheres in globules to the algæ, causing them to rise into a fuller and stronger light,' and consequently growth.

(To be continued.)

WILLING'S PRESS GUIDE.—We have received from Messrs. James Willing, Jun., Ltd., a copy of their Press Guide. We remember this being started twenty-six years ago as May's Press Guide, and, having used it ever since, can recommend it as one of the best and handiest of all the guides to the newspaper and periodical press.

THE LATE JOHN HORROCKS.

AN APPEAL FOR THE WIDOW OF THE LATE JOHN HORROCKS, THE PIONEER OF FLY FISHING IN GERMANY AND FORMERLY ONE OF THE ETON ELEVEN.



In the *Fishing Gazette* for Sept. 18, 1897, I gave some account of a great sportsman, both with rod and gun, the late John Horrocks.

I was sorry to receive the other day an appeal from his daughter, Miss Minnie Horrocks, now a governess in Ireland, for help for her mother, widow of John Horrocks. The letter will speak for itself, and all I can say is that I am sure it is a genuine appeal, that I shall subscribe myself, and shall be glad to receive subscriptions from anyone who cares to send them to me for the widow. They should be addressed:

John Horrocks' Widow Fund,
c/o R. B. Marston,
Editor *Fishing Gazette*,
St. Dunstan's House,
Fetter-lane, London.

I shall ask German anglers to help also, as John Horrocks did so much for the sport of fly fishing in Germany.

Here is the letter of Miss Horrocks:

DEAR SIR,—In September, 1897, you published a portrait of my father, John Horrocks, with an account of his life, which I am sure has been read with interest by many fishermen. On this account I venture to ask you to make known to your readers that his widow and daughter are in very straitened circumstances. Last year my mother succeeded in starting a small boarding house, but she is in very great want of a small sum to furnish it properly, and thus enable her to support herself. I, their only daughter, alas! am not able to contribute much, as I am only earning a little as a nursery-governess. If there are any among your readers who remember my father and would help us, it would be most gratefully received. Apologising for trespassing on your kindness.—I am, yours truly,
MINNIE HORROCKS.

The following extracts are from the article by R. B. Marston on John Horrocks in the *Fishing Gazette* for Sept. 18, 1897:

"During the past twenty years I have occasionally referred to John Horrocks in the *Fishing Gazette*, and have often intended to give some account of this fine sportsman, whose name is honoured wherever fly fishing is practised in Germany and Austria.

"In 1874 Horrocks published his 'Art of Fly Fishing for Trout and Grayling in Germany and Austria,' the only work ever published in German which is almost entirely devoted to fly fishing. It contains five coloured plates, and a few illustrations of tackle in the text.

"Horrocks tells us in his preface that his work was written at the instigation of his friend, Count Münster, at that time German Ambassador in London; that his excuse for writing on the subject is that, although an Englishman, he had lived for thirty years in Germany, and had, in fact, almost become a German. 'But,' he adds, 'I am still English enough to regret that the art of fly fishing, so highly esteemed in England, is so little known in Germany,' and that to make it better known is the object of this book. In addition to his own experiences he gives translations of valuable practical hints from Ronalds, Ephemeræ, Francis Francis, &c., and makes most cogent appeals for the protection of German salmon, trout, and grayling rivers from the evils of poaching, over-fishing, and unfair fishing of all kinds, and the encouragement of fish culture and fishery laws and regulations.

"Having fished and hunted in England, Ireland, Canada, where he was stationed as an English officer, and many years in Germany, when he settled down at Weimar, in the Grand Duchy of Saxony, he devoted himself

strenuously to the improvement of the fishery laws of the Duchy, in which good work he was fortunate enough to enlist the sympathies of the Grand Duke Charles Alexander, to whom his book is dedicated.

"Every English fly fisher who has visited Weimar knows what splendid practical results Horrocks achieved in the way of improving the trout and grayling fishing in his stretch of the Ilm. Writing in 1877, in his invaluable 'Guide for Anglers in Germany, Austria, and Switzerland,' Max von dem Borne says (page 158), 'At Weimar, Herr John Horrocks, an Englishman, author of the excellent handbook of the art of fly fishing, rents a length of the Ilm, extending from Mellingen to Tiefert (about twelve miles). As a result of careful preservation and abolition of all netting, the stream is very well stocked with trout and grayling. The trout run up to 5lb., and are not allowed to be taken under 1lb.' In other places, in many works on fishing and fish culture, the greatest of German anglers and fish breeders refers in terms of high praise to the work of Horrocks.

"Horrocks was a good all-round sportsman, and writes with true enthusiasm on the subject. In one place he remarks: 'Well does the writer of these lines remember his feelings of pride when, as the best player in the Eton eleven, he was carried in triumph three times round Lord's cricket ground by his side after a match with Harrow. Even now, in my adopted Fatherland, I feel the greatest interest in the course of the game, and am deeply hurt when Eton loses.'

"I wonder if there are any traditions of John Horrocks' prowess at Eton still—he must have played for his college early in the century.

"Horrocks was born at Tullichewin Castle, Loch Lomond, in 1816; educated at Eton and Glasgow University. Entered the army, served in Canada, where he nearly succumbed to fever and malaria, having to be left behind when the regiment returned home. On his arrival in England went abroad to recruit his health, and, from the sheer accident of making an acquaintance en route, visited Weimar, which destiny seems to have marked out for him as his anchorage for life, for, with the exception of a few occasional visits to England, he lived here, ranking, by his wonderful popularity, as one of the first sportsmen in Germany, and an authority on all questions of a sporting nature."

FRENCH SEA FISHING BOOMS, &c.

In shallow water fishing, a great deal of latitude is allowable in the form of gear for salt water use, and as I have said in my work "The Sea-Fisherman," p. 33, fourth edition, "The methods of fitting gear for ground-fishing differ much in different localities, much more, in fact, than necessity requires, the truth being simply this—That any tackle which will work clear, and place the bait fairly within reach of the fish, will be sure to catch them, the form of the gear being bound, as far as success is concerned, by no arbitrary rules." In deep water other conditions arise for which provision must be made, in order that the gear may arrive at the bottom without fouling, and offer the minimum resistance possible in its passage upwards to the boat.

In fishing from piers and quays, the length of line is generally moderate, owing to the small depth of the water, and assimilates itself closely to fresh water angling on that account, so that the snood or trace soon arrives in sight, is quickly brought to hand, entanglement cleared, and the bait renewed; but in deep water fishing, as "Mr. John Bickerdyke" says, "we are met with the boom question," and even in shallow water it cannot be ignored in a tideway, and the tackle should be so arranged that the boom should point down the tideway by the action of the current, which I apprehend both the French and Mr. John Kirby's booms are intended to do.

If you fish in any depth beyond three or four fathoms, and look over the side down into clear water, you will often observe when two dabs are hooked, that they are apparently chasing each other in a spiral course towards the surface, putting turns into the hook link of gut, whether single or twisted.

It appears to me that a brass swivel is requisite at the eye of the boom to meet this contingency, which is therefore shown in the improved Kentish Rig in my work "The Sea-Fisherman," p. 38, fourth edition, in Fig. 2, b; in the Guernsey Rig, p. 35; in the Dartmouth Rig, Fig. 4, p. 39; in the Grapnel or Creeper Sinker, p. 40; and in the Snood or Sid Strap of the boat-shaped rig, Fig. 7, d, p. 42; also in the Kentish Rig, Fig. 44, in "Angling in Salt Water," p. 56, by Mr. John Bickerdyke, and in "Sea Fish," by Mr. F. G. Aflalo, in connection with the boat-shaped rig, p. 197, where he represents three swivels, one in the sid strap, and two in the snood or trace.

Mr. A. also says, "My friend 'John Bickerdyke' recommends above all other tackle the paternoster for whiting, but, personally, I have found nothing

beat, especially when after the large deep-water fish, the sheering tackle used by the Cornishmen, and described as a 'sid-strap' whatever that may convey." The sid-strap I have described above, it is also known as the fore-line, as it precedes the snood and hooks. The fore-line is the name at Padstow, and possibly elsewhere in Cornwall. It may also interest Mr. Aflalo to know that I used the boat-lead over sixty years since at Budleigh Salterton, Devon, and that the sheering lead was used by my man in my little 6-tonner the *Fairy* in 1857, who worked the two forward lines, whilst I worked aft a pair of brass boomed boat-leads, of which Mr. Aflalo has given as perfect a *fac simile*, p. 197, as if we had passed a day on board my little *Fairy* all those years ago.

In this connection I would mention that my "ancient mariner" always bent the stocks or booms to port or starboard, each time before casting the leads overboard, to ensure the sheering to either side, the stocks (a Fowey name) being formed of four parts of fishing line, or rope yarn, served or hitched over with tarred twine, and sometimes dipped in hot coal tar to preserve and further stiffen them. For over ten years we have been able to go one better than this, by adopting the half-breadth boat-lead, which was introduced, I believe, by a fisherman named "Easton," and has been adopted by all the Plymouth whiting boats in this fishery, developed to an extent for many years which makes it a very important feature at Plymouth, and in less degree as far east as Exmouth, and even to Beer, and westward along south and north Cornwall, and east as far as Port Isaac.

The cut Fig. 9, p. 45, shows how the half-breadth boat-lead may be cast by screwing a piece of wood against the half-mould. Brass moulds are used by C. and R. Brooks, 62, South-side-street, and Mr. W. Hearder also showed his own patterns at the Imperial Institute Fisheries Exhibition, whilst I showed two of this form from C. and R. Brooks, vide also eleventh line from bottom, p. 45, in "The Sea-Fisherman."

Regarding the effectiveness of the French booms, I see no objection in shallow water fishing to their use, but if you use wire stiff enough to remain unbent by good sized fish, and you have three booms on the paternoster, you will find that the obstruction the rectangular position of the booms involves to the upward course of the gear is unpleasantly evident in fifteen to twenty fathoms, and is increasingly felt in thirty fathoms of water which is the depth of the whiting grounds off Plymouth and Dartmouth, although the fish come into less water in autumn and winter, in fact, at times quite close to the shore.

The paternoster is especially a form of gear made effective by the angling rod, because the rod keeps the line clear of the side of the boat, but is not nearly as pleasant to use on a handline, as the hooks are liable to catch the side of the boat, and the lead being below the hooks gives less freedom of action in baiting than either the boat-lead gear, the Dartmouth Rig, or the gear used with the Banker's or Newfoundland lead, and all these descend spreading their gear as they sink, assuming a nearly perpendicular position when the whole of the line has run out.

The strong point of the paternoster appears to be that given a bottom clear of obstacles, the conical or other lead can rest on the bottom, and a bite can be quickly felt on that account, but if the bottom is foul, i.e. rocky, as on pout ground is often the case, or sometimes even craggy, leads will be often lost in the endeavour to fish low down. On the whole the half-breadth boat sheering lead is, I think, the best, for all the thousands of whiting landed at Plymouth are taken with it, except those caught by Teignmouth or Dartmouth boats who come to fish for Plymouth market, and use their local rigs as before mentioned.

J. C. WILCOCKS.

A TROUT NURSERY ON THE ITCHEN.—This is the title of a very interesting illustrated article which appears in the current number of the *Sketch*. Mr. Edgar Valentine Corrie's fine Itohen River Trout Breeding Establishment at Chilland, Winchester, Hants, is the one described, and much useful information about it is given. The illustrations are entitled "The Fry Ponds at Chilland" and "The Yearling Ponds at Chilland" (from photographs by H. W. Salmon, Winchester).

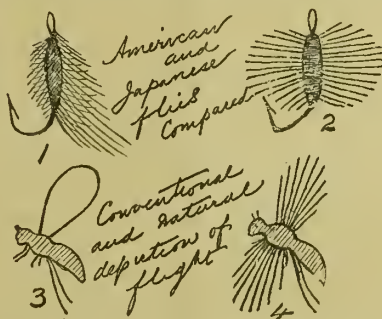
JAPANESE FLY FISHING.

(Continued from page 151.)

Now, having sketched the method, I must go into some theoretical considerations.

First as to flies. I was surprised and delighted to find an old favourite, the brown hackle, also the favourite of the Japanese. (By the way, I remember good old Cotton says when you are in doubt as to what fly to use to fish with a dun hackle until you catch a trout, then cut him open, see what flies he has been eating, and tie accordingly. Why not continue to use the good hackle to catch other trout?) But I digress. I only wish to show what all know, the standard and long-known killing qualities of the hackle.

Thinking of this almost universal fly, and watching the Japanese use it in their life-like way, I was led to compare its looks with the natural insect while flying, and I think if anyone will look at a lightly feathered hackle and then at the appearance of an ordinary river fly in



motion the great similarity will be apparent. A fly while flying does not look to me like Fig. 1, but like Fig. 2. The wings do not appear as clear outlines, but as a gauzy haze on all sides of the body.

I should much like to see a photograph of an insect in rapid flight, or with wings in rapid motion, and one of a well made hackle, tied as I have indicated the Japanese tie their flies. I hope some time to make these photos. The theory of the fly in motion is my own, and I have never heard or seen it. The Japanese do not seem to know of it; but both they and their foreign fellow fishers use the hackle.

I submit this theory for consideration. If the theory of the flying insect is correct, it is easy to see why the two shades (yellowish gray and reddish brown) will practically cover about all insects likely to be taken by trout. Watch the river insects while flying, and the gauzy halo of their buzzing wings will almost always fall into the two shades mentioned. (A most interesting article on the colour sense in trout's eyes in the *London Field* occurs to me here, but it is too lengthy to go into.) If this wing theory is correct, the bodies only need change to represent about all the needful flies. The Japanese fish the year round with these two shades, for what I claim as the wing effect of the insect in flight, and their method evidently represents the fly alive and struggling to get off the water, using his wings to the utmost.

The theory that the hackle represents the buzzing wings of an insect may be held to be true only while the insect is on the surface or above it; but who can say that the trout can tell, from his position, just where water ends and air begins; and may he not misjudge a bit or take even the submerged hackle for a buzzing, winged insect? I find one can theorise endlessly on this subject, and if anyone knows positively about such things, I trust to be enlightened.

Please do not think I attempt to make light of the success of either wet or dry-fly methods. The drowned insect in a faint light, in discoloured water, or to the voracious trout of a wild or little fished stream, is no doubt an attractive lure, while the beautiful English imitations of flies (some with their fish-scale wings, so real as to be practically indistinguishable from the true article) must, if dissociated from a line and gut, deceive any trout; still I think this new method, or rather this old one, is worthy of careful consideration.

Numerous points in favour of the Japanese method suggest themselves to me.

The absence of disturbance in the water by gut

or line seems a very important thing, at least we know it is in our crystal streams.

The struggling motion of the fly seems as if it must tease a trout which is supposed to be a bit "touchy" and combative. Mr. Taylor thinks he "teases them out"; and I have seen a Japanese fisher tease out a fish which I believe to be one he had actually touched at an early cast, and after a dozen more casts finally land him. In watching an expert Japanese I have been almost irresistibly tempted to seize a stone, and kill the teasing, struggling fly. I have had frequent experience of fish coming out after dozens of casts had been made in the same spot.

I find that I have not mentioned that important point, the strike. This, in the Japanese style, is sharp and very quick; but what I wish to claim is that the line, being always taut, enables the strike to be given most quickly, while the motion being down stream and the rod invariably below the fish puts the fisher in the best position to hit a fish rising, as I think they do, from down stream up at the fly, which is losing ground at about the speed of the current. This is a point which the fisher in this style must carefully practise, viz.: to have his fly always going down stream, or but slightly across, and not to have its speed much if any above that of the current. It must struggle to escape, but continue to be swept down stream.

I wish also to submit a few theories and guesses at concealment in fishing. I have seen, and doubtless all anglers have, a wary trout dart frightened from a pool even when approached from behind a huge rock, and with the sun directly in front of the fisher, so that almost no shadow could touch the pool even from the extended rod. In such a position I have had a startled trout dart to within a few inches of my feet at the first slight movement of my rod in the air, showing that he observed the least motion, but was unaware of the direction of the maker; on the contrary I have, within a few minutes, taken three fair fish in succession from a rock in mid-stream, on each occasion floundering across the stream to the shore to land my fish and having my shadow as well as that of my rod go right across the pool.

These things seem rather contradictory, but I have a theory which brings them somewhat nearer to agreement than at first seems likely.

I have noticed, by experimenting on gold fish in a globe, that the first sudden motion alarms the fish greatly, and they dart quickly about; the next motion of the same kind alarms fewer fish; and finally, if the same motion is kept up, the fish gradually cease to notice it at all, lying quiet. Now, if the motion be changed, say from a quick movement of the hand to a sharp tap on the globe, the same process is again gone through with. I have tried this with trout in a pool. On a hot, still day, with the water like glass, I have carefully worked my way close above a fine pool, in the "still deeps" of which were lying some twenty or thirty trout of all sizes. The first cast startled every fish, and a few of the very largest left the pool. The next cast alarmed the fish less, and finally all ceased to move as my fly lit on the surface. It was a hot, still day, with not a fish feeding; all lying in the deeps. The water below me was as clear as air. I stood perfectly still in plain view of the fish, which I could see perfectly clearly, and kept on casting. Finally a fingerling grew interested in my fly, followed it once or twice, and at last made a shy snap at it.

I detail this at such length because I think it bears on the subject of concealment and "teasing." While perfect concealment is undoubtedly the best of all modes to throw the wary trout off his guard, he is so very quick and cunning that it is very difficult to get into a position of complete concealment.

Now, while I have little doubt as to the teasing nature of a bold trout, I think that, aside from his combativeness, he gets used to a frequently repeated movement of a not too violent nature, and that a fisher standing perfectly still (of course, taking all possible pains as to sun and shadows, background, &c.) can, by a series of casts made with as little motion of the arm and rod as possible, and each movement as nearly as possible alike, accustom a trout to the movement—interest him in it; and if his fly is well worked and has a lively natural look, at last tempt him out.

Probably the largest and most knowing fish often run away; but I have several times found

they only sank well out of sight under some cavernous rock, and were at last tempted out to take the fly within 15ft. to 25ft. of the fisherman.

I have spun out a length of yarn which will, I fear, exceed even your ideas when you told me to write you at length; but you know the enthusiasm of a brother of the angle, and will be lenient, or cut as you see fit.

I wish the season of my short stay in this country was such as would permit me to have a day with you on our home waters, where we could practice a bit together, and give me a chance to test our "snagging," as we call it, beside your skilful work in the orthodox mode; but that day must be postponed for a while. It shall come, though, one of these days.

I must add in closing that while using the Japanese method of casting, their length of rod, line, and leader, with the single fly, I have put line guides and reel seat on my long Japanese rod, and thus take the advantage of the many delights and benefits of using the reel as in the usual method of fishing.

I feel that I have imperfectly explained this method, and should be glad to answer any questions which may occur to you on reading my letter to the best of my, as yet, rather imperfect knowledge; but I must say that my success, the great similarity between the Japanese and the Taylor style, together with the unvarying good results observed in the practice of these modes of fishing, give me great confidence that the method which I should like to call "snagging" (in imitation of a devoted brother of the angle and dear friend), has points worthy of the best thought of our thoughtful fraternity.—J. O. AVERILL (in *Forest and Stream*).

A DAY'S FISHING IN NORMANDY.

"HOLLOA!" said the cheery voice of Prince Michel Stourdza, as he drove up to my hotel in Dieppe. "The May Fly is on the water, and I am off fishing to-morrow. Will you come, too?" The next morning was beautifully fine, and about ten o'clock I find myself behind a spanking pair of horses, spinning along on the way to the fishing ground through some of the loveliest scenery in Normandy, past the golf links, and down the long, winding hill into Pourville, at which village the little river Scie runs into the channel. Turning to the left, we followed the course of the stream for some miles until we reached our destination. The horses were soon put up in an old stable, and when the Prince had arranged his fishing gear he made his first cast just above an old mill dam, and worked his way slowly up the stream. When we had gone some few hundred yards Henri, the coachman, joined us, and the fisherman standing well out of sight, made a pretty cast. A fine trout rose and took the fly, but not finding it exactly what he expected, rushed across the river, and, after several minutes' play, managed to get the line entangled in some sticks. "Quick, Henri," cried the Prince, "the landing net, or he will get away." Henri, net in hand, leant as far as he could over the bank, but alas! the fish was just out of reach. So, like a true sportsman, he jumped in up to his waist in water, and amidst breathless excitement a fine trout was landed. Up to luncheon time not another rise was to be had. The fish absolutely seemed to be laughing at the vain endeavours of the angler. Nothing would induce them to look at the fly, when just as we thought it was time to be starting home a fish of $\frac{3}{4}$ lb. was hooked and landed. In the course of half an hour thirteen more—none under $\frac{1}{2}$ lb., and all in splendid condition, as firm as rocks—were lying on the sward. We drove home well satisfied with the day's sport. In the evening I dined with the Prince, and helped to eat the trout, which had been deliciously cooked by his chef. I may here state, for the benefit of fishermen who do not know Normandy that excellent fishing is to be obtained almost for the asking, especially round Dieppe, where sportsmen are welcome. P. H. BENICKE.

A COMPLIMENTARY DINNER is to be given to Mr. T. J. Hamp, managing director of the Holborn Restaurant, in the King's Hall, on April 6, to commemorate the twenty-fifth anniversary of the opening of the establishment he has during that time so successfully controlled.

BARBEL IN MOROCCO.

WE had arranged to start on our trip at night, and accordingly, at about 11 p.m., our cavalcade made a move from the front door of the Continental Hotel, Tangier.

It was a very hot time of year, being the middle of July, and as the ground we were making for was some sixteen miles distant—to be reached only by a bridle-path over hills and dales in that roadless region—night travelling was by far the most convenient and comfortable style of locomotion for man and beast.

My friend Cavilla, my constant guide and counsellor in all our sporting trips, had said that he knew there were lots of fish in a certain river, though of what sort he was quite ignorant, and that quail and hares were to be shot in the neighbourhood, so we started with the highest expectations, as well as good store of creature comforts, guns, fishing rods, and requisites.

The party consisted of Cavilla who rode a donkey; two Spaniards, Antonio and Bastian, who also rode donkeys; an Arab boy, whose name sounded like *Boomright*, a cheerful and useful lad whose knowledge of English was very limited, but who rang the changes on his small vocabulary of English words with a fluency and volubility marvellous to listen to; and myself, who was mounted on a mule. There were also two baggage donkeys laden with all our things, which were under the guidance of "Boom," as we called him for short, and on which he rode alternately throughout the journey.

Each of the Spaniards carried a double-barrelled muzzle-loader, so that with these and our breech-loading guns and revolvers we were a fairly well armed little band, and this is a very necessary precaution when travelling in Morocco.

There is something very weird in riding through the streets of Tangier at night. You pass through dark and narrow alleys scarcely 12ft. wide paved with stones worn as smooth as billiard balls, and every now and then almost trip over some sleeping Arab mendicant, who is lying enveloped in his cloth by the side of the wall, or else charge full tilt into a lot of Moors coming out of a mosque. At night the streets are fairly clear of animal traffic, though during the day they are crowded with horses, mules, and donkeys; but there are still a good many drinking shops open, where Spaniards and Frenchmen are smoking and card playing; and the market-place, dimly lighted with the electric light, always has a lot of strangely garbed natives, chiefly Arabs, moving about it. These and the group of dozing camels and donkeys which are all around make a strange spectacle when first beheld by European eyes.

Some twenty minutes' riding took us out quite clear of the town, and well on to the track through the country. On all sides were endless fields of corn, chiefly in ear, but some of it in stubble, as the reaping season had just begun. A very rugged track it was, and one far better suited for a donkey or mule than for a horse.

In fact, for travelling on a sporting trip, as distinguished from a mere ride for pleasure, commend me to a mule. They are absolutely sure-footed, and can amble, if necessary, six or even seven miles an hour with ease.

The donkeys are, no doubt, very good for those who can ride them, but one needs to be "to the manner born." The saddle is a ponderous affair, weighing, roughly speaking, 40lb., so broad that sitting astride on it is next to an impossibility; it is, in fact, as Mark Twain with quaint truth says, like "straddling a dining table."

The correct mode of riding is to sit side-saddle fashion, and this is not easy. The way in which Cavilla, or the men, or young "Boom" could hop off and on, and steer the donkey with the ragged little bit of string which does duty as a bridle, was simply a wonder to behold, and excited the greatest envy within me. Donkeys are, of course, the cheapest beast to hire. The equivalent of two English shillings will hire one for a day; a mule is charged at about 5s., and a horse at 10s. a day. These points are worth considering when one intends to go on sporting trips to any extent from Tangier.

The track was bad, the night dark, and the donkeys slow, so we could not travel fast, and it was not until an hour before dawn that we called a halt.

The animals, in charge of "Boom" and Antonio, were sent on to a convenient place on the banks of the river we intended to fish, and C. and I, taking Bastian and the pointers, started as soon as it was light enough to shoot quail. We had capital sport, bagging twenty odd brace, besides a few hares and rabbits which were found among the bushes bordering the river, and by 11 a.m. we reached our camp, which was pitched under a fine, large fig tree on the banks of the stream, and found a good breakfast awaiting us.

As may be imagined, the heat was very great, and after breakfast we were glad enough to take a *siesta* under the shade of our tree. Towards the cool of the afternoon we began fishing. The stream was a sluggish, muddy ditch with high banks covered with scrub, and having a great deal of a kind of water lily growing in it. It struck me from the first as having a "pikey" look, not that it contained any of the species *Esox lucius*, but it simply teemed with barbel.

We baited with worms, which C. had procured at Tangier before we started. They were beastly looking things, not a bit like any I have ever seen in England, but they appeared to tempt the fish amazingly.

From the way in which they bit I should imagine that they had never been fished for before, for anything like the ravenous manner they attacked the bait as soon as it was put into the water, it has never been my lot to witness before or since.

All the tackle was supplied by me. Luckily, I had brought out with me a lot of useful gear in the way of gut, hooks, stout casts, and a couple of reels with lines. Thus I was able to supply Cavilla with everything except a rod. There is no place in Tangier where fishing tackle of any kind is sold, at least, I could not find any. The sea fishermen make a primitive kind of hook and line for their own use, and a long stick does duty as a rod.

However, C. managed to borrow a fearfully and wonderfully made thing, which, having two or three rings at wide intervals upon it, might be called a rod, so with my reel and line and hooks, he was quite happy.

I used a favourite old rod, with which I have killed many hundredweights of trout with fly, worm, and minnow during the last ten years. It is one of Gillett's whole-cane rods, and, although it has done the roughest work, including mackerel, pollack, and bass fishing, in addition to its legitimate duties, it is still as useful as ever. But to return to our Morocco barbel. We baited with worm, and, using no lead nor float, flung out into the middle of the pool. No sooner was the worm near the bottom, than away would run the line. A slight pause to let him get it well into his mouth, and then—a strike, and there was a barbel kicking and tugging for all he was worth, and a few seconds afterwards he would be on the bank.

Voracious though they were, however, we noticed that after catching three or four out of a pool, the other fish became shy, and would not take the bait with the same confidence. Then we moved on to another pool, and the same scene was enacted. They were game fish, and showed good fight, but they were small; the greater part of them averaged about $\frac{1}{2}$ lb. weight, but we got some over 1lb., but not one that reached 2lb. Once I hooked and lost a big fellow which may possibly have been a 3-pounder, but, of course, it is impossible to say.

For my part I soon got sick of catching them, but fishing was a new experience to Cavilla, and he stuck at it all that evening and again next morning, while I went after the quail. I could not help thinking what a paradise this place would seem to the Stoke Newington or Ponders End sportsman, who bobs away so patiently for little dace or gudgeon.

Such a pile of fish, considerably over 100, as C. and the men arranged on the grass in front of the camp, the Arabs in that locality had never before seen. C. could speak Arabic, and asked them if they ever caught any for themselves, but it appeared that they never attempted such a thing.

We tried to eat these fish, but they were not nice, and we were very glad to give them all away to our Arab friends. The women carried them off in baskets.

HERON.

DAPPING AS AN ART.

Necessitas non habet leges. This old maxim is not quoted to show my learning, but having had the sentence well whacked into me in my school days, it always comes uppermost in my mind when I am entering on any subject which some people at first sight may consider encroaches on "art."

"Art," says a reader, "this is not an art journal. What brick wall is 'P. T.' running his head against now?"

"Is it not an art journal? Well, then, what the dickens is it? If fishing in all its branches is not an art, I fail to know what is, therefore I will proceed to carry out my intention of describing what I have not the least hesitation of calling "Dapping as an Art."

Most of you will no doubt have, in your minds, only associated "dapping" with the pastime, as so admirably illustrated by Furniss in Burnand's "The Incomplete Angler," called the "Tour de Nail," when Venator stitches the beetle to his finger, but the mode I will attempt to teach you has no stitching connected with it, so you may dismiss that horrid dream and listen to my explanation.

That "circumstances alter cases" cannot be denied, and I would beg to put forward that the plan of fishing with which I am about to deal may conscientiously be employed if the seasons continue to remain in the same arid state that they have been for the last four years, because it is not to be expected that men who only have their month (and I fear many much less) "off" in which to indulge in trout fishing, should be content to go day after day back to their "diggings" with an empty basket. Yet there must be many sufficiently enthusiastic sportsmen who will not care to catch fish by the old game of what I will call "common dapping," which I do not think can be permitted to rank in the category of true and artistic sport.

The manner of fishing to be described is not practised on many streams, nor by many modern anglers, but where it is it has proved most killing, and is an excellent way of circumventing some of those overgrown cannibalistic trout who do so much damage to our streams, and whose *habitat* is only to be entered by this means. Not only do these monsters devour all the small trout that come within their reach, who have been foolish enough to leave their weedy shelter, but they are most arrant bullies of the first water, and a more "dog-in-the-manger" brute does not exist. Though they may often not require much of the food which is continually passing down, by, through, or over their "holt," nevertheless, no fish not their own size dare venture to take one morsel from their richly supplied domain. I fear I am digressing from my subject to a great length, and unless I had the object in view of showing to what great advantage the "art" may be serviceably applied I would not have trespassed so far on the reader's patience, but now I will continue to carry out my purpose. First I will show you how the "art" is performed, and then tell you how to dress your hook so that it will retain the bait in its proper position, and not slip off during the work it is called upon to undergo. I will also give you the names of those insects which always have been found, and are, no doubt, most killing, and the best means of carrying them so that they may come easily to hand when required.

The rod to be used is an ordinary fly rod, but it is better that it should be of the stiff kind rather than of the flexible nature. The line and reel are of the usual description. The cast, or, as it is sometimes called, the collar, should be about 2ft. long, and the hook No. 5 (new series), of the round bend kind. The rod is held in the usual manner, that is, above the reel at the balance (the balance of a fly rod is a matter which, though, of course, known to the "old division" to be of the greatest importance, is seldom taken into consideration by a tyro, so when found make a note of). Now take the cast, which should reach the reel, in the left hand, holding it 6in. from the hook. Then place the rod in a horizontal position by bringing the right hand (unless you are left-handed, then all must be done *vice versa*) close against the hip joint on the same side, the knuckles turned downwards. Now raise the left hand in a line with your left eye, and draw the cast which it is holding back until opposite the ear,

thus curving the top of the rod, at the same time taking sight at the place in which you wish to place your "dap." Having done this, let go your hold on the cast and the bait will fly to its destination. This necessarily will require some practice to get perfect, but when it is learnt makes it pretty work, enabling you to "reach" many spots in which it would be impossible to place an artificial fly, cast you never so skilfully. But this is not the only position from which it can be used. Hold the rod in the same position as described, only leaving the knuckles turned outwards, and draw the cast at arm's length, which should slope at an angle of some forty-five degrees from the shoulder, as far back as the left hip joint. Now let go, and the bait will travel round the segment of the circle, by which means you can place it under bushes nearly touching the water.

Let me now tell you how to properly dress the hook. For this there are two methods. The first is by (I am naturally supposing, of course, the reader knows how it is usually done) using a silk generally called "button-hole twist," and when you have brought it up the shank from opposite the barb, go down again in the same way, continuing until you reach the middle of the bend—that is to say, half-way round towards the barb—and you will find that the bait thread on this will "stick fast." The other mode is better for the softer insects often used. This is done by cutting some of the bristles from a clothes brush, and now, using the usual tying silk, lace one of them to the back of the shank, commencing opposite the barb, to half-way towards the head; then turn the bristle back, holding it between the thumb and finger of the hand in which you have the hook, and continue to wind the silk up the shank, finishing off in the general manner. Now release the bristle from your hold, and it will fly up parallel to the shank. To bait a hook dressed thus, take your "dap" and thread it (head downwards) on as far as where the gut joins the hook and until the loose end of the bristle shows; then pull that from the shank and push the bait down as far as where it is tied to the shank. Now, thrust and throw as you may it cannot slide off.

The best and most commonly used insects for this work are the Bluebottle, Grasshopper, Tab Fly, and Oak Web. The first is good, the second better, and the third best. The last named is most excellent in wooded districts. These may be carried in a large-mouthed glass bottle having a metal top, fitted with a small sliding disc working on a screw pivot (which can be tightened or loosened as the case may require), covering a hole sufficiently large to admit of their egress. A round tin box, with the inner rim fitting tight up to the lid, is also a handy receptacle. Cut a piece out of both the lid and box, and by twisting round the former until opposite the aperture in the latter there will be an opening through which they will crawl as soon as "daylight does appear."

Reaching thus far reminds me that I have not told of another time when dapping may be employed in the manner described above with a clear conscience. Sometimes you will come across portions of a river where, from the amount of timber growth and waterstave lining both banks, it is impossible to throw a fly even by a "past master." Yet, by wading upstream, all such places may be thus fished with great success.

PHEASANT TAIL.

A 4LB. GERMAN PIKE.—The *Allgemeine Fischerei Zeitung*, of Munich, in its number for March 1, reports that a giant pike was caught by Mr. Fishmaster Weber in the Szinkuhner Lake on Feb. 16. It was 1½ metres long and 38 German pounds in weight. This would make it a little over 58in. in length and a little over 4lb. in weight by our measures.—ED. F. G.

GOOD TROUT FISHING WANTED.—Mr. K. Douglas, Prestonbury, King's-road, Clapham Park, London, S.W., is advertising in our columns for a house with some good trout fishing in a bracing place. If any of our readers want to let such a place they will find further particulars in Mr. D.'s advertisement.

GRANT'S CHERRY WHISKY.—This attractive "pick-me-up" is a pleasant combination of Kent Cherry Juice and very soft old Scotch Whisky. This and Grant's Morella Cherry Brandy are sold by Wine Merchants.

THE RAINBOW TROUT.

MORE INFORMATION FROM MR. LIVINGSTONE STONE.

MY DEAR MR. MARSTON.—Since writing you last I have been in communication with two men, both of them famous fishermen, who have had a good deal to do with rainbow trout. One of them is Mr. Myron Green, who, for several years, was superintendent of the United States Trout Station on the McCloud river in California, from which station all the rainbow trout that have been distributed over the world by the U. S. Fish Commission, were originally obtained. The other man is Mr. M. L. Dunning, who has not only fished many of the streams of California containing rainbow trout, but has also been in the employ of the U. S. Fish Commission at Baird Station on the McCloud for several years. Both of these men have had opportunities for handling and studying rainbow trout that few others have had, and being fishermen to the backbone, they can hardly be excelled as authorities on the subject.

Both Mr. Green and Mr. Dunning agree that the rainbow trout are not cannibalistic in their habits. They also both agree that at certain times and at certain ages the golden band is absent, that the smaller variety of rainbows inhabiting the smaller streams very often do not possess the golden band at all. Mr. Green does not wish to express a decided opinion concerning their tendency to go to the ocean, as he has never been among these trout near the ocean. Mr. Dunning is quite of the opinion that they do go to the ocean under some circumstances.

Please allow me to quote a little from the letters of these excellent authorities. Mr. Dunning writes as follows, from Baird, California, under date of Jan. 30, 1899.

"Three years ago, about 300,000 young salmon were fed here in the troughs until the latter end of May, when they were planted in the McCloud river. For the next seven or eight days after the planting I caught over forty trout, of 1½lb. and upwards, and opened most of them immediately, and in no instance did I find any of the fish or remains of the fish that we had planted. At other times while fishing I have often examined the stomachs of trout caught, and it was a rare exception that anything was found that would indicate that they were feeding principally on young fish. My opinion is that rainbow trout are not natural cannibals, though when driven to it by hunger they might become such."

Mr. Dunning continues: "In fishing the waters of Hatchet, Roaring and Montgomery creeks, mountain streams and tributaries of Pitt river, (the Upper Sacramento), I have caught as high as twelve dozen in a day, many of them fully matured and parent fish, and none of them showed the golden band. If these are the real rainbows, my opinion is that they do not show the golden band in all waters."

In regard to these fish going to the ocean, Mr. Dunning says: "I was sent to Olema, Marin Co., Cal., about one year ago this month, to assist in hatching out 2,000,000 salmon eggs. While there, we spent part of our time seining in Paper Mill creek at a place called White House. This was in tide water (we often having to wait until the tide went out, in order to seine), about four miles from the ocean. We caught a large variety of fish, but by far the largest number were rainbow trout, which I should say were about a year old. As these trout were miles below their spawning beds, I was strongly of the opinion that their course was downward, and that they were on their way to the ocean, and in quite large numbers."

Mr. Green writes as follows on the same subjects: "I have opened a great many rainbow trout on McCloud river, but have never found any fish in them except young salmon that were very young. I have never seen the large trout trying to eat the small ones, and I do not think that they are destructive to other fish. I have kept large and small trout together in the same pond, and the large ones did not disturb the small ones, but if they were starving, perhaps they would."

About the golden band on their sides, Mr. Green says: "I do not think it shows much on the young fish at one year old. I think it shows but

very little at two years, and not very much until the fish is full sized. Full-grown trout carry the golden stripe all the year round, but it shows plainest and is brightest at the spawning season. The trout in small streams do not grow as large as in the river, and show the red stripe but little.

In the river, the large males show the stripe the most, but I have seen large females that did not have the stripe at all.

As mentioned above, Mr. Green gives no statement of opinion about the rainbows going to the ocean.

I hope you will kindly pardon the length of this letter. I did not mean to make it so long when I began, but I thought you would like to have this testimony that I have just had an opportunity to gather, in regard to the much-talked-of rainbow trout. Very truly yours,

LIVINGSTONE STONE.

Cape Vincent, New York, Feb. 20, 1899.

[This is very interesting information, because it certainly bears out the experience of those German fish breeders who say that, after being in the river some time, the rainbows drop down stream, and disappear in the sea. For this reason we believe this fine fish will do best in waters from which they cannot escape.—Ed.]

"SPRING FEVER."

THE lilac buds are bursting, the primroses and violets are welcoming the sun; the birds are trying their voices and putting on their company manners with a view to matrimony; all nature is awakening; and once more—as it always does at this time—the fever is upon me.

Ah, that fever, need I name it? That intense longing to be at work once more, to be up and doing. Nature cries out to me with irresistible voice, and my whole being thrills in answer.

Yet the path is beset with difficulties. Unfeeling people, dull soulless clods, place innumerable obstacles in my way. The chief offender is the partner of my joys and griefs; alas! that it should be so, but I must be generous, for how can those whose hands know not the feel of the round, smooth handle, appreciate the joys of wielding it in the glorious time of spring? As I take my favourites from the corner one after the other—the long and sturdy one (the searcher-out of inaccessible places), the medium one, and the light, short, dainty one, fit for a lady's delicate hands—I finger them lovingly and longingly. Methinks I can almost hear the splash and bubble of water, feel the perspiration beading my brow and the dampness penetrating my boots. In imagination I gaze on the newly awakened flies, the elegant tracery of the spider's web, the softly hovering dust that sparkles in the sunlight, while all round waves the graceful yellow broom. The blood courses through my veins, the fever is strong upon me. What care I for the black looks and wrathful words of my better half! Nothing shall stop me; to-morrow I shall. I must, begin the campaign. What! Fishing! Who was talking of fishing. Rods? Why, I never mentioned such a thing. I was talking about my brooms, you stupid man. Fishing fever, indeed! It's only you men that have complaints like that. I was talking about spring cleaning.

MRS. OYSTER.

SOME ITEMS FROM FARLOW'S NEW CATALOGUE.

For a rod, reel, or any other article of fishing tackle to bear the name of "Farlow" is as good a guarantee of its sterling quality as it is possible to get. The new catalogue just published extends to over 150 pages, with hundreds of well-made illustrations, and a good index. Being only 3½ in. by 5 in. in size, the little book takes no space in the pocket of the fishing bag or creel. Among many items to which we are glad to call attention are the following:—

THE PENNELL "PERFECT" SPINNING FLIGHT.

Reg. No. 260,952. Made in two sizes. For pike suitable size bait should be 4½ in. to 5 in.; for salmon, 3 in. to 3½ in.

Mr. H. Cholmondeley-Pennell writes: "I enclose the Flight; it will spin either of the baits en-

closed, 4½ in. to 5 in., 'excellently well, brilliantly, in fact.'"

Method of mounting: Flanges should be opened, then lead pushed down through the mouth of bait into its belly, well down, so that the hooked flanges can be thrust through each side by the gill cover, as illustrated; one hook of middle treble should then be inserted in the back to give the bait a slight twist, as illustrated.

It is certainly one of the lightest and most effective natural bait spinners on the market. So many of these spinners are so heavy, that except by being drawn much too fast, they will hardly turn round in the water when baited.

THE "PORTMAN" FISHING BAG.

Invented by the Hon. E. W. B. Portman.

Mr. Portman writes to Messrs. Farlow: "The fishing bag you made me was far superior to anything I have had before."

It is made of tanned extra stout waterproof

instantly be got at when required, and jerked open ready for use with one hand.

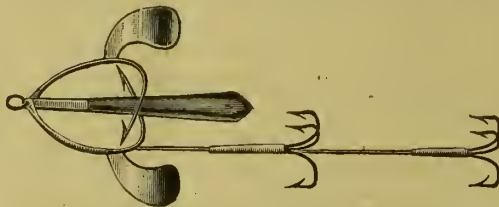
LEATHER CUP AND STRAP.

This is for holding the butt end of rod. The pattern was given to Messrs. Farlow by Mr. E. Oakley, who has fished the "Alten" river in Norway with great success. It is made of the best leather procurable. The cup has a supporting frame of metal, which so strengthens it that for the heavy work for which it is intended it is invaluable.

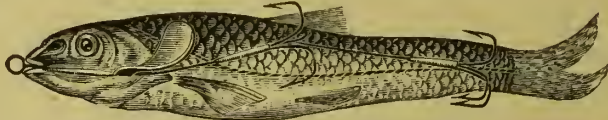
We strongly recommend this little affair to all who have to press the butt of the rod against the body, as is so often the case, especially in spinning. Serious injury may result from the continued pressure of a heavy rod on the groin or side.

PRAWN BOX.

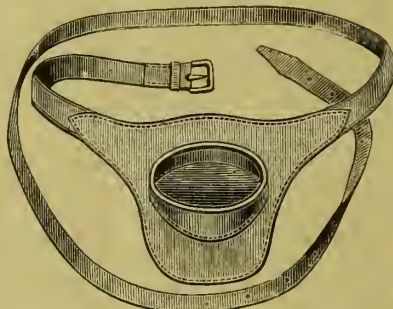
This box is made of japanned tin, black outside, white inside, divided to take eight prawns on



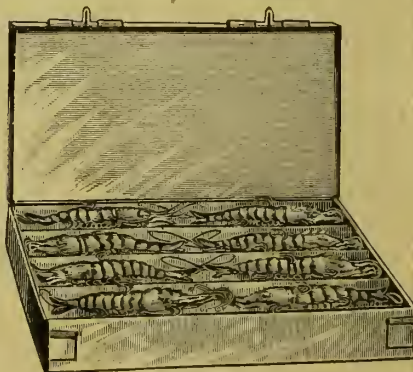
THE PENNELL "PERFECT" SPINNING FLIGHT.



THE PENNELL "PERFECT" SPINNING FLIGHT. (Mounted.)



LEATHER CUP AND STRAP FOR HOLDING BUTT END OF ROD.



PRAWN BOX.



FOLDING STEEL GAFF, WITH SLING AND CARRIER.
Invented by the
Right Honourable Sir Herbert Maxwell, Bart., M.P.
Registered No. 300,736.



THE "PORTMAN" FISHING BAG.
Invented by the Honourable E. W. B. Portman.

canvas. The back bag, which is intended to carry fish, is removable, and can be thoroughly cleansed. The front bag is so arranged that it contains two pockets expanding, attached to the back part, which can be utilised for holding flask, sandwich case, fly box, &c., and the main part is most commodious, also expanding. The size is 19 in. wide, 15 in. deep, and it certainly is one of the best fishing bags we have ever seen.

FOLDING STEEL GAFF WITH SLING AND CARRIER.

A very portable and convenient gaff for gentlemen who prefer to gaff their own fish; is carried in a leather shield slung over the shoulder. Length of gaff when folded, 18½ in.; open, 36 in.

Sir Herbert Maxwell, who invented it, happened to look in when we were writing this notice, pointed out that the illustration, though very good in other respects, represents the sheath of the carrier as too big—it is really flatter, and not at all inconvenient or bulky to carry. The gaff can

tackles for immediate use, a great convenience when so much fishing impedimenta has to be carried. It was designed by a thoroughly practical salmon angler, and is made in various sizes, a vast improvement on having to fish a prawn out of a glass bottle containing glycerine and bait it on a bitter day. The crayfish being common on some mahseer rivers, we should suppose that prawn fishing for mahseer might be found as killing as it is for salmon.

There are many other things in this list to which we should like to call attention but for want of space; we can with full confidence recommend all who have not done so to obtain it.

AN unpublished and very important letter of Daniel Webster appears in the March *Scribner's*, in Senator Hoar's *Reminiscences*. It is the last anti-slavery utterance of Webster, and is dated Aug. 23, 1848, and addressed to Hon. E. R. Hoar.

THE FISHERIES EXHIBITION AT THE ROYAL AQUARIUM.

THE eighth annual exhibition of fishing tackle, &c., opened on Wednesday, March 8, and will remain open until April 5. Although not quite "settled down" to business on the occasion of our visit, the various stands made a grand show. A full account will appear in our next issue (March 18).

Amongst the exhibitors we noticed (in order of the catalogue):

Stand 3 and 3A.—Messrs. Hardy Bros., Alnwick. Branches: 61, Pall Mall, London; 12 to 14, Moultrie-street, Manchester; 5, South St. David-street, Edinburgh.

Stand 13.—A. Carter and Co., 137, St. John's-street Road, London, E.C. Factory, 1, 2, and 3, Myddleton-place. Timber stores, Martin's-place.

Stand 15.—Messrs. King, Malcom, and Co., 19, Leicester-square, London, W.C., practical water-proofers, wader, coat and cloak makers.

Stand 20.—Ogden and Scotford, Pittville-gates, Cheltenham, and at 19, Leicester-square, W.C.

Stand 21.—The Army and Navy Co-operative Society, Limited, 105, Victoria-street, S.W.

Stand 24.—David Slater, Newark-on-Trent.

Stand 28.—John Enright and Son, Castleconnell, near Limerick.

Stand 29.—J. W. Martin, "The Trent Otter," of J. W. Martin and Co., 8, Seymour-street, Euston-square, London, N.W.

Stand 30.—T. Bowater Vernon, inventor and patentee, 16, Brook-street, London, W. The Ceres letter and card files, cabinets, &c., illustrating the Ceres system of keeping letters and papers.

Stand 37.—F. J. Ogden Smith, 7, London-road, Twickenham.

Stand 38.—Geo. Hoyle, 31, Vincent-road, West Green, N. Cases of feathers, &c., used in fly dressing.

GRAYLING IN THE EXE BELOW DULVERTON.

WE take the following extract from a letter received recently by us from Mr. Robt. S. Austin, of Tiverton, a very old correspondent of the *Fishing Gazette*. In a subsequent letter Mr. Austin says he hears from Mr. Langdon that anglers were catching lots of grayling as high up as Mr. Nelder's house at Dulverton:

"I daresay you remember the rumpus there was years ago anent putting grayling into the Exe? Well, grayling are in it now, and in goodly numbers, too. Some seasons ago a Mr. Langdon, fish breeder at Dulverton, put in about 500 of these fish, and they seem to have multiplied, for during the past week some of the rods above Tiverton have been getting a brace or two of them a day. I don't think there are enough yet to give good autumn fishing, but next season, if all is well, I intend giving them a trial."

GRESHAM ANGLING SOCIETY.

AT the usual weekly meeting Mr. F. W. Norman occupied the chair. Mr. L. B. Wrightson, at Bryn St. Edmunds, several jack returned, and one of 7½lb. and 6½lb. Mr. F. J. Grey, at Kelvedon, roach up to 1lb. Mr. Walker, roach up to ¾lb. Mr. Zerfass, roach and perch from Kelvedon (largest roach, 1lb. 9oz.). Mr. Patterson, pike fishing in private water, result not yet to hand. The annual dinner has been postponed from March 21 to April 25. I should be glad to hear from members as early as possible as to whether they will attend, and also how many tickets will be required. Three new members were duly elected. The programme and book containing rules and regulations of the society, yearly report, maps of waters, &c., is now in hand, and it is hoped, will shortly be sent to the members. Nominations of members to represent the society at Loch Leven competition can now be received. Roach may be fished for at our Kelvedon waters, but the pike fishing is closed until Aug. 31 next. The opening dinner at Chesham will take place at the Black Horse, Chesham, on April 8. Will members who intend being present kindly send in their names? Cheap tickets for the Fisheries' Exhibition, opened March 8, and open for four weeks, can now be obtained from me, price 4s. per dozen. The usual toast, and a vote of thanks to the chairman, concluded a very busy evening.

ALEX. WRIGHT, Hon. Sec.

AMERICAN BOOKS.—A catalogue of American books in various departments of literature can be had of Sampson Low, Marston & Co., Limited, St. Dunstan's House, Fetter Lane, London

CENTRAL ASSOCIATION OF LONDON ANGLING CLUBS.

THE usual monthly meeting of delegates was held at the Bedford Head Hotel, Maiden-lane, Covent Garden, on Monday last, Mr. C. A. Medcalf, president, in the chair, supported by Mr. W. H. Elsmore, vice-president. The minutes of previous meeting were duly passed, and the executive committee reported the provisional enrolment of a newly-formed club, the Twickenham Piscatorial, after having closely scrutinised their adopted rules, which were found quite satisfactory; also having considered the application of Mr. Higgins for a donation towards the River Keepers' Dinner Fund, and recommend the usual donation be sent, both of which were unanimously endorsed by the delegates present. The visiting officer reported that excellent and well-attended visits had been paid to the Original Clerkenwell A.S., also to the Peckham Bros. A.S.; and from the bailiff's report it appeared that good sport had been obtained by the members on the various private fisheries of this association. The secretary stated that a capital programme had been arranged in connection with the Central's annual smoking concert, which is to take place at the headquarters on Monday, 20th inst., on which occasion the chair will be occupied by Mr. Walter Emden, J.P., L.C.C., particularly urging the delegates and secretaries to do their utmost to make the affair an unprecedented success. It may be mentioned that the commodious hall at the Bedford Head has recently been considerably enlarged. Mr. Elsmore furnished particulars of the recent doings of the T.A.P.S. committee, which proved of a most interesting nature, particularly the generous promise of their president, Mr. H. L. W. Lawson, to defray the cost of the removal of the barren swans from the Thames during the spawning season, in consequence of the refusal of the Lord Chamberlain and the Dyers' and Vintners' companies to arrange for the removal, owing to the expense attached thereto. A very cordial vote of thanks was accorded both the chairman and vice-chairman.

REPORTS FROM RIVERS, LOCHS, &c.

River Reporters who want forms and envelopes should send a post card to the Manager of the FISHING GAZETTE, St. Dunstan's House, Fetter-lane, London.

Time of High Water in the Thames.

To find the time of high water in the Thames at any of the following places, to the time of high water at London Bridge given below.

30 min. for Chelsea.	55 min. for Kew.
40 " " Putney.	75 " " Richmond.
45 " " Hammersmith.	80 " " Twickenham.
50 " " Barnes.	85 " " Teddington.

EXAMPLE.—If it is high water at 2 o'clock at London Bridge, it will be high water at Teddington at 3.25, or 85 minutes later.

N.B.—A strong wind up-stream accelerates the tide very much, and one down-stream retards it.

TIME OF HIGH WATER AT LONDON BRIDGE.

	Morning.	Evening.
Saturday, March 11	1.18	1.42
Sunday, " 12	2.4	2.24
Monday, " 13	2.44	3.4
Tuesday, " 14	3.24	3.44
Wednesday, " 15	4.3	4.22
Thursday, " 16	4.42	5.0
Friday, " 17	5.18	5.36

HIGH WATER AT AMBERLEY AND PULBOROUGH.

	Morning.	Evening.
Saturday, March 11	1.58	2.22
Sunday, " 12	2.44	3.4
Monday, " 13	3.28	3.44

These times show high water at Houghton Bridge, Amberley. Pulborough will be 2h. 40m. later.

ENGLISH AND WELSH REPORTS.

Lower Thames.—GENERAL REMARKS.—The general angling season will terminate on Tuesday next, March 14, and all kinds of coarse fish will then have undisturbed possession of the river. The trout anglers have only to wait until April 1, when their season will commence, and, it is hoped, under favourable auspices, though at present nothing of any consequence has been heard of any movement amongst them, and this is easily accounted for by the presence of such ungenial weather and conditions against the possibility of any show being made, but I apprehend when there is a favourable change both anglers and fishermen will be on the watch to indicate where their movements have been seen. In reference to the swan question, the T.A.P.S. is fortunate in having such a president as Mr. H. L. W. Lawson, who is ready, after the refusal of the owners to have them housed at any expense to them, has liberally undertaken to have it done at his own cost, and so relieve the society from the burden of payment. I heartily congratulate the committee on their great success in this matter, as I am certain one and all have been most anxious for the removal of the swans during the spawning of the perch, and in the interest of all classes of anglers. It should be the means of augmenting the attendance of visitors at the forthcoming dinner to the river and lock keepers, and also stimulate the liberality of anglers and others in contributing towards the expenses of it. The T.A.P.S. has been fortunate in its choice of presidents. The late Mr. Thomas Sprackley was the first elected to that office, and succeeded by Mr. Alfred Nanthall, J.P., and it would be impossible to have chosen better and more practical men. I can only speak in the highest terms of each, and that from great experience. The anglers have very little time before them, and up to Wednesday the river was in good condition, but a strong stream.—B.

—(Datchet).—John Keene writes: "The water is in good order, and the fish feeding well. I have had one day with Mr. Maitin, who creeled 40lb. weight of perch; another day with Mr. George Shepherd, 11l perch, the largest 1½lb.; another day with Mr. Wilson and Mr. Saunders, 35lb. of perch and roach; another day with Mr. Jones and Mr. Herbert, eight dozen of roach; another day with Mr. Phipps, nine brace of perch, two jack, and six dozen of roach, three of the best roach weighing 4 b, and the perch averaging 1lb. each; and another day with Mr. Amphlett and Mr. Smith, ten dozen of roach and perch. Nearly all these fish were returned to the river again."—B.

—(Eton).—The river is now in perfect condition, and good all-round sport should be had during the last few days of the season. Trout are on the move. Several good fish have been seen in this district. A splendid specimen was taken by Mr. Paice, of Eton, this week, weighing over 8lb. Fortunately, it was lightly hooked, and therefore was in no way injured, and was at once returned, to afford sport to the lucky angler who may induce him to take his bait after his shyness has worn off. Perch have been feeding well, Budd Smith taking them up to 1½lb. Mr. W. Pritchard has also had several good takes. Mr. Wilson, of Eton, and the veteran Carey, of Windsor, have had some fine roach. Lumsden was up this way one day, and creeled about 30lb. of roach. Mr. Gladstone lost a nice jack of about 8lb. on the 3rd, after playing him some time. James Bunce, out with two patrons on the 5th, had a good dish of roach. I hope to have the pleasure next week of assisting to turn into the river about 1500 trout for the Windsor and Eton Preservation Association, and to net some water not far from here, when I trust the result will be a large consignment to gladden the hearts of other than trout anglers.—CECIL HOWLETT.

—(Hampton Court).—William Milbourne says: "The water is now in good order for all fishing. The dace are heading up, and are very fine. The punts from here to Thames Ditton are taking from eight to ten dozen each per day, and the bank anglers are doing well with roach and dace." Mr. F. J. Ogden Smith writes: "I have been fishing one day with Mr. Gunn and Mr. Boline at Hampton Court, and had a very good take of perch and dace."—B.

—Henley (March 8).—The water continues in good condition. It has now got very fine, and a nice stream running, but there is every appearance of a change in the weather. To-day has been very boisterous, and at the time of writing rain is falling. Sport, on the whole, is good, although some almost blank days have been experienced by some anglers. Perch are going off the feed, or they want a lot of finding. On March 1, a patron of Bob Young, nine jack (best fish 8lb.). On the 3rd, Mr. Norman, out with W. Vaughan, four jack, including a nice made fish of 10lb.; Mr. Escombe, out with J. James, a box of roach and jack, weighing 19lb.; Mr. Johnson, out with G. Arlett, eight jack (best fish 4 b.); a patron of J. Sargeant, seven jack (best fish 4½lb.); and Mr. Bntt, the Marsh Lock keeper, a jack of 8lb. On the 4th, a patron of J. Sargeant, seven jack (best fish 9lb.); Mr. Escombe, out with E. Vaughan, a 12lb. bag of roach; and Messrs. Muller and Johnson, fishing Witherington's Pool, Sonning, which is private water, with G. Arlett, had a take of eighteen jack, weighing close on 60lb. (best fish 7lb.). On the 5th, Mr. Johnson, out with G. Arlett, six jack (best fish 4lb.); Mr. Clements and friend, out with G. Vaughan, seven jack (best fish 5½lb.); a patron of E. Vaughan, three jack and 10lb. of roach; a patron of E. Harvey, a bag of roach and perch weighing 16lb. (best three roach 3lb.); and Mr. J. Harvey, jun., two jack (best fish 9½lb). On the 6th, Mr. and Mrs. Rawlin, out with G. Arlett, six jack, weighing 36lb. (best fish 7½lb.); and Mr. J. Harvey, jun., three jack (best fish 8½lb.). On the 8th, Dr. Riley, out with J. James, five jack (best fish 8lb.); Dr. Shields and friend, out with J. Sargeant, eight jack (best fish 9lb.) and 5lb. of perch; Mr. J. Harvey and friend, a good bag of roach weighing 18lb., which included several pounders; and Messrs. J. W. Read and Allan, out with G. Arlett, eight jack (best fish 4 to 6lb.). Mr. S. Meyers, fishing the Thames above Oxford, with J. James, on the 4th, 5th, and 6th inst., took fifty jack, which included fish of 7lb., 8lb., 9lb., one of 13lb., and six perch (best perch 2lb.). Other anglers have been making some fair bags of roach, perch, jack, and some chub up to 4lb.

—STANLEY MEAD.

—(Kingston).—John Johnson during the week has been taking some bream, roach and dace. N. Bolton, in two days, with Messrs. Tomsett, Mallett, and Halls, who caught one brace of jack (the largest fish 3½lb.), six brace of perch and five bream.—B.

—(Richmond).—Job Brain reports he has been getting a few bream and some roach and dace.—B.

—(Shepperton).—George Rosewell I am glad to find reports he is "all alive and not dead as reported." He has been very ill, but now in his usual good form again, and has sent me the report of having been out with Mr. N. Chick for two days. The first day he landed six brace of perch weighing 14 b, and the second day eleven jack, the largest 9lb., two of the fish were returned. Another day with two other gentlemen which proved a complete blank.—B.

—(Sunbury).—I am pleased to state that Messrs. T. and A. Stroud are now in good health, and quite prepared to give their clients some capital sport during the last few days of the angling season. Mr. Jones, with H. Herbert, eight jack and some fine perch; most of them were returned to the river again.—B.

—(Teddington).—The dace are reported as heading up very slowly on account of the cold nights. W. McBride, in two half days with Mr. Port, seven brace of perch and three jack; and one day with Mr. Maynard, five pike (the largest 6½lb.) and eleven perch.—B.

— (**Twickenham**).—John Spong, one day, six dozen of roach and dace and two bream. R. Spong, seven dozen of roach and dace, three brace of perch, and three bream. H. Spiers, in half a day, four dozen of roach and dace; and J. Draper, in one day, three dozen. Mr. F. J. Ogden Smith tells me he was out one day with Mr. Beavis and Mr. Stevens in a friendly match in the Deeps and in five hours creoled 23½lb. of good roach. He has just received for preservation from Mr. Airnfeld two fine jack which he took in private waters, the largest weighing 13½lb.—B.

— (**Weybridge**).—My valued correspondent, in writing to me, says: "The water has cleared wonderfully during the past week, but the stream is still strong."—B.

Arun (Pulborough).—(March 7.)—Only a few anglers visited here on March 6, who found the river in good order though it was a cold day. Mr. H. Allan, secretary of the St. Albans, had a fine show of fish of about 24lb., among them being a bream of about 3lb. and a perch of about 2lb., and several fair-sized roach; Mr. Gower, Original Clerkenwell Piscatorial, took a 4lb. jack; Mr. Saalfeld, Silver Trout, two small perch; Mr. Fordee, Great Northern Brothers', bream up to 1lb; Mr. A. Drapman, Bermondsey Brothers', bream up to 1½lb. The water is still a good colour, though just now the frosts are somewhat severe.—W. G. HOLLMAN.

Bottisham Locks (Waterbeach, Cambs.).—Pike have been giving grand sport all round the lock. One angler one day had ten pike and one chub up to 1½lb. Several rods out through the week all with fish (early morning). There are still plenty of pike round the locks, although small up to 4½lb., only had this week. Roach fishing quiet. Live baits on the spot, water in excellent condition.—J. O. GEORGE, Beech-road, Cambridge.

Dart (Totnes and District).—There has been some exceptionally good sport with trout in the vicinity of Buckfastleigh. Mr. H. Wright killing no less than eight dozen on the opening day and seven dozen the following day, whilst Mr. Millman secured sixteen dozen in three days. In other parts of the river capital sport has been obtained. Mr. J. Edmonds had several dozen on Monday, a total weight of 10lb., and the Rev. A. Sandbach (Cornworthy) had four dozen from the Harborne on Friday. During last week baskets running up to six and eight brace were made by Messrs. E. Distin, H. M. Turner, H. T. Distin, and H. Full, the latter getting several good fish at Totnes Weir. Mr. Holmes killed some fine trout on Monday, but the water has been very fine in consequence of the frost, which has now broken up.—DEVONIAN.

Derwent (Malton, Yorks.).—The water still keeps in good condition for pike fishing, but the nightly frosts we are having appear to keep roach off feed. The Kirkham Abbey waters are very good for both, but only very few anglers have been out during the past week or two.—H.

Devonshire Streams.—The streams have run down to a fishable condition, but the water has been very fine. Baskets of trout, taken generally, have not been large. Sport on the Dart being about the best obtained, one rod killing eight dozen one-day last week. On the Tavy and other rivers at the southern border, baskets have run up to nine and twelve brace, the Reds and Pheasant Tail are doing well. The March Brown was the most useful fly for the Carey, where sport has been dull up to the present, although prospects were favourable. The Blue Upright, however, seems to be a general favourite. A 2½ pounder was killed in the West Ockment, and some fair takes are reported from the Mid-Taw district. The bright days and sharp frosts are drawbacks to really good sport, but it is thought that a successful season may be looked forward to. Few salmon have been killed as yet, but Mr. Parsons killed a couple of exceptionally fine fish for the Meavy—10lb. and 12lb. Dr. Norman landed a 22 pounder from the Dart and another of 18lb.—DEVONIAN.

Fen District (South Lincs. and Cambs.).—The closing days of the season are even more favourable than those in the late autumn or early winter. The pike waters, such as the Forty-foot, &c., have been freely patronised, and the conditions have been really good. Plenty of fish have been caught, but we hear of nothing of any large size, 6lb. or 7lb. being heaviest. Roach fishers are also having a fine time of it in their department. The Glen at Surfleet and the level drains towards Wisbech have had plenty of visitors, and baskets have been satisfactory. Many will regret the advent of the close time.—LIMPET.

Idle District (North Notts.).—Good sport is now the lot of the angler in the Idle district, and some decent baskets are reported from the popular swims. Between Retford and Mathersey good lots of roach and dace have been captured. On the Ryton, at Blythe, there has been capital sport among the dace with maggots. During the cold days roach have been shy, but chub have been on the feed eagerly. The canal is said to be productive of roach, and a few perch have been mentioned.—L.

Mid-Taw (Eggesford District).—Season commenced March 1, and fair sport has been obtained, notwithstanding frosty nights, and bright sun by day and cold winds. Messrs. Williamson and Melhuish, staying at the Hotel, have made baskets varying from 1lb. to 2lb with fish averaging three to the lb. Flies most successful: Rusty Red and Half Stone.—F. A. M.

North Staffordshire Rivers.—Frosty weather has nipped the soddened land, and kept up much of the moisture which the previous downpours had put into it, and allowed the rivers to clear and put on a fishable appearance once more. At midday the sun has tempered the atmosphere somewhat, and taken some of the sting out of the east wind, so that a few Blue Duns have hatched out between twelve and two o'clock. A few enthusiastic fly-hands have been out for practice and observation, and sampled the trout in our district; and to all appearance we are in for an early and good trouting season. Sport in the coarse fish waters has been variable. Some anglers

wish to do a little among pike during the waning open time, and some fair fish have been killed by live baiting, notably in the Stafford district.—F. W. DALE.

Ouse (Holywell Ferry).—River in splendid condition; jack feeding freely, everyone getting good sport, largest taken here during the week, 12lb., and several very large "smashers" had on, so it is all right for the rod makers, as I have had three gentlemen bring their rods in broken.—A. SCARD.

Ouse (St. Ives, Hunts.).—G. R. James took pike 16lb. 2oz., a beautiful fish. I had roach on Saturday up to 1lb. 4oz. We have had five large pike since Friday last, smallest one 12lb. Splendid prospects for roaching, chubbing, &c. I hope to be able to send you a good list up to-night week for a finish up to season 1898-9. We have opened our new club room in Vine Court; it was formerly the magistrate's room, or Court House for the Borough of St. Ives.—E. COLLINSON.

Lake Vyrnwy (North Wales).—The fishing season began on the 1st of March, and although the days have been very cold, with hard frost at night, the sport has been excellent, and the two lucky anglers who made a point of being on the ground at the earliest possible date have been rewarded with good baskets. On the 1st, Mr. D. Pine killed thirteen (7lb. 8oz.), and Mr. F. Crowther three (2lb. 1oz.); on the 2nd, Mr. Pine took four (2lb. 6oz.), and Mr. Crowther five (2lb. 15oz.); on the 3rd, Mr. Crowther killed seventeen (12lb. 7oz.), and Mr. Pine twenty (12lb. 8oz.); on the 4th, Mr. Pine killed twenty-one (13lb. 8oz.), and Mr. Crowther sixteen (9lb. 4oz.); on the 6th, Mr. Pine took twenty-seven (15lb. 2oz.), and Mr. Crowther fourteen (9lb. 1oz.); on the 7th, Mr. Pine killed nine (5lb. 8oz.), and Mr. Crowther seven (4lb. 12oz.). The best killing flies have been "duns" and "February Reds." The two rods creoled 156 fish during the week, or an average of eleven fish per rod per day.—LONG DRIFT.

Lea.—The season for taking pike and perch in the Lea closes on Tuesday next, and from Wednesday the fish will not be retainable again until August next. Anglers should make a note of this fact, as roach, chub, bream, and dace may be caught until the end of the present month. The capture of some good pike is being associated with the close of the season; and too late for my last report, news reached me to the effect that in the King's Arms Fishery, Waltham, Mr. Summers had taken a specimen of 19½lb., 40in. in length, and having a girth of 21in. The pike was in grand condition. Other pike and a perch of 1lb. 5oz. have been landed there. Decent perch have also been taken in the Enfield Lock district, and at Cheshunt roach up to 1lb. 3oz. have been creoled. In the Fort Guinea water, Rye House, nice roach have also been basketed, but sport among those fish is reported very quiet at St. Margaret's, Ware, Hertford, Ponders End, and Sewardstone. Mr. Wiltshire, early in the week, won the Hoxton Brothers' match at Ware, with dace. Unsatisfactory reports continue to reach me concerning the angling in the Stort. The Burnt Mill and Roydon waters have fished best. The river varies in condition, and so does the Lea. However, they are not too bright for the angler who knows his business.—IZAAK WALTON.

Lugg and Arrow (Leominster).—Both these streams have now gone down to a nice level, and are running clear, and in every way suitable for angling. Trout season opened on Thursday (2nd), and the weather was beautiful and fine, and a few anglers were out. The fish have been rising between 11 and 3 at the fly. A few natural flies have been out. The cold frosty nights have kept them back as yet. A few very nice trout have been landed, and with fine weather there is every prospect of some very good dishes of trout being landed on these streams. The Pinsley is in good order.—GWYNNE.

Lugg, Arrow, and Pinsley (Kingsland).—Rivers, though still on the heavy side, are in fair order, though little or no fishing has yet been done on account of the weather, which has for the most part consisted of sharp frosts by night, followed by bright sunny days. The glass has now sunk very low, and this (Wednesday) afternoon have had a few showers of sleet. The wind, S.E., is very cold, and appearances would indicate a return of dirty weather. Flies as last week.—R. T. WILLIAMS.

Nene (Peterborough).—This week there is a marked improvement in the condition of the river, the water having sunk another foot since last week; but through the long period of inactivity there seems at present a kind of sluggishness on the part of anglers generally, and there is, consequently, no sport to report. Of course, a good deal of this is due, in a great measure, to the keen, cold winds we have experienced during the past few days, although the weather has been fine and dry.—E. A. S.

Otter (Buddleigh Salterton, Devon).—No change in the weather has taken place since last report up to date (March 8). Sharp frosts at night and bright days, with a cold wind generally from the north-east, have been our portion. The river is very clear and low. Trout are not rising at all, and nothing worthy of note has been done on any portion of the river to which this report refers, namely, between Otter St. Mary and Buddleigh Salterton. The ticket for Mr. Rolle's water, at the hotel here, is at present engaged.—HERON.

Plymouth.—Since the opening day, March 1st, some scores of rods have been out with more or less success. Some took as many as three or four dozen, and some only one or two, but all the fish I saw were in good condition for this time of the year. From the number of licenses issued, I should think we should have a good season.—WILLIAM HEARDER.

Severn, Vyrnwy, Tanat, and Cain (Llanymynech).—The weather here still continues more like June than March. The only drawback is the cold east wind, and there is also a suspicion of snow water in the rivers, which, however, are still very low and clear. Trout fishing has now commenced in earnest, but the ruling powers on

the Tanat have not yet issued their permits, so that no reports can be sent as to the sport in that river. No salmon have yet been captured by local anglers, for the simple reason they cannot afford to expend 10s. for a licence to do so.—VYRNWY.

Stour (Bures, Suffolk).—The water is still in very good condition for angling, if anything rather clear for roach fishing. Several anglers were out on March 5, but with the wind in the east sport was very bad amongst the roach, a dozen sizeable roach being the best catch of the day. Several jack were taken by different anglers, but I saw nothing over 5lb. The wind has now changed into the south-west, and gentles or bread crust should now account for some good roach.—W. T. BAINBRIDGE.

Sussex Rivers and Chichester Canal.—Rain still holds off, and rivers are getting clear and bright. The Ouse has afforded sport among all classes of fish—pike up to 4½lb., a few chub, and roach. The roach are feeding best in the tidal portion of the river. The rainbow trout put into the water above the flour mills by the Preservation Society are having a rough time of it. Mr. Chibcott caught a small pike of 1lb. 14oz., which, when opened, contained seven rainbow trout. Mr. McFarlane, while swimming with gentles, caught and returned to the river six others. The Cuckmere has not fished well, nor will it in the present state of the water. A pike of 9lb. was recently captured on the Adur, also a few dace. The Rother is in good order; pike up to 5½lb. have been taken below Selham, and a perch of 2½lb. was taken with worm. Chichester Canal is in good trim, and pike have fed fairly well, but nothing exceeding 4½lb. has come under notice. The water will soon be let off to put in new lock gates at Birdham, but I am doubtful if any steps will be taken to save the fish. No one here seems to interest themselves in the matter.—GEORGE F. SALTER.

Teifi (Campeter, Cardiganshire).—We have a plentiful supply of salmon and trout, and some good fish have been taken during the past week. At time of writing (March 6) the water is rather low, but the fishing continues very good.—H.

Teme (Ludlow).—The Teme in this district is now clear and a nice level, and in capital order for fishing. The weather has been very frosty at night, followed by bright sunny days, and has brought out a good few flies. Trout fishing commenced on Thursday, and there were several anglers out during the week. Fish did not sport very freely the first few days, but as the sun gets warmer the fish begin to rise, and the outlook is very promising. The best flies to use are the February Red, Blue Dun, Palmer's, and Willow. Bottom fishing has been successful with the worm. In the water under Whitcliffe Mr. Watkins, with the fly, landed some very nice trout. Fishing with the worm at the end of last week, Mr. Huck took a brace of fine trout scaling 3½lb. each, in good condition. Pike fishing has been fairly good, and Mr. R. Smith, on Monday, with the gorge bait, under Whitcliffe, took a fine pike, 12lb. weight. Trout have been sold at the fishermen's' at 1s. 2d. and 1s. 3d. per lb. The Ony, Corve, Clun, and Ledwyche are all running clear, and a nice level, and in fishing order. Sport in them has been quiet yet, but will be good with worm.—S. LUDLOW.

Teme (Tenbury).—The Teme in this part is now running in capital order for angling, having gone down and cleared nicely. The weather has turned fine, and more suitable for anglers to get out. Sharp frosts have been had at night with bright sunny days, and has been good for trout fishing. Trout have been moving a little at the fly, and a few anglers have been out, and used February Red, Blues, and Palmers, and a few very nice fish have been taken. As the weather gets warmer the fish have been spotting better, and the prospects are good for fishing in this part. The Rea, Kyr, and Ledwyche are all clear.—WORCESTER.

Trent (Newark).—Some capital bags of roach and bream have been made during the past week, the Trent being now in splendid order for bottom fishing; and both varieties have taken brandlings, cockspurs, and ragged tail ends freely. Bags of the following weights have been caught amongst others: Mr. T. Davis, 36½lb. and 32½lb.; Mr. W. Markwell, 30lb.; Mr. Gill, 25lb.; and Quarter-master-Sergeant Waddington, of Sheffield, close upon a couple of stone. The roach were a splendid sample, many being over the pound. Bream not large, but up to 3½lb. A few nice chub have been bagged, worm being the lure, and the closing few days should produce sport. On Monday a Sheffield gentleman visited Ossington Lake, and landed a pike weighing 22½lb.—TRENTSIDER.

Welland (Stamford).—The Marquis of Exeter has been elected president of the Stamford Angling Association. The present Marquis was willing to do all he could to further the interests of the association, as his father and grandfather did before him.—E. A. S.

Witham, &c. (Mid-Lincolnshire).—Anglers around Boston have been busy since the waters ran down. Many have been after the pike, and many fish have been taken, mostly between 3lb. and 5lb. Heaviest on the drains has been one of 11lb. About Dogdyke and Langrick anglers have been very fortunate with pike. One visitor caught ten, and others nearly as many. One fish caught here recently is said to have scaled 17lb. Roaching has been mostly carried on in the side waters. The Smeil Dyke has had many visitors, and so has the Bain. Between Fulsby and Coningsby there have been some capital bauls. Many will regret the closing of the season next week.—LUCY.

Wye (Builth Wells).—River low and clear. No salmon taken, and very few trout caught. Weather cold.—W. B. ROBERTS.

Yore, Swale, Wharfe, Nidd, Derwent, Aire, Ouse, and other Yorkshire Rivers.—Pike fishing seems just now more popular than any other branch of the gentle art, and in the upper waters of our rivers, where pools and streams alternate, the present is a good

time to make an effort to keep the stock of *Esoc lucius* down, for they are very undesirable tenants in trout and grayling streams. I am, therefore, pleased to hear of the capture of several fish in portions of our streams, where their absence is a desideratum. In rivers like the Yore, Wharfe, Swale, &c., there are no slow running weedy drains to which the pike can resort for breeding purposes; consequently they make their way out of the pools into the shallower streams of the river, to spawn amongst the weed on the stones. There they can easily be seen, and steps should at once be taken to kill them. My Hornsea correspondent sent me an account of the week's sport in the famous mere there last Friday. Unfortunately, it reached me too late for publication last week, and the pith of his communication is all I can find room for this week, and that is, that a lot of jack under the retainable limit, viz., 26in., have had to be returned in recent captures, but Messrs. Schroeder, Woodhouse, and Moseley amongst them killed some very good fish. Mr. Moseley one day had a pike of 19½lb., Mr. Woodhouse three weighing 27lb., Mr. Schroeder last Wednesday landed no less than forty fish, the twelve largest, which he retained, weighing 95½lb., the largest pike weighing 11lb., 12½lb., 13lb. respectively. On Thursday the same angler caught eighteen, only five were above the 26in. limit, however; they weighed 44lb., the largest 13lb.; all were taken with live bait on snap tackle. By using this the above anglers in four days fishing were enabled to return sixty-eight under-sized jack to the lake practically unhurt. Sport in the lower waters of the Swale has been poor, the weather being bitterly cold, and water low and very clear. Mr. A. Spence, however, had a nice basket of fish, as had a member of the Black Ox Angling Club in the neighbourhood of Morton Bridge, principally grayling and roach; and Mr. Macaulay, of Northallerton, brought home some fine fish from the Swale. The roach fishermen have only had poor sport, and few pike have been caught, and they have run small, the best fish I have heard of weighing 5½lb., and twelve fish is the best I have seen in the way of grayling fishing. Few anglers have been out on the banks of the Wiske. Mr. Riley Fortune, of Harrogate, and a friend had nice sport in the Harrogate Angling Association waters in the Nidd, which is now very low and clear. On Saturday, however, they caught sixteen grayling, two chub, and nine dace. All the fish were caught with the gentle; two of the chub scaled 5lb. Some trout returned are reported as being in good condition, and prospects for the opening of the season are good, the upper water belonging to the club being well stocked with trout. I hear Messrs. Jenkinson and Pope have had good sport amongst the pike in the Derwent, and they send me a fine fed and well marked specimen for mounting, it weighed 15½lb.; it and the other fish were caught at Pocklington. Messrs. Parker have done well amongst the roach at Heslington; the fish caught were very fine, the largest weighing 2lb. Not many anglers have turned out on the Wharfe, Mr. Wm. Reynolds, however, had good sport on Saturday afternoon, fishing up from Linton to Woodhall Bridge, his basket containing twenty-seven grayling. Mr. J. Pickersgill, at Collingham, on Monday, caught eight grayling, and on Thursday thirteen. All our rivers are very low, and the weather cold; there are, however, indications of rain to-day, which will brighten up matters if it comes.—J. E. MILLER, Northern Anglers' Depot, 19, New Station-street, Leeds.

BY TELEGRAM.—Angling matters continue very quiet. All the Yoredale, Wharfedale, and Nidderdale range of hills are snow-coated this morning, the weather is warmer and very fine, but as the barometer has gone down considerably during the night, and is now low, it is questionable if the present conditions will continue long. Prospects for sport next week are not good, and there will be little angling attempted until the opening of the trout fishing season.—J. E. MILLER, Northern Anglers' Depot, 19, New Station-street, Leeds.

SCOTCH REPORTS.

Border Esk and Liddle.—The weather in Eskdale and Liddesdale is gradually becoming milder, although there is frequently a little frost in the early mornings. Sport with spring salmon is not very promising. The waters have up to the beginning of the week been low, when both rivers rose a trifle, a circumstance that will give a better chance for rods. Very few salmon are running up; some kelt have been taken, and, of course, returned to the river. Although trout fishing is open to the rods, yellow trout angling will not commence until the first week in April, as this class of fish will not be in a condition before then. It is too early for sea trout in the rivers. The Solway netting season commenced a fortnight ago, but few fish are running, and only an odd salmon or two have been caught in the stake nets.—GILNOCKIE.

Carron (Easter Ross, Ardgay, N.B.).—The first salmon of the season was caught on Invercharron water on Saturday by Mr. Barrett, Balmagown Arms Hotel. It was a clean run beauty, weighing 26lb. Other anglers have been out, but no sport obtained owing to unfavourable conditions.—B.

Deveron (Banffshire).—The high state of the water in the river and the prevalence of keen frosts are operating somewhat against the success of the angler. On Tuesday afternoon there was a very heavy fall of rain, intermixed with hail, which aided to discolour the water. There is little change on the appearance of fish, and on several sections kelt are proving troublesome. On March 1 a fine salmon of 6lb. was killed on the Netherdale water. The net fishermen continue their labours with poor success; three fish are the most caught on any day of the past week. On the coast matters are little better, and the yield is exceedingly poor. From both river and sea a small box was sent to the market on Monday, and another on Tuesday, weighing two-thirds of a cwt. A fair sized box was

also consigned on the latter day from the Gardentown fishing.—H. W.

Kenmore, (Loch Tay).—On the hotel water on March 3, Mr. W. G. Beattie killed salmon, 25lb. March 4, Col. Grant killed salmon, 22lb.; Mr. W. G. Beattie, salmon, 17½lb.; on the reserve water, Macdiarmid, keeper, killed salmon, 22lb. 7th. on hotel water, Mr. W. G. Beattie killed salmon, 23lb. Loch in good ply.—W. KNIGHT.

Loch Tay (Killin, N.B.).—March 4, on the hotel water, Mr. J. Clegg had a nice salmon of 16lb. March 6, Mr. Wade, one of 15lb.; Mrs. Wade, one of 8lb. March 7, Capt. Williams, one of 20lb.—H. J. MAISEY.

Naver Bettyhill (Inverness, N.B.).—The weather has been very severe, keen frost and several inches of snow. During the past week only five salmon were caught with the rod, three of which were landed by Gen. Hume, Syre Lodge. On Saturday last Mr. George Mackay, keeper, Skepick, caught two on the private water. At present only one southern angler (Gen. Hume) on the river; Col. Frier had to leave for the south to attend a friend's funeral.—B.

North-East of Scotland.—There has been little change in the weather, yet the sport obtained on the middle reaches of the Dee has been considerable. Not so, however, the far inland or adjoining streams. A slight snowstorm has been experienced, with frosts overnight. On Monday, on Monaltrie water, Mr. Herbert landed a fish of 8lb. On the Hotel water, Mr. J. B. Millar had one of 7lb.; and Lundie, keeper to Her Majesty, had a fine fish of 12lb. on Birkhall section. On the Glentana waters, Col. Birkman creelred three, of 14lb., 14lb., and 13lb., on Wednesday, and one or two every day out. Mr. Merry, on the same beat, has had similar sport. On the South Cambus O'May section, Col. Eddis has only had fair sport as yet. On the Aboyne Hotel waters, Mr. Sharp landed a beauty of 20lb.; Mr. Crawshaw had three small fish, of 5lb. and 5½lb. each; and Mr. Borwick, two, of 5lb. and 7lb. On the Kincardine O'Neil section, Mr. Edward Drummond, on Ballozie, creelred one of 9lb. and one of 7lb. On Dess, Major Davidson, one of 8lb., and two, of 7lb. and 8lb.; while Mr. Stewart Farquhar landed four, of 6½lb., 7lb., 8lb., and 19lb. On the lodge section Mr. J. C. Deverell has been eminently successful, having had three of 19½lb., 14lb., and 8b., two of 7lb., one of 8lb., and one of 9lb. On Carlogie, Dunn landed one of 7lb., while Nicoll on Borrowstone creelred one 7lb., two 7½lb. and 8lb., and one 7lb. On lower Dess John Harper had two of 8lb. and 8½lb. On the Community and Woodend sections Sir John Gladstone creelred five fish scaling 6lb., 7lb., 7lb., 14lb., and 18½lb. for the week, and Charlie Gill one of 8lb. on the sluice water. On the Blackhall waters the Hon. Orde-Powlett had one of 7lb., three of 6½lb., 12lb., and 8lb., two of 8lb. and 8½lb., one of 7lb., and three scaling 18½lb., 8½lb., and 7lb., while the Hon. Milne Gibson landed two of 6½lb. and 7lb., and the Hon. E. Gibson one of 8lb. On the same waters Captain Burnett Ramsay had one of 14½lb., and Captain Mitchell one of 8lb. On the Cairnton, Mr. T. Turner Farley has creelred from five to seven fish daily of average weights. On the Inch, Marlo, and Kinneskie waters Mr. Duncan Davidson and Captain Ramsay have had one and two fish daily. On the Drum Waters, Mr. Perry, and on the Park Waters, Mr. Geo. Davidson, have had fair sport only occasionally. On the Kingcausie section, on Saturday, Mr. Fortescue creelred one of 7½lb., and on Tuesday, two of 19lb. and 8lb. respectively. The supplies of salmon at the coast stations have been exceedingly small, but are now improving. On the Don angling matters have improved considerably, and at Alford, about forty miles inland, Dr. Smith landed a fine fish of 11lb. on Saturday, and Mr. Adam Allan, Kingsford, one of 14lb. on Wednesday. On the Ellon Castle Waters, Mr. Andrew Murray, advocate, Aberdeen, made a fair basket of seventeen finnock last week.

Shin (Inveran, N.B.).—On Monday week the angling tenant, fishing from Sutherland Arms Hotel, landed a 10lb. salmon. In the course of the week Mr. Park, also from the hotel, caught three salmon ranging from 11lb. to 17lb. in weight.—B.

South of Scotland.—All the Border rivers were very low and clear up till Tuesday morning. Heavy rain falling over the south of Scotland on Monday night placed the rivers in flood on the following morning. To-day (Wednesday) the waters in the lower sections are too muddy for fly, and scarcely in trim for minnow. The rise in the waters should give a better chance to the rods, but few spring salmon are running up the firth. **THE ANNAN.**—The first spring salmon of the season in the Annan was caught on Saturday. Mr. Thorburn, of the schoolhouse, Brydekirk, fishing in the Mount Annan water, hooked one in the salmon pool. The fish gave fine sport before being tailed. It proved to be a fresh run spring fish of 15lb., and was taken with a small Border brown turkey fly. Mr. Thorburn killed a spring fish two years ago in the same water with the fly, the same fly. Another rod landed two salmon, but these were kelt, and were put back to the water. In the middle and higher reaches several salmon have been hooked and landed, all kelt. A number of salmon poachers have been before the sheriff since last week's report. Robert and William Gordon and John Richardson Johnstone, all of Moffat, were brought up before the Sheriff on Wednesday, and charged with attempting to take salmon by means of gaff hooks in the Wamphray and Moffat portions of the Annan on Feb. 4. They pleaded not guilty, and were defended by an agent. After proof had been led, the charge was proven, and each were fined £3 each. Robert Sutherland and Thomas Gourlay were fined £1 15s. each for a similar charge in the Urr of Galloway, at Dryburgh, the Urr Association prosecuting in this case. **NITH.**—Nothing has been done

in this river by the rods since the season opened. A few anglers have been out trout fishing, but the catches have been small and the trout in poor condition. The greater majority of anglers abstain from trout fishing until the beginning of April. **GALLOWAY RIVERS.**—Very few rods have been out on the rivers in this part of the country. At the time of writing the waters are in better order. Last week the rivers were too low and clear for salmon fishing. A few trout have been caught in the tributary streams. **AYRESHIRE RIVERS.**—Trout fishing has commenced in this district, but the catches have been small. The clear water worm has accounted for most of the trout, all in poor condition. Indeed, yellow trout should not be taken for three weeks yet. **THE SOLWAY.**—The nets in the firth have been capturing a few spring salmon during the week. The poke nets near Annan had a number of fine fish through the week, and they were believed to be Eden salmon. **SOLWAY DERWENT.**—This river opens for the rods on Saturday, the 11th (to-day), and the slight rise in the water should give a better chance. Very few salmon have been showing, but that should not be taken as a sign that no spring salmon are in the waters. As a rule spring fish do not show themselves freely in March in the Border streams. At the time of writing the weather remains unsettled, and some rain fell on Wednesday morning.—HATHERBELL.

Spey.—Owing to the unsuitability of either the weather or the water, or sometimes both, sport has been practically "a dead letter" since the opening. Efforts have certainly not been wanting on the part of the angler, but only a fish here and there has been the result. Fairly good baskets of trout have, however, been got occasionally.—J. M.

Tweed, Teviot, and other Border Rivers.—Taking into consideration the time of year—the season scarcely begun—matters piscatorially are somewhat dull. The rivers up to yesterday (Tuesday) were running in grand form for minnow fishing, while in a few of the more sheltered nooks on both Tweed and Teviot a few of the more enthusiastic and devoted patrons of the sport have been trying their hand with the artificial fly. Their efforts, however, have not been crowned with much success and no wonder, for the weather has not been of the best character for this description of angling. On the Eden the best take yet recorded for the season was got by Mr. Thompson, Ednam, who had a splendid dish of trout of 6lb. fully, one of his fish weighing just close on 1lb. weight. On the Teviot, baskets of from 2½lb. up to 4lb. have been killed by Messrs. J. Reid, 2½lb.; J. Thompson, 2½lb.; Mr. A. Arnold, 3lb.; Mr. Jas. Adams, 3lb.; Mr. Chas. Farquharson, three takes, of 2½lb., 3lb., and 4lb.; Mr. Wm. Thompson, 3½lb. Many minor baskets have been killed, but the above are the best takes got during the week on the two main rivers, Tweed and Teviot. So far as regards salmon angling, well, there is not much to state. The river Tweed on Monday showed signs of rain in the west, and on Tuesday she was in a 2ft. flood; while, later on, the Teviot also came down in dirty colour to the extent of a foot. To-day (Wednesday), however, both rivers are clearing rapidly, and have fallen considerably, the Tweedometer at Kelso Bridge during this afternoon only showing a foot of flood water above the normal size; therefore, it is anticipated that successful fishing will be had during the end of the week on all the fastnesses. On the celebrated Floors Castle upper water, on Thursday of last week, Lord Stavordale (who has taken a short lease of the upper fishings on these waters) had a fine fish of 14lb. weight, while on the following Saturday he killed a beautiful clean run salmon in the new stream east, which turned the scale at fully 17½lb. Since then no salmon fishing has been successfully available, and therefore, no other reports are to hand up to date. On the Border streams and tributaries trout angling has begun in earnest, and on some of the smaller streams baskets of from 2½lb. up to 4lb. have been killed during the past week. Mostly all the baskets have been got with worm or other ground-bait, and, strange to say, the trout in most cases are in very excellent condition, while those killed on the Tweed and Teviot are very thin, and not in good condition at all. As stated in my former notes, the crusade against the pike has once more begun by anglers on the Tweed and Teviot. On the latter river Mr. Richard Ormiston, Haybank House, Kelso, had three of these fish weighing from 3lb. up to 6lb.; Mr. Jas. Affleck, Heiton, had three also, weighing from 2½lb. up to 5½lb.; while on the Tweed, at Bamff Mill, Mr. William Tait, the fisherman on the water, and his son, were out fishing, when the lad caught two pike of 5lb. each, and lost of another about the same weight. During the end of the present month the Kelso Angling Association are going to have a pike competition, several of the members having promised prizes, Mr. Archsteel, with his usual generosity, heading the list with a handsome silver medal. In the stomachs of many of the pike killed here lately have been found the undigested portions of trout, which, when alive, must have turned the scale at over 1lb. each. There is thus no use asking the question, "Where are all our trout going to?" when over 100 of these voracious fish were killed in a few months in the Kelso district last year, and already over a score have been got in both rivers this year already. Where do all the smelts go to will be the next question, if these fish destroyers are to be allowed to remain in the Tweed and Teviot.—MAXWHEEL.

IRISH REPORTS.

Ballinderry (Coagh, co. Tyrone).—The season opened on Wednesday, the 1st inst. On the Ardrea sections Mr. William McCord and Mr. Robert Campbell killed a few trout. On these sections a good many local men have been out, but with poor success. The frost effectively puts down the trout on the shallows. For the present month it is useless to fish on this river before 10 a.m. or after 3 p.m.—J. A. B.

Blackwater (Benburb, co. Tyrone).—The season opened on this river on the 1st inst. in a cold but fairly favourable weather. The water was in pretty good trim. On these reaches a few good trout up to 2½ lb. were killed by local men, and a Blackwater-trout angler is credited with killing a specimen of 6 lb. on a phantom whilst trolling for pike in a still deep there.—J. A. B.

Blackwater (co. Cork).—Sport is still below the average. A few nice fish have been landed on Careyville, Moollop, and Ballydoff waters, including one of 12 lb. landed by Mr. W. Gorst on the latter water.—W. HAYNES AND SON.

Boyne (Navan Section).—Sport during the past week has been very indifferent, still hard frosts at night and bright sunny days. I hear of three fish being got at Slane, two on Upper Black Castle (including one 29½ lb.), and one on the Blackwater. To-day it is raining heavily, and the barometer being low there is every prospect of a flood which would bring the Marob run of fish and find good sport.—CLARET FLY.

Bundowes River (co. Donegal).—Fishing has been almost at a standstill on this river since last report, in consequence of sharp frost at nights and bright sunshine in daytime. The river has fallen considerably during the past week, but is still in good fishing-ply. At time of writing rain has begun to fall, and prospects of sport are now looking better.—M. ROGAN AND SONS.

Cork Rivers.—Sport has shown up on the majority of the Cork rivers open for angling, both in the salmon and brown trout departments, but it is still far from being good on any water. The prospects for the next few days are fair, though some of the rivers are beginning to run rather low for successful angling. Spring salmon are still arriving in generally good numbers on all the principal rivers.—T. J. D.

Corrib and Lough Corrib (Galway).—The season up to date has been most disappointing on the Corrib, as only four or five springs have been taken by rod fishers. The river is in pretty good order. Lough Corrib is pulling into nice order, and considering the weather, trouting in the past two weeks was really good. Several professionals, out fly fishing and trolling, killed from 6 lb. to 10 lb. per day over the grounds between Oughterard and Dooras, on the Galway shores.—J. A. B.

Cummeagh and Iny.—Brown trout are now giving good sport on the Cummeagh, but no salmon anglers have been out on this water for some time past. The Cummeagh is strictly preserved. On the Inny fair sport continues to be had at brown trout. On Saturday Mr. Moriarty caught two dozen, weighing 8½ lb.—T. J. D.

Erne (Ballyshannon and Belleek).—This river opened for trout fishing, when Mr. P. Cleary and Mr. Tom Moohan took a few fine trout, one of them weighing 3½ lb. on the 1st inst.—M. ROGAN AND SONS.

Kerry Rivers.—Sport has been good at brown trout on all the Kerry rivers open for angling, but very bad, generally speaking, as far as salmon are concerned.—T. J. D.

Killarney.—The weather has been very favourable and the waters in good order. On the lakes, salmon fishing has been of the dullest kind, and matters on the rivers have been far from satisfactory. Brown trout continue to give good sport on the mountain lakes, the fish taking small flies readily throughout each day.—T. J. D.

Lee (co. Cork).—Sport still continues poor, although there are any quantity of magnificent fish showing on all the pools, but the weather is very much against the angler. When it does change there will be some good records. The following have been successful: On Lee Mount, Mr. W. T. Crawshaw, three, 8 lb., 8½ lb., 13½ lb.; and Mr. S. Haynes, one, 7 lb. On Oak Grove, Mr. F. M. Leader, one, 8 lb. On Clashaneur, Mr. J. O'Brien, one, 18 lb.—W. HAYNES AND SON.

Lough Currane (Waterville, co. Kerry).—Sport continues very poor on Lough Currane, only two salmon having been had since last report, both of a small size. Fly fishing is being more practised, the weather being now very favourable for this method. Spring salmon are still arriving, but in very limited numbers. April will probably show the best sport at salmon this year on the lake. White trout fishing is expected to open early this year.—T. J. D.

Lough Mask (Clonbur, co. Galway).—For the past week trouting on Lough Mask has been really good. In fact, the March fishing for so far has never been better. Local anglers, fly fishing and trolling, have made heavy bags. The water has fined down into splendid order.—J. A. B.

Lough Melvin.—Some nice trout were taken on the above lake since last report by Mr. P. Gilroy and Mr. M. Hughes, and amongst them were some good-sized gillaroo trout in fair condition.—M. ROGAN AND SONS.

Lough Melvin.—I have been asked by many during the past two weeks as to the chances of trout fishing. Angling will not be at its best for at least another two or three weeks. Fishing up to the present is almost confined to local parties. On best days the catches of fly anglers do not exceed half a dozen per day. Some nice specimens of gillaroo and brown trout were had trolling with artificial minnows. Probably owing to the mild winter trout are in a very fair state of condition. On the 4th inst. Mr. W. K. landed a nice salmon to scale 9½ lb. trolling with spoon bait.—P. GALLAGHER.

Lough Neagh.—The pollen fisheries show an improvement. The trout netting season has also opened well. We have seen some fine specimens up to 9 lb., taken on the Artrim shores. The traffic in kelt salmon has decreased considerably.—J. A. B.

Mountain Lakes (Waterville, co. Kerry).—Sport has been good on all the above waters, but the fish had been small. All fishing on these waters is done from the banks, and small dark flies of no particular pattern kill readily whenever a breeze springs up.—T. J. D.

Moy, Loughs Conn and Cullen (Ballina, co. Mayo).—River and loughs in good order; cold east wind still prevails; fish not taking. Capt. Palmer had two kelts; Mr. Crampton had three kelts and lost a clean fish. No anglers have tried their luck on the loughs as yet.—PAT HEARNES.

Shannon and Lough Derg (Killaloe).—Salmon fishing has not improved, the weather during the week having been intensely cold. Raining to-day, and, as the water is in good trim, anglers should have a good chance of sport. Mr. Squire Wolstenholme, of Bolton, who has been staying here for some time, creel-fished several lovely trout on lake and river, largest 5 lb. Mr. Wolstenholme, during another visit to Killaloe about a month ago, did great execution among the wild duck and widgeon on Lough Derg; on one evening he bagged twelve duck and a few widgeon. This well-known English sportsman it was that killed in 1895 the largest salmon ever taken with the rod at Killaloe. The monster fish, which was set up by Cooper and Sons, London, and is on view at the Three Tuns Hotel, Bolton. Mr. R. W. Rickards, The Priory, Usk, Mon., has returned to Wales. The Hon. John Wollopp has arrived from London, and is fishing Major Traherne's salmon preserves.—S. J. HURLEY, Killaloe.

Shannon (Castlecconnell).—Cloudy weather has now taken the place of the sunshine of the past fortnight. On Doonass, Mr. G. C. Williams killed one salmon, 3½ lb., on 7th. On Woodlands, Mr. E. A. Anstie killed one salmon, 25 lb., on 4th. On the Castle fishery, Mr. G. W. Greenhill killed one salmon, 32½ lb., on 6th. On the World's End, Major C. Hayes Newington killed one salmon, 13 lb., on 2nd; and on the same water Mr. C. Vansittart killed one salmon, 3½ lb., on 6th.—JOHN ENRIGHT AND SON.

Westmeath Lakes (Mullingar).—The season opened for angling on the Westmeath lakes and rivers of the Limerick district on the 1st inst., but owing to the prevalence of frost and calm weather there has been no sport as yet to record. A splendid pair of otters were trapped recently at Lough Owl. I have never seen more magnificent specimens. These interesting creatures are numerous about this lake. The pike are now engaged spawning in the shallow bays and inlets of the several lakes, and large numbers are being destroyed, which will be of much benefit to the trout fishing. The otters follow them, although they seldom kill or eat pike. In the tributary streams of the river Boyne sport has been poor, owing to some cause, as well as to persistent poaching. The rivers have run down rapidly during the past week.—T. J. W.

SEA FISHING.

The following table gives the nearest approximate tides for the use of sea anglers for the week ending Friday, March 17. Spring tides. Highest on Tuesday.

	Sat.	Sun.	Mon.	Tues.	Wed.	Th.	Fri.
	a.m.	a.m.	a.m.	a.m.	a.m.	a.m.	a.m.
Scarborough	3.36	4.19	4.59	5.38	6.16	6.55	7.37
	p.m.	p.m.	p.m.	p.m.	p.m.	p.m.	p.m.
	3.59	4.39	5.19	5.57	6.35	7.15	7.59
Yarmouth	8.31	9.15	9.56	10.36	11.15	11.53	0.13
	8.54	9.36	10.16	10.56	11.34	—	0.33
Lowestoft	9.17	10.1	10.42	11.22	—	0.20	0.59
	9.40	10.22	11.2	11.42	0.1	0.39	1.19
Aldeburgh	10.6	10.50	11.31	—	0.31	1.9	1.48
	10.29	11.11	11.51	0.11	0.50	1.28	2.8
Harwich	11.29	—	0.33	1.13	1.53	2.31	3.10
	11.51	0.7	0.63	1.33	2.12	2.50	3.30
Southend, Sheer-ness, and Leigh	—	0.43	1.25	2.6	2.43	3.19	3.67
	0.21	1.4	1.46	2.25	3.1	3.38	4.17
Margate, Broadstairs, and Ramsgate	11.22	—	0.27	1.7	1.45	2.23	3.1
	11.44	0.6	0.47	1.26	2.4	2.42	3.21
Deal and Dover...	10.31	11.18	—	0.25	1.6	1.46	2.26
	10.55	11.41	0.3	0.46	1.26	2.6	2.46
Hastings	10.11	11.58	11.43	0.5	0.46	1.26	2.6
	10.35	11.21	—	0.26	1.6	1.46	2.26
Eastbourne and Brighton	10.39	11.26	—	0.33	1.14	1.54	2.34
	11.3	11.49	0.11	0.55	1.34	2.14	2.54
Newhaven	10.35	11.22	—	0.29	1.10	1.50	2.20
	10.59	11.45	0.7	0.50	1.30	2.10	2.50
Shoreham and Southwick	—	0.45	1.25	2.6	2.43	3.19	3.67
	0.21	1.4	1.46	2.25	3.1	3.38	4.17
Portsmouth and Hayling Island	11.10	11.53	0.14	0.56	1.35	2.13	2.52
	11.32	—	0.35	1.16	1.54	2.32	3.12
Plymouth	5.21	6.13	6.52	7.31	8.6	8.39	9.11
	5.46	6.30	7.13	7.49	8.23	8.55	9.28

Brighton.—The weather is now settled, and calm seas. The wind has gone round from N.E. to S.W., and small sailing boats are off daily, but the weather keeps rather too cold for boat angling.—H.

Deal (The Pier).—The past week has yielded very poor results, and, almost without exception, the few flat fish taken have been very small indeed. The only patrons of the pier have been two or three local enthusiasts, and on more than one occasion neither of them has experienced a bite. The only catch worth recording consisted of nine dabs—four of them of edible size—caught by Mr. Bushnell on Tuesday afternoon. Though the water is in good colour and condition, it is evident that the fish are not at present in this immediate neighbourhood.—J. RICHARDSON.

Penzance.—Heavy catches of ling are being made by long line fishing. Our mackerel fleet are ready to put to sea.—H.

Plymouth.—We are still having a spell of fine weather, and fishermen are making good use of their time. It is a little bit cold mornings and evenings, but in the middle of the day it is very pleasant. Bass are plentiful in the Cattewater, and from off Bulteel's wharves. They are not very large, few being over 2 lb., but they are in good condition. I saw some nice pollack the day before yesterday that were caught in the sound. This is very early for them, but if the weather keeps fine we may expect the spring fish earlier than usual.—WILLIAM HEARDER (B.S.A.S.).

STOP PRESS.

WEATHER REPORT.

BY TELEGRAPH.—FRIDAY, MARCH 10, 10 25 A.M.

DEAL.—Smooth; W.S.W.

DOVER.—Smooth; W.

RAMSGATE.—Smooth; W.

MARGATE.—Smooth; S.W.

HASTINGS.—Smooth; W.

Angling Fixtures.

March 12.

Amicable Excelsiors: Match at Hampton.
Anchor and Hope: Match at Bourne End.
Battersea Piscatorial: Consolation match.
Blackfriars: Match at Pulborough.
Bermondsey Brothers: Prize outing.
Olissid: Prize outing to St. Margaret's.
Cambridge Friendly: Match at Henley.
Duke of Norfolk: Match.
Forest Gate: Match at Bures.
Good Intent: Lapsed prize outing.
Izaak Walton: Lapsed prize outing.
Lincoln: Consolation prize outing.
Lychnobite: Competition.
North-East Brothers: Roving match.
North Lambeth: Match at Bures.
Queen's Piscatorial: Outing to Bourne End.
St. Alban's: Consolation prize outing.
Stockwell: Match on the Thames.
Sundial: Outing to Wraysbury.
United Brothers: Match.
Victoria Brothers: Lapsed prize outing.
Walham Green: Roving match.
Walworth Waltonians: Open competition.
West Ham Brothers: Match on the Lea.
West London: Match at Shepperton.
Westminster: Outing on the Thames.
Wimbledon Piscatorial: Cup competition.
Ye Olde Clapham Rovers: Match at Weybridge.

March 13.

Albion Brothers: Visit.
Camden: A.B.S. concert.
Piscatorial Society: Reading by Mr. Whesley.

March 15.

Holloway: Smoking concert.
Izaak Walton: Match on the Lea.

March 20.—Central Association: Smoking concert.

" 20.—Kingston Piscatorial Society: Annual dinner.

" 20.—Phoenix: Visit.

" 20.—Piscatorial Society: Annual dinner.

" 20.—Priory of Wales: Visit.

" 20.—St. Alban's: Visit.

" 20.—Stockwell: Concert.

" 22.—Bostonians: Lantern lecture.

" 22.—Hastings and St. Leonards: Annual dinner.

" 23.—Phoenix: Visit.

" 23.—Thames River and Lock Keepers' dinner.

" 23.—Warrington: Annual dinner.

" 25.—Lychnobite: Benefit concert at the Champion Hotel.

" 26.—Allason United: Consolation prize outing.

" 26.—Amicable Excelsior: Match at Egham.

" 26.—Amicable Waltonians: Lapsed prize outing.

April 8.—Gresham: Chesham dinner.

" 12.—British Sea Anglers: Annual dinner.

" 25.—Drayton Park Piscatorial. Annual dinner.

" 25.—Gresham: Annual dinner.

Reports from Clubs

We beg to remind Secretaries that their Reports must reach us not later than **SIX o'clock on Thursday Evening.** Address "Editor, FISHING GAZETTE, St. Dunstan's House, Fetter Lane, London," marked "CLUB REPORT" outside envelope.

Anglers' Benevolent Society.—Since my last report I beg to acknowledge with thanks the receipt of £1 1s. from the Enterprise Angling Society's donation box; also 10s. 6d. donation from Mr. G. H. Shepherd (Bermondsey Brothers'), per Hoxton Brothers' smoker.—R. GHURNEY.

Anglers' Association.—The monthly finance committee meeting will take place on Monday evening next, March 13, at 7.30, and the general committee at 8.30.—R. GHURNEY.

Anglers' Association (No. 1 Eastern District) Visiting List.—The next return visit will be to the Albion Brothers' A.S., Frampton Arms, Well-street, Hackney, on Monday next, March 13. Anglers who will favour us with their company will oblige.—G. MANNING.

Albion Brothers' Angling Society, Frampton Arms, Wells-street, Hackney.—On March 5 several of our members had very good sport. Mr. Bowyer, three and a half dozen good roach and dace; Mr. Pearce, five and a quarter dozen good dace; Mr. Jones, good chub; Mr. Allright, perch; Mr. C. J. King, perch and dace; and Mr. Thompson, nine fine bream, largest 3½lb. We made another new member on Wednesday. Onting for clock, by Mr. Sparrow, for roach only; where you please, on March 12. On March 13 we have our return visit.—C. J. K.

Allason United Brothers' Angling Society, Duke of Sussex, Uxbridge-street, Notting Hill Gate, W.—On March 5 Mr. Barker had a dace over 5oz. from Thames, and Alf Glaze over 3lb. of roach, and also had roach from Henley. To members who have not taken any prizes there will be a consolation match on the 26th, in the Lea or any waters open. On that date all fish, according to the usual conditions, are weighable; two rods allowed. The canal from Hanwell to Drayton is open, and also various ponds.—BEN ABRAHAMS.

Alma Angling Society, Coach and Horses, Portsmouth-place, Lincoln's Inn Fields.—On March 5 the following weighed-in: Messrs. Boothby, perch and roach; Drew, roach and dace; Black, roach; Hall, perch; and Montgomery, chub, roach, and dace, winning the fifth prize left over from the Windsor competition.—J. CHAMBERS.

Amicable Excelsior Angling Society, Prince Arthur, Arthur-street, Battersea.—On March 12 our Cookham match is altered for Hampton; conditions same; from Hampton Ferry to Sunbury Lock. On March 5 Mr. T. Fairclough had some fine roach. On Wednesday last Mr. G. Taylor weighed-in some nice roach, largest 1lb. 3oz.—J. R.

Anchor and Hope Angling Society, Duke of Kent, Old Kent-road, S.E.—Our match for the March series of prizes will take place on March 12 at Bourne End. Leave off fishing at 6.30. Mr. C. Cannar weighed-in one jack on March 5. Members requiring tickets for exhibition at the Aquarium can have same on application to—F. W. MARTIN.

Battersea Friendly Angling Society, Queen's Hotel, Queen's-road, Battersea, S.W.—On March 5 Messrs. F. Apin, E. Guy, W. Taplin, and J. Hall were the prize winners in consolation match. Also weighed-in: Messrs. S. Apin, Ansty, Thomas, Jenkins, and Manning. The half-yearly general meeting for the election of officers, &c., is fixed for April 4. All members are desired to attend same and oblige.—A. JENKINS.

Battersea Piscatorialists, Winstanley Arms, Winstanley-road, Clapham Junction, S.W.—Since my last report several of ours have been out. Mr. E. Collins weighed-in perch; Mr. Painter, perch and chub; Mr. Keene and Mr. Triumphant also had fish. We have a consolation match on March 12 (roving) for members not having won a prize during season.—T. TRINGHAM.

Bermondsey Brothers' Angling Society, Woolpack, Bermondsey-street, S.E.—The following members weighed in on the 5th: Mr. J. Smith, 16lb. roach; Mr. J. Martin, 10½lb. roach; Mr. J. Hobbs, 8lb. roach; Mr. Rewill, roach, one fish, 1lb. 8½oz. The competition for the remaining six prizes of the season will be fished for on the 12th in the river Arun; members to book to and return from Amberley Station; optional to leave London on Saturday night.—ALF CONN.

Blackfriars Angling Society, The Imperial, Southwark-street, S.E.—Several members weighed-in on the 5th. Mr. Merrygold, roach and jack; Mr. Whiley, Foster, and Howard also weighed-in. I wish to remind members there are five prizes to fish for on March 12, at Pulborough. Start by 8.30 train; return 7.24. Our host has presented us with a guinea to fish for.—J. WHEELHOUSE.

Bloomsbury Brothers' Angling Society, Rose and Crown, Broad-street, Bloomsbury.—On March 5 Mr. J. Roach weighed-in jack, roach, and perch, 6lb. 10½oz.; Mr. R. Lammes, bream and perch, 4lb. 14½oz.; Mr. J. Taylor, chub, bream, perch, roach, and dace, 3lb. 8½oz.; and Mr. F. S. Pavett, roach.—T. PATERNOSTER.

Bomora Angling Society, The Britannia, Clarendon-road, Notting Hill, W.—On March 5 several members were out, with the following results: Messrs. P. Harley, jack; F. Hall, jack and roach; H. Dagworthy, jack; H. Foreman, roach; A. Cowan, roach; H. Parker, roach; G. Farebrother, roach; G. Love, roach and dace; J. Preston, roach; J. Weeks, roach and bream, from Uxbridge. Our smoking concert on the 7th, on behalf of the A.B.S., proved a grand success, the following clubs being well represented: Egin, Cobden, Queen's, Duke of Norfolk, Jubilee, Camden, Dibden, Royal George, Allason United, and Sundial. The Brothers McCarthy, J. Linton, G. Parker, G. Love, E. Baxter, A. Ponlter, A. Young, G. King, Sisters Davison, and a host of others contributed towards the harmony. The sum of 10s. was collected for our box. The chair was taken by Mr. B. Abrahams, in the unavoidable absence, through illness, of Mr. J. Harris, faced by E. Baxter. Pianist, A. E. Charlton.—H. DAGWORTHY.

Brunswick Brothers' Angling Society, Cherry Tree, Brunswick-road, Bromley-by-Bow, E.—On March 5 the following weighed-in: Mr. C. Parmenter, pike; Mr. Papworth, perch; and Mr. Randall, pike. I should like to see a full muster of members on Tuesday next.—F. RANDALL.

Cambridge Friendly Angling Society, Fountains Abbey, Praed-street, W.—A peg-down match at Henley on the 12th inst.; six good prizes to be fished for; train from Paddington 9 o'clock; a saloon carriage. Mr. Seutt had some fine roach; Mr. Fitzgibbon some good roach on March 5.—W. SUTTON.

Cambridge Heath Brothers' Angling Society, The Good Intent, Mowlem-street, Bishop's-road, Cambridge Heath.—On March 5 Messrs. T. Penny had a nice

show of roach, perch, and dace; J. Golding, perch; Yeo, perch; Hopper, perch; Burges, perch; Ward, perch; H. Everett, perch; J. Baines, roach and perch; and R. Hubbard, roach. I should be pleased to see members attend in numbers, and give the Albion Brothers a bumper on their return visit next Monday night.—P. E. LOFT.

Camden Angling Society, The Locomotive, James-street, High-street, Camden Town, N.W.—On March 5 Mr. Cook had 15lb. 14oz. fine roach; Mr. White, jack and roach; Mr. Fuller, jack and roach. We have a concert in aid of the A.B.S., Monday, March 13. Ladies specially invited.—E. BOXALL.

Clapham Junction Angling Society, The Clarence, Winstanley-road, Clapham Junction, S.W.—On March 5 the result of our consolation match was as follows: Mr. H. Pegg, first; T. Jameson, second. Fish weighed-in from other waters: Mr. J. Willgoss, 6lb. 11½oz., roach and pike (largest roach, 1lb. 4½oz.); H. Moon, 2lb. 8½oz. (one dace 6½oz.); J. Thorne, roach; H. Runnegar, roach; A. Heyman, bream; J. Burrage, perch.—G. T. JAMESON.

Clissold Angling Society, The Cricketers, Northwold-road, Stoke Newington, N.—On March 5 the following weighed-in: Messrs. Bampton, jack; Mitchell and Hunt, perch; Eastwood, roach. On March 12 an outing for prizes takes place between Fish and Eels and St. Margaret's Bridge. I am pleased to state our chairman has improved in health.—THOS. FAULKNER.

Cobden Angling Society, Kensal-road, W.—On March 5 Messrs. E. Baxter weighed-in roach, dace, and chub; A. Howland, roach; W. Walker, roach and jack, largest jack 4lb.; F. Melville, roach and perch. March 28 will be the end of the financial year, and all members not clear of the books by the first week in April will be fined, as per rule. Any member wishing to alter any rule must post a notice of same on notice board in club-room after next week.—T. TWYMAN.

Collingwood Angling Society, The Lord Nelson, Nelson-square, Blackfriars-road, S.E.—Mr. W. and F. Beames weighed-in roach, dace, and bream from the Arun; also out Messrs. Boyd, Stafford, Sorge, Arron, but took nothing. Members are requested to attend next Wednesday, to arrange sea outing and to clear the books, &c.—W. H. STAFFORD.

Covent Garden Piscatorial Society, King's Arms, Long-acre, W.C.—On March 5 Messrs. Massey, Cutbush, and Curtis had good bags of jack, perch, and roach; and on Tuesday Mr. Curtis had a good show of roach and dace.—W. MASSEY.

Crown and Buckland Piscatorial Society, Middlesex Arms, 35, Clerkenwell-green, E.C.—Since my last report we have had some good shows of roach, perch, and jack by Messrs. H. Haines, G. Norris, W. Long, W. Leadbeater, and J. A. Anderson. At our last meeting we voted 2s. 6d. toward the River Keepers' Dinner Fund. I hope to see a good muster on Wednesday next to arrange when and where to fish for those prizes not won during the season, and other important business.—G. H. FRANKLIN.

Dalston Angling Society, Browlow Arms, Brownlow-street, Dalston.—On March 5 a few members were out. Messrs. T. Thompson, T. Swain, and G. Davies were the only ones to weigh-in, they having a very fine show of roach and perch. On Tuesday there was a poor attendance, but I disposed of several items. We voted 2s. 6d. toward the River Keepers' Dinner. It was also decided that the prizes in hand should be competed for on March 19. It will be decided on Tuesday next where it shall take place.—S. MALBY.

Dibdin Angling Society, St. Martin's Tavern, Pratt-street, N.W.—On March 5 members went to Bures, Bedford, Tonbridge, and King's Langley. Sport was very poor. J. Edwards, jack; W. Elson, roach; E. Colman, roach. On Tuesday we attended the Hoxton Brothers' concert. Wednesday's meeting very quiet.—JOHNNY EDWARDS.

Drayton Park Piscatorialists, Stanley Arms, Landseer-road, Holloway-road, N.—During the past week several members have had some good fish. On the 8th (S.M.) business of importance was satisfactorily transacted. Our second annual dinner will take place on April 25.—GREG.

Duke of Norfolk Angling Society, The Apollo, All Saints'-road, Westbourne Park.—Most of our members were out during the week, and weighed some nice shows of roach. Mr. G. Jenkins, roach; Mr. Lumley, roach; Mr. Wilkins, perch and roach. Our last match of the season will take place on March 12. Usual conditions; roving.—W. JENKINS.

Duke of Wellington Angling Society, The Duke of Wellington, St. James'-road, Holloway.—We had a very good show of fish on Feb. 23, viz., four jack (largest, 8lb. 10½oz.) and 8½lb. of roach and perch; and on March 3 there was a good show again, viz., two jack (largest, 10lb.), and also nine good perch. The above were all taken by Mr. A. Norman, of the Arundel Arms, Westbourne-road, Holloway, N., fishing with Vaughan, at Henley.—A. MORGAN.

Eagle Angling Society, Red Lion, Tottenham.—On March 3 and 4 Messrs. H. Denton and W. Denton had some fair takes of jack. On March 5 Mr. J. Dyer and W. S. Price had a nice lot of roach and dace.—W. S. PRICE.

Enterprise Angling Society, City Arms, High Cross-road, Tottenham.—On Feb. 26 the following weighed-in: Messrs. Harne and Wells. On March 1 we held a return visit in aid of the A.B.S., which was a great success. Mr. W. E. Butler was the chairman, Mr. J. Coppen, vice. Mr. Dubbins was the pianist. During the evening Messrs. Cramp, Burnett, Perry, Ashmore, Chapman, Allen, Langton, Lewis Brown, Perring and Co., obliged, with some songs. Mr. Wilson Farrington also gave a performance of sleight of hand tricks. We

handed one guinea to the A.B.S. from our box. Seven clubs were well represented. On March 5 Mr. Wells saved the club from a blank with 5lb. 5oz. perch, also winning the fortnightly prize.—W. LEEFVRE.

Forest Gate Piscatorialists, Forest Gate Hotel, Godwin-road, Forest Gate, E.—On the 5th inst. Mr. Durell weighed-in 8½lb. of chub; Mr. Creeke, chub (largest 3lb. 5½oz.).—H. F. C.

Good Intent Angling Society, The Crown, Church-street, Shoreditch.—Twenty members fished for fifteen prizes on the 5th at St. Margaret's. Only nine were taken, the remainder will be fished for on March 12. The members to go any part of the Lea; all start on the day. Mr. Thompson brought in some nice roach on the 5th. Mr. A. Coker had another nice jack, 15lb., also one 7lb., from near Brandon. The season will soon be over for jack, but he expects to get a heavier one before it is over.—R. MURPHY.

Great Northern Brothers Angling Society, Robin Hood, Southampton-street, Pentonville.—The first competition for the Osborne cup took place on March 5, at Broxbourne and Ely House, Mr. G. Francis proving the winner with perch. Messrs. Owen and Evans also weighed-in perch from other waters; Messrs. W. Randall, a brace of jack; Brooks, roach; Rogers, roach; and C. Watling, a fine tray of roach and a jack, 4lb. 13oz., taken with gentles on a tight line.—J. A. FITCH.

Greenwich Angling Society, Morden Arms, Circus-street, Greenwich.—Our final smoker of the season took place on March 8, at the clubhouse, Mr. Dowsett, the president, in the chair. The artists who attended were Mr. Frost Lambert, Charles Neville, Harry Borman, Tom Sheaf, &c. During the interval Mr. Church, on behalf of the club, in a few appropriate sentences, presented to our president (Mr. G. H. Dowsett) a splendid silver-mounted claret jug, and, with musical honours, his health was drunk, also, of course, his wife and family. Mr. Dowsett suitably replied, wishing the club every success. Among the visitors who supported the president were Messrs. A. R. Matthews, Dowsett (brother), Russell, Page, Chamberlain, Tatnal, Marshall (our vice-president), Church (club chairman), Dupere, Young, Steer, and altogether about fifty members and friends. A most enjoyable evening was spent. The musical arrangements were under the charge of Mr. Gorton, to whom the club are indebted for the excellent manner in which they were carried out.—J. DRYDEN.

Harcourt Angling Society, Harcourt Arms, Harcourt-street, Marylebone.—I am sorry to have to announce a blank for March 5, very few of our members being out. I should like to ask the members to attend in force on Monday evenings, as there is a lot of business to attend to just now.—A. E. PAYNE.

Hearts of Oak Angling Society, Ye Olde Crown, Brick-lane, Bethnal Green, E.—Messrs. Russell had a show of roach; Smith jack; Durell, perch; and A. Bagshaw took the remaining prize with jack.—O. SMITH.

Holloway Angling Society, Holloway Station Hotel, 295, Holloway-road, N.—At our outing on March 5 all members weighed-in. Mr. T. Johnson winning first prize with roach and dace; Mr. Clayton, second, with chub and dace; Mr. Stevens, third, with roach, dace, and bream. Thanks are due to Mr. W. McBride for the excellent manner in which he catered for the members. The following takes are reported: Messrs. Geo. Johnson and A. Stevens, fishing with John Hogg at Walton, four dozen good perch, three dozen of which were returned; Messrs. Hawes and G. Cames, fishing with Vaughan at Henley, had several good jack and perch. We have arranged a smoking concert amongst the members and friends on Wednesday, March 16, at headquarters.—A. CLAYTON.

Hoxton Brothers' Angling Society, Spread Eagle, Kingsland-road, Shoreditch.—On March 5 a few members competed for a lapsed prize from the week previous, which was won by Mr. J. Wiltshire, with dace; also Mr. F. Newton weighed roach, but not competing. I hope members will try and attend the Albion Brothers' visit on the 13th inst.—JOHNNY.

Islington Brothers' Angling Society, Myddleton Arms, Canonbury-road.—Since my last report the following weighed-in: On Feb. 26, Messrs. Croker, roach and dace; Burwash, roach and dace; Wilkes, roach and dace; Boys, roach. On March 5 Messrs. E. Challis had two nice jack; Croker, roach, dace, and perch; Burwash, roach and dace; Wilkes, roach and dace.—J. H. HERBERT.

Izaak Walton Angling Society, Old King John's Head, Mansfield-street, Kingsland-road.—Only two of the prizes offered for competition on March 5 were taken. The remaining one, with two added prizes, will be fished for again on March 12, competitors being allowed to choose their own fishing waters (private waters barred). There are also two "specials" to be competed for on March 15 on the Lea, between Carthagea weir and Ware Park mill. Mr. W. Wiltshire weighed-in 13lb. 15oz. roach on the 8th inst.—H. B.

Lincoln Angling Society, Metropolitan, Winchester-street, Pentonville, N.—On March 5 Mr. More had a nice show of roach; Mr. Cook and Mr. Biggs also had roach. On March 12 there are two consolation prizes to be fished for, members to go where they like; gross weight.—W. WATLING.

Liverpool Angling Association, Bee Hotel, Queen-square.—We have had a spell of very nice weather, good for grayling and pike fishing, and several of our members have done well with both classes of fish; but the former should now be left alone, though in the Wyrnwy and Tanat the Severn Board of Conservators allow grayling to be taken all the year round, this with the object of protecting the trout. There is no doubt that both the grayling and pike have increased very much during the last few years in the above waters, to the detriment of trout. Next week the close season comes in,

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Mr. David Slater will be in attendance at the Royal Aquarium during the Fisheries Exhibition, which closes on April 5.

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On behalf of PRINTERS' CHARITIES.

Ladies Specially Invited. Doors Open at 6.30. Overture at 7 p.m.

Artists—Miss Marie Lloyd, Miss Amy Brook (Cert. R.A.M.), Miss Vesta Victoria, Miss Kate McGeeney, Mr. Harry Anderson, Mr. Walter Briscoe, Mr. Charles Osborne, Madame Stephanie Olive, Miss Geraldine Hewgill, Madame A. L. Povey, Miss Ada Bowella, Mr. Bertram Gill, Mr. James Davis, Mr. Albert Walter, Mr. Fred Rome, Mr. Tom Mulroy, Mr. Joe Levett, Master Albert Walter, Mr. F. G. Read, Mr. W. Skinner, Mr. Cecil Graeme, and Mr. Alf Smart. Instrumentalists—The Royal White Band, Mr. Sydney Hemming (Harp Solos), Mr. Montagu Hemming (Czymbalo Solos), Mr. A. T. Harrison (Cornet Solos). Accompanists—Mrs. Newman Harrison, Mr. James Jefferson, and Master Albert Walter. Stage Manager—Mr. Albert Walter. Chairman—Mr. G. H. Howard; Vice-Chairman—Mr. L. Chaplais, "Ben Jonson."

Tickets, 1s. each, may be obtained at the Headquarters of the Lychnobite Angling Society, "Ben Jonson," Shoe-lane; and of the following Gentlemen: Messrs. F. Jones, "The Times"; G. Marshall, "The Times"; H. Ash, "Daily Mail"; H. Wesson, "Daily Mail"; T. Matthews, "Daily Telegraph"; S. G. M. Richmond, "Daily Telegraph"; G. Cooper, "Morning Leader"; J. Harris, "Morning Leader"; J. E. Griffiths, "The Times"; T. Edwards, "Daily News"; J. Pushee, "Daily News"; H. Bone, "Daily Chronicle"; C. Dixon, "Financial Times"; H. Eastment, "Financial Times"; A. C. Cannell, "Daily Chronicle"; F. Oxford, "Morning Advertiser"; J. Mackinlay, "Morning Post"; H. Barnes, "Daily News"; T. Pedley, Assistant Sec., Lychnobite Angling Society; or of the Secretary, as above.

FISHERIES EXHIBITION, Royal Aquarium, Westminster.

OGDEN & SCOTFORD,

PITVILLE GATES, CHELTENHAM.

MANUFACTURERS of FIRST CLASS RODS, FLIES, and TACKLE.

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and will be more or less observed; for, say what you will, there are plenty of anglers who cannot resist the temptation or longing to handle their rods, especially as the two nice months of April and May are covered by the three months close time. The present season bids fair already to be better than the last, which was a poor one indeed. The early efforts of anglers have been, so far, attended with a considerable measure of success, both with the fine and coarse fish. The trout fishing in the Pen y Cae water opens on the 15th, and we have an outing to the Dee next week.—RD. WOOLFALL.

Maldon and Heybridge Angling Society, White Lion Inn, Heybridge, Maldon, Essex.—During the past fortnight roach anglers have had poor sport, owing to the brightness of the water. Some anglers have been out pike fishing, and during the past week over fifty pike have been taken from the waters at Hoe Mill, Ulting, and Besleigh. Some of the fish, I hear, have been small, but several fair sized, from 5lb. to 8lb. had been taken. At the time of writing several more are out piking, and I expect to hear of some good captures. Mr. F. Springett secured a jack on the 4th inst., 4lb. 12oz., and one on the 5th, 6lb. 4oz. I shall be pleased to hear from the secretaries of the various angling societies respecting the tickets for the Langford fishery for the next season, as it entirely depends upon the number of subscribers at 5s. each whether the lease of the fishery will be renewed for the next season.—F. KEEN, 26, Spital-road, Maldon.

North-East Brothers' Angling Society, Star and Garter, Green-street.—The following weighed-in on March 5: C. Lamb, jun., eighth prize. Out of match: H. Hart, Mr. Auvache, J. Eaton Richards, sen., E. Lamb, H. Collins. Members may go where they choose on the 12th for yearly prizes. Start on Saturday if they choose.—A. LEWIS.

Park Angling Society, Park Hotel, Park-lane, Tottenham.—Several of the members of the above were out on the 5th inst. Some nice trays of fish were shown. Mr. Hopton, top weight, 15lb. of roach and perch, also two jack; Mr. Coldwell, jack and perch; Mr. Reitz, perch; Mr. Thompson, some nice roach; Mr. Carter, roach; Mr. Tracy, perch; Skeggs, perch.—W. S.

Phoenix Angling Society, The Tavistock, Stibington-street, N.W.—On March 5 we had a good show by Messrs. F. Dove, Nobby, Austin, Bouffler, Carter, and E. C. Sherlock, of jack, perch, roach and chub. March 6, Carr, a few perch and roach, best perch 1lb. 12oz. Our central visit is postponed to March 23, as the Central Association have a big smoking concert on March 20.—R. C.

Prince of Wales' Angling Society Windsor, Castle, Church-street, Edgware-road.—During the past few weeks we have had some capital shows of roach and jack by Messrs. Robins, Haynes, N. Tuford, and Clist. We take a visit on the C.D.V.L. on Monday, March 20, when with the support of brother anglers we hope to give "Case" a welcome.—W. B.

Queen's Piscatorialists, Queen's Arms, 1A Chapel-street, Edgware-road, N.W.—On March 5 the following weighed-in: W. Shepherd, C. Shepherd, C. Brett, J. Reeve, and J. Winsby. Will as many members as possible meet at Paddington Station, 8.40 a.m. train, on March 12, the last competition of the season.—GEO. KEENE.

Royal George Angling Society, Queen's Arms, Bateman-street.—On March 5 we fished a competition at Bourne End with the following result: Messrs. Davis, 1st; Pope, 2nd; Brand, 3rd; W. Harris, 4th; W. Allport, 5th; H. Allport, 6th; Bardot, 7th; and Gibbons, 8th. Mr. Burrell also weighed-in. Our new member, Mr. Brand, amongst other fish, weighed-in a specimen roach.—G. GIBBONS.

Royal Oak Angling Society, Coborn Arms, Coborn-road, Bow, E.—In our match on March 5 the following weighed-in: J. Payne, perch; Merigold, chub; Tishaw, chub. The first-named member was the only to weigh-in for prizes. Two left over.—F. PIGNANTELLI.

St. Alban's Angling Society, Rising Sun, Prince's-road, Lambeth.—Our members were out on March 5 for consolation prizes. Mr. Donaldson, sen., was first; E. Leighton, second; J. Norton, third; R. Turner, fourth. The fish were mostly bream. There are still three prizes for March 12. We had a fine show of fish by H. Allan from Pnllborough, 24lb., several bream 2lb., one bream 3lb. 5oz., and one handsome perch 1lb. 14oz. Our South London visit takes place on March 20.—H. A.

Seymour Brothers' Angling Society, King and Queen, 1, Foley-street, Fitzroy-square, W.—On March 5 a few of our members were out, with the following results: Messrs. Campbell, 9lb. 4oz., roach; S. King, 6lb. 2oz., roach; W. North, 4lb. 10oz., roach; W. Roach, 4lb. 13oz., roach; and T. Arrigoni also weighed-in roach. On March 12 all members can fish for two additional prizes, viz., 10s. 6d., given by Mr. Goode, for the heaviest roach from the Thames (bank); and 10s. 6d. for the gross weight; all fish (club rules); given by Mr. W. Barker, jun.—W. ALDIS.

Silver Trout Angling Society, Bedford Head, Maiden-lane.—On March 5 the two prizes left from previous outing were won by Messrs. Woolt in and Clark, at Ship Lake. On March 7 (quarterly night) all the officers were re-elected. Mr. Abrahams had a nice show of jack.—PELICAN.

Stockwell Angling Society, Old Queen's Head, Stockwell, S.W.—Mr. W. J. Wade's lantern lecture at the above, on March 2, was attentively listened to by an appreciative audience. I am requested to tender thanks to those who favoured us and supported in a generous manner the object in view, viz., the collection for the T.A.P.S. We are deeply indebted to Mr. G. H. Shepherd, Bermondsey Bros., who arrived early and occupied the chair; and to Mr. E. C. Barnstead, the president of the Larkhall A.S., for attending; also to those members of the S.L. clubs who assisted in the programme. Mr.

G. H. Shepherd presented our club with half a guinea prize to be fished for. We are holding a grand evening concert at Evesham Hall, Brixton, on March 20, partly in aid of the A.B.S.; and as no expense has been spared in the selection of sixteen artists, I trust that some of our friends will support us. Tickets, 2s., 1s., and 6d., can be obtained of the hon. sec., THOS. LUCAS.

Sundial Angling Society, Plough and Harrow, King-street, Hammersmith.—On March 12 we have an outing to Wraysbury, Thames; bank only; members to go by the 8.2 train from Grove-road, Hammersmith Station, and return by the 8.40 from Wraysbury; for three prizes for the first, second, and third best specimen fish caught. Mr. King's cup to be taken by the best specimen fish. Members are requested to attend meeting next Tuesday, as there is a very important question to decide.—C. E. LOCK.

Twickenham Piscatorial Society, Black Dog, London-road, Twickenham.—Since my last report several members have had fish. Mr. Simonds, four dozen nice roach on Saturday; Mr. Barrow, on March 5, six perch; Mr. Ogden Smith and two friends, on Thursday, 23lb. roach; and Mr. Smith again on the 6th, three and a half dozen perch, being the best takes.—J. M. BROUGHAM.

United Brothers Angling Society, Druid's Head Tavern, Deptford.—On March 5 Mr. G. Marsh had a fine take of perch, best fish 1lb. 5oz.; Mr. C. Wilderspin, roach. The members will fish a go-where-you-please match on March 12 for several prizes.—H. TYLER.

Victoria Brothers Angling Society, Princess Victoria, Robert-street, Hampstead-road, N.W.—On March 5 only two prizes were taken, W. Boud, first; W. Toothill, second. Remaining prizes to be fished for on March 12.—W. H. B.

Waltham Green and Chelsea Angling Society, Black Bull, Fulham-road, S.W.—Mr. Bradley weighed-in the finest specimen perch ever brought into the club-room on March 5, scaling 2lb. 12oz. We have a roving match on the 12th inst.: conditions, two rods; bank or punt; all fish to weigh; and option of going away on Saturday.—W. H. BATCH.

Walthamstow Brothers' Angling Society, Essex Arms, Forest-road, Walthamstow.—On March 5 the following weighed-in: Messrs. Howarth, roach and dace; Howell, dace, 3lb. 14oz.; Skelsey, perch, 3lb. 6oz.; Eaton, jack and perch; Knight, perch; and Coates, roach, 5lb. 3oz.—H. WIGG.

Walton and Cotton Angling Association, Crown and Woolpack, 162, St. John-street-road, N.—Our members are winding up the season fairly well, weighing in the last six days, one jack, 10lb. 3oz., four jack, 14lb. 12oz., one chub, 3lb. 2oz., two perch, 1lb. 3oz., and several takes of roach.—M. CUDDA.

Walworth Waltonians Angling Society, St. Paul's Tavern, Westmoreland-road, Walworth, S.E.—On March 12 we hold an open competition (bank or punt) for several prizes, all fish to weigh. Mr. W. L. Griffin was first this week with some good roach from the Thames; Mr. W. Sparrow weighed-in a nice bag of mixed fish towards gross weight.—W. WRAY.

West Ham Brothers' Angling Society, Coach and Horses, The Grove, Stratford.—On March 5 Mr. F. Homer weighed-in jack, saving us from a blank. I hope our members will not forget our peg-down match on March 12 in the Forty-Guinea Water. All to go down by the first train on the morning that leaves Stratford at 7.41 a.m.—LOWTHER.

West London Angling Club, Dartmouth Castle, Hammersmith.—We have arranged for our final club match of the season to take place on March 12. All members to go to Shepperton station; bank only; for six prizes. Our president will give a "Bickerdyke's" book for the best roach of 12oz. or upwards. Mr. C. J. Carter is the winner of the silver cup for this season. Mr. C. Martin weighed in a specimen roach 1lb. 7oz. On March 5 Mr. W. Cox, sen., also weighed-in three bream.—J. J. HUNTER.

Westminster Angling Society, The Telegraph, Regency-street, S.W.—On March 5 the only fish shown was a good perch; caught by Mr. Eccarius. The last match of the season will be fished in the Thames, from Walton Bridge to the Anglers' Inn, on March 12; leave Vauxhall 8.50, return 8.36; two rods; jack barred; all fish to be shown at station.—S. J. H.

Why Not Social Angling Association, Why Not Inn, Steelhouse-lane, Wolverhampton.—The annual dinner in connection with the above association will take place on Tuesday, March 14. The president, Mr. Councillor L. Johnson, has kindly consented to preside. The following gentlemen have kindly promised to attend: Alderman S. Craddock, Mr. Councillor F. H. Parkyn, Mr. Councillor E. C. Pratt, Mr. Councillor G. F. Steward, G. Craddock, Esq., and A. Lamsdale, Esq. A capital programme is being arranged, both vocal and instrumental; in fact, everything hides fair to equal, if not surpass, previous social functions. Mr. S. Lamsdale has kindly consented to act as pianist. At a well-attended meeting on Tuesday evening seven new members were enrolled.—J. W. VANN.

Wimbledon Piscatorialists, 28, Alexandra-road.—On Tuesday Mr. S. Peskett had a fine show of roach from the Thames, 7lb. in all, taken in two hours' fishing. Mr. E. Bowie brought up two brace of perch, and reported having landed a trout of 3lb. at Kingston while perch fishing. The trout was, of course, returned. Mr. H. A. Rolt had chub up to 2lb. and roach, and Mr. Enever perch. The winners in the last outing were Messrs. Salks, jun., Lawrence, and Bowie. The final match for the silver cup comes off on the 12th inst. in club water, as previously announced.—HON. SEC.

Ye Olde Clapham Rovers' Angling Club, The Windmill, Clapham Park-road.—The result of our prize outing on the 5th was much brighter than previous.

H. Closter took first prize with nice show of dace; and T. Gloster, second, with some good roach. Mr. Wyett and others weighed-in fish. We have a match at Weybridge on the 12th for four good prizes, being the last match before close season, and invite all members to attend to this. We have received from Mr. J. Wysett a very handsome map of the Thames and tributaries.—N. LINDEN.

Doings by the Way.

Mr. W. H. BROUGHAM, of T.A.P.S. notoriety, will on Tuesday next, March 15, enter into his 80th year. Same age as Her Most Gracious Majesty, empress and queen, is it not? Still live, Mr. Brougham! Don't do more than ten dinners in one night. We do not want to have a second edition of the "Massacre of the Innocents."

THE second annual dinner of the Hastings and St. Leonards Angling Association will take place at the Castle Hotel, Hastings, on Wednesday, March 22, at 7.30 p.m., the president, Mr. O. R. Travers, M.R.C.S., in the chair; Mr. F. S. Foster, vice-chair. I hear that some decent pike have been taken at Pevensey Sluice lately. Mr. F. G. Hutton had six, ranging from 5lb. to 11lb.; and his son one of 19lb. 5oz.

THE March number of the *Thames Angling News* is one of the best numbers yet produced, and the editor (Mr. F. H. Amphlett) is to be congratulated on its progress.

THE Greenwich "Smoker" was a grand success.

YOU may fish all day Tuesday on the Thames, and as long as you can see at night, but on Wednesday, March 15, you must not. The Lea is open till the end of the month. Trout anglers may fish for trout on April 1 on the Thames.

THE Lychuobite's grand "smoker" on Saturday, March 25, bids fair to be a grand success. I looked in on the boys at a committee meeting, and found Mr. Tom Pedley (assistant secretary), Mr. Gus Cannell (president), Messrs. L. A. Swallow, C. Townsend, W. J. Povey (treasurer), and Tom Edwards all under full pressure of steam. Mr. West and Mr. L. Chaplain (the vice-chairman on the 25th) were working hard in a good cause.

THIS is from Mr. R. W. Vernon, of Ilfracombe: "On Saturday last I landed a cod of 14lb. with throw-out line from the pier; and on the previous Wednesday one of 18lb. with rod and line. I was using a small whiting hook, baited with lug worm. For twenty minutes he gave me as excellent sport as a salmon (and I have killed many a salmon). I may mention that the fish was gaffed from a boat." [Well done, Mr. Vernon! This is one of the "monsters of the present"—not past. Although I have not seen it, it would appear 'twas in the water. Surely a fine specimen of the *Gadus morhua*!]

THE same gentleman sends the following effusion re the *Plesiosaurus*:

"Your youngest daughter, 'Draguet,' sure a genius must be

Since she can tell where creatures live which none shall ever see.

For all these fabled fish, I wean,
Are in the brains of those who ne'er

The truth have ever learnt to tell

(In matters piscatorial, I mean").

[All right, Mr. Vernon. Daisy "Drag" is at home with the "flue." She shall answer you next week if she is well enough. Look out!]

FAREWELL to the season of spinning.

For pike, now the season is o'er,
The spring's joyous season's beginning,
And angling is over once more.

The roach are at rest for the spawning,
The reach-pole is put to the rout,
And anglers all sigh for the dawning
Of April the First with the trout.

With fur, and with wool, and with hackle,
The angler prepares for the rise
Of the beauties, the gossamer tackle,
That lures the sagacious and wise.

How light leaps the heart of the lover
Of angling and nature to draw
The greenheart again from its cover,
As supple and true as of yore.

Farewell for a time to coarse fishing,
The trout time already is near,
So here's to all angling men, wishing
"Tight lines in the spring of the year."

MR. A. E. ARMSTRONG, of the Cardiff A.S., writes: "A deputation from the Cardiff Piscatorial waited upon the County Council asking that they erect a hatchery, not only for restocking waters under their jurisdiction, but for scientific and educational purposes. The deputation was introduced by Councillor Gerhold, and your humble as spokesman. After a little discussion, the chairman (Alderman F. J. Bevan) sympathized with us, and promised his support. We have just received the following extracts from minutes, &c.: 'That this committee recommend that a fish hatching station and the necessary developing tanks

he erected near the arch at the bottom of the waterfall in Reath Park. At a members' meeting of the Cardiff Piscatorial Club, held on Thursday evening, March 2, Mr. F. Handley read a most amusing and instructive paper, on "A Day's Fishing off Ilfracombe." Mr. T. J. Williams was in the chair.

THE 20lb. pike taken by Mr. Baker at Broxbourne recently was reported to be 27 inches in length. It should have been 37 inches. Hon. Sec. Butt writes like copper-plate, and how his 3's could be construed into 2's is a mystery. Fish sometimes grow after they leave the water; they have also been known to diminish slightly—but not 10 inches in two days. Kindly leave the calculations as you find them, please Mr. Printer.

"TRUTHFUL TOMMY" tells me a charming anecdote of Her Majesty, which has, at least, the merit of being true, and at the same time shows once more that Queen Victoria is a woman first, and a queen afterwards. It appears that a well known stockbroker spent his holidays in the Isle of Wight, near Osborne. His two children, a boy of five and a girl of seven, were most anxious to see the Queen, and were told by their father that if they waited at a certain place they would see their Sovereign pass on her daily drive. Patiently, day after day, these loyal little Britons waited; carriages passed, but no Queen. One day, however, Her Majesty walked by, and seeing the children still in the place in which she had noticed them for several days when driving, stopped and spoke to them. "Why are you waiting here, my dears?" was the royal query. "We want to see the Queen," replied the little girl. "Well, dear, I am the Queen, and now you have seen her." But this was too much for the sturdy five-year-old boy. "Oh, you go along," he answered, and then, much to Her Majesty's amusement, continued, "The Queen wears a golden crown, but you are an old lady in a bonnet."

THE Queen's love of children is proverbial, and that little chap received a good motherly kiss for his answer. There is, as Sam Slick remarks, "a good deal of human nature in man," and it is little things of this sort, as much as our inborn respect for the monarchy, that make the toast "Gentlemen, Her Majesty the Queen, God bless Her," very much more than an empty and meaningless formula.

MESSRS HAYNES AND SONS report the capture of a large trout on the Bandon river, Co. Cork. The "slob," or tidal trout was killed by Mr. James A. Allman, of Woodlands, Bandon, and was on view in Messrs. Haynes and Sons' (fishing tackle makers) window on Tuesday. It was a magnificent specimen weighing 7lb., length, 26in., girth, 14in.—the largest trout killed on this river in the memory of the oldest anglers; it was landed after a hard fight.

I CAN very strongly recommend any brother anglers who are spending this week at Southend to give a look in at the Empire Theatre there. Mr. Fred Marlow, the popular proprietor of this pretty play-house, is constantly and successfully endeavouring to provide his patrons with entertainments of the highest class, and this week the piece on the boards is "The Second Mrs. Tanqueray." Thoroughly well staged and most admirably acted, it is well up to West-end standard. Miss Lucy Wilson's impersonation of Paula, "the woman with a past," which, under adverse circumstances, she is trying to redeem, is an intellectual treat, every gesture, every inflection of voice, proclaims her to be a lady of exceptional histrionic ability, and from first to last she carried her audience with her; the other members of the cast loyally and ably back up Miss Wilson in this altogether admirable piece.

SAYS WILLIAM HOWLETT, of Newmarket, in the *Man of the World*, "The new tickets for the Lark Angling Society can now be obtained, and if any intending anglers wish to try the pretty Lark stream in Suffolk, and they send me postal order for five shillings, I will, by return, send them a ticket for a year."

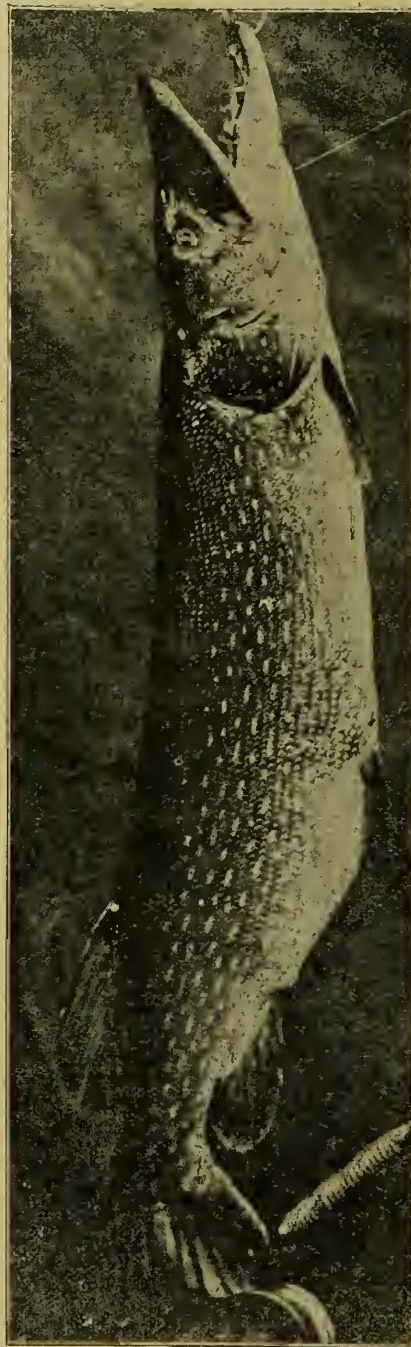
ON Monday, March 20, the fourth annual dinner of the Kingston Piscatorial Society will be held at the Sun Hotel, Kingston, at 7.30 p.m. Mr. A. W. Homersham, J.P., president of the society, will preside, and the committee have sent me a kind letter, inviting me to attend. The roach competition on the Thames, held on March 5 and 6, resulted as follows: Mr. W. A. Smelt, first; Mr. F. H. Amphlett, second. I understand that these two members were out with Keen, of Datchet, and had 34lb. of very fine roach, and five perch.

So far as the Thames and Lea are concerned, pike and perch fishing is prohibited after Tuesday, March 14, but there is no close time on many of the Norfolk and Suffolk rivers. For instance, Mr. Loftus Lamhert, of the Cambridge Storea, Northgate-street, Beccles, Suffolk, says that "the river Waveney is now teeming with pike, and many very fine fish have been taken during the last fortnight. This house is on the banks of the river, and Charles Ward (same address) will, on receipt of a post-card, have boats and baits in readiness."

THEN, on the back of that smart angler's business card (George Applegate, junr., Rose Cottage, Potter Heigham) is written the following: "Thomas Horbert Jeffries, of Upper Clapton, fishing on Potter Heigham on March 1, took eleven pike and lost three. Heaviest fish, 144lb."

"A STRANGE incident occurred on Saturday," says the *Daily Mail*, "at Duddingston Loch, Midlothian. A number of anglers observed an animal swimming in the loch, and thinking it was an otter, several casts were made. The animal was eventually hooked and landed; but the surprise of the company was considerable when they discovered their catch to be a hare!" [I have read somewhere of the bait of Midlothian, but the hare—well, hardly ever.]

"I HAVE," says the editor of the "Thames Angling News," "to congratulate Mr. G. Sinibaldi, of Teddington, upon the capture of a pike which weighed 23lb. 14oz. two and a half hours after it was landed. The length of the fish (a picture of which is here given) was 42in., and the girth 25in. The measurement from the eye to the fork of the tail was 34in., length of head 11in., and girth at the wrist of the tail 7in."



"THE fish was caught in private water when Mr. Sinibaldi was spinning with a spoon bait, the line being a No. 4 harbel line. The fish gave some grand sport for thirty-five minutes, and upon examination of the inside of the mouth after the pike was landed, the tail of a fish was noticed protruding from the throat. It proved to be a crucian carp of 1lb. 4oz., partly digested. The K.P.S. club weight is registered as 23lb. 6oz. The above photograph was taken by Mr. G. Clarke, 'Ravensfield,' Teddington, and depicts the fish hung up by the gaff.

"THE other Monday I visited Henley in search of perch and pike. Whilst waiting at Westbourne Park station for the train, I got into conversation with an old man who walked about with the help of a stick. When I said I was going up the Thames fishing, his eyes, already rather dim, sparkled. No doubt it reminded him of days long gone by, for the person was no other than J. Wilder, the professional fisherman. He said he was now eighty-seven years of age, he was born at Bray, and he had fished the Thames all his life. Harry Wilder, the boat builder at

Maidenhead, is his younger brother. Speaking of Thames trouting J. Wilder said: 'As a rule I did not dream of commencing trout fishing until May, and I have taken nine trout in one day fishing from Bray point, down to the top of Hamilton Eyot. Seventy years ago,' he continued, 'I caught a salmon off 20lb. off Monkey Island. I caught him off the bank opposite the Temple; and I got a jack of 27lb. at Clevedon Springs. In the same year I captured a sturgeon of 165lb. in the Lock Pool at Boulter's.' I couldn't swallow that sturgeon, so further cross-questioned him, but he averred that the truth it was, and nothing but the truth. I respect old age, especially in an angler, and so further comment is needless. In fact, I cannot recollect the incidents that occurred on the Thames seventy years ago, so cannot dispute the matter. I was rather sorry that the train came in then, because J. Wilder's professional experiences were cut short.

"ARRIVED at Henley my friend Mr. A. E. Hobbs greeted me at the station, and said that the river was still a little over the banks. The boat was in readiness and we were towed up to the first lock, and fished the best spots coming back. Result: five jack and thirty perch. We had a 'run' from a sturgeon, as we thought, but it was not. Had it been, we should, of course, have sent it to Windsor Castle. On our return Mrs. Hobbs had ready for us a warm cosy fire, a cup of delicious tea, &c., to which two half famished anglers did ample justice. I had scarcely time to see all the angling trophies of friend Hobbs, for the train waits not even for anglers, but what I did see proved that my friend is one of the most proficient of Thames fishermen."

THE Piscatorial Society's annual dinner will be on Monday, March 20.

THE Kingston Piscatorials will dine on March 20.

THE Central Association of London angling clubs announce a smoking concert for March 20.

THE Stockwell anglers (combined with the Holland Athletics) will give a grand smoking concert in aid of the A.B.S., on March 20.

THE Prince of Wales' anglers have arranged a visit for March 20.

THE St. Albans anglers have managed to fix the date of their South London visit for March 20.

My landlord has fixed March 25 to pay me a visit to "Drag Mansion." Guess I shall be engaged that day.

THE Stockwell A.S. hold a concert in aid of the funds of the A.B.S. on March 20.

"I say, cabbie, I don't want you to 'loiter,' but can you take me by the hour?" "Take yer by the ear, sir!" "Right! First drive me to the Holborn Restaurant; then to Kingston-on-Thames; back to Maiden Lane; on to the Gresham Hall, Brixton; then to the Edgware-road; from there to the Rising Sun, Lambeth; then—" "All right, sir, jump in, I'll 'ave a try! Shall only 'av to change 'orses three times!"

ONE of the curious effects of the recent terrible explosion at Toulon was to bring on a shower of rain. This conveys a lesson to us anglers. Last year we were all crying out for rain. If that erratic official, the clerk of the weather, serves us the same trick this year that he did last, and keeps the rivers low, and spoils angling, it is only necessary to set light to forty tons of gunpowder to upset his plans. Now, having told you, I will beg that any reader who takes my tip will try the experiment at a safe and convenient distance from Fetter-lane and "Drag Mansions"—say in the North of Scotland.

"POOR France!" I wonder how many times I have heard that expression used during the last few months. Truly, her troubles come not "in single spies, but in battalions." Secure in our little island home we can afford to smile at her "pin pricks," and grieve with her in her sorrows. Of course, there is a few, and a noisy and demonstrative few, who scream about "perfidious Albion," and nonsense of that kind, but that the two peoples have in their innermost hearts a deeply rooted respect, awe, and affection, for each other is beyond a doubt, and on both sides of the Channel there is too much good sense to allow another war between us. No, Madame La France, it takes two to make a quarrel *et pour nous nous ne sommes pas having any*. Politics are barred in the *Fishing Gazette*, or I should like to say a great deal more.

TALKING about France gives me an opportunity of answering a question that has frequently been put to me: "Where were you born, Drag?" All the world knows that a whole crowd of cities competed for the honour of being the birthplace of Homer after his death. (They didn't care much for the poet during his lifetime, by the way.) But in order to set at rest any questions which may arise after my toes are turned up to the daisies, I now place on record the historical fact that I was born in the Department of the Seine ("Truthful Tommy" suggests I mean the department of the *in seine*, but that is both impolite and incorrect). Although I am English to the backbone, it was the City of Paris ("Gay Paree, dontcherknow") which had the honour, an honour I fear the gay city did not sufficiently appreciate, of being the birthplace of DRAGNET.

PISCATORIAL SOCIETY.

ENNUI, pronounced and undisguised, permeated the meeting on Monday night. For some unaccountable reason a spirit of unrest and horedom seemed to have taken possession of the members. It may be that the had results of the closing weeks of the coarse fishing season had somewhat damped the ardour of those who are not averse to courting the gamesome roach, portly chnh, or greedy pike, or the all superfluous energy was being thoughtfully held back for the annual dinner, which is announced for Monday, the 20th inst. In this latter connection I may be pardoned a momentary digression, to state that Mr. C. Butler has most kindly consented to preside, and that the genial member, Mr. W. Thomas will support him in the vice-chair. Such well-known anglers as Messrs. R. C. Blundell, R. E. Booker, N. Campbell, F. Ward, and H. Harden, with the respected hon. treasurer Mr. E. Foreman, have each promised to take the head of the table. The presence of the last named gentleman, however, is contingent upon his being allowed out of the house, as he has not yet received a "clean bill of health" from his medical adviser. It is sincerely hoped that he may be well enough to be amongst the goodly company, as he will be much missed should he unfortunately not be permitted to grace the proceedings by his ever welcome presence. But to return to my "muttons." There was no angling experiences of note to record, save and except the good fortune of Mr. M. G. E. de Courcy, who had creeled three barbel, each weighing 3lb. 8oz., together with a 3lb. chnh, in private water on the Colne. He hooked altogether six fish, but landed only the three aforementioned. The fish were as fat as butter, and took gentles. There was a hard frost overnight, which put the roach completely off the feed, and the taking of barbel under such conditions of weather, and at this time of year too, is somewhat remarkable. I ought to have stated at the outset that Dr. C. S. Patterson took the chair, but *Mas vale tarde que nunca!* Shortly after the meeting commenced Mr. J. W. Zaehnsdorf, at the request of Dr. Brnnton, read a short unannounced paper, written by the doctor himself, on the society's new water at Uxbridge. The *resumé* was most amusing and entertaining, and was delivered in an inimitable manner by the worthy hon. librarian. It dealt with the capabilities of the fishery many years ago, and was a pleasing contribution, take it all in all. It was announced that it had been decided to open trout fishing on the Ver, Moor stream, and Kennet (and possibly on the Uxbridge water, too) on March 31, and members will be duly informed of this by post card. On Monday next Mr. Chas. H. Wheeley will read a paper on "Chuh Fishing." The subject will be treated in Mr. Wheeley's well known style, and is sure to be instructive, interesting, and entertaining. M. G. E. DE C.

BRITISH SEA ANGLERS' SOCIETY.

THE usual weekly meeting was held at the Cannon-street Hotel on Wednesday, March 8, Mr. J. C. Wilcocks in the chair. Mr. Yardley reported fair sport from South-end, taking off the Low Way Buoy five and a half score of good dabs. Mr. C. O. Minchin read his paper on "Lobsters, Crabs, and Shrimps." The lecturer, after a brief sketch of the position of these organisms in the animal kingdom, went on to deal severally with the different forms, showing that they belonged to three divisions—firstly, those with big tails, the lobster division; secondly, the short tails, such as the crabs; and thirdly, the crooked tails, such as the hermit crabs. The first group includes some well known forms, such as the lobster, the crayfish, the true prawn, the red and the brown shrimp. The second group comprises the edible crab, the green crab, the spider-crabs, and the land crabs. The third group is best known by the hermit or soldier crab, inhabiting the shells of well-known molluscs. The soldier crab has one nipper large and the other small, and two pairs of legs upon which he walks. An interesting account was given of the *Lerneæ*, a parasitic crustacean common on the sprat, which at night is strongly phosphorescent, and is called by fisherman "the lantern of the sprat." The method by which the crustaceans change their shells was fully explained. The lecturer then touched briefly on the method of capturing lobsters by the pot, and also described an interesting method of capturing lobsters by the hard, the question of the wandering of lobsters, and gave an interesting experience of the capture of marked lobsters eight miles from the situation where they were released. Regarding the Norway lobster, or, as it is commonly called, the Dublin prawn, was then described, and the fresh water crayfish was mentioned. The true prawn was spoken of, and the methods of capture were briefly dealt with. The ring net method was specially mentioned. The brown shrimp was mentioned—sometimes called the Sonthend shrimp, but usually more Dutch than Sonthend, and attention was drawn to the liking this form has for situations where fresh water enters the sea. The lecturer showed a very fine specimen of an Australian prawn, and drew attention to the record price for prawns in the Jubilee year, 15s. a pound. The best method of boiling shrimps was described. Speaking on the subject of crabs, several interesting methods of capture were described, and the edible qualities of one of the swimming crabs—the velvet or Spanish crab—were highly commended. Another little known crab, the *Cranque* (French), sometimes called the king crab, or shellywink, was recommended as a food, and September was recommended as the best month for capture. An excellent soup was also recommended as being made of the common green crab. Its great use as bait was pointed out. The use of crabs in the soft state as food in the United States was also touched upon. Speaking of the hermit crabs, the lecturer pointed out that these crustaceans migrate from one shell to

another as they grow larger; their use as bait was also described. As a conclusion a few words were then given on the immature stages, when the free-swimming larvae and intermediate forms were described. An interesting discussion took place in which Messrs. Taylor, Rash, Eldred, the chairman, and the hon. sec. took part. The chairman in thanking the lecturer, mentioned that in lobster-pots, conger eels were frequently and occasionally also the bass. A hearty vote of thanks was given by acclamation. The chairsmen drew attention to the subject of bait for bass-fishing at Shoreham; he pointed out that live sand-eel could be obtained from the whitebait netsman at the station, and very fine bass could be captured there with this bait. He brought up two models and exhibited the method of baiting. An enthusiastic vote of thanks to the chairman closed the meeting.

CHARLES S. PATTERSON (Hon. Sec.).

Notes from the North.

THE salmon netting season on the North-East and North Coasts of Scotland has been anything but a productive one as yet. How could it be otherwise? Not for twenty years has there been such a combination of adverse conditions—easterly winds, frosty nights, too bright sunshine, excessively high tides, and in the rivers excessive drought. That supplies should even continue to be what they are, meagre enough though these may be, shows that given fair average weather and the results would soon mount up.

Salmon have been clean off the rise for a fortnight or so past, and only at occasionally favourable opportunities has anything like good sport been had. With settled or even moist weather matters would be more brisk, but meantime the rivers and streams are down to summer level.

A fish of 42lb. was got in the Tay estuary nets last week. This is the top weight of the season as yet. The Aberdeen Harbour Commissioners have had two, of 36lb. and 32lb. respectively, as their top weights.

The Duke of Richmond and Gordon's Huntly fishings do not open till April 1. They used to be free, but a small charge is this year to be imposed for watching purposes. The prospects are said to be good.

The usual trout flies, but of the biggest sizes, are the most acceptable finnoch (sea-trout) lures in the early months of March and April. With a favouring breeze, and a cloudy day, there is no more fascinating sport than covering a few miles of finnoch water. Fresh weather is also a desideratum, but as yet such has been a minus quantity.

The Brora has been forging ahead during the past few years as an early salmon river, quite eclipsing its neighbour the Helmsdale. This season, however, owing to the prevailing calms and frosts, the two chief lessees, Major Bunnell Smith and Mr. McCorkdale, have only creeled eleven and fifteen fish respectively. The best day yielded five fish.

The famous Glentana Dee waters are not yet at their best. Colonel Brickman had three on Wednesday of 14lb., 14lb., and 13lb., but six, seven, and eight will more likely be the order of the day when once the pools get stocked.

A mixture of very small salmon has been met with on the Dee this season, 4½lb., 5lb., and 5½lb., alongside comparatively heavy weights of 18lb. and 20lb. On Aboyne water last week Mr. Crawshaw had three of 5lb.; while Mr. Sharp, on the same station, had one of 20lb. the same day out. The same unequal weights are being met with on the Tweed.

On Her Majesty's Birkhall waters, Mr. Lundie, one of the royal keepers had a fine fish of 12lb. on Tuesday last, which was despatched to Osborne.

Sir John Gladstone had twenty-one fish in four days on the Comonty and Woodend sections, averaging from 7lb. to 8lb.

The steam trawler, *Sea Eagle*, brought into Aberdeen last week eleven specimens of the sea ape, or rabbit fish, which is usually only found within the Arctic circle, and seldom so near the coast. The fish are being set up for museum purposes.

The Duke of Portland is due at Invergarry for his spring season on the Garry. The prospects are said to be fairly good, with open weather. Gen. Hume, Col. Frier, and some others have been out on the Naver for some days, but sport has seldom been so poor.

Lord Kyllachie has remitted to Mr. Manners, C.E., Inverness, and Dr. Readman, chemist, Edinburgh, to inspect and report upon the remedial operations being carried out in connection with the Spey pollution case at the Macallan Distillery to prevent pollution of the Spey by the discharge of waste products.

The Don District Fishery Board, and certain proprietors of fishings on the river, are to oppose the Aberdeen Corporation Bill now before Parliament, as it excludes from the sewer proposed to be constructed the refuse of the mills. In short, it fails to deal with the most serious and acute source of the pollution of the river. Nothing

less than a conjoint scheme between the town and county councils can meet the exigencies of the case.

The erection of a new bridge over the Spey, at Boat of Garten, has now assumed practical shape, and the masons are busy with the abutments. It will be a veritable boon to the tourist, angler, and cyclist, and will be ready before the tourist season sets in.

The fine new hotel at Cruden Bay, built by the Great North of Scotland Railway Company, and the finest of its kind in the kingdom, was formally opened on Wednesday. Golf is the chief attraction in the sporting line in the meantime; and a grand tournament is on the tapis for April 14 and 15, when £120 is to be offered in prize money. Visitors will not be long in discovering the fine attractions in the bay, where fish of all kinds abound.

SPECIAL SCOTCH.

Provincial Notes

FROM BIRMINGHAM AND DISTRICT.

The monthly meeting of the committee of the Birmingham Angling Association was held on Thursday evening last, March 2nd. Mr. T. Coles presided, and Mr. H. Miller occupied the vice-chair. The meeting was well attended, only one member being absent. The minutes of the previous meeting were read and confirmed, after which the report of the dinner committee was given. This went to show that the tickets retained were larger than in any previous year, and that one of the largest number of delegates that ever sat down to our annual dinner is expected. Tickets have been sent out to our leading railway officials who have intimated that they intend to be present upon this occasion. Messrs. Holding and Bagley gave in their report of their visit to the Princess of Wales club. The report went to show that the club only had sixteen members who were not connected with any other society, and it was resolved not to admit them until they had the required number, namely twenty-five members. Messrs. Rabone and Hughes gave in their report of their visit to the Salmon Society, which is held at the Salmon Inn, Severn-street. The report was in every way satisfactory, and as no opposition was offered to the club's affiliation, they were admitted. Messrs. Rabone and Hughes also gave in a report of their visit to the Erdington Club, which is held at the King's Arms Inn, Erdington. The report was all that could be desired, and as a consequence the club was accepted. Messrs. Holding and Gumbley visited a new club at the Vine Inn, Newtown, but owing to the Queen's Arms Society not having been consulted in the matter, the application was allowed to stand over. The question of the association renting water for the members in the Defford district was re-opened, when, after the matter had been discussed, it was resolved to rent the water, providing it could be taken direct from Lord Coventry. With this in view, the secretary was instructed to take the matter in hand, and report to the next committee meeting. For some time past the general secretary of the Provincial Angling Association, acting upon instructions from the committee, has been in communication with the general manager of the Shropshire Union Canal Company, with a view of getting a proper close time for the canal. And I am pleased to say that he has succeeded, as the close time now will be from March 15 to June 15. Another 2000 perch have been put into the canal, and none of these fish under 7in. in length will be allowed to be taken. The Anglers' Pride Society held a concert on Tuesday evening last at their clubhouse, the Royal Oak, Barr-street, in aid of a fund for the purchasing of a silver challenge cup. A first-class programme was provided, which was greatly appreciated by a large audience. The concert was a decided success, and great credit is due to the committee for the manner in which they conducted the arrangements. The Camden hold their annual *soirée* at the Camden-street Board Schools on Saturday, March 18, the proceeds from which are to go towards augmenting their prize fund. The Vine Unity hold their special concerts for the same purpose at their clubhouse on March 21 and 23 next. Snow and rain fell on Saturday and Sunday last, but it did not deter our members from turning out, some of whom had some very decent sport amongst the chnh and pike, the best fish coming from the Trent.

FROM THE FEN DISTRICT (LINCOLNSHIRE).

There has been nothing this week to disturb the equanimity of anglers, and a most successful week's sport has resulted. Pike fishing continues to attract by far the greater share of attention, and on most waters some splendid fish have been captured. The Welland is now being fished with very satisfactory results, but the best sport has probably been had on the Witham, where specimens weighing up to 11lb. have been captured. Most of the visitors have disported themselves on the lengths between Kirkstead and Boston, and as many as four and five brace of fish have been grassed by individual rods in a single day. Amongst hags for enumeration may be mentioned 42lb. (four and a half brace), 37½lb. (four brace), 34lb. (three and a half brace), and 29lb. (three and a half brace). A brace, taken from the Forty-foot on Monday, turned the scale at 13½lb., the best weighing 8½lb. Roach fishing also continues to afford excellent sport.

FROM HULL AND DISTRICT.

The coarse fish season in this district draws to a close on Tuesday, and, so far as the river Hull is concerned, it has been a very good one, especially for specimen fish, for the capture of roach scaling from 1lb. to about 1½lb. each have been of weekly occurrence all throughout the season.

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8½ miles from Aberfeldy Railway Station and 2½ miles from Fearnan Pier, Loch Tay.

This new First-class Hotel is beautifully situated near the "Famous Pass of Glenlyon, with Mineral Well." Good spring salmon fishing on the River Lyon opens Jan. 15. Trout fishing free. Posting. Post and Telegraph Office two minutes' walk.

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Re-decorated and most Comfortably Re-furnished throughout. Electric light.

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Under the Distinguished Patronage of the Crown Prince of Siam, &c., and the Nobility and Gentry.

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MOST reliable information as to Salmon, Grilse, and Trout Fishing in free and preserved waters, river, and lake, at this station; also as to accommodation and board in private outtage close to river. Expenses, shortest route from England and Scotland, on application to S. J. HURLEY, Killaloe Co. Clare, Ireland. N.B.—The Green Drake season on lake commences about last week in May, when the big trout are about in thousands.

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The Mague, Comogne, Morning Star and Luby, Lough Gur, and Tory Hill Lake.

TWENTY miles of the best free Salmon and Trout fishing in Ireland to be got on the above rivers. The lakes are teeming with coarse fish—Pike, Roach, and Perch—and are also free. CROOM HOTEL, which is now one of the prettiest and best laid out in the country, with sanitary arrangements perfect, is built on the Mague, and stands central to all the others, viz., Comogne (half mile), Morning Star (four miles), Luby (seven miles), Tory Hill Lake (one mile), Lough Gur (five miles). Cars are supplied at the hotel at special low rates. BOATS FREE. Tariff very moderate.

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ANGLERS' HOTEL, Cloghans, Ballina, Mayo.

FREE SALMON, Trout, Pike, and Obar FISHING on four Loughs—Conn, Cullon, Dorrymannin, and Lough Aleck. Board and lodgings, with boat and two men, £4 per week; and two gentlemen fishing from the one boat, £3 6s. each per week; that includes boatmen's luncheon. No charge on Sundays for boat or men.—Apply to the proprietor, T. CLARKE.

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THIS Hotel, the only one on the shores of Loch Katrine, is most beautifully situated in the heart of Rob Roy's country, Glengyle and the romantic graveyard of Clan Gregor being in close proximity, and as a fishing station it is unsurpassed. The fishing is free on Loch Katrine, Loch Onon, and several hill lochs, to people staying at the hotel; excellent boats and experienced boatmen are kept. The hotel is replete with every comfort, and is reached by way of Callander and Trossachs and Loch Katrine steamer, or by Loch Lomond steamer and coach from Invernauld, or by Aberfoyle and Trossachs and Loch Katrine steamer, there being a full service of coaches and steamers by these routes during the season. Post and telegraph office in hotel.

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THIS Hotel, built in 1892 by the late Earl of Leitrim, is situated on the Rossagull Peninsula, midway between Sheephaven and Mulroy Bay. Tourists and Anglers will find superior accommodation at the above Hotel. It contains over sixty bedrooms, spacious billiard, drawing, and public rooms. Salmon fishing in the famous Glen Lough, Owencarrow and Lackagh Rivers, is free to Hotel visitors from Feb. 15 to end of July. Salmon licences can be had at the Hotel. Free access to numerous lakes and rivers on the estate for white and brown trout fishing. No charge for boats. Excellent sea bathing. Golf links, eighteen holes in a circuit of 3½ miles, encircle the Hotel. For terms and further information apply to the Manager.

FREE SALMON AND TROUT FISHING.

Commencing: Salmon, February; Trout, March.

GENTLEMEN staying at the PORTH HOTEL, LLANDYSSIL, SOUTH WALES, have two and a half miles of the Teifi for Salmon and Trout (large) fishing, strictly reserved. Also about ten miles of other trout fishing can be had in the neighbourhood. Splendid scenery. Fourteen miles from the sea. Vide, "Across England in a Dogcart," pp. 280. A. E. SMITH, Proprietor.

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Splendid trout fishing in the lake and rivers; fish average 1½ lb., and give grand sport. Easy of access. Every comfort and luxury provided in the Hotel. Good boats and steady boatmen. Splendid cycle track (twelve miles). Bracing climate, and magnificent scenery. Season begins on March 1. First-class Grouse Moors and Rough Shootings to Let. Railway station, Llanfyllin.

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Croly and Loughanure Salmon Fishery.

HAVING obtained a lease of above excellent SALMON FISHERY, and the sole rights of fishing, anglers can now fish the Croly and Loughanure. Splendid salmon and sea trout fishing can be had on the Croly and Owenator rivers as well as on Loughanure lake, three miles in length, and three miles from Dungloe. There are over 100 lakes in the Rosses Fishery alone, with about twenty boats and first class gillies. Sea trout runs to 6 lb. and brown trout to 4 lb. Large numbers of Loch Leven and Rainbow trout turned out of hatchery every season. Dungloe, in the Highlands of Donegal, is centre of fishery, ten miles from Fintown railway station (Donegal Railway Company). Best fishing lakes within easy reach of the three hotels in Dungloe, where excellent accommodation can be had. Travellers can leave London at 8.30 p.m. and reach Dungloe at three o'clock next day. Mail and day car to and from Fintown station. Good sea fishing, rock pigeon and seal shooting. Telegraph office, bank, post office, &c. Fishing terms: Rosses Fishery, April 1 to June 30, 2s. 6d. daily; 12s. 6d. weekly; 30s. monthly. July 1 to Oct. 31, 3s. 6d. daily; 16s. weekly; 40s. monthly. Croly and Loughanure, March 1 to Oct. 31, 5s. daily; 20s. weekly; 50s. monthly; and 5s. per day man and boat, which holds two anglers. All information can be had from

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HOTEL convenient for sport, surrounded by the Golf Links, sea coast adjoins, excellent bathing. Capital Trout Fishing in adjoining Lake and River Crygill. 3d. fare to Coron Lake, Bodorgan; all best for sport in the early months. Trap from station, golf links, and boats, all included in moderate weekly tariff, forwarded on request.

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OVER twenty miles of preserved water on Exe and Barle Free to Visitors. Special terms to anglers. Tariff and full particulars of

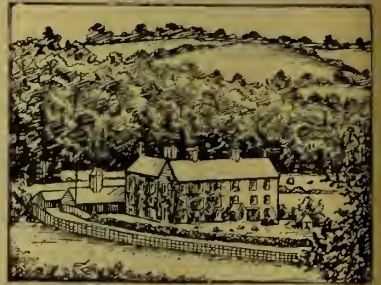
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FIVE MILES in Rivers Exe and Barle; free to visitors staying. Now open. Five hours from London.

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Sole Agent for Manchester Cotton Twine Spinning Co.'s Lines, Nets, &c., for North of England and South Scotland.

Angling information given for Derwent District.

Some very nice chub have also been shown from the top stretches, amongst which Mr. G. W. Schofield had one that scaled 3lb. 6 $\frac{1}{2}$ oz., and from the lower waters and tidal portion of the river some exceptionally good bream have been taken, the two best fish of the season being one of 6lb., caught by Mr. W. Dodsworth, and another that scaled 7lb. 6oz., caught by Mr. W. Hewson in the neighbourhood of Weel; and a quantity of fine dace have been taken during the season scaling from 8oz. to 12 $\frac{1}{2}$ oz. each; but the perch have only run small, the two best only weighing 14 $\frac{1}{2}$ oz. and 12 $\frac{1}{2}$ oz. respectively. The pike fishing has also been fairly good, and fish up to 15lb. each have been reported. Trout fishing commences on the river Hull on the 16th inst., and there is a very fair prospect of the season being a better one than last, for several well conditioned fish have been noticed sporting themselves at the back-ends during the past week or so, and insect life seems to be fairly forward, a few having already hatched out. Some grand pike fishing took place on the Hornsea Mere during last week, where on Tuesday Mr. Woodhouse, of York, secured three fish that weighed, in the aggregate, 27 $\frac{1}{2}$ lb.; and our local enthusiast, Mr. Moseley, landed a splendid fish that turned the scale at 19 $\frac{1}{2}$ lb.; and on Wednesday Mr. Schroeder caught twelve fish that weighed 95 $\frac{1}{2}$ lb., his three heaviest turning the scale at 13lb., 12 $\frac{1}{2}$ lb., 11lb. respectively, and on Thursday the same angler had five fish that weighed 44lb., the heaviest scaling 13lb. Our local anglers have secured a few fair sized fish during the week, at Newport, from the Market Weighton Canal and top ponds. A sweepstakes took place last week on the river Hull, at Hull Bridge, by members of the Osborne A.S., Mr. W. Brown securing the first prize. The Horns Angling and Recreation Society held their third annual smoking concert on Monday last. This society will hold their first match at Weelferry, on April 15. The Newington St. George's A.S. will hold a smoking concert on the 16th inst. On Friday evening last the officers were elected, and the first match arranged at a meeting of the Hull Ramblers' A.A. Mr. T. Featherstonehaugh is the winner of the society's gold medal for the past season. The Derringham A.S. will fish their first match of the season at Hull Bridge on Good Friday.

FROM THE LAKE DISTRICT.

The question of the betterment of salmon fishing was the chief topic of interest at the meeting of the Lake District conservators on Thursday. The chairman stated that he had been in communication with the secretary of the Board of Trade, who had consulted him with regard to difficulties connected with salmon fishing questions. He had suggested to Sir Courtenay Boyle that the Board of Trade should convene a conference of the boards of conservators of England and Wales in preference to appointing a Royal Commission. Such a conference would probably be identical with the conferences which had been held on sea fisheries, and might result in much explanation with regard to the decline of salmon in England and Wales. He had not yet, however, had a reply. Sir J. T. Hibbert trusted that a conference on the lines suggested by Mr. Fell would be convened, and a resolution asking the Board of Trade to convene such a conference was adopted. The meeting next considered the points to be discussed at the forthcoming meeting of north-western boards of conservators, an informal but very useful meeting of which had been held last autumn. The clerk said one of the subjects would be the weak points in the Salmon Fisheries Acts, together with the best means of remedying them. The chairman said there was another subject, the effect on estuaries and fresh water by netting from an angler's point of view, and whether netting should not be abolished. Playgrounds for salmon, an extended weekly close time, and other matters were considered. There has not been a great deal of trout fishing during the past week, the weather being cold and somewhat stormy.

FROM LANCASHIRE.

The Wellington Angling Society, Moston, have secured some private waters, and are in treaty for more, and with a view to improve the fishing in the same, are utilising what remains of the cold weather to do a little stocking. An order has been placed for 500 mature fish with a local purveyor, who can be relied on to do the thing satisfactorily. The St. Helen's Anglers held an important meeting on the 8th, too late for notice this week; the agenda however was urgent. The Warrington Anglers' Association, at their last committee meeting, had nothing but good reports from every department of their programme. Twenty-seven new members were enrolled; arrangements approved and permission granted to the local cycling club to fish a match in their private waters; a committee appointed to do some netting; and other stocking items received attention. They are also in treaty for more waters, and feel confident of getting at least one in Cheshire. The annual dinner is fixed for Thursday, March 23. The chief item of interest is the approaching contest at Wyresdale. Up to post four clubs are noted to the writer as successful in obtaining places, viz.: Levenshulme, Kingfisher, and the Moss Side Socials Angling Societies, and the Worsley Canal Fishery. Replying to various inquiries re fishing at Clonbur, &c., and the cost, it may be said that all the 60,000 are perfectly free, but extras, such as boats and boatmen, are necessary; so are lodgings, but they are reasonable at Mount Gable. The West Derby Angling Society, Liverpool, have announced their creed as follows: "This club is to do, and not to say." A vote of confidence was passed in their three deputies, Messrs. King, Hyams, and Collinson. At the next meeting some astounding news may be expected. The Liverpool East End Association is fishing away as usual; first a match, then numerous individual efforts, and the lot leavened by good work amongst their various branches. The committee is an exemplary one, united and industrious, also discreet.

The Liverpool Centrals are progressing, new members are being enrolled, and, all things considered, the coming season will be successful. The Welcomb Angling Society are meeting at three o'clock at Taylor's Bridge, Stretford, to-day, to fish a match by way of winding-up the season; their concluding social is on the 17th. The Irlam and Cadishead waters are continuing to yield big fish, the last is a magnificent rudd, which was taken by Mr. F. Bibby, of Ardwick.

FROM MANCHESTER.

A treat is in store for the members of the Hulme Crown Anglers, who, on Monday evening next, March 13, are to have the pleasure of hearing Mr. Fred Bibby give another of his popular angling lectures. This time the subject is "Ten Days' Fishing in Donegal," and the event will take place at the club's headquarters, Hulme Crown Inn, City-road, Manchester, at 9 p.m. The business of the club will commence one hour earlier. The secretary of the Moss Side Socials is anxious for a good muster at the ordinary business meeting on the 13th. At the meeting arrangements will be made for the "smoker" on the following Thursday, 16th inst., at headquarters. The stocking competition in connection with this club is proving to be a great success. The second annual dinner of the Horse Shoe Angling Society took place at headquarters, Pendleton, Manchester, on Saturday last, Mr. E. Hill occupying the chair. Messrs. Robert Ramsbottom, B. J. Pickering, S. Boswell, and W. Prescott attended, by invitation, to formally present the Bridge-water challenge shield, awarded to the club at the 1898 competition, together with an illuminated record. Some thirty-one gentlemen sat down to a splendid repast, and this over, the business of the evening was proceeded with. Short addresses were given by each of the aforementioned gentlemen, touching upon the prosperity of the club since its formation. Harmony reigned supreme for the rest of the evening, and contributions were forthcoming from Messrs. Pickering, Hill, Bates, Gillibrand, Martin, Taylor, Salt, Pilkington, and Overend. Mr. Prescott announces that the new travelling cards of the Northern Anglers' Association are now ready, and he is prepared to issue them to the affiliated clubs. Mr. Bibby, of the Buckland Anglers, took a very fine rudd from the County Palatine Angling Association's waters at Irlam last Saturday. The Sun Anglers, since reducing their entrance fee to 1s. and resolving to spend their money on prizes, have received a large increase in their membership. Mr. Wallwork gave his promised lecture to the Lancaster Angling Society, the event proving most instructive and interesting. At the last meeting of the Good Intent Angling Society the members were treated to an excellent discourse on bottom fishing, after which Mr. Binns gave some very useful information on the microscope, illustrated by views of insect and plant life found in fishing waters in the district. The match to-day (March 11) will be fished in the Poynton Canal, 3.30 to 5.30.

FROM NORFOLK.

Sport among the pike still continues very good. On Wednesday last Mr. J. Yallop and friend, of Norwich, had six fish, 16lb., 16lb., 14lb., 13 $\frac{1}{2}$ lb., 12 $\frac{1}{2}$ lb., and 12lb., total weight 84lb., an average of a stone a fish. On Thursday two rods had several nice fish, largest 11 $\frac{1}{2}$ lb. On Saturday two Norwich gentlemen, fishing in private water, took seven fish. On Monday two rods had half a score, largest 12lb. The election of Major Jary to the presidency of the Yare and Bure Preservation Society meets with universal approval.

FROM NOTTINGHAM.

It is difficult to chronicle much news on fishing. Roach anglers have been out, but have experienced saddening reverses, and on this score Mr. F. W. K. Wallis, one of the most talented roachists on the Trent, writes me: "I have never found sport so slack in my life for winter fishing. Have been on the Sawley waters (Pride of Derby Club) time after time, and have returned home literally empty handed. Have taken a few large chub, but positively not a roach. The main reason I assign is that the ever recurring rises of the past few months has glutted the fish with natural bait, on the grassy slopes, with worm and other ground grub. Am, however, pleased to say, as regards pollution, we have not, so far, been troubled with the G. S. sewage from the Burton Breweries. Have seen and heard of a good many salmon 'pitching' at Sawley, at Shardlow, and at Weston (King's Mills Weirs)." Personally, as to roaching, I may say I have not creeled half a dozen fish since Christmas, and this spite angling two days a week. Why, the other day, in a glorious water, I was out with a friend near Newton Solney—the Dove joins the Trent here—and failed to get so much as a nibble. Years ago in this district I killed dace averaging 11oz. each—many over 12 $\frac{1}{2}$ oz. Yet we ought not to grumble; patience will be rewarded sooner or later. Only last Friday (supposed to be an extraordinarily special day) I pike fished the Kennel Ponds at Belvoir Castle and never got so much as a run. Three other friends were with me, and "no run" may be dotted down to them. Higher up the beautiful valley of the ponds—rather, lakes—five gentlemen from Leicester operated upon Knipton. Result, never a run. Query, where have the fish, roach and dace, gone to?

FROM SHEFFIELD.

During the past week or so the weather has been all that could be desired from an angler's point of view, and the sport has been of a satisfactory character. The Derwent and Wye have been in excellent trim for fly fishing amongst grayling; but the cold snap has prevented a good number of anglers from trying their luck, the fear of catching influenza being greater than their desire for catching fish. In the Miller's Dale portion of the Wye, rosters hailing from Lancashire have fared very well amongst the big grayling, and in the waters of the Darley

Dale Club a few nice brace of grayling have been landed. The frosty nights have considerably improved bottom fishing in the Derwent, with the result that some good takes of grayling and various coarse fish have been made. A few decent sized trout have been captured in the Derwent, the deep holes yielding the best specimens, and garden worms have proved to be the most alluring baits. The best trout fishing waters in Derbyshire will not commence the season until the end of this month or the beginning of next. A few rods have been out on the Amber near Ambergate, but very few trout have been taken, although some nice grayling, perch, and roach have been secured. The Trent has been running in first-rate order, and all the well known lengths have been well patronised, with the result that many gratifying takes of roach have been made. At Weston Cliff pike have furnished a good deal of sport, and some capital fish have been secured, including several very heavy specimens. Some very large pike have been landed at Averham, near Newark, and in this particular part pike fishing has been exceedingly good. On Monday Mr. J. H. Blyde, of Pitsmoor, Sheffield, had some rattling sport with a large pike on Newark. He succeeded in landing it, and the fish was found to weigh 22 $\frac{1}{2}$ lb., and was 3ft. 6in. long. It has been sent to Messrs. Cooper and Co., London, for preservation. The waters in the Boston district have answered very well for pike fishing during the last few days in consequence of the sharp frosts, and the Witbam has provided innumerable decent sized fish. In the Sincel Dyke some splendid roaching has been had, worms and yellow paste proving very deadly amongst the red fins. The Rytton has come in for considerable attention, and both dace and roach have fed well. The Bain continues to fish with commendable results, and if the present weather holds up, nearly all the Lincolnshire waters will be well visited this week.

FROM SHROPSHIRE.

The trout fishing season was ushered in amid very favourable climatic conditions, but very little sport was obtained on the opening days. On Saturday the weather changed for the worse, and snow fell, capping the bills and making unwelcome invasion of the streams. Two very fine fish were taken from the Severn, in Shropshire, last week. One was a handsome salmon of 23lb., netted near the mouth of the Vyrnwy, above Shrawardine. This is about the first salmon of the season, so far as the upper waters are concerned; and the fact is disappointing, as the few netmen who still think it worth while to take out licenses expected better results, on account of the recent floods. The other fish referred to was a splendid pike of 20lb., and it was displayed at the establishment of Mr. Ashdown, naturalist, where it will be set up. The fish, which was taken at Atcham by Mr. Bromley, of Bishop-street, Shrewsbury, measured 3ft. in length, and 20in. in girth, and it was in every respect a fine specimen. The fortunate angler was fishing from the bridge which spans the river at Atcham, and he was using as a bait a chub of nearly half a pound weight. The fish gave half-an-hour's exciting sport ere it was landed. Mr. Bromley on the same day caught five other pike, averaging 6lb. or 7lb. weight. The capture of a pike of 18lb. by Mr. R. F. M. Wood is also recorded. Anglers who take these big pike from the river earn the gratitude of coarse fish anglers and trout fishers alike. Although the fence is on for pike and other coarse fish commences on the 20th inst., these fish may be still caught if the bolders of Severn licenses obtain from the distributors the permits, which are issued gratis by the Severn Conservancy Board.

FROM WORCESTER AND DISTRICT.

The weather, with the exception of a strong N.W. wind, has been delightful the whole of the week. All the rivers in capital condition, and the fish well on the feed. A good many rods have been out, and sport fairly good all round. Some very heavy baskets of chub have been taken in the Severn, and a fine lot of roach. The chief sport in the Teme has been among the dace, though a good few very fine chub have been creeled. Trout fishing almost a failure, and the trout taken by club members on their preserved water has resulted in almost all the fish landed being restored to the water again as being quite out of condition; and, with a continuance, it will be quite a month before they are in condition. The grayling full of spawn, and none basked. A lot of pike have been taken in the Severn and Avon, but none of large size, the largest I have heard of 8 $\frac{1}{2}$ lb., most of them taken with the spinning tackle. Some very fine fish have been taken in private water, but all full of spawn. Salmon fishing has been only fair during the week; a few good conditioned fish have been taken, but nothing above ordinary. Prices keep well up. The next smoking concert of the Worcester and District Angling Association will be held at the Crown Inn, Sidbury, on Monday evening next, and a large company is expected, everything being done to make it a success.

FROM YORK AND DISTRICT.

With grayling fishing at an end, and but little doing by coarse fishers generally, pending the advent of the trout season, the present is a quiet time among most Waltonians, and not much is likely to be heard about sport for the ensuing week or two. Whilst trout fishing will commence on some waters thus early, the beginning of April will witness operations on the chief club lengths. On the Derwent, Swale, Wharfe, Ure, Nidd, and Rye the favourite fish are abundant, and should no untoward atmospheric influences intervene, the bright and encouraging prospects will doubtless be realised. It is gratifying to learn that trout have not suffered appreciably from the recent floods. Meantime it may be remembered that among the best and most tempting early flies for the rivers mentioned are the Early Brown, Spring Black, Dark Snipe and Orange, and Snipe Blon.

ANSWERS TO CORRESPONDENTS.

C. O. (Newport).—There are not two kinds of grayling in this country. The fish you saw at the fishmonger's, called grayling, were probably small grey mullet, or pollen (white fish), from Lough Neagh, Ireland.

Correspondence

[We do not hold ourselves responsible for the opinions expressed by our Correspondents.]

BAITS IN THE CLOSE SEASON.—RIFLE RANGE AT HAMMERSMITH.

DEAR SIR,—We beg to thank you for your kind reply to our query re live bait. As they will live in our tanks all the summer, we are not particularly anxious to sell as long as we may keep them, as in an aquarium, till the end of close season. Our range is a covered one at above address. We shall be very glad to see you any time, and, perhaps, it will interest you to look round our premises, as we dabble a little in fishing tackle and sports of most kinds. We have a competition for shooting every Wednesday, free; the shot only to be paid for; open to all comers, of course. The 500yds. range is always open for practice; seven shots for sixpence; electric targets. We use miniature M.H. and Colt repeating rifles. Being practical gunmakers the rifles are always in perfect condition, and the practice is really good. If you should favour us with a visit you will find it comfortable. Thanking you again for your advice, we remain—Yours truly,

W. KING AND SON.

74, King-street, Hammersmith.

[Of course Messrs. King can keep the live bait in their tanks all the year round if they like. We think the information about their 500yds. rifle range will be useful to some of our readers, as we believe it is the only one of the kind open to the public in London.—ED.]

RIVER AND LOCK KEEPERS' DINNER.

DEAR SIR,—May I announce through your columns that subscriptions for the above have been received as follows:

FROM ANGLING CLUBS.

Collingwood, Friendly Anglers', Sundial, West London, Royal George, Anchor and Hope, Battersea Friendly, Camden, Hammersmith, Lychnobite, Royal Oak, South London, North-Eastern Brothers' Queen's, St. John's, Greenwich, Phoenix, Shepherd's Bush, Twickenham, Grange, Crystal Palace, Gresham, and Clapham Junction.

FROM FOLLOWING SUBSCRIBERS TO T.A.P.S.

Sir Ford North, G. J. Chatterton, J. T. Davenport, M. Davenport (C.C., J.P.), P. Green, F. Lewin, W. M. A. Mitchison (J.P.), C. E. Nuthall (J.P.), T. Rogers, Rev. W. Snell, A. M. Turner, G. F. Wilson, A. U. Homersham, J. Mup, A. Woodroff, G. Bishop, Farlow and Co., Mrs. Ogden Smith, E. G. Bawden, J. W. Skanden, the Field, A. Drinkwater, F. Sands, W. L. Thomas, H. M. Pike, Central Association, G. N. Levy, C. L. Wingfield-FitzGerald, A. Stroud, T. Stroud, L. Hart, and Messrs. Brougham, Gunston, and Sachs.

FROM COMMITTEE OF T.A.P.S.

F. Berry, T. Crumplen, Dr. Coates, A. Nuthall (J.P.), Major Perry, T. J. Miller, C. H. Briand, C. G. Burrow, C. H. Wheeley, W. J. Gomm, C. H. O'Dowd, W. H. Elsmore, W. F. Grimmett, A. P. Matthews, W. G. Barnes, H. W. Higgins, A. Price, H. L. W. Lawson, W. J. Wade.

Formal receipts have been sent in each case. Further subscriptions will be gratefully received.

H. W. HIGGINS, Hon. Sec. T.A.P.S.

34, Windsor-road, Holloway, N.

DRESSING OF SALMON FLY WANTED.

DEAR SIR,—Can you favour us with the dressing of salmon fly Mellishe's Nondescript per return, and greatly oblige.—Yours faithfully,

W. R.
(Pro. REDPATH AND Co.)

LIFE HISTORY OF THE MAY FLY.

DEAR SIR,—Will you allow me to draw your attention to a remark you make in your article on the life history of the May Fly, as to the period of incubation between hatching out of the eggs and the appearance of the fly. You say (I write from memory) that the period is from two to three years. I lay not the slightest claim to any special knowledge, but would suggest that the period must be an exact number of years. I have always understood it was just two years, say, twenty-four months. This seems to be borne out by the date of the appearance of the sub-imago, which is practically synchronous with the laying of the eggs. Surely if the period were two and a quarter years, eggs deposited on June 1 would hatch out as fly on Sept. 1. It has always struck me as a very beautiful provision of Nature that the period of incubation (or whatever is the correct term) should be an exact number of years. Otherwise, we would have May Fly (and other flies) hatching out at odd times of the year, some of which times would inevitably be too cold and otherwise unsuitable. Thus, if the period were two and a quarter years, June eggs would hatch out early in September. The eggs of these September flies would, in their turn, be due to come out early in December, and so on. I have not overlooked the fact that temperature has a lot to do with the earliness or lateness of the hatching out. I merely give the above exact periods for the sake of simplicity. I think, however, it is clear that if the period of incubation were twenty-seven months, the fly would be coming out more than once a year; and the fact

that there is practically only one rise seems to prove the period of incubation is exactly twenty-four months (or thirty-six or twelve).—Yours, &c., J. G. G.

[It should have been "two or three years"; we believe it is not certain which, but probably two years that the larva of May Fly lives in the water before changing to the fly.—ED.]

"UNCLEAN SALMON."

SIR,—I wish to bring before all salmon anglers who read the *Fishing Gazette* the following report of a case, which was heard at Newcastle-on-Tyne on the 25th ult.:

"MORE FISHERY PROSECUTIONS."

"At Newcastle Police Court this morning (before Mr. Bailey, Mr. Beattie, and Mr. Gillespie), John George Fryer, of Barnard Castle, was charged with having in his possession one unclean salmon, on Oct. 28, and, further, with sending it to Durham, on Oct. 27. Mr. C. O. Humphreys prosecuted on behalf of the Fishmongers' Company, London, and Mr. J. Dodds defended. Evidence having been given, the Bench decided that the offence was proved. A previous conviction was put in, and the Bench ordered the defendant to pay a fine of £5, and £1 for the fish, or in default one month's imprisonment."

The report, as above given in the *Newcastle Evening Chronicle*, is not strictly accurate. The young man, Fryer, caught the salmon on Oct. 26, and gave it to a friend, who sent it to a friend at Newcastle, by rail, on Oct. 28. The matter seems to have come to the knowledge of the Fishmongers' Company, and on Feb. 23—nearly four months after the day on which the salmon is caught—Fryer is served with a summons to answer a charge of having an unclean salmon in his possession on Oct. 27, 1898. There was not sufficient time in which to get up a proper defence or to subpoena witnesses, and the result of the hearing was as reported above—£5 for the offence and £1 for the fish!

The previous conviction was not for a similar offence as might be inferred.

The question arises—Who is safe from prosecution? I venture to assert that after this case of Fryer's, every angler who kills, or has in his possession, a salmon containing spawn, especially if it happen in September or October, runs the risk of being summoned and fined. Where the justice of the case comes in it is difficult to tell. The fishery board issue licences to fish for salmon up to Nov. 1; but it appears as if licencees were liable to fines for doing what they are licensed to do.

Doubtless the matter hinges on the question, "What is an unclean salmon?" According to Bund's "Law of Salmon Fisheries," p. 336, it means a fish that has not migrated to the sea after spawning. But this fish that Fryer caught was only coming up from the sea, and was on its way to the spawning beds. In all probability it was aiming for a tributary of the Tees called the Lune, and would have arrived on its spawning bed one or two, or perhaps three, weeks after October 26 had it not been caught. How, then, could it have been "unclean?"

It looks as if the Fishmongers' Company meant to try to stop the killing of salmon after Sept. 1, or when the nets are taken off, on the principal that if they cannot have the salmon no one else shall. If they have their way, farewell to salmon fishing on late rivers, and the fishery boards may bid farewell to revenue.

As there are many anglers interested in this matter, I trust that some who are acquainted with the ins and outs of it will give us their views in the *Fishing Gazette*.

Barnard Castle.

BETA.

[There is no absolute definition of an unclean salmon. It would be very difficult to get one, and even if it could be satisfactorily obtained, it would be most undesirable. We believe that the salmon referred to by "Beta" was found on Oct. 28, at the Central Station, Newcastle, packed in brown paper, and when opened was found to be in bad condition and heavy in spawn. There was a very large gaff mark on the left side, laying bare the ova. No hook marks were to be seen in the mouth. Previous convictions were put in, and the magistrates considered the case proved. To attack the Fishmongers' Company, which is doing such good work in the public interest, is as absurd as it is to suppose that the local magistrates, who had all the evidence before them, convicted Fryer in order to please the London Fishmongers' Company!—ED.]

ARTIFICIAL HATCHING OF SEA FISH.

SIR,—For some few years I have been reading a good deal about sea fish, and gleaming what was to be learned from several authors, but nothing have I read which has given me so much pleasure than the article published in your paper last week, written by Dr. Patterson. It is most intelligible, and throws a light on many subjects which have until now been immersed in darkness. One matter that has attracted my particular interest is that of artificial hatching of sea fish, and I note what he says with reference to the fact that each fish has only a few eggs ripe at any one time. This, no doubt, must, as he says, make it weary work gathering them, and every praise must be given to those who have collected the 117 million eggs from which the fry were hatched at Dunbar. Nevertheless I would like to ask what is the percentage of fry which are supposed, or it is even hoped, will reach maturity out of this same number?

After all this labour has been laid out in collecting the ova, hatching, &c., might it not be conjectured that the change of life which must take place on their being turned into their native element must be so great that few can survive?

What would be the effect of placing Alphonso the young King of Spain, who has been matured, or, rather I should say, is being matured, in all delicate luxury, on Dartmoor, there to complete his childhood among "the savages," as a noted author has termed those who inhabit that wild waste? Thus it must be with sea fish hatched

artificially. Last year, when mentioning this theory to a sea fisher, he immediately said, "But you hatch salmon artificially with success." "No doubt," was my answer, "but it must be remembered that salmon fry remain from one to three years in our rivers before emigrating to the sea, and are therefore more ready to withstand the hardships which they will necessarily have to encounter."

This letter is not written in criticism of any of Dr. Patterson's statements, for whose knowledge I have the greatest respect, only to bring forward a matter which appears to me to have escaped the attention of those who are now agitating the matter of artificially hatching sea fish.—Yours truly,

PHEASANT TAIL.

TROUT FISHING IN MAY WANTED.

DEAR SIR,—I shall esteem it a great kindness if you or one of the many readers of the *Fishing Gazette* can recommend to me some pretty little cottage or nice rooms where I could get good trout fishing from about the middle of May. Of course I would not object to paying a moderate sum for the fishing; as to the district, it should be Yorkshire or one of the neighbouring counties. As there will be ladies in the party we would like a place where the scenery is pretty, and which possesses other attractions than mere fishing.

May is such a good fly fishing month that it ought not to be difficult to find a suitable place, but my own experience of May fishing is extremely limited.

I do not expect to get very big fish in rapid stream fishing, but would like something better than fingerlings. Few and good rather than many and small is my motto.—Yours, &c.,

J. G. G.

FISHING NEAR HOUNSLOW.

DEAR SIR,—Could you or any of your readers tell me whether there is any fishing club within a cycle ride of Hounslow, by joining which I could get some fair trout fishing (fly).—Yours truly,

H. B. GARNER.

FISHING NEAR TORQUAY.

SIR,—Just recovering from a most severe attack of pneumonia, my doctor tells me I must go somewhere in the neighbourhood of Torquay to gain health and strength. As I am an ardent amateur fisherman, I was wondering if I could manage a little angling at the same time. Would some of my brother anglers kindly point out some spot suitable to my case.

OLD SUBSCRIBER.

[When staying at Torquay, a good many years ago, we found some pretty fair fishing for trout in the Dart, and we believe it is now much better. Buckfastleigh is a good place, and you can fish up to it from Totnes with a day ticket. It is an easy journey by rail from Torquay. Lynmouth, North Devon, is a good place for an invalid, with some trout fishing in the Lyn (not very grand) handy.—ED.]

"FISHING IN THE LAKE OF PATRIA."

SIR,—I have just read "Markit's" letter, in your last number, headed: "Fishing in the Lake of Patria." I can find no mention of this lake, or of Pagliara, in Baedeker, or on the map, and there is no railway station of Pagliara. I am going to Naples shortly and should feel obliged to "Markit," or any other correspondent, for information as to where Pagliara is situated, and how it is to be got at from Naples.—Yours obediently,

M. B.

12, Via delle Carrozze, Rome, Feb. 28.

KILLARNEY FISHERY DEVELOPMENT ASSOCIATION.

DEAR SIR,—It may interest some of your readers to know that steps are being taken to improve the fishing on the Killarney Lakes. For this purpose the Killarney Fishery Development Association has recently been formed. Its principal objects at present are to stock the lakes with rainbow trout, to introduce a change of blood in the brown trout, and to keep down poaching, and protect the fish generally. The association has already purchased some thousands of rainbow yearlings, besides over 40,000 eyed ova. The latter are to be hatched out at the Muckross Hatcheries, and the fry kept in protected ponds till yearlings.

Spillers (night lines) and cross lines have been abolished and a permanent staff of bailiffs is employed.

No doubt in a few years the Killarney lakes will be amongst the finest trout waters of Great Britain if the energies of the association are continued.

In the opinion of experts the Killarney Lakes are admirably suited to the habits of the rainbow, there being plenty of food and an even temperature.

Mr. W. Graham is hon. sec. to the association.

It may be mentioned that the funds are derived solely from voluntary contributions.

W. G.

Killarney.

[We are very glad to hear this, especially that night lines and cross lines are abolished, and hope they will be so not in name only. The cross lining has been the ruin of the attractions of the Lakes to English anglers, who hate the very name of cross line. We always refuse to publish takes of fish by this poaching method if we know it is used.—ED.]

Several letters unavoidably held over.

REAPING AND SOWING are the two most important periods in the life of the farmer, and granting that all circumstances are favourable, he naturally, during the latter period, hopes to get an adequate return for his labour. As he sows, he expects to reap, and unless constant industry has been exercised, the harvest is generally a poor one. So it is with regard to health, if we are not constantly on the watch and destroy the germs of disease as soon as they are discerned, the body becomes weakened, and at last is unable longer to resist the attacks of the enemy. Holloway's Pills destroy even the most minute traces of disease, by purifying the blood and strengthening the system.

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NOTICE.

THE FISHING GAZETTE is published every Saturday, and can be obtained at Messrs. W. H. Smith and Son's Railway Bookstalls and of the principal Newsagents and Fishing Tackle Dealers in London and the Provinces.

Communications relating to the Literary Department, Fishing Tackle for Notice, Books for Review, &c., should be addressed to B. B. MARSTON, Editor of the FISHING GAZETTE, St. Dunstan's House, Fetter-lane, London.

Correspondents are requested to write on one side of the paper only, and give their real names and addresses, not necessarily as signatures to their letters, but as a guarantee of good faith. Unless this rule be adhered to no notice will be taken of such communications.

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For One Year, post free to any part of Great Britain and Ireland	10s. 6d.
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To America and the Continent, annual subscription, including postage	12s. 6d.

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The Fishing Gazette

WITH WHICH IS INCORPORATED

ANGLING AND CLUB GOSSIP.

SATURDAY, MARCH 18TH, 1899.

THE SALMON SEASON IN SCOTLAND.

It would be quite premature to pronounce any judgment on the spring season, as so little of it has as yet gone; but without going quite so far, it may be otherwise advantageous to take stock, as it were, and see how matters fare, both with the angler and the netter, as far as past results and future prospects are concerned.

Let us look at the less interesting, though equally important, commercial results of the salmon season in the first place. It is now four weeks to-day (Saturday) since the season opened, and the results obtained during the first three of these have, on the whole, been somewhat disappointing. Compared with last year they are far behind. But then, it must be remembered that although last year, as a whole, proved a very bad one indeed, yet the opening weeks were brilliant in the extreme, and especially so on the estuaries and river stations, where the first fruits of the salmon season were almost the only fruits obtained.

In this connection the comparison is not a fair

one, unless a similar period of drought is to be experienced, which as yet is a thing of the future, so that although some 430 boxes of Scotch salmon were received at Billingsgate last year at this date, compared with only half that number for the first three weeks of the present year, there is no saying but that the returns for the next three weeks may not only wipe out this adverse difference, but yet leave a balance in favour of the present year. Let us hope so.

During the opening weeks of 1898 every favourable condition was experienced by the salmon netmen. The combination of wind, weather, and water was unique, as was pointed out at the time, and the hauls of salmon proportionately large. But it was a flash in the pan, and, like all such abortive and abnormal flashes, was followed by such a falling off, mainly through adverse weather conditions, the like of which has not been experienced for the past quarter of a century.

At one station on the Dee tidal some 300 fish were netted during the first six hours on the opening morning—more than double what was taken for the whole of the season through right on to the end of August, and of these even scarcely a round dozen were caught after the advent of April. This may be taken as a sample of last year's season all over, and will show the futility of making any deductions from a comparison of last year's returns with what little of the present season has yet gone.

The weather conditions since the middle of February have not been particularly favourable for the present salmon season either as regards the sea or river fisheries. The season opened under the very worst of weather auspices, and since then scarcely any two favouring conditions have as yet been experienced in combination. Frost, drought, easterly or other adverse winds according to the locality, have mostly ruled, instead of the dark days so much loved by the salmon netter, the freshening land breeze, favouring a run of fish to the coast, and calm seas and normal tides. When any of these favouring conditions have predominated for a couple of days on end, the returns have gone up accordingly, but the general tenor of the weather has been towards extremes, and anything but favourable for salmon fishing. There is no necessity for the cry that the salmon supply in the sea is short. There has been little chance of proving anything of the kind, and although there may be long faces amongst the netmen at their poverty-stricken returns day after day, yet it must be borne in mind that such a combination of adverse weather conditions has not been experienced on the east and north-east coasts during the past two decades, and after such a spell of bad luck matters are not likely to mend in a day, although there is no saying but they may do so for all that.

During the first week of the season the returns were fairly good, and had these continued, even at the same fair rate, the present cry as to the shortening salmon supply would not yet have been heard; but during the succeeding fortnight matters have gone from bad to worse, till at present they are very poor indeed. A drop from eighty and a 100 fish per day to eight and ten, as was experienced at the Aberdeen Harbour Commissioners extensive fisheries, gives some show for grumbling, if not cause for alarm, were it not that behind this drop the unique combination of wind, weather, and water was as dead against the netman this season as it was in his favour during the first month's fishing last year. Matters are beginning to mend considerably, and although the daily supplies are as yet light, they have mounted up during the past few days with improved weather conditions.

The Deveron district fishings, like the Findhorn, have been practically nil since the opening week, while the Forres and Nairn districts are in a similar plight. "The exceedingly low rate of temperature prevailing, the frosty nights, and the exceedingly bright sunshine during the day, have made fish shy of coming on the coast," is the verdict of an experienced fisherman, who also adds, "I have no recollection of there ever being such a dearth of fish in the Moray Firth districts during the early weeks in all my fifty-four years at the nets." The same poor results are common to the Ness, Beaulieu, Oykel, and Brora fisheries, while the fishings along the North coast have been good, bad, and indifferent—mostly indifferent.

Let us hope that the contrary character of the

present season, compared with that of last year, may continue throughout, and that the lean opening days may now be followed by months of fatness and rejoicing in the land of the tacksman, for when there is a good show of fish on the coast the future prospects of the rodder are all the more brilliant. But at the best, till weather conditions of the most favourable description prevail for a reasonable time, and the returns from the several fisheries still continue to decline, will our faith continue to rest comfortably in the fact that the days of *Salmo salar* are not yet numbered. That salmon are not anywhere over abundant is only too evident to the most casual observer; but it has often been the case in the past, that when matters in this respect seemed to reach a climax, the next tide or so belied the gravest fears, and dashed the darkest speculations to the winds by a harvest of plenty; and it is a well-known fact in the natural history of the salmon that a series of bad seasons is invariably followed by a series of good ones.

If the netter has suffered in pocket from the adverse nature of the prevailing weather conditions, how much more so has the angler in regard to his sport? With the exception of the Dee, and that exception confined to the mid-reaches, the angling results have not been of the most gratifying order. "Two fish for one week's operations on both sides of twelve miles of water, between Craigellachie Bridge and Ballindalloch, is a poor show," is what an esteemed Speyside angler sends us; adding, "The failure is attributed to cold, frosty winds." So much for the Spey.

As a salmon stream the Don is fairly out of it, yet two fish were got at Alford, some forty miles inland, last week in a favourable turn in the weather, and another of 19½lb. at Kintore on the same day, which shows that what early spring fish may be in the river are well distributed, and that under a spell of more favourable angling conditions the good old Don may yet prove surprising in spite of the gigantic pollution and other machinations so recklessly employed to bring about its ruin.

The Ythan and Ugie opened only the other day, so little can be said about them. They are really sea trout streams, and if they yield a spring salmon or two to the rod, these are hooked more by chance than good management, except on those few well-defined salmon pools where they are regularly and systematically looked for. The best basket of finnock yet got on the Ellon Castle waters scaled 17lb.—not bad under bad conditions. The Findhorn is another early sea trout stream, and not in it for early salmon angling. The Ness, however, is one of the most prolific salmon streams north of the Dee. "Loch Ness is well stocked with fine early salmon, and last week alone some twenty fish were got by anglers 'free fishing' from one or other of the various hotels alongside of the loch," writes a local correspondent. Miss Tilston, from Foyer's Hotel, has the honour of having secured the top weight of the season—a beauty of 29lb. The Sutherlandshire streams have been very disappointing to the angler; but then, so has the weather.

The North Esk has been little fished as yet, but a good few springers are said to be in the pools. The South Esk, on the other hand, has yielded very fair returns, and a couple of 9-pounders were got on the Kinnaird Hotel section on the opening day (Feb. 25). Under the forward policy now ruling the destinies of this beautiful little river, much may naturally be expected in the near future.

In spite of heavy waters, which as suddenly subsided and have been followed by heavy droughts, and its effects; in spite of overnight frosts, followed in the daytime by masses of grue; and in spite of adverse winds and too bright lights, the Aberdeenshire Dee has fished remarkably well almost every day since the season opened, and exceptionally so with every favourable turn in the prevailing adverse weather conditions. The best catch was Davie Nicoll's nine fish to his own rod from the Floating Bank Pool on the Lower Durris water. After this come half a dozen fours, a dozen threes, and so on. Mr. Farley has had from six to eight fish daily off his water, and Sir John Gladstone creel his thirtieth fish since the season opened on Tuesday last, being an average of about ten per week, a bag which should gratify the most fastidious, especially when it is remembered

that it is made on the Dee, where anglers have to work for their sport. There is certainly a scarcity of fish on the upper waters, but that grievance is being daily remedied with every flood and favouring breeze. Mr. George Blacklaws, than whom no one knows the Dee better, writes an answer to our query. "There are plenty of fish in the pools, and as soon as we get milder weather sport will be something immense." During the first three weeks of the season ninety fish were killed to the rod in Mr. Blacklaws's district—not bad, we say again, under bad conditions. The best sport, however, is always got when a slight break occurs, under a favouring light or a westerly breeze, as was the case on the Ballater waters when, during the opening days, one rod in two days creeled sixteen fish of various weights up to 17lb.

In taking stock of the season as far as it has gone, it may confidently be allowed that the main drawback has been the weather, and that under improved conditions a good season may yet be enjoyed. G. M.

COARSE FISH ARE OFF!

THEY are so, thanks to an Act of the late Mr. Mundella, which gives them respite from the pressing attentions of the angler from March 15 until June 16. Previously to that Act fishers of the class more especially charged with the possession of patience rather than of sense were at liberty to take coarse fish all the year round. It ought to be said that some authorities of sport as well as of the pot object to the term "coarse" as applied to this order of fish. I am satisfied to protest against the equally common and still more invidious application of it to the fishermen themselves. "Coarse fish," if you like; but, please, not "coarse fishermen." To return, as the body of anglers in the country grew larger the stock of coarse fish, especially in the public waters, grew less, until at length some check on the ignorance and bloodthirstiness that were causing this diminution became imperative, and the Act came into force whereby at this present season coarse fish are off.

The season that has just closed has been monotonous—monotonously indifferent, unfortunately. The few good catches here and there stand out brilliantly from the average greyness. Almost invariably bags and baskets have been light, and the hearts of the fishers heavy in proportion. Anglers are never so happy as when seeking an excuse for their failures, and this year they had no difficulty in finding it in the remarkable drought of last summer. Account for it as they may, at any rate, the barbel season opened badly. Perch and dace were not to be lured, try for them never so expertly; big bream were few and far between; and the plunge of the pike was looked for, but was not found. That was the experience all round. Sheffield anglers went out in thousands, and came home fishless most of them. Birmingham's fishers fared as badly, spite their skill. So it was on the Trent, home of the "stylists" in roach fishing, and on the waters near the metropolis, notably the Thames, where, save in the tideway, sport was far below that of average years.

When fish are on the rise there is not so much difference between the expert angler and the rustic lad with willow wand and bent pin and worm. Unfavourable conditions are the test of skill, and this season it was the dexterous rod only that made the big baskets. A famous lake in the north yielded a fine catch of pike to some notable Yorkshire anglers, and the more expert Nottingham men had some good takes of chub and roach. So with roach and bream in the Norfolk Broads. While the ruck of fishers on the Lea again were scarce getting a "knock" (the local term for a bite, or the semblance of a bite), a few of the cleverer men caught roach that doubtless will take a place among the trophies on their club walls. On the Thames, where, as a rule, sport was very dull, there was one bright gleam. Perch fishing, which was supposed to be almost, if not entirely, at an end on the metropolitan river, suddenly revived this season; with very fine paternosters, daintily baited with minnow or worm, anglers did well. Big bream, also, hobbled up serenely in the upper waters; unfortunately, there were few of them. The heavier roach, as usual, appeared at the wind-up

of the season. During the hot months, fly-fishing for chub in the leafy shadows was a pleasant sport, but it could not be called profitable.

While on the Thames, I may stop to enquire why it is that the gudgeon fishing of olden days has almost disappeared from it. It was a pleasant, nay, a romantic sport. The previous generations could tell of many a matrimonial match brought about in the pursuit of it. Many an old print recalls for us woman—lovely woman and dexterous angler—armed with a double lure, and with an eye upon a second fish. That was in the days of the quiet courtships on the river bank, and protest may be made that we could well spare for them the noisy and unblushing flirtations of the Thames highway to-day. Even without these contingent attractions, gudgeon fishing is not to be sneered at. The gudgeon is not so great a fool as he is called. Given a properly selected and prepared swim, fair skill, suitable tackle, and plenty of worms, of medium size and well scoured, and no doubt your gudgeon will bite and be caught. But to say that he is a specially silly fish is a slander. I hope to see gudgeon fishing once more common on the Thames, with or without the ladies. Last season would have been specially favourable for such a revival.

Coarse fish anglers are unassuming sportsmen, and it is surprising to find them opposed anywhere to the powers that be. This last season, however, a quarrel, or let me call it a misunderstanding, between the Birmingham anglers and the Severn Board of Conservators has brought about a state of matters that may become of considerable importance. On the one hand is Mr. Willis Bund—than whom there is no more competent authority—asserting that the river under the control of his Board is intended primarily to hold *Salmonidæ*; while the coarse fish anglers hint that the netting of the coarse fish has been carried on in a somewhat severe manner. Meanwhile, these anglers, before they are allowed to pursue their sport, are charged for a license; and this because the waters they fish may contain fish other than those known as "coarse." Here plainly is a pretty point for an arbiter. It seems unfair that the water of the angler for coarse fish should be depleted, and that yet he shall have to pay for the privilege of fishing it. On the other hand, *Salmonidæ* undoubtedly do frequent that water, and the Birmingham angler is not always on all occasions just precisely as particular as perhaps he ought to be. So it is quite right that he should pay. Could not an arrangement be come to whereby certain portions of the river shall be reserved, under the necessary restrictions, for the coarse fish anglers, and the money they pay applied to the protection and preservation of the coarse fish? But then, Mr. Willis Bund and his fellow conservators are probably not averse to the total disappearance of the coarse fish, and those who angle for them from these waters. Mr. Willis Bund may be right. Probably he is within his rights. But may not the nine or ten thousand Birmingham fishers have rights also? It appears a pretty point for an arbiter. IBIS TAG.

BETWEEN THE BITES.

It has been said, and the phrase is much heard in our day of town-growth and centralization: "Man is a gregarious animal." Yet when this assertion is considered, the fact would appear that the social affinities of the genus *Homo*—to use the scientist's language—are but means to an end, which is pleasure: that, indeed, the social man is really the pleasure-seeker. Man does not love society because he yearns for society *per se*, but for the pleasure incident to human intercourse.

The statement of this psychological distinction is necessary, in order to justify our defence of the "poor fisher" as regards the aspersions of certain folk, not of a piscatorial inclination, who are wont, at times, to regard us anglers as an unfavourable variation of the species.

Every human being seeks happiness, immediate or prospective. Happiness seems to consist in contrast; that is, before the feeling of happiness, the sense of eminent well-being can be experienced by an individual, this must have been preceded by a lower degree of the same mental state, or by

a degree of pain. Thus our critics find the contrast, productive to them of pleasurable feelings, in society; and the angler, though, as he might say, "'Tis not that I love man the less," likewise instinctively has none other motive in his gentle art than to become sensible of the lively contrast which arises from the quiet, restrained excitement of making the acquaintance of the elusive inhabitants of river and stream.

The fisherman, moreover, in thus taking his pleasure, is far more likely, when he returns from his excursions to the bosom of society, to be a socially agreeable and efficient being; and the more so, on account of his self-enforced contact with nature, and because, in Hazlett's words, he gives himself "a little breathing-space to muse on different matters, where contemplation

"May plume her feathers and let grow her wings,
That in the various bustle of resort
Were all too ruffled and sometimes impaired."

Experience of anglers proves that men of fresh, pleasant, original nature, and withal most profitable sociably, are to be found in the majority amongst them. I call to mind a hearty, white-haired old friend, a true disciple of Walton, who is, in fact, full of years, but young in spirit. How he delights to pass a day on the bank of a stream, talking to no one but the murmuring water and the spirit of the air, content so as he may have his crisp crust of bread and chunk of country cheese! If one is with him, he may drop an occasional remark which is always interesting—a very welcome exchange for commonplace verbosity. But he is too engaged and happy to speak overmuch. When, however, he returns to the centre of civilization, there is generally a competition for his company, so full of quaint tales and original comments is he. Everyone appears to find interest in his talk and society; and when any of these town-folk, with all timidity, venture with him to his happy hunting grounds, they not infrequently catch the piscatorial spirit, which is infectious, harmless, and delightful.

PHILOSOPHUS.

THE "BLOOMING" OR "BREAKING" OF LAKES AND PONDS.

(WASSER-BLÜTHE—FLEURS D'EAU.)

(Continued from page 166.)

"THE breaking of Copmere last year was caused by two of the species I have already mentioned. That portion forming a green scum on the surface of the mere I found to be *Clathrocystis æruginosa*. That permeating the water at all depths of the mere was *Aphanizomenon flos-aquæ*. They will presently appear on the screen in a very enlarged form.

"*Clathrocystis æruginosa* is the most remarkable product I ever saw. Amongst the countless millions on the surface of the mere no two are alike in form. To the unassisted eye they are like emerald green granules; they are fronds floating about the upper strata of the mere in vast numbers, forming a scum through which the water beneath cannot be seen.

"The size of these granules or fronds is as variable as their shapes, from $\frac{1}{16}$ th of an inch in diameter to $\frac{1}{8}$ th. Each frond is a microscopic gelatinous body, composed of a colourless gelatinous matrix in which are embedded innumerable minute green transparent round cells. The alteration of size and shape of the fronds, which are at first roundish, is owing to an erratic multiplication by division of the minute cells, causing the gelatinous encasing matrix to take shape as the cells, not larger than the $\frac{1}{1600}$ th of an inch in diameter, which multiply. Some resemble handcuffs, some chainwork, dumb-bells, and some in very fantastic lattice-like forms. It is from this lattice work the term *clathrate* is given to their structure. Each frond is quite distinct from its congeners whatever its shape may assume.

"The cells multiply by dividing into two or four, they have a distinct margin and contain granules. As cold weather approaches they swell up, fade to a brownish tint and sink to the bottom, to await a new life in the following year, until which time their life-history becomes lost.

"Unlike the freely swimming ciliated *Volvox*, they are motionless.

"I now come to the second kind.

"*Aphanizomenon flos-aquæ* is the extraordinary name given to the algæ which we found permeating the water of Copmere. It did not lie on the surface, like *Clathrocystis*, but was equally diffused throughout the whole of the mere. Its appearance is indicated on the sheet.

"It consists of what are termed trichomes, from the Greek word *thrix*, meaning the hair. It is a thread or filament of filamentous algæ, but has the power of associating itself with others in bundles of membranaceous flakes until they assume more or less a diamond shape. When so associated they appear minute specks, but can only be defined by microscopic assistance.

"The trichomes are straight, thin rods, separating when the water is shaken in a bottle. They are slightly granular, with cylindrical joints and reproductive spores. They belong to the confervoid algæ of the family *Nostochaceæ*. The filaments or trichomes have a diameter of about $\frac{1}{3000}$ th of an inch, and are flattish, but with cylindrical cells. It is probable that it is their flatness which causes them to cohere in clusters or bundles.

"Now, much as I had vainly hoped to have discovered something botanically new to chronicle in the report of our proceedings, I am obliged to confess that I am only relating what has been observed before in other meres by enquiring members of neighbouring field clubs; but as no discovery is complete in itself, or final, and only leading on by further investigation to fuller development, I am glad to be able to relate something of novelty and progressive research, and I am here led to the chemical and colour side of this question, and in that region I feel to be more at home.

"Having during many years past examined the colouring matter of plants yielding dyes, amongst many others that which gives to vegetation its green colour, namely chlorophyll or leaf-green, I was led to think the colouring matter of this alga was chlorophyll, and to try whether it could be isolated, and this inquiry resulted in some very interesting facts.

"It has been much questioned for many years past whether chlorophyll exists under the form of globules or granules, and whether solid, semi-solid, or a fluid enclosed in delicate membranes. In microscopic plants in which the circulation of the sap can be seen with the microscope, as in the *Chara*, the circulating chlorophyll can be seen in corpuscles beyond the cell-wall and in the circulating matter. In other plants the chlorophyll is to be seen both in corpuscles and amorphous.

"It is well known that alcohol and ether abstract the colour, whilst the corpuscles, cells or fibres containing it, remain, this points to their being dyed with the chlorophyll, and being distinct from it.

"The bottle of water containing these two forms of algæ I brought home with me as well as another I subsequently sent for, both of which I set aside for watching and experiment.

"With tincture of iodine the green colour is turned into a kind of golden brown. Natural decay also brought about the same change.

"In two weeks a perceptible change took place, decomposition set in from the algæ gradually dying, a light brownish sediment formed at the bottom of the bottle, which on examination with the microscope consisted of cell-walls of the trichomes, which were being greedily devoured by innumerable animalculæ, mostly ciliated free swimming infusoria of the *Colpodea* family, such as *Paramecium*, and *Opalina*, with a few rotifers of which there were only a few when the algæ were in a healthy state. The rapid increase of these infusoria, and their voracity was one of the most wonderful sights I ever saw. They seemed to increase by millions as scavengers of this decaying microscopic plant-life.

"In proportion as the vegetable tissue decayed a remarkable change occurred in the liquid. The chlorophyll having escaped its bonds became bluer in shade and remained in solution in the water as a tinctorial fluid of a bluish-green colour. Then in another week a new change took place, the dawn, so to speak, of autumnal tints occurred, the bluish-green liquid appeared by reflected light to be auburn, whilst by transmitted light no trace of this tint could be observed, as it held definitely to its bluish-green colour. This was a remarkable find, resembling a few of the dichroic and fluorescent aniline dyes

such as Uramine and Eosine, specimens of which I have brought with me in these small bottles, which distinctly show two colours as they are viewed by reflected or transmitted light. This is exactly what occurred with the solution of chlorophyll in the bottle. By reflected light no tinge of blue could be seen, nor any yellow by transmitted light. Chlorophyll then, in this state of change, is a dichroic liquid.

"This phenomenon remained in its fluorescent or dichroic state for about one month, and gradually the bluish green changed into a pretty autumnal reddish brown in which it rests to-day, the whole of the water becoming rust coloured, leaving no trace of blue or green. The animalculæ, for want of food, have died and helped to increase the deposit at the bottom of the bottle; the surface of the liquid, at first covered with the scum of *Clathrocystis*, is now a light floating scum of a rusty brown colour like the liquid and its deposit.

"Does not this portray what occurs in the leaves themselves during spring, summer, and autumn? With the sprouting of the leaf into light, chlorophyll begins to form, gradually deepening as summer advances, then as the sap loses its force and vitality, the chlorophyll changes its colour into those autumnal tints which make the woodland scenery so beautiful and varied.

"My friend, Dr. Schunck, of Manchester, to whom I sent a bottle of the Copmere water in its worst breaking state, by treating it with ether obtained two beautiful blue colouring matters of considerable intensity.

"This change finds its reflex, too, in the arts, for chlorophyll is now a commercial product. Mr. E. D. Haen, of Hanover, has discovered a method of extracting chlorophyll from plants in the two forms in which I found it in the bottles of Copmere water.

"I have had an interesting correspondence with him, and have obtained from him samples of his products, both in a soluble and insoluble form.

"Those insoluble in water are soluble in oil and other fatty matters, also in absolute alcohol. They are chiefly used by confectioners in the manufacture of liqueurs, and for reviving the tone of faded tinned vegetables.

"I venture to suggest, in concluding this paper, that it would be of interest, and probably of use, to institute a series of investigations to determine the pathological properties of these mere waters when in the 'breakage' condition.

"It occurs to me to suggest that if fish are so harmfully affected by it, it may not be outside the bounds of probability that epidemics, both in man and beast, may be traced to this source as a cause. I found vibrios present in considerable numbers."

THE IRISHMAN'S STORY, WITH INTERRUPTIONS.

BY "KRYPTOS."

"DID ye never hear the story of Jarvey's salmon, sor?—No! Well, I am surprised! Why, iveryone from here to Kilerum has heard it a dozen toimes with one in to make it shure they'll never forget it.

"Jarvey's the boatman down at Ballycorvan Lake wid his own boat, shure. 'Tis thrue it's got a mighty little bit o' bottom; but thin ye can't have iverything in the world.—Oh, it's the boat that has mighty little bottom—not the lake—that has moiles of it.

"Well, sor, as oi was sayin', the boat on Ballycorvan belongs to Jarvey, or it did before it sank, an' Jarvey died.—No; Jarvey wer'nt drowned whin the boat sank, he wasn't in it; there was no accident thin, divil a bit, because he'd hoired the boat to an Englishman! Of course the Englishman was drowned, but 'twas his own fault, shure, for no one but a fool would hoire a boat wid no bottom.—How did he git into the boat?—Why, like any ither man. No; he couldn't fall through, because the holes were patched up. Anyhow, before he hoired out the boat he used it himself, an' he would 'a used it afterwards only he died before, an' the boat sank, which was a providential thing, because it might have sunk before he died, an' when he was in it, bad luck to it, and thin his woife would 'a been lift a widder, only she'd been dead two year, an' he'd married agin since thin!—Oh, yes, the Englishman lift a woife

an' family; so ye see it's an ill wind as blows nobody good. It might 'a bin Jarvey's family, 'cept that he didn't have none, as his bhoys was all grown up.—Well, sor! before he died he was out fishin' wid two gentlemen who was stayin' up at the Inn, an' as they didn't care to come out for the rain, he wint along by himself, an' as his boat had no bottom at all, at all—savin' the patches—he took old Michael Cassidy's, which had a good bottom but poor side planks, an' he was out on the top of the lake an' usin' a loive-bait for pike, which same are foine fish in our water. Well, sor, 'twas rainin' loike the ould gentleman himself—savin' your presence—an' he was wet as the lake itself; except he was in the boat he might 'a bin in the water, though he was better where he was, for Jarvey couldn't swim. Michael Cassidy could though! so he hadn't patched up the soides of his boat quite sure, for he niver used it himself, an' o' course if other people couldn't swim 'twas nothin' to do with him. Well, sor, Jarvey got holt av a big fish, an' he pulled up the stone they used to anchor—'twas Jarvey pulled up the stone, not the fish—and he cut it off av the rope because, shure, the boat wouldn't hold both him an' the stone.—How did he get the stone there? Well, begorra! I'm tilling the story as ivery one av us heard Jarvey tell it, an' Jarvey cut the stone off, so I suppose he put it on! An' shure wasn't it raining, so the boat wud be full o' water. That's why he couldn't take the stone in too!—Why didn't he empt' the water out? Well, wasn't he in the middle av the lake, an' didn't oi tell ye he couldn't swim! How was he to git out an' do it? Well, in good toime the water in the boat ran out av the holes in the soides, an' Jarvey was mighty glad, or he'd niver 'a bin able to git the fish in. Jarvey said 'twere the biggest fish in the lake, an' begorra! it pulled like a horse, wid Jarvey an' the boat bein' towed along ather it. Then Jarvey found that all the loine was out an' the fish was still pulling.—What did he do? Why he let it pull! an' they wint from the thop av the lake to the bottom in fourteen minutes.—No, I don't mean that the boat sunk thin! I mean they thravelled from the Kilerum end to the Ballycorvan end in that toime. Sure, it wouldn't take thim fourteen minutes to do it *downwards*, though the lake is deep! Presently he saw Michael Cassidy comin' down the shore, and Michael yells, 'Come out o' my boat, ye spalpeen!' 'I wish oi cud!' says Jarvey, then he bawls 'Bring me another loine and a gaff!' for the boat was so low in the water that he'd lift these out for fear she'd be swamped. So Michael started off to Kilerum to git him a new loine.

"When he'd gone the salmon turned an' pulled the boat back to the Kilerum end, so if Jarvey had knowed he might have given Cassidy a lift as far as that, 'cept that, av course, he couldn't git near the shore, an' the two av thim must 'a swamped her intoirely.

"What did Jarvey do? Why he wint with the boat! I told ye he couldn't swim! Presently the soides av the boat begun to leak, an' Jarvey tuk off his coat an' sthuffed the hole up wid his sleeve. Thin the other soide began to leak, so he tuk the other sleeve an' sthuffed that hole up, an' ather that the boat begun to leak, an' Jarvey sot on the hole! But the extry weight av the coat at the bottom av the boat settled it a bit more, so he tuk it out and threw it over the soide; but it only sunk a little more, so he got out av the boat to loighten it! It was a great shame entirely, for it was a foine fish, and—What became of Jarvey? Why, shure, I told ye he couldn't swim! He was drowned! I told you he was drowned in Michael Cassidy's boat!—How do we know it was a salmon?—Beggorra, didn't the salmon get away! Who saw it all happen?—Why haven't I told you Jarvey told Michael Cassidy to go an' git him a gaff an' a loine, an', shure, didn't he come back an' foind his boat at the bottom! Bad luck to it! It must have bin a foine fish.—What?—Oh, thin! I can't tell ye all over agin, and shure it's Jarvey's own story, an' it's not well to talk careless av dead men!"

THE LION HOTEL TROUT WATER, FARNINGHAM.—We hear that Mr. Lovegrove has re-stocked his water, and, to make it more select, has raised the price of day tickets to 7s. 6d., with a limited number of season tickets at £5 5s.

IMPRISONMENT FOR A DAY'S FISHING.

A SHORT time ago, an officer of the 60th Rifles was staying at Troyes for a few months in the summer with an Abbé, for the purpose of rubbing up his French before going to the Staff College. Being a keen fisherman, he spent a good many of his leisure hours in whipping the neighbouring streams. He fished the Yonne, Seine, and Aube; the best for trout was the first named, though he caught some beauties over a pound, high up in the Aube, above Bar-sur-Aube; he caught no trout in the Seine.

The streams were all netted, and it was only in places difficult to net that there was any good sport to be had. Proprietors generally made no difficulty about allowing him to fish. One day, when fishing near Brienne, and having landed about two dozen small fish something like our dace, which had risen eagerly to a blue dun, a picturesque view on the opposite bank caught his fancy; he sat down by the side of the stream, took out his drawing-book, and began making a sketch. Becoming engrossed in his work, he did not hear two men approaching him from behind. The sketch being finished to his satisfaction, he put the book into his pocket, and was proceeding to take up the rod, when a hand was laid on his shoulder, and turning sharply round, he found himself face to face with two gendarmes, one of whom said, "I arrest you as a German spy," and in spite of his protestations, was marched off to prison; after being searched, he was taken before the Mayor of Brienne. In vain he explained that he was an English officer on leave, and that he was merely making a sketch for his own amusement. This did not satisfy them; they said they did not believe he was an Englishman, but knew he was a spy and a German, and one that the secret police had long been on the look-out for, and that now being caught in the flagrant act of making a map of the country he must go to prison. He was locked up all night in a very uncomfortable cell on very short commons. However, the next day, much to his relief, he was informed that his identity had been proved through the English Embassy in Paris. The gendarmes apologised for the mistake that had been made, and said that, having been warned that a spy of German nationality was in the vicinity, and having watched him on several occasions taking notes, and, as they thought, making a plan of the country, they considered it their duty to arrest him. Everything having been explained satisfactorily and a promise being given that care should be taken that he should not be interfered with again, he was allowed to go free. In relating his adventure, the officer in question said that after it was all over he was not sorry to have had this experience, as it gave him an insight into French prison life, which he could never otherwise have obtained; he also learned a good many French phrases not in common use.

P. H. BEWICKE.

WHEN AND HOW TO USE GENTLES.

IF you look at a Lea angler at work, the chances are that you will find he is using as bait white bread paste—an excellent bait, too, for most kinds of fish, as he or any experienced angler well knows. This clean and simple bait is found to be universally effective in the capture of roach and bream, and though not the bait *par excellence* for other fish, still it not infrequently accounts for the lives of rudd, barbel, chub, tench, and dace, to say nothing of bleak, and most of the few remaining kinds of fresh-water fish, odd members of which are at times thus accounted for. No doubt white bread paste is always reliable as likely to give some results, but however much can be said in its favour, even for the capture of those two fish for which it is particularly good, it seems to me too great a piece of conservatism to use it so exclusively as does the Lea angler. Winter and summer alike you rarely find him without it, whilst usually he has nothing else, or, if he has, it is in insufficient quantity to be effectively used. It is more than a stand-by with him; it is as essential as was the sheet anchor in the sea songs of the Dibdin days. On the face of it, such conservatism is hardly wise considering the fickleness, if I may be allowed

the word, that is characteristic of all angling experiences. I may go a step further, and say that it is a mistake.

Now, on the other hand, if you look at a Sheffield angler when engaged in catching the same species of fish, you will almost as certainly find him using gentles—he is as conservative in their use as is his Lea brother in the use of bread paste—and as we condemn the exclusiveness of the one, so must we that of the other. This much, however, for the Sheffielder, that, though gentles are to him a stand-by, they are not essential, being oftener subordinated to other baits than is bread in the case of the *habitués* of the Lea. The Sheffielder knows well the virtues of creed wheat, potato, worms, and the like, not to relegate some amount of consideration to them at suitable times of the year, though from a large amount of experience and contact with him in his own waters I must say that he is altogether at fault in a too sparing use of bread. Perhaps this omission is not entirely a loss, for he is so inordinately extravagant in the use of ground-bait that to follow his practices with a bait of the food value of bread would be to surfeit the fish in every water with which he came in contact.

Of the respective merits of paste and gentles I need not stop to compare. Both are excellent, and in their season and place the best that can be used. Personally, I am unprejudiced, using both with equal openness of mind, being guided solely by discretion. To the reader I would advise the same freedom, and forthwith I am brought to the practical purpose of this article, which I trust will be found of some real utility to those who peruse it.

When to Use Gentles.—I could dismiss the question with the reply, "Rarely be without them," and the advice would be good, if, albeit, too summary. But I wish to be much more exact than that. In waters like the Thames and the Trent they are never out of season, but in canals, lakes, and quiet waters generally, there are very decidedly preferential times, and times when they are at a discount. They are at a discount in very warm weather, the number of little fish then taken amounting at times to a positive nuisance. Autumn is the time *par excellence*, and running it close in suitability is winter. It sometimes happens, too, at the end of June, when the angling season is just born, that the temperature of the early mornings, or even later in the day, is much on an equality with that of autumn. In such a case gentles ought to have a preference. From purely practical considerations I would also strongly recommend gentles for windy weather at any season of the year. Paste, unless sweetened or otherwise rendered more than naturally adhesive, is not a very comfortable bait to use at such times. With paste the angler needs to see a bite promptly, and though a feeding fish is noticeably bolder in rough weather than in calm, and takes the bait with much less circumspection, yet for all that there is still lacking that absolute promptitude of detection that should characterise paste fishing. Now, with gentles it is otherwise. You must be as prompt to detect a bite usually as with paste, but there is this great difference, that your gentles will not be taken off the hook before you have a chance of getting your fish, should you be somewhat slow, or, what is tantamount to the same thing, your gentles are not so easily gutted in proportion as paste is removed from the hook, this fact often resulting in the fish holding the bait longer in the mouth in the former than in the latter case—a distinct advantage when at such times delicate movements of the float are undiscernible except to the most practised sight.

It will be noticed that I have assigned the best times for gentles to those seasons when they are scarcest or altogether unattainable. True, they are not to be had freshly bred, but they are to be had for all that. The angler must look ahead, and provide, like the ant, in the season of plenty for the time of dearth. To be precise, the angler must get his gentles as late in the season as the weather will admit of their being bred (last year, owing to the extreme mildness that prevailed, they were to be had until well into November, though in general the middle of September is quite late enough), and then suitably store them for the rest of the autumn and winter requirements. The *modus operandi* is, I believe, commonly known, but for the information of the inexperienced, and for the sake of completeness, I

will briefly describe it. When full grown, the gentles should be taken from the vessel in which they have been bred, and placed in a large earthenware jar or in a zinc bath with alternate layers of damp sand. Caution must be observed not to make the sand too damp, or it will lead to the death and decay of the whole, and to the annoyance and disgust of the angler. Be prodigal with the sand; and when the whole have been bedded down, place the vessel in a dark, cool place, with preferably a damp, not wet, atmosphere. At intervals pay a visit of inspection, especially if immediately after the operation of storing the weather should become rather warm for a day or two. If the surface sand shows signs of becoming dry, add a little damp sand, but on no account try to water the sand already in the vessel. Don't be alarmed if you find a few flies about. So long as there is not a general exodus from the vessel, the bulk of those stored there will be safe and well. When you require to take some of your store, be careful not to disturb the repose of the remainder. Neither curiosity nor concern should induce you to interfere with them until they, too, are required for actual use. The test of your success will be a good sized, smooth-skinned gentle all through the winter. Failure will be evinced by a putrid, offensive mass if too much water was used initially, a preponderance of dead ones if you were too early in your storing, or kept the vessel in too warm a place, and a diminutively sized gentle if all along the sand has been too dry. Notwithstanding, it is a simple matter to be successful.

How to Use Gentles.—In this there lies some amount of art. I have seen anglers, who might have known better, using gentles in a manner that was absolutely prohibitive to success. On this head I hope to convey some useful information. When I have been in a tackle dealer's shop, I have been amazed at times by the number of customers coming in for pennyworths of gentles. I may say most emphatically that it is sheer waste of money and labour to go fishing with a pennyworth of gentles. When they are retailed at a penny the spoonful, as is very often done, two shillings' worth would be but a moderate quantity for a day's fishing. This, I know, would be beyond the pockets of many anglers—I should be sorry, myself, to have to add 2s. for gentles to the other incidental expenses of the day—and I would strongly advise anglers to resolutely decline to pay such a proportional price for them. It is scandalously exorbitant, and the retailing at a penny the spoonful is quite as bad. Nowhere can you expect to get one gentle too many for a fishing excursion for 6d., and with a reasonable dealer this quantity should be your medium amount, while half as many more, or upwards, would be better. Best of all, is to take a lesson from the Sheffielder, and breed your own. You will get a bigger and better gentle for your reward. When once the eggs have hatched out nicely in the breeding vessel, a good covering of bran will effectually remove any offensiveness that otherwise might arise either for yourself or your neighbours. As an alternative, I would suggest your making friends with the butcher's boy. He is most amenable to a few coppers, though I have found that, unless he knows the value of gentles in the angler's eyes, he thinks you a fool, and neglects you if you are not handsome in your rewards.

To have plenty of gentles, then, is the first essential to success. A second preliminary that I would insist upon is as essential in its way as the first. It is to have a suitable ground-bait. Nothing can be better than bran. If the water to be fished will admit of it, bran alone should be used, but if there is too much stream for the angler to know precisely where his ground-bait of bran alone would ultimately rest, then he must add something to give it more weight. A little meal is beneficial in this respect, and gives less food than bread. Whatever the angler uses, it should have as little food value as possible. The aim should be to use as light and as unfeeding a ground-bait as possible. If the added material has a value in this respect, rather than err on the side of adding a needless quantity, it should be carried separately to the waterside and mixed in the proportions that then appear necessary. The mixture can then be quietly soaked in the water and squeezed to the required consistency. A

good alternative to bran is to chew, or soak and squeeze, a few pellets of bread, but it should not be overdone. It is also good to follow paste fishing in a spot without using any ground-bait at all.

When the preliminary ground-bait has settled, throw in a handful of gentles—now we shall begin to understand the necessity for having plenty of them. If the water contains bleak or other small fish in numbers, and but too often they simply swarm, then a handful of gentles is wasted. Instead, two or more handfuls thrown in as quickly as possible, so that a fair number will ultimately reach the bottom, will be necessary. One must circumvent these small pests somehow, or not a single gentle will reach its intended destination. A good plan is to throw several pieces of soaked, but unsqueezed, bread on the water, and when this has floated or drifted away, and so taken off the attention of the small freebooters, a handful of gentles can be safely and quietly thrown in. When the sport begins, do not keep the fish too long without a gratis feed. Use little ground-bait, but after every fish, or alternate fish, throw in a few more gentles, taking care that they shall have a chance of getting to the bottom as before. This plan you will adhere to throughout your fishing. If the bottom is weedy or muddy more gentles are required to produce the effect you desire, as they quickly get buried and lost.

Lastly I come to the hook and the mode of baiting it. Much fault often attaches to the angler in this respect. In baiting the hook, take a gentle and hold it very firmly between the finger and thumb, with the thin end or head of the gentle pointing towards you. Do not be afraid of holding it firmly, it takes a very hard pinch to burst a well-scoured gentle. Now take the hook and prick it through as little of the skin at the thick end of the gentle as you can, increasing the firmness with which the latter is held during the operation rather than relaxing it. When the point of the hook has pierced its skin, push the gentle well on the bend so that the barb is quite clear. Release the gentle from the hold, and what have you? A natural looking, unrestrained bait.

"But all your hook is visible to the fish," I hear someone (to whom the method is strange) object. "Quite so," I reply, "and what of that?" "Oh, the fish will see the hook and know the danger!" "With qualification," I reply; "rubbish, my good friend! If your hook is big, well, it will present more hook than gentle, and you would hardly expect an educated roach to accept such an anomaly. Now, follow me. I use by preference McKenzie's, which are numbered in the old style of larger numbers to the smaller sizes. If you are going to fish with a single gentle on the hook, then use a No. 14 or 15 for a still water, and a size larger for a running stream requiring heavier tackle. Nos. 14 and 13 are also good for two gentles. For three or more gentles use a 13 or a 12. In roach fishing a smaller sized hook can safely be used than would be advisable in bream or chub fishing with a corresponding bait. Also single gentles are often the best for the former, when they would be useless for the latter fish."

Thus I would answer the objector. If he has a very strong opinion against showing even a little of the hook, he will the more readily follow the plan I myself adopt, which is to change the size of the hook with systematic regularity every time that the number of gentles used at a time is varied. I would urge the use of a short-shanked hook—the shorter the better—and the smallest that will give you a chance of landing your best fish. When fish are shy, risk a little in this direction, and leave yourself the minimum of chance, trusting rather to your skill and care than to a larger hook, which might be safe if you could get your fish on to it, but which would, if tried, be precisely the reason why the fish would thankfully decline. It pays to attend to these details. The finest roach I ever caught—a fish of 1lb. 14oz.—was taken with a single gentle on a No. 16 hook. The day was most miserable, and altogether against successful angling. With the utmost care and diligence I could only show that and another fish at the end of the day. Nevertheless, I was proud of the result, and the anxiety of the moments whilst fighting my prize on such a very small hook forms now one of the

pleasantest recollections amongst many happy reminiscences that it is my fortune to possess.

To sum up and complete the gist of my advice, on the second head of my remarks, I would say: In all cases adopt the method of hooking on the gentles that I have indicated, whether for one, two, or more gentles, and bury any absurdities you may have cherished on the mere fact of a visible hook; on the other hand, do not let the size of the hook render the appearance of the bait suspicious, or hamper its freedom unnecessarily; use the smallest hook possible with the shortest of shanks, and I may add as neatly and finely "dubbed" as possible; change the gentles every time you get a bite, whether they appear spoiled or not, and if you do not get a bite quickly, change the gentle every few minutes as though you had had a bite; select for the hook the largest, liveliest, and smoothest skinned ones; keep feeding your fish with gentles according to the particular necessities of your swim; ground-bait little and rarely, and with ground-bait of the highest possible character; fish with tackle as light as possible; and, finally, let observation and discretion attend you in all things.

FOSSDYKE.

THE FISHERIES EXHIBITION

AT THE

ROYAL AQUARIUM.

"In the eighth annual Fisheries Exhibition, beautifully constructed fishing rods, reels, flies, baits, nets, bags, and all accessories of the gentle art of fishing are exhibited by the leading fishing tackle makers. An angler must indeed be hard to please if he cannot select a suitable outfit from the immense varieties that are on show, and to those who are purchasing, the advantages of a visit to the Exhibition for the purposes of comparison and selection are obvious. In the tanks will be found collections of live fish recently contributed to the society by the foremost fish hatcheries (including that of Mr. Corrie on the Itchen). There are also on exhibit some of the fish sent to the Aquarium last year, now thoroughly naturalised. Amongst the novelties will be an importation of a considerable number of frozen New Zealand fish, forwarded to the Fisheries Exhibition by the Waitaki and Waimate Acclimatisation Society, per the New Zealand Shipping Co's. ss. *Waitaki*, which left New Zealand the end of January last. A good array of craft of all kinds, including launches, punts, skiffs, canoes, &c., by leading boatbuilders, and exhibitors in the subsidiary trades, are interspersed throughout the Exhibition."

These words from the "Preface" to the exhibition catalogue seem about all that need be said about the affair generally. We miss some old friends, but the exhibition is very attractive to anyone interested in any branch of angling, as it is a thoroughly up-to-date show of all that is best in rods, reels, and tackle of all kinds.

Taking the stands in their order in the catalogue (and we beg to suggest to Mr. Ritchie that 6d. is 3d. too much to ask for it), we began a six hours' tour of them at Messrs. Hardy's No. 3 and 3A. Here the Alnwick firm have a grand show of their single and double built split cane rods, famous all the world over. Even American anglers are customers, in spite of the heavy duty and the perfection of their own split cane rods. Among many we tried were "Hardy's Champion," 17ft., a copy of Mr. J. J. Hardy's own favourite pattern, and the one he has made his record casts with. The "Kelson," 17ft. 6in., is one of the most powerful built cane rods in the Exhibition, while as an A 1 general fly rod there is nothing to beat the "Hi Regan," 16ft. (called after the author of "How and Where to Fish in Ireland"). A 15½ft. steel centre struck us as being just the thing for a lady salmon angler, or for grilse or heavy trout. Messrs. Hardy make a still lighter salmon rod for ladies—one of 15ft. and a 14ft. May Fly rod, which would have delighted the late Francis Francis. Other patterns new this year are the "R. B. Marston" dry-fly rod in split cane; it is 10ft. 6in., and has a hand grip to screw on to the butt, giving an extra 6in. or 8in., which at times is an immense advantage. The action in this rod plays evenly down to the hand, and although it will cast a long line it is intended for fishing comfortably all day without

straining the wrist and with a light reel line. It is the copy of a rod made to order for the editor of the *Fishing Gazette*, and used by him with great satisfaction all last season. A rod about which there has been some correspondence in the *Gazette* is the "Harden," also a dry-fly rod, the pattern of Mr. Henry Harden, of the Piscatorial Society. We certainly think there is more of the Castleconnell action about this rod than we have noticed in a split cane, and we should say that anyone who once got into the swing would be very much pleased with it. Other favourite patterns are the Halford "Priceless," and the Booth "Derbyshire" dry-fly rod, shorter and lighter than the Hampshire rods. Then Mr. Pope's pattern, made both in split cane and in greenheart, the latter at 25s., is one of the sweetest greenheart rods we ever handled. Mr. Pope is a member of the Fly Fishers' Club, also of the Dorchester Club, and a first-rate fly fisher. In lines Messrs. Hardy show a most perfect one, double tapered, called the "Corona," and their silk waterproofed landing-nets are very great improvements on the old nets, which shrink up to nothing, or catch the barbs of hooks, as if made for that purpose.

Messrs. Hardy tell us they have a great demand for Mr. Murdoch's split cane spinning and prawn-rod, and also for the same rod in greenheart at half the price. We have already fully described and illustrated the hardy "Silex" reel, and after trying it and also watching what a perfect novice can do with it, we can say with confidence that it is a splendid reel. For instance, we were pike fishing last month with a friend who had never done any pike fishing to speak of, and knew nothing of casting from the reel in any other way. We fitted him up with a stiff Slater greenheart pike rod and a "Silex," and all day long for two days he made casts from the reel almost without an over-run. It happened in this way. Soon after Mr. J. T. Emery had made his extraordinary cast of over 80yds. from the "Silex," we had a long chat with him about it, and he said that provided you were using a fairly heavy bait you could cast from the "Silex" without needing to control it in any way, so that it could be used by a novice or anyone who could not get the knack of controlling the Nottingham reel. The "Silex" is thus proved to be as valuable to the expert as to the novice in casting, and the makers are adapting its principle to their sea reels, for which work it answers admirably. Messrs. Hardy have made one specially for us with the rim of the revolving part exposed, so that it can be controlled with the fingers, and without guards of any kind. Messrs. Hardy have, of course, a fine general show of salmon and sea trout flies and baits, flies on gut, and A 1 floaters on eyed hooks. We hear they have on hand a new combination pike tackle invented by Mr. Alfred Jardine.

At stand No. 13 Messrs. A. CARTER and Co., of 137, St. John-street, London, E.C., have a show which does them credit, as usual, and many anglers have already tried the action of the Duke of Edinburgh's 10ft. split cane fly rod, a lovely little rod for 45s. Other favourite patterns with their customers are the Dixon and the 9ft. "Phelps," made for a relation of Phelps, the famous actor and fly fisher. Another aristocratic pattern is the 14ft. "Empress," sold to the Empress of Russia, a light, split cane grilse rod. Surely no one need be without a salmon rod who can get near salmon fishing. Carter's £2 2s. greenheart rods, 16ft. to 18ft., are wonders at the price; for those with longer purses they have treble-built split canes of various lengths. The "Imperial," 9ft. 9in., fly rod, ordered for the Emperor of Germany, is a beautifully-finished greenheart, and can also be had in split cane. To take up a whole cane pike rod after handling those for fly work, is like catching hold of a poker—rather appropriate in the case of the "Kitchener," ordered for the Sirdar. Now that special wire reel lines are being used and advocated by some members of the British Sea Anglers' Society, it has become necessary to enlarge the revolving wheel in the pulley arrangement at the end of the top joint; and this Messrs. Carter have done. Another novelty is their trout reel in aluminium—very strong shape—the cheapest reel of the kind we have ever seen. Such a reel would have been £5 a few years ago, before aluminium dropped so in price. Carter's sixpenny 3yd. all undrawn gut lines are worth

examining, as also are their 1s. 6d. a dozen floating double wing flies, on eyed hooks, and their small May Flies at 2s. 6d. a dozen. Also may be mentioned small Jock Scotts at 6d. each, well dressed, double tapered trout fly lines, and salmon gut at 30s. a hank. Equally cheap and good are Carter's solid leather tackle cases and fly books. The tubular steel fly rod, at 22s., is said to have many admirers, among which we do not figure. Anglers who want a cheap reel for a boy should ask to see Carter's shilling metal reel. Their salmon gaff, with shank specially made to fasten to a stick, is excellent; the inside of the shank is rounded to fit the handle, and the outside deeply notched, to hold the waxed thread well.

At Stand No. 15 Messrs. KING, MALCOM and Co., of 19, Leicester-square, show their excellent hand-made fishing brogues, with a stout metal plate the whole length of the foot to carry the nails. Their tanned calf shoe and boot fishing brogues are made in improved shapes, and also well worth notice are the strong leather rain and wind resisting coats in all colours. Of these the secretary of the Automobile Club says: "They are very suitable coats for motor cars and for night and sea fishing, as they can easily be kept soft and pliable." Another useful invention is the light, but strong wicker "tree" for drying knee and thigh boots. The combination waterproof cloth and leather knee and thigh fishing boots; the rubber, or, as the Americans call them, "gum" boots, with leather soles; and other things of interest to anglers will be found at our old friend Mr. Malcom's stall.

Stand No. 20.—Messrs. OGDEN and SCOTFORD, of Pittville-gates, Cheltenham, and 19, Leicester-square, London. A rod Mr. Scotford showed us, which ought to have a good sale, is a guinea fly rod in a dull green colour, with two tops, called the "Colne," and their 12ft. (£3 10s.) split cane, and 10ft. 6in. (£3 3s.) ditto, made in two joints or three joints, struck us as being excellent value. Another fine rod is their 15ft. double-built split cane, steel centre, with lockfast joints (£8 8s.). We hear they will put a new reel on the market shortly. We shall give an illustrated notice of it when it is ready. Of their celebrated Blue Mahoe rods, which this firm has made for so many years, they have only about five left—three joint rods—(42s.). They can get no more Mahoe. A rod spear of good shape, made of aluminium gut, salmon casts, three yards (8s. 6d.), tested up to 17lb. (was it 17lb., or did we misunderstand?) emerald green whole gut trout casts at 1s. Mr. Scotford thinks his emerald green tint a better one than the ordinary blue tint—and it may be—certainly the casts are excellent. We last year noticed the firm's registered "Duplex" fishing bag; but they have improved it since then, and make it in two sizes at 6s. 6d. and 10s. 6d. By a very simple arrangement you can use it either as a small bag, to hold, say, 10lb. or 12lb. of trout, or opened out to take bigger fish. It is made of some very strong material which washes well, and although not actually waterproof (a bad thing to carry fish in), it will not allow moisture from the fish to exude. Living near the celebrated Fairfieldshire Colne and other good trout streams, it is for the fly fisher that Messrs. O. and S. chiefly cater, though other branches of the art are by no means neglected.

Stand No. 21 is a large and well arranged one of the ARMY AND NAVY CO-OPERATIVE SOCIETY, of Victoria-street, S.W. The society is only showing here, not selling. It has purchased and issued over 20,000 tickets to its own members in order that they may have a chance to see rods, reels, &c., better than they do at headquarters. In the middle of the exhibit hangs a framed copy of *Vanity Fair's* portrait of the late Mr. William Black, with an extract from one of the articles he wrote for the *Fishing Gazette* some years ago. There are also two very fine stuffed tarpon on show here, and the "Army and Navy" Co. make a feature of rods and tackle for tarpon fishing. Here you can see an American split-cane tarpon pole at £8, and an English whole cane one for 26s. Also English and American tarpon reels and lines. (This reminds us that Mr. Rowland Ward, of 166, Piccadilly, has some startling oil paintings of tarpon fishing on view). Altogether, the Army and Navy Co-operative Society may be proud of their show. They have on sale a book, not previously known to us, called "The Tarpon," price 5s. an

American work worth noting by those interested in this great sporting fish. A very attractive and well got-up catalogue has been produced by the Army and Navy Co-operative Society, reflecting great credit on the manager of the Fishing Department.

At Stand No. 24 Mr. DAVID SLATER, of Newark-on-Trent, makes a fine show, as usual. His latest salmon reel is made of an aluminium alloy, and the 5in. size is 35s. We understand that the other day his Royal Highness the Duke of York purchased one of these reels. For trout the 2½in. size is 17s. 6d. He has the well-known and favourite ebonite "Fly Fisher's Reel" in two sizes, and with silent or ordinary check as desired. His 12-plait undressed Nottingham silk line, of a dark green colour, at 6s. 6d. per 100yds., should be noted by pike and Nottingham anglers, as also the well-made 4in. Nottingham reel, with check, at 7s. 6d.—quite thirty per cent. cheaper than formerly. Sea fishing reels seem to be inclined to become as big as the proverbial gooseberry. Mr. Slater makes a big one, called the "Future," of mahogany and aluminium: the latter metal is making headway in all branches of the tackle business. For £3 Mr. Slater makes a very pretty 10ft. steel centre split cane—one top—and one at £4 5s., 10ft. 6in., with two tops, steel centre, or £3 5s. without. Another rod which we liked has a greenheart butt and the rest split cane. These mixtures have not been tried half enough; the advantage of combining two different woods in bows has been known for ages. For instance, a rod with greenheart butt, whole cane middle joint, and split cane top might answer admirably if judiciously matched, and would not be expensive. Mr. Slater is also showing split cane salmon rods in different lengths; his "Piscatorial" general rod, at 10s. 6d. with cork handle, and punt rod, at 23s., deserve mention. Of his reels of walnut, mahogany, ebonite, brass, aluminium, gun metal, &c., he has a brave show.

Stand No. 28.—Mr. JOHN ENRIGHT.—Mr. Enright is making a feature of the "Shannon" salmon reel, made of ebonite (extra large), to hold 200yds. of line, and the same reel can be had in aluminium. He has also an aluminium trout reel, at 6s. 6d. The "Shannon" 3yd. trout casts, at 4s. a dozen, will be found first-rate for sea trout and lake trout flies; and for dry fly or wet fly work in rivers the 3yd. natural gut casts, at 9d. each, can be recommended. Very good salmon gut casts are the 3yd. treble and single, and ditto double and single casts, at 6s. 6d. Then he has a light salmon cast, at 3s. 6d., and a light grilse, at 1s. 3d. For rough work, in big waters, the 3s. treble gut "Shannon" casts and traces cannot be beaten, and some big Shannon fish have already been killed on them. Pike anglers should make a note of Mr. Enright's stout 2yd. gut traces, at 1s. It is not picked gut, of course, but it is just the thing for the pike paternoster. Of course, Mr. Enright has a good show of salmon and trout flies, including floating flies. His double hook salmon flies are in great demand, and his reel lines, both for salmon and trout fishing, including doubled tapered 40yd. lines, are certain to give satisfaction. Among the fly rods we handled we liked much a 16ft. greenheart, in two joints, and 18ft., in three joints. This is made after the pattern of the "Champion" rod, but with a little less stuff in it. The guinea four joint greenheart fly rod, with two tops, is full value, and those who are satisfied with less finish should note the fact that Mr. Enright is now selling a greenheart fly rod, with two tops, any length or action up to 12ft., at 12s. 6d.

No. 29 on the list is Mr. T. W. MARTIN, "The Trent Otter" show. Mr. Martin is well known as the author of "Float Fishing and Spinning in the Nottingham Style," published sixteen or eighteen years ago, and other works on angling, which can be seen at his stand. He is now located at 8, Seymour-street, Euston-square, N.W., an address well known to London roach anglers. Mr. Martin has some fine roach poles from 18s. to 35s., and is showing English made split cane rods from £2 2s., and Malleson's American ditto at 30s. and 35s., with maker's name on them. This is important, as some very cheap rubbish in the shape of split cane rods is on the market. Mr. M.'s greenheart fly rods at 17s. 6d. up to 12ft. deserve notice, and for a youth we can safely say we have not seen at the price, 6s. 6d. to 8s. 6d., a better rod than his greenheart fly rod. In salmon

rods he shows greenheart from 25s. to 45s. A 17ft. at the lower price seemed to us, as far as it was possible to judge in such cramped surroundings, quite wonderful value. At £8 he has a genuine "Leonard" salmon rod, split cane. Of course, Nottingham rods and tackle are well represented, and he has a pike or sea rod at 28s., with extra stout ferrules and fittings. Mr. M. shows Mr. Coxon's capital "Ariel" Nottingham reel, and what seemed to us to be extra stout and round salmon gut at 12s. per hundred lengths—just right for those who are not particular about extra length as long as the gut is strong—and he has much cheaper still, which would do for sea fishing. Fly fishers should see his 5s. 6d. trout landing net, a very simple affair, which we can recommend to those who want a light net that closes up for packing, is strong and rigid, and without knuckles. For another shilling you can have a butt to fit on to the landing handle—a capital thing where a long landing handle is wanted. Mr. Martin has an eyed fly box, fitted with the invaluable oil bottle, held in its place by a clip—the first box we have seen so fitted.

Near Mr. Martin's stand is an exhibit of McLACHLAN'S patent portable electric propeller. Anyone possessing a skiff, canoe, &c., can by means of this apparatus convert it into what is practically an electric boat without in any way altering the construction. You simply take off the old rudder and hang on MacLachlan's, which is rudder and propeller combined. It is a very clever affair.

Stand No. 30.—A few words of praise must be given to the "Ceres" Letter and Card Files, Cabinets, &c., illustrating the "Ceres" system of keeping letters and papers. We have used the box files for years, and consider the whole system the best we have ever seen. Nothing could be better, for instance, for a fishing tackle maker who wished to keep customers' special orders and patterns always handy.

There are several things, mention of which must be held over at present; but No. 38.—Mr. GEO. HOYLE'S case of feathers, &c., used in fly dressing—should not be overlooked. In the tanks are some fine yearling and two-year-old trout and rainbows, presented by Mr. G. Valentine Corrie, of Chilland, Winchester, and some golden orfe, tench, and king carp, presented by Mr. Thomas Ford, of Caistor.

At Stand No. 32 may be seen the famous "Berthon" folding boats and canoes, which still hold their own as the most practical things of the kind, in spite of scores of imitations.

At Stand No. 41 is what is called a "hybrid perch-jack," caught by Mr. J. SKELSEY, at Reigate. We have not seen this exhibit as yet.

PISCATORIAL SOCIETY.

MONDAY'S meeting was a marked contrast to the gathering of the previous week. The announcement that so popular a member, so graceful a writer, and so competent an authority on angling matters generally as Mr. Chas. H. Wheeley would read a paper on chub fishing brought together a large and appreciative audience. Under the chairmanship of Mr. Horace H. Brown things went as merrily as a marriage bell. The table was graced with an exceedingly *apropos* exhibition of two very fine chub, weighing respectively 4lb. 4½oz. and 4lb. 10z., the former caught by Mr. Cormac H. O'Dowd in the Thames (the sole result of a whole day's fishing, and the biggest chub, by the way, that the most successful chubber has ever taken), and the latter by Mr. H. A. Rolt in the little river Wey. After the customary relation of angling experiences, Mr. Wheeley gave his reading. Within the limits of a necessarily brief report it is impossible to give more than a very short *resumé* of a dissertation crammed with information of the highest value to those who stalk the loggerheads. Tips were freely dispersed, and members were told how and where to fish for the sport-giving chevin at the various seasons of the year; the tackle necessary, and the way to use it under all conditions of water, was explained in a most lucid manner, especial reference being made to the method of working a swim with a slider float. Examples of the best floats, lines, hooks, and rods to use were handed round for inspection. It was mentioned that chub could be taken dapping with a moth, beetle, or frog, and by fishing with dry or wet fly or tiny fly eppons. The lecturer also told his hearers of many grand days he had had with the fish, remarking that the best catches he had made had, curiously enough, been in very windy weather by long-corking in sheltered swims. Clear water was essential for large takes, and Mr. Wheeley's opinion was that chub did not mind the gut being a bit coarse, provided they were not alarmed by the angler. Chub could be taken, too, by spinning and live-baiting with a small bleak, gudgeon, or minnow, the last named being good in the early part of the season. Ledgering was often effectual,

a big lob being impaled on the hook tail first. The lecturer heartily commended chub fishing, both in summer, autumn, and winter, to the serious consideration of the members, feeling assured that if those who had not taken kindly to it already would only fish carefully, quietly, far off, and not too fine, they would not be eager to relinquish a sport so productive of good results as that familiarly termed "chubbing." A hearty vote of thanks was accorded Mr. Wheeley for his able paper. The dinner next Monday, March 20, bids fair to be a success.

BRITISH SEA ANGLERS' SOCIETY.

The usual weekly meeting of this society was held at the Cannon-street Hotel on Wednesday, March 15, Mr. T. B. Bates in the chair. Mr. Parker gave a very unfavourable account of the sport off Southend. Mr. Charles Graham reported that he had seen a codling 3lb. weight taken on Saturday afternoon off Southend Pier with rod and line, baiting with lugworm. The chairman showed an improved pulley top, which was generally admired. The question of the preservation of various baits, such as mussels, lugworm, &c., was thoroughly discussed, and various suggestions were made by members. The hon. sec. drew attention to the fact that the date of the annual dinner is fixed for April 12. The usual vote of thanks to the chair closed the meeting.

CHARLES S. PATTERSON, Hon. Sec.

GRESHAM ANGLING SOCIETY.

At the usual weekly meeting Mr. J. T. Emery occupied the chair. Messrs. Fosbrooke and Cowley reported pike, perch, roach, gudgeon, dace and bream from the Mole. Messrs. Allen, Marshall, Snare, Beaumont, and Gilbert, roach from the society's water at Kelvedon. Mr. Hicks, roach from Kelvedon. Messrs. Connellan, Gill, and Gibson, dace and trout from Hertford with the fly, the trout, of course, being returned. Mr. Buckingham, pike from private waters. Mr. F. A. Gray, roach from Littleport. Mr. Scott, pike up to 5½lb. from private waters. Mr. Wrightson, pike from the Stour up to 7½lb. I am still open to receive names of gentlemen who intend being present at the opening dinner at Chesham on April 8, so that all proper and necessary arrangements may be made for their comfort. The usual toasts and vote of thanks to the chair concluded the proceedings.

ALEX. WRIGHT (Hon. Sec.).

YARE AND BURE PRESERVATION SOCIETY.

The annual meeting of the above society was held on Monday evening, March 6, and a generally satisfactory report was presented. At the same time, it does not appear that any very great progress has been made in what in my opinion is the most important matter of all. I refer to the influx of the salt tides. The danger is a double one. First to the fish, with which the society has properly most to do, and secondly with regard to the banks and the consequent danger to the low-lying land. The chairman, in moving the adoption of the report, said that Breydon was silting up, and that in consequence the natural safety-valve was practically not available. But mud is removable. Given the command to attack, Admiral Hobrough would soon make a clearance, and the incoming tides, instead of running up-stream and spoiling the trade at the Red House, would spread themselves in the great settling tank nature has provided, the care and cleansing of which, however, is left to those who benefit by it. In proposing Major Jary as the president for the ensuing year, Mr. Fred Taylor, in one of his happy speeches, said that wherever fighting was to be found, that gallant soldier had been always in the front rank. Well, there is the North Sea to fight, Yarmouth apathy to combat, and the fish to be protected. With Army and Navy united, the foe should be incontinently routed.

WARRINGTON ANGLERS' ASSOCIATION.

The monthly meeting of the committee of the above was held on March 2 at the Roebuck Hotel, Bridge-street. Twenty-seven new members were enrolled. Permission was granted to the members of the Warrington Cycling Club to fish a contest in the Association's private waters. Messrs. Ed. Gilbert, John Bailey, and J. Bancroft were appointed to conduct certain netting operations for stocking purposes. The committee are seeking additional waters in Cheshire, and in one case their efforts will be successful. Stocking is also to be undertaken in connection with the old river at Lymm. The next meeting of the committee will be held on March 16, to arrange all details in connection with the annual dinner of the society, which will be held on Thursday, March 23.

FRED. J. EMSON.

CHARGE OF SALMON POACHING ON THE EDEN, CARLISLE.

WILLIAM MASON was charged at Carlisle with having an unclean salmon in his possession on February 18, and James Robinson was charged with having aided and abetted Mason in the commission of the offence. Inspector Nicholson prosecuted on behalf of the Eden Conservancy Board. P.C. Edward Baker stated that he saw the two defendants in Bridge-lane, and, suspecting that they were trying to "run" a salmon, he concealed himself in a shop. Robinson came up the lane, and looked all round to see if there was a policeman in sight. He then waved, and Mason came up Bridge-lane. The witness got hold of him, and found he was carrying a salmon. Robinson called John Cunningham, who stated that he was with

Robinson when Mason came up. Robinson did not give Mason "a set," and he was not in his company. The Bench dismissed the case against Robinson. They also discharged Mason, who is a cripple. W. A.

EELS—ANOTHER ENEMY TO THE FISH.

At the recent monthly meeting of the West Cumberland Fishing Board, at Whitehaven, Mr. John Musgrove in the chair, Mr. Lowthorpe, who has charge of Holm-rook Pond, announced that there were once thousands of eels in that sheet of water, but, said Mr. Lowthorpe, I have cleared them all out. The Chairman: Don't you know that eels can travel over land? They are not limited to water. Mr. Lowthorpe: Yes, I know. The eels get into very soft places. They are very numerous in the river Irt, and grow to very great strength and vigour; in fact, he one day caught an eel in the act of killing a 7lb. salmon in the Irt. The eel got hold of the fish in a pool, and soon a battle royal took place. He ran for his gun, but found the fish dead on his return, and the eel gone. He took the salmon out of the water, and on examining it found that the eel had caught it below the gills and made a hole in its side, and it had bled to death. On a fine day, when the water was clear, eels could be seen in shoals at the head of Wastwater Lake. Dr. Braithwaite said there were many a million in Wastwater. He had caught eels in that lake as thick as his wrist. G.

REPORTS FROM RIVERS, LOCHS, &c.

 River Reporters who want forms and envelopes should send a post card to the Manager of the FISHING GAZETTE, St. Dunstan's House, Fetter-lane, London.

ENGLISH AND WELSH REPORTS.

Lower Thames.—GENERAL REMARKS.—Another general angling season is past and gone, and there is very little to recall as to results at the finish. The general absence of reports from some of the fishing stations for some time has indicated the almost barren character of sport, and a great deal of this is to be attributed to the imperfect condition of the river, which I know has given great disappointment to the anglers, and not to any deficiency in the stock of fish. As far as my own knowledge is concerned, and that supported by the practical testimony of others, the river is well stocked with all kinds of fish; but, as all anglers know, the result of sport depends on the feeding of the fish, and being piloted by an attendant who has a thorough knowledge of the water and where the most likely swims are. It is a good many years since a little entertainment was given to some of the fishermen in the tidal waters by the committee of the T.A.P.S. with a view of bringing them more into union with the work of river preservation, but which, I regret to add, had no encouraging results. When they got a little merry through the excess of stimulants it became a scene of sad disorder, and I can remember one of them exclaiming to the others, "You know, when we get a customer, unless he is known to us we don't take him to the best swims," and the meeting ended with great discouragement to the promoters. It must be borne in mind this was in the dark days of the Thames, little known to many of the present day, and many of those that were then present have gone to "the great majority," and the change has been for the better. I have heard in my time complaints from the fishermen of the comparative want of treatment on the part of their clients that some did not treat them so well as others in the cravings of the inner man, and have been designated to me as "bread and cheese men." Well, there is a great deal in this, and it is only human nature after all. In any sphere of life kindness and courtesy are the most appreciated, and will always work the best in the end. In another fortnight the trout fishing season will commence in the midst of the Easter Holidays, and I hope next week I shall be able to report something about the movements of the trout. I think the fishermen are very confident as to the prospects of a good season, and I am sure my good wishes go with the anglers for a successful realisation.—B.

—(Datchet).—John Keene, one day, with Mr. Jones and Mr. Herbert, eight jack, the largest 8½lb., and fifteen perch; another day, with Mr. Back, one brace of jack, six brace of perch, and three dozen of roach, the largest roach 1lb. 4oz.; in three days, with Mr. Wilson, thirteen jack, fifty perch, and fourteen dozen fine roach; and another day, with Mr. Mobbs, six chub and three dozen of roach.—B.

—(Eton).—The angling season now just come to a close cannot be chronicled as a red-lettered one, but good sport has been obtained at different periods. Perch and roach have fed well during the closing week, and Mr. Frank Shanatt, on emptying his well one evening, counted out over 100 good roach, and set a good example to his brother anglers by returning the whole lot. This, as Frank observed to me, is one of the most practical ways of assisting the good work carried on by the Preservation Association. Trout are well on the move; I saw one this morning feeding well, close to Windsor Bridge. A small one was taken on the 14th by Mr. Franklin, of Eton, whilst spinning for jack, and was carefully returned without injury. John Keene undoubtedly again takes the premier position of the most successful professional during the past season, and will no doubt sustain his reputation on or about April 1 by securing one or two of the spotted beauties that he has made a note of.—CECIL HOWLETT.

—(Hampton Court).—William Milbourn writes: "The water during the last few days has been low and bright. There has been a great quantity of dace caught,

and this fish still keeps heading up to Hampton Court. Mr. Gunn, on Monday, out in his private punt, landed a pike of 7lb. The bank anglers have been doing well with the dace, and getting a few chub.—B.

—(Henley (March 15)).—Sport has been quiet during the closing days of the season, although a great number of anglers have been out. A decent bag has been made here and there, while others have met with almost blanks. The following are the best I can hear of: On the 10th ult., Mr. Elliott, out with J. James, a 16½lb. bag of roach; and a patron of G. Arlett, a bag of roach and jack weighing 19lb. On the 11th ult., Mr. Leaf, out with G. Arlett, a 26lb. bag of jack, best fish 6lb. On the 12th ult., Mr. G. Clements and Friend, out with S. Vaughn, five jack, best fish 4½lb.; and Mr. Rutter, out with G. Arlett, four dozen roach and two jack. On the 13th ult., Messrs. J. W. Read and Allan, out with G. Arlett, five jack, best fish 9½lb. On the 14th ult., Mr. Normans, out with W. Vaughn, seven jack, best fish 4lb. Messrs. J. W. Read and Allan, out with G. Arlett, a 20lb. bag of roach and jack. Messrs. A. E. Hobbs, F. H. Amphlett, and friend, fishing on this date, took three jack, averaging 5lb. each, while two rods accounted for fifty-four retainable roach; and Mr. J. Harvey, jun., fishing above Marsh Lock, took a well made pike, scaling 14½lb., which has been sent to Messrs. J. F. Cooper and Son, to be made beautiful for ever.—STANLEY MEAD.

—(Kingston).—There does not appear that anything has been done in the way of angling at the end of the season, and the same information comes from Sunbury, where the punts of Messrs. T. and A. Stroud have not been out. Some trout are reported as having been seen in several portions of the river.—B.

—(Lechlade).—The closing week of the season has been bright and springlike, but with frosty mornings. A splendid take by Mr. S. Meyers and "The General" is reported from the St. John's Bridge waters, fifty pike and eight perch being caught in two and a half days; twenty-one brace were returned; best pike, 13lb., which is being set up by Cooper; best perch, 13lb. Mr. Maundrell reports a jack of 8lb. from the same water; and Mr. Rawlinson one of 7lb. from Inglesham. Mr. Perkins, Mr. E. Chew, Mr. John Morgan, and others have also been out, with sport. Trout prospects for April 1 are good, several being on the move.—RAMBLER.

—(Richmond).—Job Brain reports that he has been getting a few roach, dace, and bream during the week.—B.

—(Shepperton).—George Rosewell, on Saturday last, with Mr. Chick and friend, caught between nine jack. Mr. Chick hooked a fine trout of 9lb., which, in good condition, would have weighed nearer 12lb. It was carefully unhooked, which was only over a bit of skin, and placed in the river again, and swam away as if nothing had been the matter, the anglers drinking its health and hoping to renew the acquaintance later on, and find it in better condition.—B.

—(Teddington).—W. McBride, one day with Mr. Underdown and friend, eight bream, a few perch, and one jack; half a day with Mr. Simpson, twenty-two bream, seven being returned, and four brace of perch; another day with Mr. Parsons and his two sons, thirty-nine bream, the largest 4½lb., five brace of perch, and a jack of 2½lb., which was marked with a silver ring and tablet through the fin, and bearing the initials and date "S. W., 1898." Mr. Parsons carefully returned the fish to the river again to get larger.—W. McBride informs me he has seen a very large trout, which he estimates at from 8lb. to 10lb. It has been feeding during the last week, and he hopes as soon as the season commences to get hold of it.—B.

—(Twickenham).—There has been very little done here. Mr. Ogden Smith one day creeled some roach; and Mr. Symonds, from the bank, 9lb. of roach, some of which he returned.—B.

—(Weybridge).—Herbert Carr says the fishing has been very bad, and has closed the season with one of his clients, who landed one brace of jack and a chub of 3lb. My good friend Mr. C. H. Wheeley also says there are very little angling news. Mr. H. A. Rolt has taken a fine chub of 4lb. 1oz. in the Wey, and saw a nice brace of jack being carried through the town, which he was informed had just been caught in Walton Ssle. I am much grieved to learn that Herbert Carr has just lost his only son after four days' illness. He was twenty-two years old, and it is a great loss to this worthy fisherman and his wife, who have my deep sympathy.—B.

Arun (Pulborough).—Over 100 anglers visited here on the 12th, and some fair sport was obtained, though, speaking generally, sport has not been so good here this season as last, owing, no doubt, to the frequent and long disturbance of the river through the floods. Mr. Cockarta took four medium-sized perch; Mr. Richards, Lincoln, 4lb. bream and roach; Mr. Watts, a 4lb. jack; Mr. Daley, Clapham-junction, 10lb. bream, largest 2½lb.; Mr. H. Allan, St. Albans, 11lb. bream, largest 2½lb.; Mr. Wilson, Battersea Friendly, 6lb. bream; Mr. E. G. Platt, Stoke Newington, a 10lb. jack, taken with a spoon; Mr. Stilman, Blackfriars, 6lb. bream; Mr. Holding, same club, a 3lb. 2oz. bream; Mr. Foster, ditto, a 3½lb. bream; Mr. Farmer, ditto, a 5lb. jack; Mr. Stump, ditto, 6lb. roach; Mr. Stone, Peckham Brothers', 10lb. bream, up to 2lb.; Mr. Every, St. Albans, two bream, 3½lb.; Mr. Bishop, same club, bream, up to 1½lb.—W. G. HOLLMAN.

Coln, Leach, &c. (Bibury, East Gloucestershire).—A ramble over ten miles of the nil and upper Coln on Tuesday found this famous trout stream in splendid condition, being bank high nearly throughout this distance. Saw a rod out this early on the Fairfield Park water (Mr. Aubrey-Miller), who caught several trout, but, I understand, returned them, being out for an opening. At Coln St. Aldwyn's (Sir Michael Hicks-Besch's) water the trout were rising freely, so, too, were they in the Hathrop

Castle and Bibury Court waters, which are simply teeming with fine trout. There appears to be a good show of trout in the Swan Hotel waters at Bibury, and here the trout were rising freely to March Browns, Olive Duns, and Blue Gnats, which were on thick, it being a warm, bright day. The season here opens on March 29. The Leach fisheries and other streams in East Gloucestershire are all reported as in capital trim for the opening of the season, and Easter anglers will be just in it.—PAW.

Darenth, Eynsford, Farningham, Horton Kirby, Sutton-at-Hone, and Hawley.—All along this part of the river trout may be seen, and now and then they rise. Those I have seen have been chiefly the old staggers of 1½ lb. or so, the large numbers of young fish recently put in making little show at present. Prospects are fairly good, the river having been well cleansed, yet we could bear another flood before the 1st. The rates for fishing at the Lion Hotel are considerably raised, which is not surprising, when the great demand for trout fishing near London is to be remembered.—J. P. T.

Dart (Totnes and District).—The river is in fishable condition, but the frosts have made the water very fine, and consequently fish are very shy. Some fair baskets of trout, however, have been creoled lately, Mr. H. Wright, of Buckfastleigh, getting two and three dozen a day. Mr. Colin May killed a dozen, and a few brace were secured by Messrs. M. Revell, H. T. Distin, E. Ackrell, and others. Fish are difficult to catch, except in the stickles, but a good number of rods have been out. Good flies are Blue Upright, Half Stone, and March Brown, with Edwards Palmer occasionally. On Monday Mr. Edgbrook, staying at Furzeleigh Mills, landed a spring salmon, 1½ lb. in weight, from Mr. Pear-e's water above Buckfastleigh. The net fisheries are quiet. The conservators this week rescinded the resolution passed at their previous meeting, and will again grant free licences to the Duchy tenants on Dartmoor, over whose land anglers have to go. Had not this course been adopted a good deal of valuable water might have been lost.—DEVONIAN.

Devonshire Streams.—Most of the streams are in good fishing trim. Baskets on the streams in the North Devon district have not been large, but the re-stocking of the Taw and Torridge should tend to a good season with trout. The Rusty Palmer and March Brown are used. After the rain of last week some fairly average takes were made on the southern streams, but it is useless to start before 11 a.m., as the mornings are very frosty. The Blue Upright is a general favourite with trout; but sport with salmon has been very dull up to the present, although a few good fish have been killed on the Dart. The streams in the famous Lyd and Tavy Clave district have run somewhat low, and visitors have hardly commenced to arrive. Takes, however, have included some well-conditioned trout. That attractive fly, Bishop's Fancy, is again proving its value, other bait being the March Brown and Gannan Stone.—DEVONIAN.

Eden (Carlisle).—There has been hardly any sport of late. There has not been a single good run of fish this season. Indeed, the nets, both in the sea and the river, are yielding worse than they have done since 1894; and the Eden is not singular in this respect, the accounts from the Tweed being, if anything, worse. Several anglers have not yet landed anything but old kelts, and the few fish that have been killed have chiefly fallen to the rods that are day after day at work. The Corby Castle keeper has had one, 20 lb., Simon Bell, one, 17 lb., at Armethwaite Hall; and in the Corby water, Lord Brackley, one, 9 lb.; Lord Newtown Butler, one, 16 lb.; and Mr. Wm. Stephenson, one, 18 lb. The river is now low and clear, and three or four feet of fresh water is much needed.—SILVER GREY.

Exe and Canal (Exeter).—Weather beautifully fine, but not good for heavy baskets. Waters very low and bright, and brilliant sunshine from morn till night, renders fly-fishing generally unremunerative. Messrs. Snell, Taylor, Toukins, Shapley, and Roberts are among the successful ones on the Bampton waters, and the following have scored among the salmon: Col. Wyatt Edgell, a 9-pounder; Mr. Edmonds, one of similar weight; Mr. Coombe, an 8-pounder. No improvement in angling prospects can be expected until we get a further rainfall, the river being already down to summer level.—"RED PALMER."

Fen District (South Lincs. and Cambs.).—The coarse fishing season is over. It has been a good one, and continued good right up to the end. From Surfleet we hear that things had got slow from the low state of the water. A rather notable catch is reported from Jackson's Hole. With a few nice roach and perch a Leeds sportsman recently landed a splendid trout of 3½ lb. This species is rare in this locality, but its discovery should show the possibilities of the cultivation of trout in these waters. Picking on the Forty-foot has produced a specimen of 8½ lb.—LIMPET.

Idle District (North Notts).—The Idle has not been yielding very well lately, but the Rytton about Blyth has yielded very well; one visitor had three roach scaling 4½ lb. recently, and since then anglers have turned up in force. The best fish last week was 1½ lb. 12 oz. Good dace have also been captured. The canal between Clapham and Clayworth has been affording the best sport. There some good roach baskets have been obtained with bread paste. A few pike have also come to hand. Trout fishing for the next three months will be the coarse angler's refuge.—L.

Lake Vyrnwy (North Wales).—During the week under report the first three days were cold and frosty, and the remainder very hot and bright, without any breeze. Sport has been fair, but heavy baskets have been out of the question, as the surface of the lake has been as smooth as glass. On the 8th Mr. Pine killed fourteen (9 lb. 8 oz.), and Mr. Mason twelve (7 lb. 2 oz.); on the 9th Mr. Pine killed eight (6 lb. 4 oz.); on the 10th Mr. Pine killed eleven

(6 lb. 8 oz.), Mr. Crowther eight (4 lb. 13 oz.), and Mr. Mason three (1½ lb. 12 oz.); on the 11th Mr. Pine took five (3 lb. 12 oz.), and Mr. Horne one (14 oz.); on the 13th Dr. White killed seven (5 lb. 10 oz.), Mr. Pine six (3 lb. 13 oz.), Mr. Briggs four (2 lb. 12 oz.), and Mr. Horne four (3 lb. 10 oz.). The best fish of the week was killed by Mr. Horne, weighing 1½ lb. 10 oz.—LONG DRIFT.

Lark (Lackford and Flempton).—The coarse fishing season closed here on the 15th. The last few weeks have been more satisfactory, the water being in very fair condition for bottom fishing. Mr. L. F. Best, out on 6th, had some nice roach, best fish 1½ lb. 6 oz.; Mr. W. G. King, on the 9th, killed a few very good dace; Mr. Mayhew, on the same day, fishing near Lackford, one small pike, 2 lb.; Mr. H. Best, fishing at Flempton, some nice dace, and one pike of 2½ lb. Also a few small trout were caught with worm, but, being out of season, were carefully returned. The trout fishing season commences here on the 1st of April. After that date I hope to be able to send a report of the capture of a good fish or two, which have been seen feeding in different parts of the stream. The new tickets of the society can now be obtained from me at Bury St. Edmunds.—A. E. KEMP.

Lea.—Tuesday was the last day for retaining pike and perch in the Lea, and during the past week a good many anglers have been out spinning, live baiting, &c. Sport, however, generally speaking has been quiet, and no heavy pike are reported captured during the closing days. In the King's Arms Fishery, Waltham, Mr. Perry has landed four jack, going 12 lb., Mr. A. Shamrock has secured one of 4 lb., and Mr. W. Taylor is also credited with a decent fish. One of Mr. Perry's fish provided some diversion in the bar by suddenly seizing a gentleman by the finger. At Enfield, Cheshunt, and Broxbourne matters piscatorial appear to have been very quiet, and as regards roach fishing anglers once more have been greatly disappointed. The fish have been right off the feed. The Stort has furnished anglers with some small pike, but the roach have not been biting. This latter river closed for coarse fishing on Tuesday.—IZAAK WALTON.

Lugg and Arrow (Leominster).—These noted trout streams have gone down to a nice level, and are running clear, and are both in good order for fishing. The weather has been beautiful and fine during the day, and without any winds, which has been most suitable for anglers to get out. A good few flies are now coming out, and in a few days the March Brown may be expected, when trout will be certain to rise freely at them. The best flies at present are the February Red, Blue Dun, and Palmers. A few very nice trout have been landed this week with the fly. The Pinsley is running clear and in good order for fishing.—GWYNNE.

Lugg, Arrow, and Pinsley (Kingsland).—Rivers are in good orders, but weather is against trout fishing. Mostly sharp frosts by night, followed by bright, sunny days. Have heard of very few trout being landed, and natural insects are scarce. Until the nights become warmer but little improvement can be looked for.—R. T. WILLIAMS.

Nene (Peterborough).—More activity has been evinced in angling circles during the past week, as the circumstances have been much more favourable for prosecuting sport, and some good catches of pike can be recorded for the close of the season. Mr. Priestley, of Peterborough, was fortunate in securing seven good specimens near Oundle, the largest scaling about 7 lb. A fine chub of about 4 lb. was caught at Alwalton by Mr. Wright, Peterborough. At a meeting of representative gentlemen, held at the Angel Hotel, Peterborough, on Friday evening, it was decided to form a trout fishing association for the Peterborough district, and to stock a suitable piece of water with trout. The vicar of Peterborough was elected president of the association. The Sheffielders, who visit the Wisbech, Sutton Bridge, and Boston districts in large numbers, have commanded interest on their behalf, and the licensed victuallers and tradesmen are co-operating with the Sheffield Amalgamated Anglers' Society to purchase fishing rights in local waters in the districts mentioned.—E. A. S.

North Staffordshire Rivers.—Beautiful weather, fined down streams, fly on, and a few fish on the rise are the angling conditions of our district at this time. A little sport has been had with grayling before the close on the Tean brook, and with trout on the Blythe; but few fly hands have been out yet. The coarse fish season ended fairly well among perch, chub, and pike, Mr. John Lloyd getting a very plump 7 lb. fish; Mr. Harry Parsons, of Stafford, and two friends, seventeen pike; and a lucky angler secured a good-sized barbel from the Sow some days since, which is being set up.—F. W. DALE.

Ouse (Holywell Ferry).—Season finished up grandly, Messrs. Kaye, Lambert, Briggs, and seven other gentlemen getting good fish up to 9 lb., the last named gentleman having the pleasure of gaffing the record fish of years about here, a very handsome perch, 3½ lb., which I took with a small roach. It is now at Mr. Anstiss', of Chelsea, and will make a fine companion to the 2½ lb. one I caught in the summer.—A. SCARD.

Ouse (Huntingdon).—Season ended here in a very satisfactory manner. For some few days the water has been in excellent condition, and the weather also was very favourable. Some nice pike, roach, and a few chub were caught, some of the roach scaling nearly 2 lb., many of the pike over 10 lb., whilst on the closing day a 13 lb. and an 18½-pounder were captured.—B.

Ouse (St. Ives, Hunts.).—I have weighed in during the past week pike up to 16 lb., perch up to 3 lb. 4 oz., roach up to 1½ lb. 11 oz., which makes a good finish up for season 1898-9. We can now clean up our rods and reels, and put our lines in vaseline, &c., and make everything in readiness for June 16; and I can only hope that every angler may be permitted to see the opening of next season.—E. COLLINSON.

Otter (Tipton St. John's).—The river is clear and low. The last few days have been bright and mild. Fishing continues to be very bad. To-day (Wednesday, 15th) only three anglers were on the river between this station and the mouth. Nothing worthy of note was done. At 1 p.m. the Pale Duns came on the water, but the trout did not stir. An angler last week hooked a salmon kelt on his trout fly just above Otterton weir. He stuck to him for three-quarters of an hour, and then the fish broke away. It was about 5 lb. weight. This is not a common event on this river.—HERON.

Plymouth.—The sport on the various rivers is still very good, and some good baskets have been taken. On the Dart, especially, the fish have been very fine, so also on the upper waters of the Tavy.—WILLIAM HEARDER.

Severn, Vyrnwy, Tanat, and Cain (Llanymynech).—All these rivers are at present in the very best possible condition for angling with the fly, and with the weather more resembling the month of May than the middle of March it is most extraordinary that so very few trout have as yet been captured in any of these streams, but what are taken have all been found to be in splendid condition. On Saturday last, Mr. W. Wood, of Warrington, Lancashire, was successful in landing a very large pike—a female—38 in. in length from tip of nose to fork of tail, but, strange to say, did not weigh nearly so much as it should have done, being out of condition, and it is sincerely to be hoped that other pike anglers will follow Mr. Wood's good example, and kill as many of these pests as possible, as at the present time they are very easy to capture, and more easily still in about a month's time, as by then they will have finished spawning. A fine salmon of upwards of 20 lb. has been taken in the Severn near Shrewsbury, and several others have been seen in that neighbourhood and also in the Vyrnwy, which good news may tempt our local anglers to invest in salmon angling licences to help on the Severn Fishery Board.—VYRNWY.

Sussex Rivers and Chichester Canal.—The weather has held fine until the close of the coarse fish season. The winter has been exceptionally fine and mild, and sport quite up to the average. Pike in the Ouse seem to appreciate the introduction of rainbow trout. Mr. Bridger, on opening a 7 lb. fish, found the remains of nine, and at this rate the importation will soon be cleared out. This pike was taken above the mills. A few small fish have been caught in the Fletching district, but nothing exceeding 4½ lb. has come under my notice. The Cuckmere, which is now closed, has yielded a few bream and roach from the tidal water, also a few small fish above the road hole. Visitors to the Rother have had fair sport with pike and perch. A trout of about 2 lb. was taken with gentles while roaching. It was in poor condition, and was returned to the water. Chichester Canal has fished fairly well. Pike up to 4 lb., a perch of 2½ lb., and bream of 1 lb. are among recent captures.—GEORGE F. SALTER.

Taff (Llandowror, Carmarthenshire).—The river is rather low, and hence very little sport is got either with salmon or trout. A fresh is much needed.—H.

Teifi (Lampeter, Cardiganshire).—The river has run rather low. Salmon are not so plentiful, but some nice baskets of trout have been taken during the past week.—H.

Teme (Ludlow).—The Teme in this part has lowered, and is now running clear and a nice level, and is in capital order for fishing, and suitable for either fly or bottom. The weather has been beautiful and fine, with bright warm sunshine days, without any March winds, and has been in every way suitable for anglers to get out, and will no doubt be a great assistance to the trout to get back into good condition after the long spell of bad weather in February, as some of the trout taken have been long, lean, and flabby, and not in the best of condition. The trout have been more on the feed, and have been rising better, and more anglers have been out of late. The flies used are the Blue Dun, February Red, Palmers, and, if the weather holds, March Brown will be out in a few days. Some very nice-sized fish have been taken, but no good baskets as yet. Close season for coarse fish commenced on Wednesday, and will continue until June. On Monday six nice trout were landed with the Blue Dun and February Red. With the worm, on Tuesday, four trout were taken below Ludford. In the Ludford water some good trout have been taken. The Ony, Corve, Clun, and Ledwyche are all clear, and in good fishing order, and a few nice trout taken from them this week with the fly.—S. LUDLOW.

Teme (Tenbury).—The water in this district is still running clear, and has gone down to a nice level for fishing, and the very fine weather of the last few weeks has done much to improve the prospects of fishing. The warm days have brought out a good number of real flies, and the trout have been more inclined to feed, and have been rising better the last few days. There has been a fair number of anglers out with Blue Dun, Palmer, and February Red, and several nice trout have been taken; and if the weather will hold fine there will be some good baskets of trout landed in this part, as there are plenty of fish in the river. The Red Kyre and Ledwyche are all clear and in good order.—WORCESTER.

Trent (Newark).—The closing days of the coarse fishing in the Newark district was a general failure, notwithstanding the many rods out. Down to Thursday last roach had been taking worm freely, and the hopes of anglers were that this would continue to the end. Amongst those most successful Mr. T. Davis far excels his frequent big bags of roach, containing some nice specimens, three out of a 30 lb. bag on Thursday reaching within a few shots of 1½ lb. each. Other good roach were taken by Sergt. Walters and Mr. F. C. Lees, the latter having one 1½ lb. 6 oz. Dace have been exceptionally scarce, and but few perch, Mr. Stemult bagging one of the latter

weighing 1lb. 2oz. Bleak have come to the fore during the week, and the season closed with a good head of fish in the river to produce a future supply.—TRENTSIDER.

Usk (Abergavenny).—Water low and clear. Some few trout have been caught here and there, but have not heard of or seen any good catches.—ERLE DELAFIELD.

Witham, &c. (Mid-Lincolnshire).—The immigration of visitors to the Witham district was at the weekend very numerous. This was for a last look-in. Though late, they appear to have done fairly well among the pike. Many anglers have got fish from different places on the river, but the best sport has been at the ends of open streams and drains, thus showing that pike are resorting to side waters for spawning. Roaching on the river has met with ill-success. Anglers on the Bain have enjoyed fair sport about Conningsby, and in the reaches about Fulsby Mill spinners have secured jack from 2lb. to 4lb. each. From the drains about Boston the reports of bottom fishers have been poor, but the securing of a jack now and then has put a little life into the sport.—LUCE.

Wye (Buith Wells).—River low and clear. No salmon taken. Anglers say there are no salmon up. I cannot understand it—a mild winter, several good floods, and yet no salmon. A few decent trout taken; A. G. Vaughan, Esq., was the most successful. March Brown and Blue Dun best flies; weather warm.—W. B. ROBERTS.

Yore, Swale, Wharfe, Nidd, &c. (Yorkshire).—Both the Yore and the Swale had a little fresh down them on Saturday, doubtless from a rainstorm or two on the moorlands and some melting snow from off the higher hills, but it was very little, and was quickly out again, and at the time of writing both these rivers, in fact, all the Yorkshire angling streams, are very low, and as bright as they can possibly be. This, with brilliant sunshine and sharp frosts at night, has been against roach fishing, and the takes sent to me are, with very few exceptions, "stale, flat, and unprofitable," but coarse fishermen have a lot to be thankful for, for the past season, particularly during the months of November, December, January, and February, has been one of the best they have had for many years, and, as far as I can judge, the trout season only requires favourable weather and water to make it a success, for all the well-known waters are well stocked with fish, and I see the Hawes and Abbotside Angling Association are again re-stocking their waters, and are putting in another 2000 yearling trout. Visitors to Upper Wensleydale should pay their water and the Crown Hotel (the headquarters of the club) a visit. If they do so, and inquire for Host Fawcett and James Blades, it will be their own fault if they don't catch fish. The annual meeting took place last Wednesday, Dr. Grime in the chair. From the report read by Mr. Platt, the club is in a flourishing condition, and a balance of £36 12s. 11d. remains in hand after paying all the expenses connected with the past season. The Earl of Wharfedale was re-elected president; Mr. E. Platt, treasurer; Mr. Beckwith Thompson, secretary; Mr. J. Fawcett, assistant secretary, and Mr. Moore, who has had rare sport amongst the grayling since he came to reside amongst us, was elected a vice-president. The Horne Mere pike fishermen finished up the season well, Mr. Selke, of Newcastle, having the honour of catching the big fish of the year—viz., one of 21½lb.; this fine pike measured 3ft. 1in. in length, 2ft. in girth. On Friday last, Mr. Schröder caught three weighing 19½lb. The sharp frosts of the past few nights have prevented many flies from hatching out, but during the past day or two I have noticed the Needle Brown, Winter Brown (Dark Woodcock and Orange), and a few spiders on the water. For a commencement the best flies will be the Needle Brown (dark), Sipe and Purple, Partridge, Waterhen Bloa, Snipe Bloa (orange body), Blue Hawk, and Spring Black, but until we have some warm rain to freshen our rivers I cannot give my readers much encouragement to go fishing.—J. E. MILLER, Northern Anglers' Depot, 19, New Station-street, Leeds.

By TELEGRAPH.—Large Irish Pike.—J. E. Miller, Northern Anglers' Depot, 19, New Station-street, Leeds, has received a pike for preservation, weighing 30lb.; length, 47in.; girth, 24in. It was caught by Capt. Gardiner, of the Durham Light Infantry, with an artificial bait, on Loch Sheelin. It is the largest fish caught this year in the loch, but last year one was caught weighing 62lb. Loch Sheelin is a veritable anglers' paradise, has excellent trout fishing in a broad stream running into the lake, as well as perch and pike, and any amount of wild fowl shooting in the season. Capt. Gardiner, Loch Sheelin, Cavan, will gladly give any information to anglers visiting the neighbourhood. The weather continues gloriously fine, and our rivers low and clear. The only chance of getting a few trout at present is by fishing the worm well up-stream on fine tackle. There will be little or no fly fishing attempted until after a freshet.—J. E. MILLER, Northern Anglers' Depot, 19, New Station-street, Leeds.

SCOTCH REPORTS.

Ardgay (Perthshire, N.B.).—All the tributaries of the Kyle of Sutherland, including the Carron, Shin, Cassley, Oskell, and Eiding, have given but very indifferent sport this season so far as known. Mr. James A. Young, Balmagown Arms Hotel, has got salmon up to 20lb. on the Gledfield and Danie waters. On the Invercharron waters Mr. Barratt has got up to 26lb. In present conditions good sport cannot be looked for.—B.

Border Esk and Liddle.—Although the whole of the waters in the Esk and Liddle were opened this week, little worth recording has been done. The weather still remains cold, and few anglers have ventured out. Salmon are very scarce; indeed, only one has been taken since the opening, and that by Dr. Anderson, Eskbank, Canonbie, in the mid-reaches. A few yellow trout have been caught in the Lougholm and Canonbie waters, whilst the Long-

town and Metal Bridge divisions of the river have yielded nothing worth placing on record. A gentleman staying at Longtown had a brief run with a salmon at Lyne Foot, but the fish got away. Several kelts have been hooked in the middle and lower reaches. Up to the present the season has been less prolific than the first month of last year, and that was considered to be about the worst on record. There will be no good fishing until April. At time of writing the weather is very dull and rainy looking.—GILNÖCKIE.

Deveron (Banffshire).—The heavy rainfall in the end of last week has freshened the weather, which has been somewhat cold, keen frosts being pretty frequent. The water is also in good condition, but consequently, owing to the close netting, which continues night and day by the net fishermen in the vicinity of the Raik cottages, anglers are having but poor sport. On the Carnousie section a nice fish of 5½lb. was caught on the 8th inst. On the free water at Banff a few trout have also been killed. The net fishing on the river and coast stations showed a slight improvement in the end of last week and the beginning of the present. A box, on Monday, and another on Tuesday, each weighing close on 1cwt., were sent to the London market. The salmon are of an average size of 8lb., and of splendid quality. A box of ½cwt. was also sent from the Gardenstown coast fishings on Tuesday.—H. W.

Kenmore (Loch Tay, N.B.).—On March 13, on the reserve water, Mr. McIntyre killed a salmon 17½lb.; on the hotel water, Mr. Knight killed a salmon 16lb. 14th, on the hotel water, Mr. Smerdon Roe killed a salmon 19lb. Loch in good ply.—W. KNIGHT.

Killin (Loch Tay).—On March 8, Mr. Wade had a salmon of 17lb. 10th, Mr. Ware had one of 20lb.; Mr. Pigou had one of 27lb. 11th, Mr. Langley had one of 19lb. 13th, Capt. Williams had one of 14lb. 14th, Mr. Ware had one of 27lb.; Mr. Langley had two, of 21lb. and 18lb.; Mr. Pigou had one of 20lb. Only three boats out. Loch in good ply.—H. J. MAISEY.

Loch Ness (Foyers Hotel), N.B.—On March 3, Mr. Tilston's boatmen killed a nice salmon, weighing 25lb. On the 6th, Mr. James R. Sloan, Glasgow, killed four, 20lb., 18½lb., 18lb., and 8lb.; and Mr. D. McRae, one of 18lb. On the 9th, Mr. Sloan had one of 18lb. On the 10th, Mr. Sloan, one of 20lb.; and Mr. Tilston's boatmen, one of 18lb.—S. TILSTON.

Naver (Bettyhill).—Since last reported the following sport was obtained under most adverse circumstances: On 7th inst., Col. Frier, Dalvina Lodge, on Beat No. 1, landed a salmon weighing 9lb.; Mr. Campbell, on same water, but fishing Beat No. 2, had three salmon of 8½lb., 9lb., and 10½lb.; and Gen. Hume, Syre Lodge, on Beat No. 3, one salmon of 9lb. On 9th, Gen. Hume, on Syre Lodge waters, landed five salmon, ranging from 7½lb. to 10½lb., on Beats 5 and 6. On 10th, Mr. Campbell, Dalvina Lodge, had a 7lb. salmon on Beat No. 5; and Col. Frier, another salmon on No. 3. On 11th, Gen. Hume landed a salmon on No. 2.—B.

North-East of Scotland.—Although a good few spring fish are being got in the mid reaches of the Dee, yet there is a considerable slackness elsewhere, probably arising from the dearth of fresh fish from the sea. The weather has been too fine from an angler's point of view, and a moist day or two would be more acceptable than the excessive glare of sunshine at present prevailing. On the Invercauld water, Mr. H. L. Craik landed his first fish this season on Thursday, of 14lb. The Duke of York will fish the Abergeldie and Balmoral reaches for the next three weeks, staying at Birkhall, as being nearer the lower and more prolific pools. On the Invercauld Arms Hotel water, Mr. Holland had three, 6lb., 7lb., and 18lb., and two, of 7lb. and 8lb.; while Mr. Ferguson had two, of 7lb. and 10lb. On the Moraltree water, McLaren and Sturton, gillies, had two, of 7lb. and 8lb. respectively. On the Glentana waters, Col. Brinckman, Profect's Hotel, had one of 8lb., one of 19lb., four, of 6lb., 6lb., 8lb., and 15lb., one 16lb., and one 18lb.; while Mrs. Brinckman had two, of 9lb. each; and Mr. H. D. Harvey two, of 5lb. and 6lb. In the Aboyne waters, fish have been badly off the rise. On the Kincardine O'Neil section, Major Davidson creel two, of 7lb. each, one of 8½lb., one of 7½lb., and one of 7lb.; while Capt. Ramsay had one of 6lb. On Borrowstone section, Nicoll, keeper, creel a fine fish of 25lb., and one of 6lb. On Ballogie, Mr. Edward Drummond had one of 8lb., and two, of 7lb. and 9lb.; while Sir John Gladstone, on Upper Blackhall water, had two, of 6lb. and 9lb., and two, of 9lb. and 14½lb. On the Lodge water, Mr. Chas. Blacklaws had two, of 6lb. and 9lb. On the Blackhall water, on the 8th, the Hon. A. Orde-Powletle had two, of 7lb. and 9lb.; the Hon. E. Milne-Gibson, one of 7½lb.; and Col. C. Leith Hay, one of 7lb. On the Lower waters only an occasional fish is being got. Mr. Perry, who was only down at the opening, and other leasees have left some time ago on account of the slackness of sport. On the Kincansie waters, Mr. Irvine Fortescue had three, of 6lb., 6lb., and 9lb., and two, of 6lb. and 10lb.; while Miss Fortescue creel one of 6½lb. Mr. Davidson, Wellwood, has had occasional sport on the Park waters; but all over the Lower waters angling has been very backward indeed. The Duke of York, who passed up Deeside, accompanied by Sir Chas. Cust and the Hon. Derek Deple, on Wednesday morning, arrived at Abergeldie mains shortly before noon, and were on the river after luncheon. There is a scarcity of fresh run fish in the Royal waters, but the first bit of spate will alter all this, and then the Royal angler will be in the thick of the spring migrations. On the Don, Mr. Wragg creel a fish of 9lb. on the Inverure section. Some fair baskets of finnock have been made on the Ythan tidal, but the easterly winds have greatly retarded sport here as elsewhere. The weather is all over too dry and too bright, with overnight frosts. A couple of hours' rain would be a veritable boon just now.—G. M.

South of Scotland.—The weather has become more settled this week, and as no rain has fallen, the waters have been fining down since the end of last week. Angling has been somewhat poor in all the rivers of the district; as a matter of fact, very few spring salmon appear to be in the rivers, and they have been making a poor show in the nets in the firth. Trout are now improving, but another fortnight should be allowed to pass before taking them. A very fine yellow trout of 7½lb. has been caught. THE ANNAN.—This river is now in nice order for fly, but not much is doing. For two or three days the temperature has been very mild and spring-like. Another spring salmon has been caught in the middle waters by Mr. Johnstone, fly dresser, Moffat. I have not learned its weight, but it is said to have been a pretty fish. Mr. Johnstone took a basket of yellow trout, but these were not in good condition. Another angler was reported as having hooked what was said to be a clean run salmon, but it escaped. Salmon kelts have not been so troublesome this season, so far, to anglers, but another flood or two must come before they are cleared out of the river to the sea. THE NITH.—More anglers are now on the banks, but sport has not been very encouraging. A few yellow trout have been picked up here and there on the main stream. In the tributaries the baskets have been better, and the condition of the trout in fair order. The worm bait has accounted for the best sport and the largest trout. A rise of fly has been on since last week, the February Red being on the water last week-end. The March Brown has not hatched out yet. THE GALLOWAY RIVERS AND LOCHS.—A very fine yellow trout, weighing 7½lb., was taken on Milton Loch last week by Mr. William Landsborough Crockettford. The trout was taken on pike tackle and bait while spinning for pike. It was reported to be in fine condition. The rivers have not afforded much sport. At the time of writing the waters are in first-class order for fly. AYRSHIRE LOCHS AND RIVERS.—Angling has been indifferent on the rivers and lochs of this part of the country. A few fair yellow trout were taken towards the end of the week with bait tackle, the tributaries affording better sport than the main rivers. THE SOLWAY.—Few spring salmon have been running in the firth. Those taken in the nets have, however, been very fine fish of heavy weights. The pike nets at Annan have been doing fairly well during the past fortnight. THE DERWENT.—The Fishery Board put into the Derwent 500 yearling trout, which were presented to the board by Mr. Hartley, of Armathwaite Hall. The trout were consigned from the Wyresdale Fishery, in Lancashire, and were placed in the river at three points between Cocker-mouth and Brigham. Mr. Hartley is reported to have placed a similar number of trout in the river above Cocker-mouth. Angling for trout commenced last week on this river, but not much has been done yet. A number of rods have, however, been out. Mr. John Allison caught eight yellow trout, and Mr. B. Hewitt also had a few. These were taken in the waters below Cocker-mouth. Mr. J. Ritson had a fair catch in the higher waters. The Fishery Board appears to have managed badly the fishing affairs of this river, and I see they are deeply in debt for the past year. The Derwent should be one of the best angling rivers in the North of England if it was rightly managed.—HEATHERBELL.

Tay.—During the last fortnight the Duke and Duchess of Bedford have been fishing Stohhall and Mickleour water and landed sixteen clean fish. On Stanley water on Thursday, Mr. Jas. S. Mowat had one salmon of 16lb., and on Friday, Mr. George McGregor, fishing Mr. Kelly's boat, landed one salmon of 17½lb.; fishing Bercehall water on Friday, Col. Phillpotts had two salmon of 18lb. and 18½lb. Out from Fishers Hotel, Pitlochry, on the lower waters, Dr. Anderson, Pitlochry, had one salmon of 19lb., Mr. Robert Thompson killed one fish of 25lb. On the Bernam Hotel waters, Mr. Reginald Glanville, United Service Club, London, landed a nice clean run salmon of 16lb. Mr. Henry Peters, fishing Faskally water on the Tinnmel on Thursday, was successful in landing four fine salmon weighing 16½lb., 20lb., 20lb., and 25lb., and on Friday landed other four fish. The water is in fine order. On Friday, Mr. James Menzies, on the Bonskaid water, had two salmon of 14lb. and 14½lb. On the Lyon on the 7th inst. Mr. W. Stewart Menzies, of Chesthill, caught two splendid salmon of 20lb. and 18lb. On the 8th, Mr. Donald McNaughton, keeper on Chesthill water, two, 18lb. and 17lb.

Tweed, Teviot, and other Border Rivers.—Since my last notes the rivers have now cleared from the effects of the flood mentioned last week, and trout anglers have been out in considerable numbers lately, and some very good baskets of trout and grayling have been killed. Some of the latter fish weighed from ½lb. up to 1lb. and 1½lb., and one beauty of 2lb. 1oz. was killed on the Teviot with fly by Mr. Richard Newton, Kelso, who, besides, had another half dozen of the same fish weighing fully 3lb. With regard to the salmon rod angling there is little to report. I understand that two fish have been killed on one of the lower waters below Kelso, but particulars are not yet to hand, and on the Borgham water (Lord Home's) sport has also been poor. On the Floors Castle fastnesses nothing has been done during the past week in the way of salmon angling, although Lord Staverdale, who killed two fish last week on the upper water, which he has taken for the spring months, was out two days, I believe, did not get a fish of any kind. On the Ednam House water no fishing has as yet taken place, and on the Hendersyde stretches (belonging to Sir Richard Wilde-Griffiths, Bart., of Hendersyde Park) there have been no salmon killed for the past ten days, although I am led to understand that a nice dish or two of trout have been taken when the weather permitted. On the Sprouston water no fish have been killed, but two baskets of trout (7lb. and 6½lb.) were got on Monday and Tuesday. At the present time, although

there has been any amount of favourable opportunities for salmon getting to the upper reaches of the river, there does not seem to be many clean salmon in the Tweed or Teviot in the Kelso district, while reports from further down the river on the angling stretches lead one to the same belief. It certainly would seem as if the Tweed was yearly getting a later river for the fish to enter, or else there is some unknown cause why this once well-stocked river—both spring and autumn—is now so barren of the salmon tribe. Can anyone explain? Of those who have been most fortunate amongst the trout since the season opened we may give the following: Mr. Robt. Robertson, Kelso, on Teviot, on Friday last, with fly, had 6lb. of trout, 3½lb. of grayling (one 1½lb.), and 2lb. of smaller trout. Mr. Richard Newton, Kelso, had a basket of 5lb. of trout, and the same quantity of grayling, on Friday; while since then he has killed dishes of trout and grayling combined, weighing from 4lb. up to 7lb., all on the Teviot. On the same stream yesterday (Tuesday), Mr. Wm. Barfi had about 2½lb. of nice trout, all got with fly; Mr. Jas. Robertson, on Tweed, 3lb. (fly); Mr. Robert Ferguson, on Teviot, 3½lb.; Mr. Jas. Tait, on Tweed, 2½lb., and a bull trout of 4½lb., all with fly. To-day (Wednesday) Mr. Adam Denholm, Kelso, in two hours' fishing, after trying the grayling with worm for half an hour, put up fly, and at the close of his two hours he had 2½lb. of trout and 2lb. of grayling, nearly all got on Jack's Plumb, on the Teviot. Many other baskets of trout and grayling have been killed during the past week on both the main rivers, ranging from 2lb. up, but those given above are the best. The rivers to-day are in splendid condition, and the weather for the trout angler is all that could be desired. I believe that Kingside Loch, on the Ettrick, has been stocked with trout from the Howistown Fisheries Hatchery at Stirling. The trout measured from about 4in. to 9in. in length, and were brought to Selkirk in fifteen tanks, each tank containing from 300 to 500 fish. Before the loch was reached on Thursday morning, however (the fish having arrived the previous day), a good many of the trout had succumbed to the imprisonment in the tanks or to the transit, either by rail or road, five lorries being required to convey the tanks from Selkirk Station to the loch. The fishing for pike in the Tweed and Teviot still goes on, and a few have been got during the past week. Mr. Jas. Affleck, on the Teviot, had one of 5lb.; on Monday, Mr. Ormiston, one of 3lb. on the same river; and Mr. Hogarth, Henton Mill, five, of various weights. The Tweed salmon net fishings are most unsatisfactory, only some three or four fish being killed each day; while the number of trout does not increase. Salmon, on Saturday, were 3s. per lb.; trout, 2s. 2d. per lb. Last year at same time prices were: Salmon and trout, 2s. 6d. per lb. each.—MAXWHEEL.

IRISH REPORTS.

Belfast.—Up to a day or two ago the Lagan fished well about the Dromore reaches, but is now too low and clear for success. A few anglers were out this week on Woodburn and Stoneyford Dams. There is little to report from the Antrim and Down rivers.—J. A. B.

Blackwater (co. Cork).—Sport still continues poor owing to the unfavourable state of the rivers, nearly down to summer level. On Kibbarry water, Mr. A. Browning Priestley had two magnificent fish one day, 42½lb. and 18lb.—W. HAYNES AND SON.

Bundrowes River (co. Donegal).—Owing to the continued dry weather this river has become rather low, and a good many of the pools are out of order in consequence. Mr. T. Feely took one nice fresh run salmon of 10lb. on 9th inst. A good fall of rain is at present needed very much to put a fresh in the river, when good sport would be had, as the river now contains a good stock of fish.—M. ROGAN AND SONS.

Cork Rivers.—All the Cork rivers have been in pretty good angling order since last report, though a few were running rather low for successful angling to be had. The accounts to hand show that there has been a material improvement all round, though on no water can sport be considered satisfactory so far.—T. J. D.

Corrib and Lough Corrib (Galway).—Since last report little was done on the river. Not for several years has there been such an inauspicious opening. The river has been open now almost six weeks, and not as many salmon have been killed. On Lough Corrib trouting in the last fortnight has been excellent, but chiefly confined to professionals, whose daily baskets ran from 7lb. to 10lb. and higher; whilst several fine fish up to 7lb. were killed along the Galway shores.—J. A. B.

Erne (Ballyshannon and Belleek).—This river is now in fine order for trout fishing, and some fine trout are being taken daily by Messrs. P. Cleary, Moolan, Knox, and others.—M. ROGAN AND SONS.

Killarney.—Sport has shown some improvement since last report, though it is still far from satisfactory, considering the favourable weather and water conditions. A few salmon have been had, and some fair baskets of well-conditioned brown trout.—T. J. D.

Lee (co. Cork).—Salmon fishing has slightly improved since last report. Nevertheless the water is down to summer level nearly, and it requires the finest tackle possible. On Lee Mount, Mr. W. T. Crawshaw, one, 7½lb.; on Ballineadig, Capt. Richards, 11ants Regiment, one 12½lb.; on Carrigrohane Fishery, Mr. M. Murphy, one, 20lb.; on the Powdermill stream, J. H. Gribble, one, 8lb.; and Mr. Ned Murphy, two, 10lb., 9lb.; on Ashton, O. L. Evans, 13½lb. At the Waterworks fish are now collecting; Mr. J. O'Donnell had two, 8lb., 8½lb., and Mr. J. McAuliffe, one, 10lb.—W. HAYNES AND SON.

Lough Currane (Waterville, co. Kerry).—Sport continues very bad among salmon, though the water is in good order, and the weather all that could be desired. Only two salmon have been had since last report, viz., one

of 10½lb. (by Mr. A. J. Tronp, Bayview Hotel), and one of 10lb. (by E. Dennehy, a local professional).—T. J. D.

Lough Mask (Clonbur, co. Galway).—Trouting pretty good lately. A valued correspondent assures me that since cross lining was abolished three years ago the trout rise better to the fly—which they were rather chary of doing previously—and sport all round has improved immensely. Intending visitors could not do better than write to Mr. Govan, Clonbur, a noted angler, who would be pleased to give any information on the subject.—J. A. B.

Lough Melvin.—The Rev. Wm. Verner had some fine trout again during the past week (trolling), weighing from 2lb. to 3½lb. Mr. G. landed a fine fresh run salmon, of 14lb., on 10th inst., with several gillaroo, trout, and brown trout. Mr. T. Hughes took five gillaroos and four brown trout, weighing in all 8½lb., on 9th inst.—M. ROGAN AND SONS.

Lough Melvin (Lower Reaches, Kinlaugh End).—Excellent sport was had amongst the trout by fly anglers during past week. Weather conditions were everything that could be desired—genial showers, with south-westerly winds. Baskets were had on many days averaging from 10lb. to 14lb.; also some nice trout were had trolling with artificial minnows to Leale, from 2lb. to 4lb. Weather conditions still look promising.—P. GALLAGHER.

Mountain Lakes (Waterville, co. Kerry).—Sport continues very good on all the above waters since last report.—THOS. J. DENNEHY.

Moy, Loughs Conn and Cullen (Ballina, co. Mayo).—River in good order, and the wind has got to the south for the past few days, and quite a number of clean fish has come in from the sea. Capt. Palmer, on March 13, had clean fish 11lb. and lost another. Mr. Phillips, on March 11, had clean fish 13lb. Mr. Quegley, on March 13, had four kelts. Mr. Benson, on March 13, had clean fish 16lb. Few trout have been taken on the Lough by local anglers.—PAT HEARNES.

Shannon and Lough Derg (Killaloe).—The weather has been too bright all this week for salmon fishing, and, besides, the wind has kept steadily in the north all the time. On Saturday, Major Traherne's men, P. Ryan and W. Fogarty, killed, on the major's preserves, a freshly run salmon of 24lb. Mr. W. Malmeshry Cotham and his son, Mr. Bertram Cotham, Springfield, Prescot, have arrived here, and have rented my preserves to the end of March. I know of a few rare stretches of strictly preserved salmon and trout water to let here for some time should any of your angling friends want such.—S. J. HURLEY.

Tyrone Rivers.—Both the Ballinderry and Blackwater have run down clear, and this, with sunny days and frosty nights, has stopped trouting. Pike fishers, however, are doing well, and a good job, too, for these rivers are overrun with them. Heavy floods are badly needed.—J. A. B.

SEA FISHING.

Brighton.—We are having splendid weather and calm sea. A shoal of porpoises passed close inshore (going west) yesterday (14th). Several boat anglers have been off, but have not heard with much success.—H.

Deal (The Pier).—Local fishing has shown no signs of improvement during the past week, though several local anglers have daily wetted their lines. One boatman has taken a fair number of pouting in the vicinity of the "Wreck" on two recent occasions. On March 12 the pier anglers were Messrs. Gray, Glynn, Andrews, and Kellaway, but the total return for the day only reached one plice and three dabs. Mr. Filmer drew a blank on Monday; Mr. Bushnell took two very small dabs; and Mr. Cooper a similar number. On Tuesday afternoon Mr. Bushnell managed to get eight very diminutive dabs, but three brother anglers did nothing. To-day (Wednesday) has witnessed but meagre sport, three rods only accounting for two immature dabs.—J. RICHARDSON.

Flymouth.—It seems as if we are to have no winter; the weather at present is quite like summer, in fact so much so that on Monday I strolled down to my boat to see about fitting out. I was struck with the extreme lowness of the tide, in fact I do not remember seeing such a low one before; you could walk right out through the opening of the West Hoe Pier, and right round outside to the beach, commonly called Peeble Side. I noticed a few boats in the offing fishing, but they did not seem to be very busy. The spring pollack are coming on, but they are not taking many from the piers as yet. I saw a school of gray mullet, some 5000 or 6000, following a vessel into the dry dock. When the gates were closed and the water pumped out they were dipped up in landing nets and baskets and sold to a local fish huyer. It is a funny thing how these mullet will follow a ship that has long grass weed growing to it.—W. HEARDER (B.S.A.S.).

Southend and Leigh.—Things piscatorial here are at a standstill. No fish, and no prospects of any; consequently, there is nothing to report. I do not remember any time at which fish were so scarce. The weather is beautiful, and seems likely to continue so. Visitors are arriving daily.—CHARLES HUSSEY (B.S.A.S.).

From *Harper's Bazaar*.

"Well, what did she say?" asked Tattered Tompkins, when his partner, Soiled Simpson, returned from an attempt to replenish the commissary. "I told her," replied Simpson, "that I wanted somethin' to eat, an' she said: 'What's the use o' my givin' ye somethin' to eat? Ye'll only get hungry again.' With that she shut the door, an' what could I do?"

"So you have no House of Lords in this country?" said the visiting Englishman. "No, we haven't," replied the American; "this is a nation without a peer."

Angling Fixtures.

March 19.

Brunswick Brothers: Consolation prize outing.
Collingwood: Consolation prize outing.
Good Intent: Lapsed prize outing.
Izaak Walton: Lapsed prize outing.

March 20.

Central Association: Smoking concert.
Kingston Piscatorial Society: Annual dinner.
Phoenix: Visit.
Piscatorial Society: Annual dinner.
Price of Wales: Visit.
Stookwell: Concert.

March 21.

Westbourne Park: Annual dinner.

March 22.

Bostonians: Lantern lecture.
Hastings and St. Leonards: Annual dinner.
White Hart: A.B.S. concert.

March 23.

Izaak Walton: Lapsed prize outing.
Phoenix: Visit.
Thames River and Lock Keepers' dinner.
Warrington: Annual dinner.

March 24.

Anglers' Benevolent Society: Committee meeting.

March 25.

Lychnobite: Benefit concert at the Champion Hotel.

March 26.—Allason United: Consolation prize outing.

" 26.—Amicable Excelsior: Match at Egham.

" 26.—Amicable Waltonians: Lapsed prize outing.

" 26.—Blackfriars: Consolation match at Rye House.

" 26.—Brunswick Brothers: Consolation outing.

" 26.—Collingwood: Consolation prize outing.

" 26.—Crown and Buckland: Lapsed prize outing.

" 26.—Ye Olde Clapham Rovers: Lapsed prize outing.

" 27.—Harcourt: Visit.

" 27.—St. Alban's: Visit.

" 27.—Stepney: A.B.S. concert.

" 28.—Brunswick Brothers: Visit.

April 1.—Thames trouting commences.

" 8.—Gresham: Chesham dinner.

" 11.—Hoxton Brothers: Bohemian concert.

" 11.—Seymour Brothers: Annual smoking concert.

" 11.—Wimbledon Piscatorials: Annual dinner.

" 12.—British Sea Anglers: Annual dinner.

" 12.—St. John's: Annual supper.

" 17.—Amicable Waltonians: A.B.S. concert.

" 17.—Bermondsey Brothers: Lantern lecture by Mr. W. J. Wade (secretary of the Central Association).

" 25.—Drayton Park Piscatorials: Annual dinner.

" 25.—Gresham: Annual dinner.

Reports from Clubs

We beg to remind Secretaries that their Reports must reach us not later than **SIX o'clock on Thursday Evening**. Address "Editor, FISHING GAZETTE, St. Dunstan's House, Fetter-Lane, London," marked "CLUB REPORT" outside envelope.

Anglers' Association.—The monthly delegate meeting will take place on Monday evening next, March 20, at 8.30.—R. GHURNEY.

Anglers' Benevolent Society.—Since my last report I beg to acknowledge with thanks the receipt of £17 12s. 9d., proceeds of St. Margaret's competition, and £12 9s. 6d., proceeds of the Amberley competition, per Mr. S. Malby; Battersea Friendly Angling Society's donation box, 14s. At the last committee meeting (March 10) two applications were entertained, and £11 was voted. The committee will meet on Friday evening next, March 24, at 8.30.—R. GHURNEY.

Anglers' Association (SOUTHERN DISTRICT) Visiting List.—I paid a visit to the Battersea Friendly and opened the Benevolent box, which contained the sum of 14s.—E. ROWLES.

Anglers' Association (WESTERN DISTRICT) Visiting List.—On account of my illness, my friend Abrahams attended at the Royal George return visit. On the roll call, twenty-three clubs were represented. The A.B. box contained £22 2s. 9d. The next visit will go to the Harcourt A.S., Harcourt Arms, Harcourt-street, Marylebone, on the 27th.—J. HARRIS.

Allason United Brothers' Angling Society. Duke of Sussex, Uxbridge-street, Notting Hill Gate, W.—On March 12 Messrs. Stage had roach; Jackson, roach; Barker, roach; Abbott, dace (largest, over 7oz.); Ben, dace (largest, over 6oz.); Shepperd, perch (several up to 1lb.), and hooked a 5lb. trout at Tilehurst, and carefully put same back. It was taken on a No. 11 crystal, hunch of gentles, and roach pole. A consolation match takes place on the 26th to all who have not taken any prizes. The only fish weighable in season, viz., from the Lea, any other open waters same species of fish as from the river Lea only accepted in the above. Next Wednesday is quarter night; election of officers, &c. I have Aquarium tickets at 4d. each.—BEN.

Alma Angling Society. Coach and Horses, Portmouth-place, Lincoln's Inn Fields.—On March 12 the following weighed-in: Mossrs. Drew, Montgomery, Boothby, Hall, Hopping, Butlin, and Utting. Mr. Willie Ward (Gaiety Theatre) captured a 10lb. jack. Mr. Black landed it for him.—J. CHAMBERS.

Amicable Excelsior Angling Society, Prince Arthur, Arthur-street, Battersea.—On March 12 several members fished in the last match this season at Hampton, when only two had fish, as follows: Messrs. D. Cooper, first; J. Rich, second. Mr. F. Fairclough also weighed-in 8lb. 8½oz. of roach and two small bream.—J. R.

Amicable Waltonian Angling Society, The Fox and French Horn, Clerkenwell Green.—On March 5 an outing took place for five prizes, the following being the winners: Brealsforth, roach and perch; Nunn, sen., roach; Allen, jack; Millin, roach; Lambarth, roach and dace. On March 12 an outing took place for four prizes, they being taken in the following order: Allen, jack; Brealsforth, roach and perch; Millin, roach and dace; Nunn, sen., roach, chub, and dace. At the weekly meeting on the 15th a sum was voted for the river-keepers' dinner, and a smoking concert arranged in aid of the Anglers' Benevolent Society's funds, which will take place on April 17. Will secretaries please note date, to avoid clashing?—G. MERRY.

Anchor and Hope Angling Society, Duke of Kent, Old Kent-road, S.E.—On March 12 the members competed for four prizes, the following being successful: Mr. H. Hamilton, first; Mr. T. Bowling, second; Mr. W. J. Wade, third; and Mr. J. Jones, fourth. Two rudd (largest 1lb. 10z.) and a dace of 1lb. 10z. were shown at the club on Wednesday, and are in the hands of our Mr. Jones for preservation. Mr. G. Clark was elected a working member.—F. W. MARTIN.

Battersea Friendly Angling Society, Queen's Hotel, Queen's-road, Battersea, S.W.—On March 12 the following members weighed-in: Messrs. F. Aplin, bream; W. Thomas, roach; S. Aplin, roach and bream; W. Hersant, jack; G. Miller, jack; and A. Ansty, roach, the last named having 1lb. of good fish from the Thames. Mr. L. Hooper was elected a working member. Will members please clear the books by end of month.—A. JENKINS.

Battersea Piscatorials, Winstanley Arms, Winstanley-road, Clapham Junction, S.W.—Several members were out on the 12th, and returned with some nice takes of fish. Mr. E. Wilson, in two days, 60lb. of roach and chub; Mr. A. Painter, roach, chub, and dace, largest chub 2lb. 13½oz., largest dace 6½oz.; Mr. H. White, 3lb. 8½oz. of roach and perch, being second in consolation match; Mr. A. White weighed-in perch, being third; Mr. W. Keene weighed-in some nice jack.—T. TRINGHAM.

Bermundsey Brothers' Angling Society, Woolpack, Bermundsey-street, S.E.—The following members weighed-in: Mr. J. Hobbs, 25lb. roach; Mr. J. Martin, 16lb. roach and jack. Only three members who fished in the Arun succeeded in taking a prize: Mr. J. Wegley, 9½lb. bream and roach, first; Mr. W. Taylor, 8½lb., second; and Mr. Kervill, 3lb., third. The remaining four prizes not won are to be fished for by the members who have not won a prize during the season; conditions are that they shall fish anywhere in the River Lea, the gross weight of the remaining two outings to take the prizes in rotation; the 1lb. rule to be abolished on this occasion. On Monday, April 17, Mr. W. Wade will deliver a lecture, accompanied by lantern views, on a fishing trip on the S.E.R., followed by a smoking concert, in aid of the A.B.S.—A. CONN.

Blackfriars Angling Society, The Imperial, Southwark-street, S.E.—On second March prize outing, subscribed by our host, was fished off at Pulborough, Mr. Stillman being first with bream, 5lb. 3½oz.; Mr. Foster, second, with one bream, 3lb. 4oz. (thoroughly spawned); Mr. Hobett being third with bream and roach, 2lb. 8oz. Mr. Merrygold also nice show of roach, and Mr. G. Howard grand take of roach. We have arranged a grand consolation prize outing for members who have not taken a prize during season, to be fished for at Rye House (roving). Start 9.10, return 7.20, on March 26. We should like any intending gentlemen to join us at beginning of season, as our new season promises to be a record one.—WHEELHOUSE.

Bloomsbury Brothers' Angling Society, Rose and Crown, Broad-street, Bloomsbury.—On March 12 Mr. J. Roach weighed-in roach 9lb. 10z.; Mr. J. Taylor, chub, perch, roach, and dace, 8lb. 12½oz.; Mr. W. Bray and Mr. J. Sinclair, bream; Mr. F. W. Stocker, bream and perch; Mr. R. Lmmes, Mr. F. S. Pavett, and Mr. C. Davis, perch.—T. PATERNOSTER.

Bomora Angling Society, The Britannia, Clarendon-road, Notting Hill, W.—On March 12 several members were out with the following results: Messrs. G. Love, roach and dace; T. Lewis, sen., roach; T. Lewis, jun., roach; P. Harley, roach; J. Weeks, roach; F. Hall, roach; H. Foreman, roach and gudgeon, from Uxbridge. Next Tuesday being quarter night, I hope all members will attend and clear the books. We also wish to remind donors of prizes that they will greatly oblige by sending them in as soon as possible.—H. DAGWORTHY.

Bostonian Angling Society, Dalby Tavern, Dalby-street, Prince of Wales-road, Kentish Town.—On March 22 Messrs. Ward and Jones, members of the society, will give, with the assistance of the lantern, an original production of "Facts and Fancies." Members and their friends are requested to be in attendance at 8.45 for 9 o'clock. On March 12 Mr. J. Jennings had a nice tray of roach and dace; Mr. Ward, roach and rudd.—J. H.

Brothers Well Met Angling Society, King Edward VI., King Edward-street, Liverpool-road, N.—On March 1, H. Canton, 3lb. of roach. On March 5, W. Facham, 2lb. 2½oz. roach; H. C. Canton, 3lb. 11½oz. roach; C. Smith, a very pretty jack, 8lb. 3½oz.; H. Field, 4lb. 11½oz. roach. On March 8, A. Field a nice tray of roach, weight 16lb. 1½oz. (four largest, 1lb. 6½oz., 1lb. 4oz., 1lb. 3½oz., and 1lb. 2oz.). On the 12th, J. Maynard, jack and perch, weight 16lb. (two largest perch 2lb. 8oz.); H. C. Canton, roach.—H. Y. TAME.

Brunswick Brothers' Angling Society, Cherry Tree, Brunswick-road, Bromley-by-Bow, E.—On March 12 the following weighed-in: Messrs. C. Parmenter, pike; Kelley, bream; A. Randall, perch; R. Bennet, roach, dace and chub; E. Papworth, dace. Our next return visit (No. 1 Eastern District) takes place on March 28. The match for all members who have never won a prize will be refished in the Lea on March 19 and 26.—F. RANDALL.

Cambridge Heath Brothers' Angling Society, The Good Intent, Mowlem-street, Bishop's-road, Cambridge Heath.—On the 12th we had a splendid show, the trays being well filled by Messrs. T. Benny, roach and dace; H. Hackett, roach and dace; H. Deverill, roach and chub; G. Yeo, jack; J. Golding, jack; L. Stephenson, jack; B. Smith, roach; H. Everett, roach and perch; B. Sawyer, jun., perch; and R. Hubbard, roach. On the last day of the season (14th) our worthy host, Mr. B. Williams, with Mr. E. Brickett, of the Original Alexandra A.S., showed some excellent roach, twelve fish weighing just on 20lb. (heaviest 1lb. 15oz.). A very good finish to an indifferent season.—P. E. LOFT.

Camden Angling Society, The Locomotive, James-street, High-street, Camden Town, N.W.—We had a good show of fish on March 12, Mr. White and Mr. Cook having grand shows of roach. Mr. Fuller and Mr. Harris also weighed-in. Our concert on Monday, in aid of the A.B.S., was a great success, thanks to the friends that supported us.—E. BOXALL.

Central Association of London Angling Clubs.—The committee have pleasure in announcing that the Central's annual smoking concert will be held at the Bedford Head Hotel, Maiden-lane, Covent Garden, on Monday next, 20th inst., when the chair will be taken by Mr. Walter Emden, J.P., L.C.C. An excellent programme has been arranged.

Central Association Visiting List.—The next return visit on this list will be to the Phoenix A.S., held at the Tavistock Arms, Stebbington-street, N.W., on Thursday next, 23rd inst. Anglers and their friends cordially invited.

Clapham Junction Angling Society, The Clarence, Winstanley-road, Clapham Junction, S.W.—On the 12th inst. the following weighed-in: Mr. J. Thorne, 11lb. 5½oz. roach and jack, two jack 9lb. 10z.; J. Burrage, bream, largest fish 3lb. 10½oz.; J. Jones, roach.—G. T. JAMESON.

Clerkenwell and District United Visiting List.—The next visit on the above will be to the Prince of Wales' A.S., held at the Windsor Castle, Church-street, Edgware-road, on Monday next, March 20. This being their first visit on this list I hope some of the West-end clubs will rally round them. If not on the list the more to their credit.—F. CASTELL.

Clissold Angling Society, The Cricketers, Northwood-road, Stoke Newington, N.—On the 12th only two prizes were taken, by Messrs. Bampton and Eastwood. Mr. Osment weighed-in a good show of roach for gross weight. Members are requested to attend on Tuesday next.—T. FAULKNER.

Cobden Angling Society, Kensal-road, W.—On March 12 the following weighed-in: Messrs. A. Howland, E. Baxter, F. Scrafield. Will members oblige by attending the meeting, as I have tickets for the Fisheries Exhibition at the Aquarium, and also there is some very important business to be transacted?—T. TWYMAN.

Collingwood Angling Society, The Lord Nelson, Nelson-square, Blackfriars-road, S.E.—We had a nice show of fish on March 12, Mr. Beames weighed-in a chub of 4lb., also jack and roach; Mr. Turner, roach; Mr. Jarrett, roach and dace; Ball, roach; F. Beames had a nice show of roach and dace from the Arun; Mr. Stafford, bream and perch. The consolation match takes place on the Lea (roving) on March 19 and 26. Conditions: The heaviest one take of roach and dace. Our sea outing takes place on April 9; place to be fixed later. Members are requested to note that there will be no meeting next Wednesday, the 22nd inst., as all members are going to the Fisheries Exhibition; meet at the clubhouse at 8.30 sharp.—W. H. STAFFORD.

Convivial Angling Society, City of London, Sidney-street, City-road.—Since my last report we have had the following weigh-in fish: Messrs. G. Kynaston, roach; W. Braxton, roach and jack; S. Harell, roach and bream; G. Pratt, roach and bream. On the 12th inst. we had an outing at Woking, for six prizes, when the following were taken by Messrs. G. Hurrell, J. Parker, P. Juchan, and J. Hurrell. Mr. W. Marshall weighed-in a good show of roach and jack from other waters (heaviest jack, 6lb. 4½oz.).—PHIL.

Cosy Angling Society, The Plough, Rochester-row, Westminster.—On March 12 Mr. C. Eves and Mr. J. White had roach from the Thames. A special meeting is called for Wednesday, the 22nd, for important business. Will members kindly attend?—J. WHITE.

Covent Garden Piscatorial Society, King's Arms, Long-acre, W.C.—On March 12 Messrs. Cutbush, Massey, and Curtis weighed-in roach, dace, chub, perch, and jack. On Tuesday Messrs. Curtis, Massey, and Cutbush had good shows of roach, perch, and jack.—W. MASSEY.

Crown and Buckland Piscatorial Society, Middlesex Arms, 35, Clerkenwell-green, E.C.—We had our trays well filled on March 12. The following weighed-in: G. Norris, 13lb. roach and dace; W. Long, 8lb. bream; A. Anderson, 3lb. bream; H. Maines, 3lb. roach. Those prizes not won during the season will be fished for on March 26, at Broxbourne. Boundary from Carthagea Lock to Rye House Bridge.—G. FRANKLIN.

Dalston Angling Society, Brownlow Arms, Brownlow-street, Dalston.—On March 12 Messrs. G. Davies, T. Thompson, and W. Thompson were again to the fore with a very grand show of roach, perch, dace, and jack. On Tuesday there was a better attendance than there has been of late, when it was decided that our con-

cluding outing should take place in the Lea; full particulars to be obtained at the clubhouse.—S. MALBY.

Dibdin Angling Society, St. Martin's Tavern, Pratt-street, N.W.—All members out on March 12. Mr. A. Edwards weighed-in a good show of perch; Mr. E. Colman, dace. Wednesday's meeting discussion as to how best to stop the planting of fish in pant wells was decided to expose through the Press anything of this sort any member might come across.—JOHNNY EDWARDS.

Drayton Park Piscatorials, Stanley Arms, Landseer-road, Holloway-road, N.—Sport rather poor for end of season; but several members have been re-stocking various rivers with 8½oz. dace. Our concert on the 15th was very successful.—GREG.

Duke of Norfolk Angling Society, The Apollo, All Saints'-road, Westbourne Park.—On March 12th our last match took place, when the following took prizes: Messrs. Balls, roach, 4lb. 13oz.; Viner, roach, 3lb. 2oz.; Smith, one perch, 1lb. 13oz.; Allum, roach; Millett, roach; and Bidwell, roach.—W. JENKINS.

Elgin Angling Society, Blenheim Arms, Blenheim-crescent, Notting-hill, W.—Several of our members were out on the 12th. Mr. King had a good show of roach and bream; Mr. Wilson, perch; and Messrs. Ryell and Bridge, roach. On Tuesday our quarterly balance-sheet was passed as correct, officers were appointed, and a lot of general business done. I hope to see a large attendance next week to arrange the fish audit.—G. KING.

Eaterprise Angling Society, City Arms, High Cross-road, Tottenham.—On March 12 Messrs. Peachey, 7lb. 13oz. roach and dace; Harne, 2lb. 9oz. roach and dace; Crump, 1lb. 15½oz. roach and dace; Biggs, 1lb. 2½oz. roach and dace; Wells, 11oz. roach. A grand wind-up of the season for jack, Mr. W. F. Butler weighing-in jack, 32lb. lot, largest fish weighing 20lb., measuring 3ft. 3in. in length, and in girth 23in. Mr. H. S. Warwick also weighed-in four fish, weighing 23lb. 9oz., largest fish 8lb. 2oz.—W. LEFEVRE.

Forest Gate Piscatorials, Forest Gate Hotel, Godwin-road, Forest Gate, E.—Our match at Bures was a great success, Mr. King being first with 7lb. 13½oz. roach; Mr. Durrell second, 4lb. 12oz. bream, largest 3lb. 2½oz.; Mr. Catt, third. Messrs. Mendham, Inman, Willett, Creeke, and Woods also weighed-in.—H. F. C.

Forest Piscatorial Society, Rose and Crown, Hoe-street, Walthamstow.—The following were the only members to weigh-in: Mr. T. J. H. Marshall, one perch, 1½lb.; and Mr. G. Beament with roach.—H. TISLEY.

Good Intent Angling Society, The Crown, Church-street, Shoreditch.—The members fished for six lapsed prizes, any part of the Lea, only three taken, by Messrs. Murphy, Evhan, and Whitmore; the remainder to be fished for on March 19; the same conditions. Mr. A. Coker brought in 22lb. of capital class roach from Littleport. Messrs. Thompson, Maybury, and Haines also brought in roach.—R. MURPHY.

Great Northern Brothers Angling Society, Robin Hood, Southampton-street, Pentonville.—We concluded our season on March 12, and had a fair show of fish, the following members weighing-in: Messrs. C. and F. Watling, C. Large, Dutton, J. Petrie, and T. Brooks, roach and dace; G. Francis, J. Evans, and J. A. Fitch, perch; R. Owen and W. Randell, jack; and W. Lowry, two nice tench. The following rivers contributed to the show, viz., Thames, Colne, Lea, and Arun. It is with sincere regret I have to announce the death of Mr. A. Hambridge, an old and esteemed member of the society, who died on Saturday last, 11th inst., and will be interred at Highgate Cemetery on Saturday, March 18, at 3 p.m.—J. A. FITCH.

Harcourt Angling Society, Harcourt Arms, Harcourt-street, Marylebone.—We take a return visit on Monday, March 27, on the A.B.S. List, when I hope to see many old friends.—A. E. PAYNE.

Hearts of Oak Angling Society, Ye Olde Crown, Brick-lane, Bethnal Green, E.—Mr. Callent had a show of roach; Mr. A. Bagshaw, jack; Mr. Smith, roach, dace, and jack. Will members kindly attend next Wednesday, for special business?—C. SMITH.

Highbury Angling Society, Globe Hotel, Upper TOLLINGTON-road, N.—Some grand fish have been recorded the last three weeks. I have had dace of 14½oz. (medal), 11½oz., 10½oz., and 10½oz., and a pike 14lb. 10½oz. last Sunday from the Thames. The latter was promptly eclipsed by Mr. F. Berry, who on the closing day weighed-in one of 17lb. 5½oz. (medal), and three others scaling 12lb., which, with roach (two biggest 1lb. 6oz. and 1lb. 5oz.), brought up his total for the day to 57½lb. On the same date Mr. T. A. Shaw had ten nice roach weighing 7½lb. Messrs. J. and G. Parsons, and S. Stone, have taken roach, dace, and perch, but not quite reaching specimen standard. A general meeting is called for April 12 to consider a proposed increase of the standard for certain fish, and other important business.—E. W.

Holloway Angling Society, Holloway Station Hotel, 295, Holloway-road, N.—A successful concert was held on March 15, at headquarters, a pleasant evening being spent by members and friends, some specially good songs being given by Messrs. G. Johnson, T. Johnson, and T. Smith. Mr. H. Grettan presided at the piano. Fishing reports are as follows: Messrs. A. Clayton and A. Stevens, on March 10, fishing in private waters, a fair take of perch, and roach up to 1lb. On March 11, Mr. F. Haves, fishing with Vaughan, at Shiplake, a number of good perch and jack. On March 12, Messrs. A. Clayton and T. Johnson had fair sport at Bures, Mr. Clayton taking a jack of 8lb. 6oz. Mr. F. Clay, on March 12, brought a good show of chub and roach from the Thames.—A. CLAYTON.

Hoxton Brothers' Angling Society, Spread Eagle, Kingsland-road.—On March 12 Messrs. F. Newton weighed-in roach; S. Cole, dace; S. Gillett, one chub, 3lb. 8½oz.; and T. Sowerbotts, one jack, 4lb. 11½oz. Our

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Mr. David Slater will be in attendance at the Royal Aquarium during the Fisheries Exhibition, which closes on April 5.

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On SATURDAY, MARCH 25, 1899,

On behalf of PRINTERS' CHARITIES.

Ladies Specially Invited. Doors Open at 6.30. Overture at 7 p.m.

Artists—Miss Marie Lloyd, Miss Amy Brook (Cert. R.A.M.), Miss Vesta Victoria, Miss Kate McGeeney, Mr. Harry Anderson, Mr. Walter Briscoe, Mr. Charles Osborne, Madame Stephanie Olive, Miss Geraldine Hewgill, Madame A. L. Povey, Miss Ada Rowella, Mr. Bertram Gill, Mr. James Davis, Mr. Albert Walter, Mr. Fred Rome, Mr. Tom Mulroy, Mr. Joe Levett, Master Albert Walter, Mr. F. G. Read, Mr. W. Skinner, Mr. Cecil Graeme, and Mr. Alf Smart. Instrumentalists—The Royal White Band, Mr. Sydney Hemming (Harp Solos), Mr. Montagu Hemming (Cymbalo Solos), Mr. A. T. Harrison (Cornet Solos). Accompanists—Mrs. Newman Harrison, Mr. James Jefferson, and Master Albert Walter. Stage Manager—Mr. Albert Walter. Chairman—Mr. G. H. Howard; Vice-Chairman—Mr. L. Chaplais, "Ben Jonson."

Tickets, 1s. each, may be obtained at the Headquarters of the Lychnobite Angling Society, "Ben Jonson," Shoe-lane; and of the following Gentlemen: Messrs. F. Jones, "The Times"; G. Marshall, "The Times"; H. Ash, "Daily Mail"; H. Wesson, "Daily Mail"; T. Matthews, "Daily Telegraph"; S. G. M. Richmond, "Daily Telegraph"; G. Cooper, "Morning Leader"; J. Harris, "Morning Leader"; J. E. Griffiths, "The Times"; T. Edwards, "Daily News"; J. Pushee, "Daily News"; H. Bone, "Daily Chronicle"; C. Dixon, "Financial Times"; H. Eastment, "Financial Times"; A. C. Cannell, "Daily Chronicle"; F. Oxford, "Morning Advertiser"; J. Mackinlay, "Morning Post"; H. Barnes, "Daily News"; T. Pedley, Assistant Sec., Lychnobite Angling Society; or of the Secretary, Sid Ransom, as above.

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Bohemian concert, in aid of the A.B.S., on the 7th inst., was again a success; the Dibdin, Peckham Brothers', and St. John's Angling Societies were well represented. The chair was ably filled by Mr. G. H. Shepherd, Bermondsey Brothers', faced by Mr. G. Armstrong, in the vice. Mrs. L. C. Peudry officiated at the piano. Amongst those who contributed to the harmony were Miss A. Ash, B. Ash and Brady, Messrs. G. H. Shepherd, G. H. Wood, F. Newton, A. McGinness, H. Streth, E. Hunt, Will Musgrave, Johnny Edwards, Josh Cosnett, Ted Hilton, Will Poore, Dent, &c. A vote of thanks was passed to Messrs. G. H. Shepherd and Armstrong, for their services rendered in making such a pleasant evening, and also adding to the funds of the A.B.S. The next Bohemian concert will take place on Tuesday, April 11.—JOHNNY.

Insurance Piscatorial Society, Barley Mow, Long-lane, E.C.—Messrs. Boatwright and Sloper weighed in 25lb. of roach from the Thames on 13th inst. Mr. Boatwright's five best fish weighed 5lb. 12oz. (largest fish, 1lb. 8oz.); and on the 15th inst. 15lb. of roach by the same gentleman, also from the Thames.

Islington Brothers' Angling Society, Middleton Arms, Canonbury-road.—The following weighed-in on March 12: Messrs. E. Challis, jack; Holder, jack and dace; Burwash, roach and dace; and Wilkes, roach and dace. On Tuesday it was settled to fish off the remaining prizes up the Lea; boundary, from St. Margaret's Bridge to Wear Bridge. Members to go by 8.3 or 9.5 train from Liverpool-street, or the 8.10 or 9.19 from Hackney Downs.—J. H. HEBBERT.

Izaak Walton Angling Society, Old King John's Head, Mansfield-street, Kingsland-road.—Three special prizes were competed for on March 12, Messrs. Butt, Poole, and Nunn being the winners; but only one of the two "specials" fished for on Wednesday last was taken, Mr. Nunn being the winner. The members will compete for two special prizes on March 19, on the Lea, between the Fish and Eels and Ratty's Weir; also for two on Wednesday next, 22nd inst., at the same place.—H. B.

Jubilee Angling Society, Prince Arthur, Golborne-road, North Kensington.—Since my last report we have had two nice shows of roach weighed-in from the Thames by Messrs. Bence and Gilder. I hope members will attend better next week, as we have some business to bring forward.—G. BENCE.

Leicester Independent Angling Society.—Mr. F. and H. Barnes, of the above society, fishing in local waters, on March 2, took seven pike, weighing 22lb., and on March 9, accompanied by Mr. R. G. Briggs and Pole, took some pike, bream, perch, and roach, Mr. Briggs capturing a pike weighing 16lb. The pike is being set up by Mr. Pinchen, of Church-gate, Leicester.—F. BARNES.

Lincoln Angling Society, Metropolitan, Winchester-street, Pentonville, N.—On March 12 the following showed some nice fish: Mr. Johnson, a nice show dace; Mr. More, roach; Mr. Cook, R. Watling, A. Richards, C. Biggs, W. Bowdrey, and W. Watling also showing some nice roach, dace, and bream.—W. WATLING.

Liverpool Angling Association, Bee Hotel, Queen-square.—In view of the close season local anglers have been very active, and there have been plenty of fish taken from ponds and canals. There are now four other societies, viz., Nelson, Central, West Derby, and East End, at work in the city, and amongst them they have rented the fishing in several farm ponds in Cheshire, and there has been a rare race to get hold of these. The river Dee is yielding well, and many good catches have been had from its water. Many portions are strictly preserved, and it will be necessary for anglers, unless they have permission and a trout licence, to be very careful what they do with any trout taken when bait fishing, for there are both watchers and keepers on the look out for offenders. The great danger in keeping trout is that some one may be caught, and then "farewell, a long farewell" to riparian owners giving permission for the future.—RD. WOODFALL.

Mildmay Angling Society, Clarendon Hotel, Mildmay Park, N.—The coarse fishing season has finished up very quietly with us, beyond a few jack (up to 5lb.) and perch from the Lea, perch from the Thames, and a few jack from private waters up to 11lb., there has been nothing worth recording. I shall now be glad to receive entries for our annual club hilliard handicap.—A. E. HENDON.

North-East Brothers' Angling Society, Star and Garter, Green-street.—The following weighed-in on the 12th inst.: C. Lamb, sen., C. Lamb, jun., J. Eaton, H. Hart, Mr. Thorn, L. W. Richards, sen., with a large perch, heating all weighed-in this season, who will take many prizes given for same. Wednesday next, March 22, special meeting, when all contributions due should be paid up.—A. LEWIS.

North Lambeth Angling Society, Newcastle Arms, Hercules-road, Lambeth, S.E.—We had a grand show of jack for the last outing of the season on the 12th, when the following took prizes: R. Morris, first, with jack, and also a special prize for second largest jack; J. Cheese, second, with jack; T. Dew, third, with jack; G. Palmer, fourth, jack; J. Edwards, fifth, with jack; also C. Dicks took first prize for honorary members; A. Dawson, second. All members had fish. T. Dew took prize for the largest jack for the season, and a tobacco prize; R. Morris took the season gross weight prize.—E. ROWLES.

Park Angling Society, Park Hotel, Park-lane, Tottenham.—Several of the members were out on the 5th. The following had fish: Messrs. Carter, Reitz, Coldwell, Tracy, Hopton, Juno. Sport being bad, very few fish were shown. All members are requested to attend on Tuesday next at 8.20.—W. S.

Phoenix Angling Society, The Tavistock, Stibbing-ton-street, N.W.—We made a good finishing-up show on March 12. Messrs. Bouffier, Austin, Nobby, F. Dove,

and Carr, jack, roach, perch, chub, and dace; best jack, 6lb. 8oz.; chub, 2lb. 10oz.; and several roach over 1lb. Members and friends not posted to, please accept this invitation to Central Visit on Thursday, March 23.—R. C.

Portsmouth Piscatorial Angling Society, Golden Fleece Hotel, Commercial-road, Landport.—The annual dinner was held on Monday, March 13, at the Albany Hotel, when there was a large number of anglers present. A first-class menu was put on by Host Holley. Mr. W. Hooper in the chair. During the evening the secretary, Mr. J. S. Dyer, submitted the last year's report, including the many privileges the society holds for its members, which was favourably received. It was also announced that the club is in a most flourishing condition, having a good balance in hand. A smoking concert followed, in which many harmonious members assisted.

Prince of Wales' Angling Society, Windsor Castle, Church-street, Edgware-road.—We finished our Thames season on March 12 with some capital shows of fish by the following members: Mr. Whitford, four jack and some nice roach; Mr. Haynes, three jack and roach; Mr. Robins, roach; and Mr. Davis, a fine brace of chub. Our visit on the Clerkenwell district will be held at the above on March 20, where all will be welcome.—W. B.

Royal George Angling Society, Queen's Arms, Bateman-street.—The following returned with fish on March 12: Messrs. Holder, Spielmann, Davis, Longland, Pope, Brand, W. Allport, E. T. Harris, and Gibbons. Mr. Longland showed a very nice specimen perch, and Mr. E. T. Harris showed an excellent tray of specimen pike. I shall be pleased to see all members in their places next meeting night.—J. GIBBONS.

Royal Oak Angling Society, Coborn Arms, Coborn-road, Bow, E.—Several of our members were out on the 12th, and the only member weighed-in was Mr. Dornsford: three nice jack, one 10lb., 7lb. 14oz., and one 7lb. 2oz., which saved the club from a blank.—F. PIGNATELLI.

St. Albans Angling Society, Rising Sun, Prince's-road, Kennington.—Our show of fish on March 12 was not so good as the previous week, the only notable tray being that of H. Adam, 9lb. hream. Mr. Brown also weighed-in for a prize in the consolation. Our South London visit is postponed until Monday, March 27, owing to the Central Concert. Wednesday, March 29, general meeting of all members for election of new secretary and other very special business.—H. A.

St. John's Angling Society, The Empress, St. John-street-road, Clerkenwell.—We had a splendid show of fish on the 12th, consisting of jack, perch, chub, dace, hream, and roach. It was decided on the 15th that the twenty-first annual supper takes place at headquarters on April 12. Members please note.—F. THORLING.

Second Surrey Angling Society, the Sun, Boniface-street, Westminster Bridge-road.—On the 12th Mr. W. Bignell weighed-in jack, and Mr. G. Richards, roach. We fish for a series of prizes on the 19th in the Lea at Ware.—W. ANSTREY.

Seymour Brothers' Angling Society, King and Queen, 1, Foley-street, Fitzroy-square, W.—We had a very nice show of fish on March 12. The following weighed-in: Mr. King, first prize, with 10lb. 13oz. Mr. King and Mr. Blyth made a dead heat for the heaviest roach, each of their largest fish being 15oz. Other members who weighed-in were Messrs. Blyth, 5lb. 12oz. (all fish); W. Roach, 3lb. roach; R. Spencer, 6lb. 14oz. jack (one fish); Wells, 6lb. 10oz. jack; E. Henson, 4lb. 12oz. roach; Campbell, 4lb. 9oz. roach; B. Smith, 1lb. 14oz. roach; Arrigione, 2lb. 2oz. roach; and Mr. E. Burden also weighed-in some roach. Our annual smoking concert will take place at the King and Queen, Foley-street, on April 11.—W. ALDIS.

Silver Trout Angling Society, Bedford Head, Maiden-lane.—On March 12, Mr. R. Smith had 8½lb. and Mr. Fletcher 12½lb. of very nice roach. March 14, Mr. F. J. Williams had a splendid show of roach 20lb., the two largest 1lb. 12oz. and 1lb. 7oz.; Mr. Abrahams, jack.—PELICAN.

South London United Anglers' Visiting List.—The next visit on the above list will take place on Monday, March 27, at the St. Albans Angling Society, Rising Sun, Prince's-road, Kennington-cross.—ALF. PAINTER.

Stepney Angling Society, Bee Hive, Rhodeswell-road, Stepney.—On March 12 we were saved from a blank by W. Woodford, who weighed-in a nice roach of 12oz. I beg to announce our grand smoking concert in aid of the Anglers' Benevolent Society, which takes place on Monday, March 27.—C. TATNALL.

Stockwell Angling Society, Old Queen's Head, Stockwell-road, S.W.—Our last match of the season took place at Thames Ditton on the 12th. The members mustered fairly well, and all had fish, Mr. Lucas taking first prize with hream; Mr. Alec Pain, second, with some very fine dace. Arrangements for a sea outing will be made next meeting night.—THOS. LUCAS.

Stratford Angling Society, Dorset Arms, Leyton-road, Stratford New Town, E.—Since my last report the following have weighed fish: Mr. T. Sandilands, 10lb. and 5lb. of hream; J. Grande, roach; F. Humphreys, roach and dace; F. Bates, roach and jack; J. Friend, roach; and G. F. Weaver, roach and chub.—G. F. WEAVER.

Sundial Angling Society, Plough and Harrow, King-street, Hammersmith.—On March 5 the club prizes were taken by Mr. Quitt, 1st; Mr. Alder, 2nd; Mr. Lock, 3rd; Mr. Harwood, 4th; Mr. Parker, 5th; Mr. Holt, 6th. Private prizes, Mr. Quitt, for heaviest dace; Mr. Parker, heaviest perch; Mr. Lock, heaviest roach. Result of outing to Wraybury, March 12, for three specimen prizes, Mr. Harwood took Mr. King's Cup with a roach 1lb. 2oz.; Mr. Hare, 2nd, dace; Mr. Holmes, 3rd, roach.—C. E. LOCK.

True Caledonian Angling Society, 23, Caledonian-road, N.—Mr. Miller some nice chub from the

Thames (three largest, 4lb. 10½oz., 3lb. 9½oz., and 3lb. 9½oz.); Mr. Lawrence, one of 3lb. 12½oz. Twelve members and a friend fished for prizes at Shiplake on March 9, resulting as follows: Mr. Mason, jack, first; Mr. Miller, ditto, second; Mr. George, chub, third; Mr. Ward, roach, fourth. Three prizes not won. Mr. G. Silverlock, on the 14th inst., chub from the Lea (largest, 3lb. 12½oz.).—THOS. F. WARD.

Twickenham Piscatorial Society, Black Dog, London-road, Twickenham.—March 14 was the first quarterly meeting, but the phenomenal density of the lower strata of the atmosphere resulted in a very small meeting. Mr. Barrow reported taking 9lb. of nice roach, one new member was elected, and several good prizes were offered for competition during next season.—J. M. BROUGHAM.

United Brothers Angling Society, Druid's Head Tavern, Deptford.—Several members fished a go-where-you-please match on March 12, with the following result: Mr. H. Fordham, first, with pike and bream; C. Freak, second, dace; E. Skeats, third, pike; C. Wilderspin, fourth, perch; H. Collings, fifth, roach. Other members were out, but returned with blanks.—H. TYLER.

Waggoners' Angling Society, White Lion, Albert Embankment.—Since my last report the following have had fish: On the 5th, Mr. Clegg, roach; Mr. J. Clayton, sen., dace. On the 12th, Mr. Clegg, roach and dace; Mr. G. Clayton, roach; Mr. Allan, dace. Several others had fish, but did not weigh-in. Our usual weekly meeting took place on Tuesday last. Members are requested to show up on Tuesday next, so that we can fix the date for future progress. Members in arrears are requested to settle up at their earliest convenience.—H. C.

Walton and Cotton Angling Association, Crown and Woolpack, 162, St. John-street-road, N.—Since last Thursday we have had the following fish weighed-in up to the 14th inst.: One jack, 7lb. 12½oz.; one jack, 4lb. 12½oz.; one chub, 3lb. 9oz.; takes of roach, 14lb. 13oz., 3lb. 6½oz.; and of perch, 1lb. 13½oz.—M.

Walworth Waltonians Angling Society, St. Paul's Tavern, Westmoreland-road, Walworth, S.E.—We had a capital show of fish on the trays, the result of last competition, Messrs. W. Sparrow, first; C. Pearson, second; A. J. Hammond, third; W. Wray, fourth; J. H. Risdon, fifth; J. Brunner, sixth; E. Hammond, seventh. The other competitors were not successful in securing a prize. Mr. C. Pearson had a nice 4lb. chub amongst his take.—W. WRAY.

Westbourne Park Piscatorial Society.—The annual dinner of this society takes place as usual at their headquarters, The Pelican Hotel, Westbourne Park, W., on Tuesday evening, March 21, T. S. Franklin, Esq., taking the chair. Several of the members were out for the wind up of the season. Mr. H. Beech was the bearer of three jack from the Kennet, but those members who fished the Thames had but indifferent success.

West Ham Brothers' Angling Society, Coach and Horses, The Grove, Stratford.—Our members were out in strong number on March 12 for our last match, but sport was very bad, only three prizes being taken: Mr. Philips, first; Mr. T. Miller, second; Mr. Weller, jun., third. The rest of the prizes have to be returned to the funds again. Quarterly meeting on Wednesday next, March 22, for the election of officers for the year.—R. LOWTHER.

West London Angling Club, Dartmouth Castle, Hammersmith.—Several members were out for the match on March 12. Mr. Ramsay took first prize. Mr. Cox, sen., and Mr. Weeden also took prizes. Mr. Ramsay weighed-in a perch, 1lb. 5oz.; Messrs. Peart, Coomes, Martin, Hunter, and Carter also weighed-in. Members are requested to pay in their subscriptions to enable our acting treasurer to audit the accounts.—J. J. HUNTER.

Westminster Angling Society, The Telegraph, Regency-street, S.W.—Our last match of the season proved another blank, Messrs. Humphrey and C. Crane only having fish, but neither reaching the standard. Messrs. Eccarius and Dodimead (not competing) weighed-in, the former roach and the latter a specimen perch. The quarterly meeting held on the 15th was adjourned until next Wednesday, when I hope members will try and attend.—S. J. H.

White Hart Angling Society, The White Hart, Tottenham Vale, N.—On March 5 W. F. Bastock had roach. On the 8th, W. E. Beaumont, 4lb. 9oz. of roach. March 12, W. Butler, jack, roach, and perch, winning Mr. F. Hoy's prize. On the 15th, W. F. Bastock, roach. Will secretaries please note our change of headquarters from the Volunteer, Chesnut-road, Tottenham, to the above hotel, and that our return visit will take place at the above on March 22 in aid of the A.B.S., trusting we shall be well supported.—W. E. BEAUMONT.

Wimbledon Piscatorials, 28, Alexandra-road.—The final match for the silver cup came off on the club water on the 11th inst. In the result Mr. H. A. Rolt, the hon. treasurer of the society, was adjudged the winner, his score being a long way ahead of all other competitors. His take included a very fine chub, a trifle over 4lb. in weight, taken on a drawn gut roach triangle. The following members carry off the three additional money prizes: Messrs. H. Golding, R. Howden, and F. J. Bovie. The annual dinner of the society has been arranged for Tuesday, April 11, at headquarters. The presentation of prizes will take place the same evening. Further particulars will be given later on.—HON. SEC.

Ye Olde Clapham Rovers' Angling Club, The Windmill, Clapham Park-road.—We had a good number out on March 12, with very poor results, only three weighing-in fish: J. Wyatt, roach; F. Taylor, sen., perch; and N. Linden, perch. As there are still some prizes not having been taken, we have an outing on the Lea, from Rye House to Ware. Will all members please note, on March 26 the last outing this season?—N. LINDEN.

Doings by the Way.

A WELL-KNOWN figure by Colneside has passed away in the person of Mr. H. Markham Pike, of Old Burlington-street. A member for many years of the True Waltonian Society, and lately of the Friendly Anglers also, he was ever ready to aid with purse, advice, or otherwise, in the furtherance of all angling sport. A great gap has been caused by his sudden death, and his loss is deeply mourned by troops of true and sorrowing friends. To those who frequented Rickmansworth and its waters for angling, his pleasant manners and great courtesy will be greatly missed.

MR. H. W. HIGGINS, hon. secretary and hon. treasurer of the T.A.P.S., has given notice that all those gentlemen who are desirous of being present at the Thames River and Lock Keepers' Dinner must apply for tickets on or before March 20.

THE monthly delegate meeting of the Anglers' Association will be held on Monday evening next, March 20, at 8.30.

ON Wednesday, March 22, at nine o'clock p.m., Messrs. Ward and Jones will give, with the assistance of the lantern, to the members of the Bostonian Angling Society and their friends, an original production of "Facts and Fancies." The vocal and instrumental music will be under the direction of Mr. A. Jones. Commence at nine o'clock. Those who are fortunate enough to obtain permission ("come early if you want a seat" is the cry) may be quite certain of an intellectual treat.

"DEAR 'DRAG,'—On March 12 I made a bet with a brother angler that I would go out in a boat and catch a fish that never existed. I went out and caught a crab, which didn't exist before I caught it. Do I win my bet?" [If a crab is a "fish"—and you succeeded in catching it—why did you not bring it up to the club? Your brother members would have decided the matter for you. Perhaps it was only one of those "crabs" which Mrs. "Drag" catches when she relieves me for a little while at the sculls!]

THE Lark Angling Society, according to the last general meeting, is going well and strong; how could it do otherwise under the superintendence, &c., of such an able and indefatigable general secretary as Mr. William Howlett? The balance-sheet was brought before the meeting on March 9, and the accounts for past year gone into, audited, approved, and passed. There are a few alterations in the committee, but the branch secretaries remain as usual. Mr. Howlett spoke highly of the energy the local secretaries had thrown into the work. The Most Noble the Marquis of Bristol was proposed by Mr. Howlett as president, and Sir Henry Bunbury, Bart., vice-president.

ANOTHER large perch, 3½lb., caught by Mr. A. Seard at Holywell, in the Ouse, near St. Ives, has been forwarded to F. W. Anstiss for preservation. Mr. A. D. Hall, fishing private water in Kent last Saturday, landed a splendid perch, which weighed 2lb. 14oz. This fish has also been sent to Mr. Anstiss.

THE Dart Conservators recently came within an ace of losing much of the valuable fishing rights on Dartmoor, by a decision to grant no free licenses. The tenants of the Duchy have received free licenses as an acknowledgement of the trespass committed over their lands, and it seems that this was an agreement made some years ago. As soon as the Duchy authorities were brought acquainted with this resolution they intimated that they might take the fishing into their own hands, in which case the water above Dartmeet (providing excellent fishing), would probably be closed. The conservators, at their last meeting, wisely decided to rescind the former resolution, and anglers, for this season at any rate, may have no fear that the enjoyable fishing on Dartmoor will be curtailed.

"A 7lb. jack," says Mr. Stanley Mead, "met with a most remarkable death, in Marsh Lock, on Friday last. The fish was observed in the lock by the lock-keeper, and soon after he saw the fish strike at a bait. 'Mr. Jack' missed his mark, however, and his head came into contact with one of the lock piles with such violence that it was completely 'done for.' The lock-keeper lifted the fish from the water, but it was quite lifeless. This is an instance of the great force with which a fair-sized jack takes his prey."

SOME anglers are finding them, and are making a successful finish to the season. As a case in point, Mr. C. Brown, of the Brompton Angling Society, enjoyed some remarkably good sport on Wednesday on a piece of private water in Bedfordshire. The water was in splendid condition, and in the course of three hours' not particularly hard fishing, Mr. Brown took 48½lb. of roach and rudd. The four best fish weighed 9½lb. It happened to be a club meeting night, and on his return he received the congratulation of his fellow members there assembled, who were exceedingly jubilant at finishing their season with such a magnificent show.

"COUNCILLOR WARING," says the *Western News*, "delighted the Cardiff Corporation with a learned and humorous dissertation on carp and tench: how they were to be caught, cooked, and eaten. His object was to show

that it was a mistake to put carp and tench in the Roath Park lake, as the parks committee proposed, but his amendment was defeated, and his theories neglected. He also delivered an address on the Roath lake fishing. Here is the tag-end of a sentence: 'The trout darts out upon the unsuspecting fry which comes within his vicinity. Would he be driven to the surface by the militant tench and carp? No. The aristocratic trout would seek the seclusion of the brooks, where he would become the easy prey of the ubiquitous poacher.'

THESE municipal fish yarns are catching, so to speak. An alderman who doesn't know a trout from a vegetable marrow points out gleefully the news that a rare find, in the shape of a moa's egg, has been made in a mining district in Central Otago. The only other perfect specimen was unearthed by a man while digging in the alluvial soil at the Kaikoura Mountains in the early sixties. This egg, which was 9in. in length and 7in. in breadth, has been sold for 100 guineas in England. "Great Scott!" remarked the alderman, when he read this to us, "Why, not long ago Beavan told us that these eggs were common at the Roath Park Lake! A hundred guineas apiece? We're losing revenue!"

OH! those Twickenhamites! This is how they explain the cause of a small attendance on account of the fog: "The phenomenal density of the lower strata of the atmosphere resulted in a very small meeting." I shall put "Daisy" on to "Jack." She will put him straighter, I guess.

OUR F. G. ALBUM OF ANGLERS.

No. 36 (New Series).



MR. FRANK CLAY

Is president of the Holloway Angling Society, of which he was one of the founders. He is also a member of the British Sea Anglers' Society. Although very fond of sea fishing—at which on one occasion at Deal I had the pleasure of fishing with him—he is an adept with the roach pole. During the last year he has weighed in the best brace of trout (taken with the fly), best brace of roach, best roach (2-pounder), best tench, and best chub. The best tackle that can be procured is good enough for him to use. As assistant to Mr. Carter, of St. John-street Road, he has, perhaps, greater facilities for experimenting with rods, reels, hooks, &c., than the average angler. Mr. F. Clay is one of the best all-round men we meet. A good musician, a good fisherman, a charming companion—what more can be said?

I FOUND the following tucked under my bedroom door the other morning. It was from "Daisy." A genius? If I tell the truth I must be, I suppose; But I only know that no one knows—well—more than what they know. I'm told I've brains—but cannot tell how people found it out—No one's ever seen 'em (so my dad says "there's a doubt"). And re those "monstrous fishes," of which I think you spoke; I've seen 'em—yes, as plainly as a blind man sees a joke. But where I've quite forgotten; p'raps 'twas in those mystic streams We sometimes meet with "over there" in the glorious land of Dreams.

My friend, "Jack" Brougham, the hon. secretary of the recently formed Twickenham Angling Society, called upon me one day this week to report progress. We had a very pleasant chat, in the course of which he informed me that the society was going well and strong, and that they hoped by the opening of the next season it would be one of the biggest institutions of its kind on the Thames, or, from what Mr. Brougham told me—in strict confidence, of course, so, pray, do not let it go any farther—

the prize list is already assuming very respectable proportions. The donors must certainly be congratulated on the wise and thoughtful discrimination they have exercised in the selection of their gifts. *Imprimis*, the president has given a handsome silver cup—specially constructed for the reception of temperance beverages—which is to be competed for next season for specimen fish only. Another member has promised a warming-pan. This, however, appears to be a rather superfluous article, because the Twickenhamites are, from what I know of them, a pretty "hot lot," and a warming-pan is about the last thing they require to maintain the heat of their piscatorial enthusiasm. A bible and a case of whiskey are included in the prize list, so that, taken altogether, the "soles," moral welfare, and spiritual wants of the club members are well looked after.

If they have not yet made history, the Twickenhamites have at least added one more to the wealth of fish stories already in existence. It happened in this wise. There is no need for me to say where the fortunate water was, but like the journey of Scott's minstrel—I refer to the last "gent" of that ilk—the way was long, and involved a pull of some seventeen miles. The boat had no well, so the baits were placed in a box, and towed at the stern. On arriving at the hostelry which had been selected as the headquarters of the party, it was too late to fish, so the box of baits was deposited in a quiet corner of the stream, and their owners retired to the smoke-room. In due course rosy aurora—this is the classical expression for sunrise, it has no reference to the chambermaid, as might be supposed—rose from her couch, and the members, following her example, armed with the panoply of piscine war, sought the water side and baits. But, alas! when the box was opened, eight dozen beautiful dace had gone out with the Ewigkeit or elsewhere, and their place had been taken by nineteen fine eels—one for each member of the party.

THIS was certainly a modern miracle, the wonder of which was increased by the assurance given by one of the party, who pointed out to his friends that the eels must have crept through the gimlet holes which had been bored to let the water into the box, and snarfed themselves until it was impossible for them to get back. Strange to say, two of those Twickenhamites had a good catch of jack that day. They explained that they had taken them with an artificial bait, but subsequently the landlord explained that the two in question had suffered from an attack of somnambulism, and their walk had led them to the waterside.

THE grand "smoker" of the C.A. takes place on March 26, over which Mr. Walter Emden, J.P., L.C.C., will preside. Admission will be by programme only (price 3d.). So hurry up all ye who would enter there. (An-dante, please, Mr. Brooker, D.P.A.S.)

I HAVE paid several visits to the Royal Aquarium since the Fisheries Exhibition has been opened, but am compelled to hold over my impressions until March 25.

ADVERTISERS, correspondents, reporters—in fact, all who would like to appear in the *Fishing Gazette* on April 1, will oblige by forwarding to St. Dunstan's House not later than Wednesday, March 29 (early as possible), as, on account of Good Friday, the paper will be published on Thursday, March 30, at twelve o'clock.

ABOUT noon on Wednesday (March 15) the Thames between Blackfriars and Westminster bridges presented an extraordinary appearance in consequence of a remarkably low tide. At Blackfriars, so low was the water that it was possible to walk round the buttresses at either side, and there are only four. A number of coal barges lying almost in mid-stream were completely stranded, while along the Embankment the unusual sight of the exposure of the bed of the river, in some cases to the extent of many yards, was witnessed. At Waterloo, on the Surrey side, no fewer than three of the buttresses were clear out of the water, and in many parts of the river tugs drawing craft had to proceed with the greatest caution.

"TRUTHFUL Tommy," who appears to have spent a good deal of his time while running about the country in philosophising on men and things, and in collecting fairy tales, writes me a letter from Carlisle in which he says: "Dear Drag," has it ever occurred to you how the language of our business, profession, or hobby creeps into our daily conversation? For instance, it is not long ago since your worthy editor, in putting an end to a controversy in the columns of the *F.G.*, said: 'We must now put a check on this line of correspondence.' When John Roberts, the billiard player, was stumped at cricket, and returned disgusted to the pavilion, he replied to the question, 'How were you out, John?' by the remark, 'Oh! the marker said I was out of baulk.' Instances like these might be multiplied *ad infinitum*, but one of the funniest I have met with is the following:

"A WELL-KNOWN M.F.H. was showing a friend round the hunt kennels, and somehow the conversation turned upon nightingales and their song. This led to an argument as to whether the sweet singer was of the male or female persuasion. They could not agree on the point, so it was referred to the huntsman who accompanied them on their ramble. 'William,' said the master, 'is it the male or female nightingale that sings?' 'Well, sir,' was the reply, 'I don't rightly know, but I have always been given to understand that is the dawg bird.' Surely this huntsman was the first cousin of the worthy who at the end of the season said disgustedly: 'Of course, there ain't no scent,' because of them stinkin' violets." DRAGNET.

Notes from the North.

THE DUKE OF YORK is to be on the Birkhall and Balmoral reaches this week for three weeks spring salmon angling. He is to put up at Birkhall, the favourite autumn residence of the Duchess of Albany, instead of Balmoral Mains, where he will be within easier reach of the lower pools.

Many lessees have left for the south on account of the slackness of sport. Mr. Perry, who rents the Drum mid-section, was only north a few days. He fortunately hit the lucky moment at the opening, when he killed three fish. He has not missed much since then.

Mrs. Bruickman is angling the Glentana reaches of the Dee along with her husband, Colonel Bruickman, and last week had her "first blood," a beauty of 8½ lb. Miss Fortescue on the Kingcausie section had two on the same day of 8 lb. and 8½ lb.

The first fish of the season on the upper Dee waters was got on Thursday, the 9th March, by the lessee, Mr. H. L. Craik, who rents the Invercauld private waters near Braemar. Owing to the protracted drought, it will be some weeks yet before sport may be expected to be rife in these far inland parts, but when it does come records are the order of the day.

The March Browns were out in considerable force on Saturday and Sunday last, and fish rising freely to them. While angling for finnock on the Cults, Dee water, we had three brown trout on Saturday in very forward condition for so early in the spring.

The "slump" in the salmon supply still continues, and the wall of the netters more grievous than ever. Only one fish was got from a mile of nets on the Aberdeenshire coast one day last week.

On the lower reaches of the Dee an occasional "drappit" fish is being got by the few anglers caring to try. A "drappit" fish is an odd, or single fish swimming by itself apart from a shoal, and the phrase is used in the north to indicate the poverty of sport.

The larger patterns of salmon flies so much in vogue in the opening days of the season have now given place to very normal sizes, and 1½ in. and such like are now the order of the day.

The Don Fishery Board, together with the angling lessees and proprietors, have raised, since last autumn, a fund of £3000 for the double purpose of opposing the Corporation Bill and raising an action in the court of session to compel the Messrs. Pirie, of Waterton paper works fame, to take such measures which will result in their taking a much less supply of water from the Don than they do at present; and more money will be forthcoming if needed.

The live seal recently caught in the salmon nets at Portgordon, near the mouth of the Spey, has been sent, by the Duke of Richmond and Gordon, to the London Zoo.

A severe snowstorm was experienced in Inverness and the North on Thursday night last. There was much drifting, and Ben Nevis Observatory was quite buried in snow. A heavy gale accompanied the storm, the velocity of which was reckoned at forty and sometimes sixty miles an hour. No wonder, though sport be slack.

A crew of Mull fishermen tried an experiment the other night. They put out their lines as usual, but also ran out thirty fathoms of net. The latter engine scooped out sixty odd codfish, while the time-honoured bait only held three.

Mr. A. C. Pirie recently purchased the estate of Dunecht from the Earl of Crawford and Balcarres, and has now entered into possession. The magnificent mansion house and grounds, together with the beautiful chapel, are not equalled in the north of Scotland. The house alone is originally said to have cost £140,000.

The expenses incurred in connection with the abortive scheme to promote an international fisheries exhibition at Aberdeen in 1899 amount to £370. It was at first thought that the Finance Committee of the Town Council would at once see the propriety of wiping this off by a vote from the common good. They are now "haggling" over a subscription of £100. This is somewhat rough on the ex-Lord Provost and City Fathers, who were *ex officio* the prime promoters; and it is anything but handsome to make private individuals "stump up" in such a case, and yet spend twice the amount in fighting the Don Fishery Board over a question of pollution. SPECIAL SCOTCH.

A PRETTY CHILD, accompanied by her mother, entered a third-class compartment at Westminster Bridge Station the other day. All eyes were turned upon her. She was poorly dressed, but wondrously pretty. Although, as afterwards transpired, a town-bred child, the glow of health was in her cheeks. And, after all, the basis of beauty is health. Some passenger complimented the mother on the appearance of the child. The woman's reply was instructive. "Well, you see, ma'am, I believe in looking after the health of my children, and then I find their looks can take care of themselves. I keep Holloway's Pills and Ointment always in the house, and neither I nor my children have ever wanted any other medicine."

Provincial Notes

FROM BIRMINGHAM AND DISTRICT.

The quarterly general meeting of the Birmingham Angling Association was held on Thursday evening, March 9, at the headquarters, and was one of the best attended meetings the association has ever held, as near upon 150 delegates were present. Mr. Coles occupied the chair, and Mr. J. A. Dance occupied the vice-chair. The minutes of the previous general meeting, held on Dec. 8, were read and adopted; after which the minutes of the committee meeting, held on Jan. 5, together with the balance-sheet and auditor's report for the year ending Dec. 30 last, was taken. The report went to show that the association was in a sounder financial position than ever it had been since its formation. All liabilities had been disbursed, and a splendid balance remained to the credit of the association. The minutes and report were received and adopted. All new clubs passed by the committee were admitted by the delegates, with the exception of the Princess of Wales Club, which application was referred back to the committee. The minutes of meeting held Jan. 12, which applied to the election of the new committee, were adopted. The minutes of committee meetings, held Feb. 2 and March 2, were read and adopted, with the exception of the minute dealing with the renting of the river Avon at Defford. This matter was considered, but as Lord Coventry refused to take the letting of the water out of one of his old tenant's hands, the matter was referred back to the committee for them to again go into the matter. The testimonial to Mr. W. Pearson, the Midland Railway Manager in Birmingham, who is retiring after thirty-five years service, was considered, when it was decided to subscribe the maximum donation as mentioned in the circular, namely, two guineas, to the fund, and the delegates were of the opinion that the P.A.A. should do likewise. Mr. C. White, the general secretary, gave in his report *re* the Trades Exhibition, to be opened at Bingley Hall on Monday next. He stated that Mr. G. Stanley had offered £20 as prizes for specimen fish, and to pay the whole of the expenses of printing, postage, &c. Mr. White had accepted the offer for the members of the association, and had been successful in getting a number of the clubs and private gentlemen to forward their collections. Altogether some 140 cases of fish will be on view, and several rare specimens of sea fish. Tickets, at about half price, will be issued to clubs, and all the members and clubs will be allowed a free pass. A grand array of fish will be got together, which will do credit to our association, and also be the means of getting the members to have their best fish preserved in the future. A vote of thanks was passed to Mr. White for his services. The twelfth annual Birmingham Association dinner took place on Saturday evening last at the Metropole Restaurant, High-street, Birmingham. It turned out a thorough success, as near upon 150 delegates sat down to the dinner, which was placed upon the table in excellent style. After the cloth was drawn the usual loyal toast was submitted, after which the toast of the associations was given by the chairman, Mr. T. Coles. This was followed with songs, after which the toast of the railway companies was submitted by Mr. C. White. This was replied to by Messrs. Pearson and Goldborough, of the Midland Company, and Mr. A. Entwistle, of the L.N.W.R. Company. After the toast had been disposed of, some excellent songs were rendered by the special *artistes* engaged, which made the latter portion of the evening enjoyable. Some of our members have been very busy with the pike, and making up for lost time through the bad weather. Several up to 14 lb. have been taken by the members of the Midland Piscatorial Society from the river Trent, at Alrewas. The Large Lamp Society fished a contest at Rugeley on Sunday last. The first three winners are in the order named: W. Hooper, J. Williams, and E. Humpage. The Cole's testimonial fund will close on Thursday, March 23, and the presentation will be made at Kidderminster on Saturday, March 25. The half-yearly subscription of 2d. per member is now due to the Provincial Angling Association.

FROM THE FEN DISTRICT (LINCOLNSHIRE).

The concluding week of the season, so far as coarse fishing is concerned, has been productive of wonderfully good sport in the Fen district, and it is doubtful whether anglers were ever favoured with a better time at this period of the year. On all the pike streams fishermen have been getting some splendid fish, and a record one (at any rate for this season), a 22-pounder, is mentioned from the Tattershall district of the Witham. Five and six brace of pike per rod in a single day has been no uncommon experience, and several of the fish have run up to 10 lb. apiece. In the Bardney district some remarkably big specimens have been seen, and one estimated at nearly 20 lb. was lost on Monday, after a fine show of sport. On the Forty-foot subscribers have done equally as well, but the fish have not run to such a large size. Roach are now assembling in the side drains, prior to the spawning season, but those following this class of angling have been very successful.

FROM HULL AND DISTRICT.

The weather in this district during the last few days of the coarse fish season was simply splendid for the time of year, much to the delight of our local anglers, who mustered out in considerable force; but, if anything, it was really too bright for successful operations amongst roach, yet, the river Hull being in very fair condition, favoured them. Some nice baskets of fish were had in the Wansford, Brigham, and Swing Bridge stretches with both paste and pearl barley, several of the fish scaling from 1 lb.

to 1 lb. 7½ oz. each. Some very good perch were also taken, with the aid of worm, at the beck-ends, going from 8 oz. to about 1 lb. each. The upper stretches are in first-class condition for trout fishing, either with fly or minnow, and several good fish have been on the rise in various parts of the river during the past week. The lower waters are also in very fair condition below Beverley Beck for worm fishing; and as the flounders and eels are well on the run, no doubt some good takes of these fish will soon be reported. The trout licences of the Yorkshire Fishery Board are now in the hands of the local distributors in the various districts, and can be obtained on application. The 1s. licences, being a rod licence, is available on all waters in the Yorkshire fishery district where the holder thereof has otherwise permission to fish. The havens and drains on both sides the river Humber are all more or less in first class condition for flounders and eels during tide time. Salmon are reported to be making up the Humber. At the last council meeting of the Hull Amalgamated Anglers' Association steps were taken and a committee appointed relative to the re-stocking of the Burstwick Drain, at Hedon, with mature flounders, and as these fish are a great acquisition to our local anglers during the fence season, it is to be hoped that they will be successful in their efforts to keep the stock up, for a flounder is one of the most prolific of spawners, and, when once introduced, multiply tremendously in most streams, and will also grow to a large size in suitable ponds. The Old Souleates Angling Society held their annual dinner and prize presentation at headquarters the other evening, when amongst the aggregate prizes Mr. W. Peacock was the recipient of the society's gold medal for most points during the past season, Messrs. H. Rudd, T. Muir, and W. I. Cox receiving suitable prizes for the next three places on the list. Mr. J. Goring received a prize for the heaviest bream, and the secretary, Mr. E. Clegg, was presented with a handsome testimonial for services rendered to the society during his term of office. At the annual prize presentation for specimen fish of the Hull Amalgamated Anglers' Association, in the roach class Mr. T. Barber took the first prize, Mr. H. Woollock second, and Mr. S. Conyers third; bream, Mr. W. Dodsworth, with one from the river Hull that scaled 6 lb. 0½ oz.; perch, Mr. J. W. Thirsk; and dace, Messrs. R. Clark, S. Grayson, and S. Holloway, with fish scaling 11½ oz., 9½ oz., and 7 oz. respectively. The Victoria Angling Society will hold their annual smoking concert at the White Horse Hotel, in Carr-lane, on Monday evening. This society will open their season in an open match on the river Hull at Dunswell on April 29th.

FROM THE LAKE DISTRICT.

An amusing statement was made by one of the members of the West Cumberland Fishery Board on Thursday. Speaking of the mischief done by eels, he said that on a recent occasion he found an eel killing a salmon, a grilse of about 7 lb. weight. He heard a great disturbance in the water, and on looking over the bank saw the eel and salmon struggling together. The eel had got hold of the salmon in a pool. Not having anything to kill the eel with, he proceeded to get his gun; but on his return found the eel had managed to kill the salmon, and had disappeared. This was a pity, for it would have been interesting to learn how one of the combatants could have been disposed of by a gun to the advantage of the other. On the salmon being taken from the water it was found to have received a large wound behind the gills, and had bled to death. Another interesting statement at the same meeting was to the effect that there was something like 20,000 to 23,000 young trout in the hatchery at Calderbridge which were ready for turning out. It was resolved to distribute these in the Bootle rivers, Ehen, Bleng, Mite, Pow, Beck, and tributaries of the Esk. With an improvement in the weather, there has been a larger turn out of anglers during the past few days, whose sport has been of a varying order. Opinions differ as to the condition of fish, but there can be no doubt that there is room for improvement in this respect. Many of the trout already taken have been poor in colour and thin, although Mr. G. Bland had at least one good fish of about 3 lb. from the Kent. Wednesday was a beautifully fine day, and top feed is becoming more plentiful.

FROM LANCASHIRE.

The Tyldesley and District Angling Association wound up on the 11th with a match in the Worsley Canal Fishery at Atley. The sport was not exciting, but they succeeded in awarding all their prizes as follows: First, Mr. J. Roach; second, Mr. J. Howarth; third, Mr. C. Wood. The Urmston Angling Society have been doing some stocking, neither trouble nor expense being spared to put their private waters into good fishing trim. The last consignments of fish were very fine. The Barton Angling Society have received since the beginning of the year no less than five consignments of stock fish, all of which have safely arrived and turned into their new home. The last lot arrived on Saturday, the 11th, from Mr. Ford, Caistor, and were reported in excellent condition. Mr. G. Shaw, one of the members, took from the same waters a club of 1 lb. 14 oz. The St. Helens Anglers held their fifth annual meeting on the 9th at headquarters, Mr. Wells presiding. The whole of the members were re-elected, as per rule, and the executive were also re-elected *en bloc*. June 22 is the date fixed for the first outing to Cheshire. Mr. Cox, Liverpool, offers a splendid prize for this event, in addition to the usual list. The champion medal for the season was won by Mr. Cox, his average for the season being considered the best. The aggregate prizes were taken by Mr. H. M. Greer, first, and Mr. G. Scott, second. The annual tea was fixed for April 6; ladies and friends to be invited. The Lune and tributaries are reported as in fair order. During the netting operations fifty-six pike were killed, the two heaviest weighing about

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For Boats, apply to

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Re-decorated and most Comfortably Re-furnished throughout. Electric light.

THIS Hotel, which is most beautifully situated, overlooking Loch Ness, and commanding finest views of the Great Glen, has the right of Salmon Fishing on Loch Ness, which will be free to visitors staying at Hotel, also Trout Fishing on River Foyers, Loch Bran, Loch Garth, and Loch Farraline. Boats for use of visitors. Terms moderate.
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Good Spring Salmon Fishing.

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YTHAN, reckoned one of the best sea trout rivers in Scotland, five minutes' walk from hotel, fished from bank and boat; experienced gillies; tariff moderate; fine golf course in close proximity; accommodation limited; communicate early. Particulars from

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SALMON ANGLING.

LOCH AWE HOTEL.—Superb and extensive additions since last season. Excellent TROUT and SALMON FISHING on Loch Awe, Free. Experienced boatmen. Boats towed by Steam Launch to the best Fishing Grounds. Magnificent views of mountains, lake, and river scenery obtained from the Hotel.

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THE Angler's Paradise for Trout and Ferox. Fishing on Lochs Shin, Grian, Merklind, and Gorm. Also Salmon and Sea Trout Fishing. Boats and experienced Gillies. Postings, &c.

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Total season 1895, sixty days' fishing for one rod 2906 fish weighing 1125lb.
Last season's catch over 10,000 fish.

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ESKDALE TEMPERANCE HOTEL, Langholm, twenty miles from Carlisle, is the most convenient place to fish the "Borror Esk" and its tributaries.—W. DOUGLAS, Proprietor.

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THIS Hotel, the only one on the shores of Loch Katrine, is most beautifully situated in the heart of Rob Roy's country, Glenlyne and the romantic graveyard of Clan Gregor being in close proximity, and as a fishing station it is unsurpassed. The fishing is free on Loch Katrine, Loch Chon, and several hill lochs, to people staying at the hotel; excellent boats and experienced boatmen are kept. The hotel is replete with every comfort, and is reached by way of Callander and Trossachs and Loch Katrine steamer, or by Loch Lomond steamer and coach from Inversnaid, or by Aberfoyle and Trossachs and Loch Katrine steamer, there being a full service of coaches and steamers by these routes during the season. Post and telegraph office in hotel.

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ROSAPENNA HOTEL, CARRIGART (Co. DONEGAL).

THIS Hotel, built in 1892 by the late Earl of Leltrim, is situated on the Rossgull Peninsula, midway between Sheephaven and Mulroy Bay. Tourists and Anglers will find superior accommodation at the above Hotel. It contains over sixty bedrooms, spacious billiard, drawing, and public rooms. Salmon fishing in the famous Glen Lough, Owencarrow and Lackagh Rivers, is free to Hotel visitors from Feb. 15 to end of July. Salmon licences can be had at the Hotel. Free access to numerous lakes and rivers on the estate for white and brown trout fishing. No charge for boats. Excellent sea bathing. Golf links, eighteen holes in a circuit of 3½ miles, encircle the Hotel. For terms and further information apply to the Manager.

FREE SALMON AND TROUT FISHING.

Commencing: Salmon, February; Trout, March.

GENTLEMEN staying at the **PORTH HOTEL, LLANDYSSIL, SOUTH WALES**, have two and a half miles of the Teifi for Salmon and Trout (large) fishing, strictly reserved. Also about ten miles of other trout fishing can be had in the neighbourhood. Splendid scenery. Fourteen miles from the sea. Vide, "Across England in a Dogcart," pp. 280. A. E. SMITH, Proprietor.

LAKE VYRNWY.

Splendid trout fishing in the lake and rivers; fish average 3lb., and give grand sport. Easy of access. Every comfort and luxury provided in the Hotel. Good boats and steady boatmen. Splendid cycle track (twelve miles). Bracing climate, and magnificent scenery. Season begins on March 1. First-class Grouse Moors and Rough Shootings to Let. Railway station, Llanfyllin.

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FREE SALMON, CHARR, TROUT, and PIKE FISHING.—Subscriber begs to intimate to Anglers and Tourists that his HOTEL is now OPEN for the reception of Anglers. The house is situated in that lovely sheltered glen close to the Police Barracks; most charming scenery, wood and mountain, and overlooking Lough Oullin; within ten minutes' walk of pontoon bridge on Lough Conn, celebrated for its salmon and trout fishing. New bath-rooms, and sanitary arrangements on most modern system. Terms—board and lodging, with men and boats, £3 10s. per week. Subscriber begs to announce that he has now secured the Right of 2000 Acres of good Shooting convenient to Hotel.—For further particulars apply to the Proprietor, P. HEALY, The Angler's Hotel, Pontoon, Foxford, co. Mayo, Ireland.

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KILLALOE, IRELAND.**

MOST reliable information as to Salmon, Grilse, and Trout Fishing in free and preserved waters, river, and lake, at this station; also as to accommodation and board in private cottage close to river. Expense, shortest route from England and Scotland, on application to S. J. HURLEY, Killaloe Co. Clare, Ireland. N.B.—The Green Drake season on lake commences about last week in May, when the fish are about in thousands.

CROOM, Co. LIMERICK.

The Mague, Comogue, Morning Star and Luby, Lough Gur, and Tolly Hill Lake.

TWENTY miles of the best free Salmon and Trout fishing in Ireland to be got on the above rivers. The lakes are teeming with coarse fish—Pike, Roach, and Perch—and are also free. CROOM HOTEL, which is now one of the prettiest and best laid out in the country, with sanitary arrangements perfect, is built on the Mague, and stands central to all the others, viz., Comogue (half mile), Morning Star (four miles), Luby (seven miles), Tolly Hill Lake (one mile), Lough Gur (five miles). Cars are supplied at the hotel at special low rates. BOATS FREE. Tariff very moderate.
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LOUGH CONN.**ANGLERS' HOTEL, Cloghans, Ballina, Mayo.**

FREE SALMON, Trout, Pike, and Charr FISHING on four Loughs—Conn, Oullen, Derrymannin, and Lough Alick. Board and lodgings, with boat and two men, £4 per week; and two gentlemen fishing from the one boat, £3 5s. each per week; that includes boatmen's luncheon. No charge on Sundays for boat or men.—Apply to the proprietor, T. O'ARKE.

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MODERN House, refurnished and decorated. Appointments, accommodation, cuisine unexcelled. Baths; Billiards; Suites of Rooms. Vehicles; boats. New Fish Hatchery in operation. Anglers' board and fishing leave, 11s. per day.

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Local Headquarters of British Sea Anglers' Society.

THIS Hotel, which is now under entirely new Management, can offer high class accommodation at moderate charges to Gentlemen visiting Leigh for Fishing or Commercial purposes.

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Boats and men engaged on receipt of wire or letter.

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OVERLOOKING the English Channel, 20 yards from the beach, bracing climate, golf, fishing, tennis, billiards, dark room for photography. Torcross Ley abounds with pike, perch, roach, and rudd; no close season; no charge to visitors for boats on the Ley; good sea fishing; excellent bathing; five coaches leave the hotel daily. Boarders, 8s. 6d. day.
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HOTEL convenient for sport, surrounded by the Golf Links, sea coast adjoins, excellent bathing. Capital Trout Fishing in adjoining Lake and River Crygill. 3d. fare to Coron Lake, Bodorgan; all best for sport in the early months. Trap from station, golf links, and boats, all included in moderate weekly tariff, forwarded on request.
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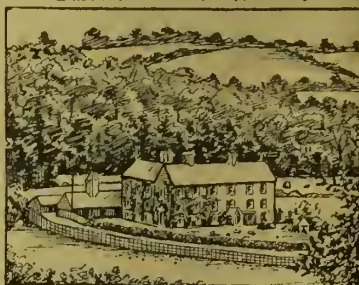
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EXCELLENT TROUT and GRAYLING FISHING on a mile of the River Onny for visitors staying at the Hotel. Lovely scenery; beautiful valleys; charming walks and drives. Suites of rooms by the day, week, or month. Cyclists' Union headquarters. Capital railway centre. Selected stock of wines and spirits. Every comfort guaranteed. Postings in all branches.
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TWENTY MILES of FREE FISHING on the private waters of the Earl of Portsmouth and other gentlemen on Mid Taw and Little Dart to hotel guests only. Rivers recently re-stocked. Moderate inclusive tariff.

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GOOD FREE**PIKE and GENERAL FISHING**

EVERY ACCOMMODATION. HOME COMFORTS. Baits and all requirements. Puns free to visitors. Moderate charges. Wire or write:

A. SCARD,
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FULLY LICENSED.

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AFORDS excellent accommodation to those fishing the Test. The hotel is situated in one of the prettiest villages in the county, close to church, railway, post and telegraph office, and has been refurnished and redecorated. Excellent cuisine. Traps meet all trains.
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Four miles strictly preserved.

DANIEL BOWYER, The TROUT INN

Comfort; moderate charges.

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GOOD TROUTING.

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Comfort; moderate charges; bracing picturesque; high references.

Season from April 1st. G.W.R. and S.W. Midland.

30 Miles Preserved TROUT FISHING

Free to the guests of the HOTEL DES ARDENNES, Diekirch (Luxembourg). Opening day April 1.

For all particulars about hotel and fishing write for the illustrated prospectus, sent post free. Inclusive pension terms 4s. 2d. a day. Proprietor, A. HECK.

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ON MONTHLY PAYMENTS. Immense stock Ladies' and Gents'. New and second-hand. Wonderful bargains. Carriage paid. Easy payments, from 10s. monthly, or large cash discount. One year's guarantee. Illustrated Price Lists Post Free on Application. Old bicycles exchanged.—THE BRITISH CYCLE MFG. CO., 45, Everton Road, Liverpool.

6lb. each. There is a satisfactory decrease in the size of same. The Warrington Anglers' Association continues to prosper. This time progress is reported with the acquisition of additional waters. They are particularly pleased with the fact that their efforts to get the Shropshire Union Canal closed until June 16 have succeeded, and that it will not be opened, as announced, on May 1. The Stanley Arms Angling Society, Leigh, wound up the season with a match in the local canal on the 11th. The sport was not exciting, but all the members enjoyed the event. The stocking fever has reached Urmston, and the local organisation there have gone in for a liberal programme, which was completed on March 10. The Longsight Victoria A.S. finished up on March 11 with a match at Poynton, with the following result: First, V. Hotherhall; second, T. Taylor; third, A. Terry. Prizes will be presented on April 7. Their stocking competition has not been the success it was hoped to be, but still it has done a lot of good.

FROM MANCHESTER.

The bi-monthly meeting of delegates from clubs affiliated with the County Palatine Angling Association met on the 9th at Beswick; in all, thirty-four clubs were represented; the agenda was important and interesting. Routine business being disposed of, which included various lots of minutes, correspondence, &c., after careful discussion the following resolutions were recorded: To hold all future meetings in the City of Manchester; to promote a grand angling contest; to approve of the committee's action with respect to their waters at Irlam, Cadishead, and in Derbyshire. The next meeting will be held at the headquarters of the Merry Anglers. The Union Chapel Angling Society, Gorton, held another of their social gatherings on the 13th, the room being tastefully decorated with piscatorial trophies and tackle. The winter series of monthly social and educational gatherings will terminate on the 27th in a grand concert, the proceeds of which will be devoted to the stocking fund of the County Palatine Angling Association. They are hoping for the support of the surrounding clubs. The Old Standard Angling Society, Hulme, had an outing to Irlam last week-end, visiting the waters now receiving so much attention. One member was the lucky captor of a rainbow trout of 2lb., which caused quite a sensation, but had to be returned under the prohibitive law in force. The Moss Side Socials have concluded their stocking competition, and announce the total of fish added to their Kersal waters as 1125, making a grand total of over 3000 fish added to this particular water. The stocking prizes are awarded as follows: First, Mr. John Fisher; second, Mr. W. Taylor; third, Mr. J. Lund; fourth, Mr. W. A. Leigh. Mr. Harkness will be their representative at Wyresdale next week. The first annual dinner of the Isaac Walton A.S., Ardwick, was held on March 13, at the Birch Inn. The club numbers sixteen, and they are jubilant over the selection of their entry for the Wyresdale competition. The Welcomb A.S. visited the Moss Reach on Saturday last to wind up the season. Sport was wretched, but the weather delightful. They have yet to negotiate the closing "bust." The lecture by Mr. H. Wallwork to the members of the Lancaster A.S., Loughsight, was a most enjoyable event. The members were delighted, and after carefully perusing the MSS, your correspondent can heartily congratulate the youthful lecturer on a palpable hit.

FROM NORFOLK.

The pike season now ended has been only a moderate one. No fish larger than 24lb. has been taken in this district. Last week very little was done. One angler had one of 15lb. on private water, and Mr. C. E. Betts took two 10lb. fish on Wroxham Broad on Thursday. Bream are now feeding well near Norwich, and a few decent bags of these fish have been secured. Trout fishing opens here on April 1, and the prospects of a good season are excellent.

FROM NOTTINGHAM.

Angling pursuits on the Trent were active until the last. The closing day of the season (Tuesday) was beautiful in the extreme, and scores of votaries were out, though, truth to tell, most returned home with comparatively empty creels. My "Jutilee" day was spent with a friend in North Notts, and he came off "first best" amongst perch and pike. Previously we had fished the river for chub, and had killed ten fish. Eight of these scaled 19lb. And on the same stretch of water (Kelham), Mr. Herbert Baker and Mr. Joseph Baker excelled with the worm. On Thursday members of the Shonder of Mutton Association engaged in their closing contest at Staythorpe. Twenty took part, and the prizes were won as follows: First, Mr. J. E. Wootton; second, Mr. J. Truman (president); third, Mr. E. Gillett; fourth, Mr. A. Sharpe. Mr. T. Wood is reported to have taken a large quantity of pike at Weston; and at Rolleston, Mr. J. Cass and Mr. W. Foulds have each killed specimens over 7lb. each. Salmon have again been showing at the foot of Beeston weirs. News is scarce from Sharnlow, where, however, salmon ought to provide sport to the rod before the month is out.

FROM SHEFFIELD.

Now that the coarse fishing season has come to an end matters will be comparatively quiet in Sheffield for the next three months. Anglers will put away all their tackle and wait patiently for the opening of the season in June next. Fortunately the last few days of the coarse fishing season held up remarkably fine, and consequently large numbers of anglers left Sheffield to have a last day's sport. Pike fishing in the Witham has been followed with considerable success, many heavy fish having been caught. Rodsters hailing from Lincoln have been favoured with the best sport, although several Sheffielders have been at work, with results satisfactory to

themselves. Very little roach fishing has been obtained, and this remark also applies to the river Bain, the water having been too clear to permit of successful roaching. However, pike have, in a great measure, compensated for the lack of sport in other directions, the frosty nights appearing to have made them very keen. Visitors to the Chesterfield and Stockwith Canal have fared very well amongst roach, using bread paste as bait, whilst sundry pike of decent size have helped to augment the catches. Very little sport has been found in the Idle, but the Ryton has furnished a few anglers with moderate sport amongst roach. Chub fishing in the Trent has answered extremely well, and at Collingham, Kelham, Hazleford, and other places some capital sport has been forthcoming, pith and brains being generally used with gratifying success. Pike fishing at King's Mills has also been of a very gratifying character. Very little, if any, roaching has been done. Both the Derwent and the Wye are reported to be in the best possible condition for grayling fly fishing, but in consequence of the unfavourable weather which has recently been experienced, anglers have been unable to follow the sport with the assiduity they would otherwise have shown. As soon, however, as the weather will settle down to be a little warmer more attention will be paid to fishing. A few nice creels of grayling have been secured near Rowsley and Miller's Dale, whilst in the Matlock Bridge and Batley neighbourhood trout have recently been providing satisfactory fishing, several heavy fish having been caught. In the Darley Dale waters, too, trout are fishing well. The Sheffield Angling societies are bestirring themselves in the matter of the taking of small fish, and are anxious to bring about an improvement. In the past many anglers—and Sheffielders are not the only ones in fault—have retained every fish they have caught, in their forgetfulness and carelessness ignoring the fact that the slaughter of so many small fish must, in the long run, seriously affect the quantity of fish in the waters. The Sheffield societies are suggesting that all fish under 7in. in length should be returned in general fishing, and if caught in matches should be kept alive until the weighing, and then returned. It is to be hoped they will have the courage to proceed with their suggestions, and take some steps to bring them into operation.

FROM WORCESTER AND DISTRICT.

The weather during the past week has been simply grand—nice gentle frosts at night, and bright sunshine in the daytime. The trees are full of bud—some of them out in leaf—fields are getting gloriously green, primroses, violets, and wallflowers to be seen in abundance, birds busy nesting, and every indication of an early spring. The rivers are in capital order and a nice level, and during the last few days anglers have been busy, but sport has not been very brisk. Still, some good baskets of chub were taken up to Sunday, and at the Working Men's Club two specimen fish were shown, weighing 4½lb.; and one well-known town angler, called "Darkie," caught a lovely brace of perch, which weighed between 4lb. and 5lb., and ought to have been set up, but they were sold at 8d. a pound. Pike have been off feed for some days. Still, some good sized fish have been landed. One was on view at the Sabrina Club on Saturday, 18lb. in weight, which was the best fish of the week. One fine fish was taken in the Upton part of the Severn, and a few good chub and roach; but there has been so much illegal netting in this district of late that sport cannot be expected to be good there. The water bailiff caught two men in the very act a few days ago, with their net full of fish, and they will appear before the magistrates on Thursday next to answer to the charge, and the result is looked forward to with great interest by anglers in the district, who find their sport becoming less year by year, and who are very anxious that this wholesale destruction by the small meshed nets should be put a stop to. The dinner of the Worcester United Workmen's Angling Club was a capital affair. There was a large company present of members and a few friends; in fact, the room was full. Mr. Councillor Jos. Radford was a capital chairman, and Councillor E. Yeates as vice-chairman was the right man in the right place. Host Seth Robinson excelled in his catering—the viands were of high order and abundant, the liquids first class. The usual toasts were duly honoured, the band discoursed sweet music at intervals, and some excellent songs were given during the evening. Mr. H. Nicholls, one of the guests present, and who has a lovely stretch of trout water running through his land a few miles from the city, generously gave the club the sole right of fishing it, for which they tendered him their heartfelt thanks; and this water will be strictly preserved and much valued. The dinner was a success all through the evening, and full of pleasant memories. Very few have tried for trout during the week, they were not on the feed, and the few brought home were no credit to the possessor, though the fish were said to have looked in good colour when taken from the water. They were far from it when I saw them in the evening. Salmon are very scarce indeed; the nets are doing next to nothing. The Upton-Severn nets have only taken one fish for a fortnight; the Worcester nets not much better.

FROM YORK AND DISTRICT.

Comparatively good sport has been obtained by anglers. The frosty nights kept grayling well on the move, and in the midday sun, when natural flies were about, fish rose readily. Grayling, however, have been making for the spawning grounds, and have scarcely been worth taking. The river Derwent in the Cottingham district is in prime condition for angling, and good fish have been taken lately. An exceptionally fine pike has been brought to York from this river. The Foss is in fair trim, and sport has been pursued among the pike, but as they are now ready for spawning, true sportsmen will lay by their tackle for a while. There has been moderate

sport on the Ouse. The Ure is low, and anglers are doing well. The trout season has just opened on these waters with fair prospects. The outlook for early trout on the Midd is also encouraging. Gratifying sport may be anticipated on the lengths of this stream, which flows through the pretty valley of Nidderdale, by Pateley Bridge and Knaresborough. The Nidderdale Angling Club, which preserves a portion of the river, is re-stocking its length with some thousands of eyed ova. At the opening of the season the best casts to use on the Yorkshire rivers for trout are: Early or Winter Brown (tail fly), Spring Black, Dark Snipe and Orange, and Snipe Bloa (droppers); 2. March Brown (tail fly), Spanish Needle, Little Early Brown, and Dark Bloa (droppers). There are few more effective flies for early spring than the Early Brown.

ANSWERS TO CORRESPONDENTS.

ST. MARY'S LOCH.—The address of the Hon. Sec of the Scottish Trout Anglers' Association is 44, Leamington-terrace, Edinburgh.

Correspondence

[We do not hold ourselves responsible for the opinions expressed by our Correspondents.]

TROUT FISHING IN MAY WANTED.

DEAR SIR,—J. G. G. should try Hawes, on the Upper Yore, but the cottages as a rule do not come under the description of "pretty." Necessity requires that they should be plainly, but substantially built. He would, however, be able to find comfortable and homely rooms at some of the farmhouses, &c., in the neighbourhood. He can obtain their names and addresses from the North-Eastern guide book, published by the North-Eastern Railway Co. This is on sale at 6d. at all the stations on their system. The Hawes water would, I think, suit J. G. G. There is plenty of it, both in the main river (the Yore), and its tributaries. Hawes is a capital fishing centre, and within easy reach of the Swale, Ribble, Eden, &c. The district is an ideal one to any angler or tourist in need of a change, and the scenery is romantic and beautiful. J. G. G. will be able to get full particulars respecting the district from "Romantic Richmondshire," published by Elliot Stock, 62, Paternoster-row, E.C., or from "Eden Vale to the Plains of York," by Edmund Bogg, 3, Woodhouse-lane, Leeds. May is a good month to fish the Upper Yore, &c. Lower down this beautiful valley I can recommend the Cover Bridge inn—one of the quietest and most homely of the few old-fashioned angling resorts in the kingdom. The visitors' book is full of flattering entries from ladies and gentlemen visitors, and amongst other poetical effusions that amused me in perusing the book this morning I copy the following:

IN PRAISE OF COVER AND THE INN.

"It stands beside a country road,
A cosy, pleasant house of call;
The Ure runs by a field away,
The Cover laves the garden wall.

There 'mid the stream and trees and flowers,
Each one may find refreshment, rest;
And with the birds and wild things, draw
Fresh strength from nature's kindly breast?

Then let us leave the smoky town,
Forget its hurry and its care,
And by the Cover's crystal stream
Drink in the pleasant country air.

Along its banks all day we'll roam,
And tempt the cautious wily trout;
But he's a disappointing fish
And knows full well what he's about.

At night we'll gently close our eyes,
Lulled by the Cover's evensong,
That through the texture of one's dreams
Runs like a silver thread along.

We'll wake at dawn with the birds,
And see the sun shine sweetly in,
And feel the freshness of the morn,
Far from the city's jarring din."

Any further information I shall be glad to supply.—
Yours, &c., JOHN E. MILLER.
Northern Anglers' Depot, 19, New
Station-street, Leeds.

DEAR SIR,—In reply to your correspondent's (J. G. G.) letter in your last issue, I would very strongly recommend him to try Matlock Bath, in Derbyshire, three hours from St. Pancras, where he can get good trout fishing for 7s. 6d a week, amidst the most beautiful scenery, and in a most health-giving neighbourhood. He can also get most comfortable rooms for himself and party at a very moderate price. If he were here on May 20 he could witness the turning into the river of over 1000 two-year-old trout, running from 5in. to 11in. If he entertains Derbyshire, and will communicate with me, I will put him in the right way for sport, pleasure, and comfort.—
Yours faithfully,
HENRY COOPER
(Treasurer and Hon Sec.).
Matlock and Cromford Angling Association.

TROUT FISHING IN YORKSHIRE FOR MAY.

DEAR SIR,—In reply to fishing inquiries, I should think that Ryedale (if not already visited), with Kirbymoorside as a centre, would be found to sufficiently interest the ladies mentioned, by its castles, parks, mansions, circular

tours, drives, and rambles amongst beautiful wooded and moor scenery, all within easy access by rail or road at short distance. The rivers Dove, Hodge, Seven, and Rye, with their standards from 8 in. to 11 in., should be ample, and are within a distance of seven miles from this town. Accommodation is plentiful and charges most moderate. Being one of the many interested in the private portions of fishings, and also a lover of the noble art, it is a pleasure to give any further assistance, on application, as to which portions are free, private, or fishable by ticket only. The smaller edition of "Guide to Ryedale," sold by Messrs. Lumley, Kirbymoorside, and also procurable at Smith and Son's bookstall (price 1s.), gives full descriptions, with engravings, and also map with the roads marked.—Yours truly,
Kirbymoorside. J. CRAVEN FRANK.

FOR THE WIDOW OF THE LATE JOHN HORROCKS.

DEAR SIR,—Enclosed please find cheque for £2 towards the "John Horrocks' Widow Fund."

In the spring and early summer of '76 it was my good fortune to be "cramming" with the English chaplain at Weimar, whose wife, if I recollect rightly, was connected in some way with Old Horrocks, as we boys irreverently called him. Many a pleasant hour have I spent with him, either watching him fish, or fishing myself, and many a time do I wish I could have some of those happy hours over again; for, as regards fishing, it was certainly the best I have ever had. I was then quite a beginner at fly fishing, though I had caught a few trout; but I was no expert, and I often wish I could find myself on that river once more with what little experience I have since gained in the art.

In those days we rarely used more than two flies. In fact, John Horrocks said his experience there was that if trout wouldn't look at those two it was no use offering them anything else. We always had a small Green Drake as a tail fly, and a Coachman as a dropper—always fished wet. I don't remember in those days to have heard of the dry fly, and I certainly never saw it used. I never had a whole day, and only on Saturdays could I get an afternoon, and, as far as my memory serves me, my best bag was fourteen fish (retained), running probably between 11 lb. and 2 lb. The usual run of fish was about 1½ lb.: one seldom caught them smaller and only rarely much larger, but I remember one of 6 lb. which I caught just above the Grand Duke's Palace in the park, and three fish caught by another English boy, just below the weir one afternoon, the largest of which was over 6 lb. and the smallest over 3 lb.

John Horrocks did not strike me as an artistic fisherman, but, nevertheless, he was a highly successful one, and I retain the kindest recollections of him as a genial fishing companion, and a generous instructor of youth in the sport.

Apologising for the length of my letter—believe me, dear sir, yours faithfully,
Edward H. R. HIBBERT.
Naval and Military Club,
Piccadilly.

[We are glad to publish this interesting reminiscence of Horrocks and to receive Captain Hibbert's subscription of £2. Mr. Felix Schröder has also kindly sent £1 ls. and "Buck Bean" £2.—Ed.]

FISHING IN LOCH FYNE.

DEAR SIR,—I should be greatly obliged if you or any of your readers could give me some information as to line fishing in the Firth of Clyde, Loch Fyne, &c., especially with the trot or bulter for conger.—Yours faithfully,
INQUIRER.

LAKE PATRIA.

DEAR SIR,—Lake Patria is about ten or eleven miles N.W. from Naples, is within a mile of the coast as the crow flies (i.e. if the scale in the map was correct), and marked Laguna D. Patria on the large map.

If your correspondent finds that it is further from Naples than this as the crow flies, he must blame the map, and not me.—Yours, &c.,
MARKIT.

A NEW TROUT FISHING ASSOCIATION IN NORMANDY.

DEAR SIR,—In one of my former effusions I mentioned that there was excellent trout fishing to be had in Normandy. For the sake of the many anglers I have gone to considerable trouble to ascertain further particulars, and it is with great pleasure that I am able to say that an association has been formed at Dieppe under the able guidance of the popular Mr. Walter Sambourne, who is president of the very flourishing shooting club and captain of the golf. The object of the association is to preserve eight miles of water on the Eaulne and Varenne, beginning at Arynes la Bataille and going up to Martigny, and from St. Germain d'Etables to Torcy. On the Eaulne, from the station at Martin-Eglise beyond and including the balastière pond, the difficulties to contend with have been the leasing of the water (for, generally, the landlord only reserves to himself a co-right with his tenant), and the prevalence of poaching; indeed, the streams must be very productive, seeing what bags are made by rod and line in spite of these drawbacks. Two years ago a Mr. S. went on a visit to Dieppe, and hearing that trout were to be caught in the neighbouring stream, and being an enthusiastic fisherman, he got leave, through the courtesy of the Pro-Consul (Mr. Sambourne), to have a few days fishing. In three days he caught 60 lb. of trout, his best day being twenty-two trout, weighing 20 lb., the largest fish turning the scale at 3 lb. A friend of mine took in one day, last year, thirty-eight trout, weighing 23 lb. If these bags can be obtained under the present circumstances, what glorious sport may be looked for in the future, when these rivers are under the entire control of the association which has just been organised.

Within a radius of forty kilometres there are seven rivers which run through the most gorgeous scenery to be found in Northern France. There are plenty of good hotels in Dieppe; one I can recommend from my own experience is the Hotel de Paris, which is both comfortable and inexpensive, opposite the Casino. Dieppe can be reached from London in five hours by the Newhaven and Dieppe route.—Yours truly,
P. H. BEWICKE.

THE IMPROVED GEEN SPIRAL SPINNER.

DEAR SIR,—We have much pleasure in forwarding you one of our improved Geen's ring mounted spiral spinners, which, we think, is something worth your notice. We have mounted it with a wire running through the bait, and phosphor bronze rings, as you will see. To these rings can be attached any size hooks that may be required. In the event of a hook meeting with an accident a new one can replace it within a few seconds. The bait will spin very much better on this wire than on the ordinary mounting, and, as you will perceive, the life of the mount will be considerably longer, as there will be no chafing taking place in the same. Gnt or gimp invariably is destroyed by the friction at the edges of the bait. Of course, the bait is well known to you, but we think that this improvement entitles it to fresh consideration.

The advantages claimed were that it would spin better than the Devon, without any of its ugly flanges; that it could be drawn through the water so slowly that the laziest of fish could seize it, yet its spiral shape made it appear to be in a terrible hurry to escape. Some portion of the concave side, and either one or the other of the concave fins, were, without cessation, reflecting the rays of light, thereby attracting the attention of all fish within a considerable radius. The fish are not frightened by any large number of ugly hooks, only two being needed, and these being practically hidden within the circumference of the bait. The bait slides up the line when a fish is hooked, and the hooks are self-adjusting when the fish is released.—Yours faithfully,
S. ALLCOCK AND CO.

Standard Works, Redditch, March 11.
[We like the look of the improved "Geen" spiral bait very much indeed, but would suggest to Messrs. Allcock that split rings are the worst form of attachment for holding hooks to baits. The watch spring catch would be far more reliable and more convenient for changing hooks. Split rings rust quickly, are only half as strong as they appear to be, and more fish have been lost through the breaking open of split rings—especially on spoons—than from almost any other cause. We are not sure that it would not be better to prevent the bait slipping up the wire so easily, because in casting it is liable to get jerked out of place, and does not go back, so spoiling the cast. But it is a first-rate artificial.—Ed.]

DAPPING AS AN ART.

DEAR SIR,—I have read with great appreciation "Pheasant Tail's" article under the above heading, in which he describes in a most lucid manner the plan of utilising the spring of the rod in order to get a fly into places that are inaccessible by any other method.

As he truly says, it is very pretty work. I have seen it performed by a "master angler," to watch whom at work was a treat. I have also seen a good angler make his first attempts, with the result that a distinct blue mist arose, caused by his fearful language at repeated failures.

It certainly is a pretty and also a sportsmanlike mode of fishing—but it is not dapping; and I would suggest to "Pheasant Tail" that if he wants a distinguishing name for it, "catapulting" would be an appropriate one.

I need not inflict on you a description of ordinary dapping, which must be almost universally known, and can only be carried on from the bank.—Yours faithfully,
A WHITE-HEADED NOVICE.

TONBRIDGE AND DISTRICT ANGLING AND FISH PRESERVATION SOCIETY.

DEAR SIR,—About a fortnight since, Mr. Copsy, a member of our society, was fishing in the Medway, just above Tonbridge, when he was fortunate enough to hook and land a pike in good condition, weighing 11 lb. He also hooked a larger one, but the fish and the ice smashed his tackle up. I shall be glad if you will insert the above in your valuable paper, as it might drive more lovers of the gentle art to our river here.—Yours truly,
ALFRED BARNES
(Hon. Sec. Tonbridge, &c.).

RIVER AND LOCK KEEPERS' DINNER (MARCH 23).

DEAR SIR,—I have received and forwarded acknowledgments of subscriptions herein since your last issue as follows:

FROM ANGLING SOCIETIES.

Twickenham, Grange, Crystal Palace, Gresham, Clapham Junction, Lincoln, Cambridge Heath, Jolly Butchers', Brunswick Brothers', Crown and Buckland, School Board, Cambridge Friendly, Dalston, and Waltonians.

FROM SUBSCRIBERS TO T.A.P.S.

A. and T. Stroud, L. Hart, J. S. Spence, J. Richardson, J. F. Marchant, W. McFarlane (*Sporting Life*), W. Johnson, J. H. Krauss, S. Shum, W. D. Bayley, J. Hough, W. Marsden Smith, and W. H. Brewer.

FROM COMMITTEE.

J. Sams.

I regret to say that up to the present the clubs have not subscribed so well as last year, but there is plenty of time yet left to remedy this.—Yours faithfully,
H. W. HIGGINS
(Hon. Sec. T.A.P.S.).

SALE OF BAITS IN THE CLOSE SEASON.

DEAR SIR,—Referring to your article on the above subject in the *Fishing Gazette* of the 11th inst., permit me to point out that I think you are in error with regard to eels. The Fresh-water Fisheries Act, 1886, 49 and 50 Vict., c. 2, while not authorising (or prohibiting) angling for eels during the coarse fish close season, declares that the term "freshwater fish," in section 11 of the Act of 1884, does not include eels. Therefore, eels may be bought or sold during the close time.—Yours faithfully,
LOUIS F. HIGGS
(President Worcester and District United Angling Association).

[We hope we are wrong and Mr. Higgs right, but we know that in several cases magistrates have held eels to be protected, and have convicted for taking them in close season.—Ed.]

AN INVITATION TO FISH THE EDEN.

DEAR SIR,—Should any coarse fishing club, or member of same, like to come to Carlisle, I am prepared to grant them free fishing in the Eden; it would only be necessary for them to write me for permit and enclose stamped, addressed envelope.

These waters are noted for chub, dace, with roach and pike, the latter in smaller quantities.—Yours faithfully,
H. H. HODGKINSON
(Hon Sec. Carlisle Angling Association).

[Coarse fish anglers do not care to take fish out of season, or we should imagine this invitation would be responded to by some of them. We remember, many years ago, seeing quantities of fine chub in the Eden, and catching some when trout fishing.—Ed.]

BROWN TROUT FOR THE LUNE.

DEAR SIR,—We received last Wednesday morning from the Wryesdale Fishery 1500 yearling brown trout, which all arrived in the best of health and condition, and were turned out without a single one being lost. Several members of the association helped to put the fish in, and all were very satisfied with them.—Yours faithfully,
Ingelton, Kirby Lonsdale. GEO. H. PADGETT.

SCOTCH SEA FISHERY QUERY.

SIR,—Can you or any of your readers refer me to a few stations on the coast of Scotland, accessible by rail, where pollack run heavy, and where good accommodation can be had at a moderate expense?—Faithfully yours,
G. DE MAUPAS.

NETTING FUND.

DEAR SIR,—Since last report I beg to acknowledge receipt, with thanks, of 10s. 6d. donation from the Edmonton and Tottenham Angling Society.—Yours faithfully,
ALEX. WRIGHT (Hon. Treasurer).

AN ACKNOWLEDGMENT.

SIR,—Will you kindly allow me to acknowledge through the columns of the *Fishing Gazette* the receipt of so many letters and telegrams, from both anglers and fishermen, offering their best wishes on my eightieth birthday on Wednesday last, and to thank them very kindly for their pleasant remembrances? Some of the fishermen date their friendship from over forty years, and are hoping to see me at the Keepers' Dinner, but I am afraid they will be disappointed. One of my telegrams is from my old friend Mr. A. E. Armstrong, who is now in Cardiff, and one of the letters from my dear old friend Mr. Alfred Jardine, referring to past happy associations.
W. H. BROUGHAM.

Pownall-gardens, Hounslow, March 15.

BRITISH BOOKS ON ANGLING.

DEAR SIR,—I should be much obliged if you, in the columns of the *Fishing Gazette*, would give me a list of the most important British books on angling.—Yours very truly,
DANISH SUBSCRIBER.
[There must be about a thousand British books on angling. On what particular branch does our correspondent want them?—Ed.]

NEW PISCATORIAL PATENTS.

The following particulars are compiled by Messrs. Hughes and Young, Patent Agents, 55 and 56, Chancery-lane, London, W.C.

33,549. Bags for anglers and cyclists. Patentee: Mr. W. Chalkley, The Square, Winchester, Hampshire. Relates to a leather bag or case, to which may be secured boxes, with hinged or sliding transparent lids. The pocket is adapted to fold over, and the whole is secured by a strap.

3359. Harold Thomas Tanner, Ingleside, Redditch. Improvements in the manufacture of fish hooks.

18,283. Fishing. Patentees: Messrs. S. Buckingham, Duke-street, and J. Epton, Duke-street, both in New Cleve, Grimsby. Relates to trawling gear. To diminish the tendency of the wing nets to lift the ground rope, they are made with a selvage at the top and bottom instead of one only at the top.

3733. Alfred Hemsted, Cannon-street, London. "An artificial bait for fishing, fitted with reversible fins."

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NOTICE.

THE FISHING GAZETTE is published every Saturday, and can be obtained at Messrs. W. H. Smith and Son's Railway Bookstalls and of the principal Newsagents and Fishing Tackle Dealers in London and the Provinces.

Communications relating to the Literary Department, Fishing Tackle for Notice, Books for Review, &c., should be addressed to R. B. MARSTON, Editor of the FISHING GAZETTE, St. Dunstan's House, Fetter-lane, London.

Correspondents are requested to write on one side of the paper only, and give their real names and addresses, not necessarily as signatures to their letters, but as a guarantee of good faith. Unless this rule be adhered to no notice will be taken of such communications.

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The GAZETTE can be had by sending Postal Order or Stamps to Messrs. Sampson Low, Marston and Co., Limited, the Proprietors, St. Dunstan's House, Fetter-lane, London, to whom all money payments should be made.

For One Year, post free to any part of Great Britain and Ireland	10s. 6d.
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Telegraphic Address—"RIVSAM, London."
TELEPHONE, No. 83 Holborn.

The Fishing Gazette

WITH WHICH IS INCORPORATED

ANGLING AND CLUB GOSSIP.

SATURDAY, MARCH 25TH, 1899.

THE BATTLE OF POLLUTION.

THE first open engagement between the forces representing salmon *versus* sewage has been won by the former. The victory is no mere moral one, but a substantial crowning success to our salmon fisheries in general, and the "poor old Don" in particular. The defeat is all the more crushing, seeing it has been sustained by such an influential corporation as that of the City of Aberdeen, representing nearly 200,000 of a population, with all the wealth of the sinews of war at its back, in the shape of unlimited rates to draw upon, and the best guidance and generalship that such influence and money can command at the hands of a small but determined band of angling proprietors and lessees, but having a comparatively small stake each in the purity of their comparatively small river.

For years the Don Fishery Board has been protesting, through its officials, against the increasing pollution of its once limpid and pure waters from the mills and villages on the last few miles of its course. But only during last autumn was any real action taken by those interested, when an association was duly formed

of the members of the local fishery board and a few of the upper riparian proprietors, with the ostensible purpose of providing funds to raise an action in the Court of Session against the unnecessary or illegal abstraction of too much of the water in the river by the Messrs. Pirie for mill purposes; and to take in hand the interests of the Don as a salmon river generally, with the ultimate aim in view of restoring it to its pristine purity if possible.

The funds came rattling in, and soon an amount equal to all present emergencies and future demands for some time to come, of over £3000 was cheerfully subscribed, with the hearty promise of more to follow if needed. Nor had such spontaneous and ready action been taken a day too soon. The association have not had long to wait to find an opportunity to call out their forces.

The Aberdeen Corporation, as represented by its sewage committee, had to deal with a promised scheme for disposing of the part of the city sewage which entered the Dee at Victoria Bridge, in order to satisfy the demands of the Dee Fishery Board, and for this purpose had to promote a bill in Parliament in order to get the necessary sanction to carry out the works. In their bill they proposed also to deal with the Donside section of the city sewage for which they were responsible, and in this connection were to construct only such works as were necessary for the suburbs of Aberdeen, known locally as the villages of Woodside and the Aulton, leaving the mills—the main sources of the pollution of the Don—out of account altogether.

Now was the chance of the Don Fishery Board, and right well have they caught at it. If supineness was one of the many charges levelled at them as a board in the past, such cannot now be laid to their charge. Nay, they have even redeemed their characters in this respect, by the alacrity and despatch shown in the present case, and wiped from their escutcheons the last stain of any such laggard disposition.

When the Corporation Bill was announced they stepped into the arena to oppose it. Half a loaf was of no use to them. It was even worse than actual starvation for a time, as it would prevent them getting sustenance in the future. It must be a whole loaf, or determined and strenuous opposition would follow. Their chance had come, and they were determined to make the most of it. Negotiations were opened. Conferences were suggested and conferences were held, but the fishery board for once stood to their guns and refused to compromise one single inch. "Include the mills and our opposition will drop" was their retort. Seeing that matters could not be adjusted locally, and on the spot, the last of the conferences came abruptly to an end, after high words on either side, with the heated declamation, "We will meet at Philippi," and within the next forty-eight hours or so at Philippi they met, with what result of course the whole world knows.

The Lords' Select Committee on Bills, with Lord Northbrook as chairman, heard the case for and against the passing of the Aberdeen Corporation Bill during the whole of Tuesday, Wednesday, and the greater part of Thursday of last week, and after listening to chemical and engineering experts on both sides—the best money and experience could procure—and listening to the speeches of eminent counsel over the question of salmon *versus* sewage, they decided, after having cleared the committee-room for just fifteen minutes by the clock, in favour of salmon. There is no halting between two opinions in their decision. It is a clear and emphatic declaration in favour of the preservation of our salmon rivers and streams. They refuse to pass the Don clauses of the Bill *in toto*. Nor did the Lords' Committee stop short at the official dictum that the proposals of the corporation were not good enough as regards the Don valley, but they went the length of giving a plain bit of advice to the Aberdeen Corporation, recommending them and the county engineers to lay their heads together and devise such a scheme as will effectually and effectively purify the Don, and then, and only then, to look to Westminster for sympathy and support in carrying it out.

The Aberdeen Corporation Bill has been passed by the Select Committee of the House of Lords, but minus the Donside clauses. The meeting at

Philippi has been anything but a source of gratification to the granite city officials. On the other hand, the Don Fishery Board is quite jubilant. They can well afford to be so. It is a famous victory, and no mistake, and will nerve them to further action in other quarters, which may have a more immediate effect on the salmon fisheries under their charge, and enhance the angling interests of the river as a whole more than the fight with the Aberdeen abortive sewage scheme can accomplish for some time. If the questions as to certain water rights claimed by mill owners can now be as successfully tackled, and the obstructions arising from numerous dam dykes solved after the same successful fashion, the future of the Don to its former place as one of the first salmon rivers in the kingdom is fully assured. There is nothing we can see to hinder such success all round. Public opinion is now against monopoly and injustice in any shape and form, and the monopoly of polluting an otherwise fine salmon and trout river such as the Don by a few grasping mill owners and dividend hunters cannot stand. It is against all nineteenth century common sense, the eternal fitness of things, if it is not otherwise against all law and order. The Don Fishery Board will still have a good balance at its bankers, after settling last week's bills, the costs in connection with the first real engagement in the battle of pollution on which it has entered, and it can now go ahead to more conquests in fresh fields and pastures new.

That the Aberdeen Corporation feel sore over their defeat goes without saying. They courted it, and they must now bear the brunt of their anything but magnanimous proposals with regard to the Don. If they feel the bruises sore they need not look for sympathy nor complain. There is a golden rule which it is well to remind corporations of as well as individuals, that they should do as they would be done by. Had they had the same stake in the Don salmon fisheries that they as a corporation have in the Dee, they would have seen their way to include the mills in their sewage scheme, without any meeting at Philippi, or intervention on the part of the Lords' Committee to direct them in the paths they must tread ere they again ask their sanction to engage in public works of a gigantic character needing the sanction of Parliament for their promotion.

There is no difficulty as to the future course of action on the part of the Corporation of Aberdeen. They must face the music, and that with the best grace possible. A scheme for a joint town and county sewer was planned by the county engineer, and approved by eminent consulting authorities some years ago. It proposes to carry the sewage and polluting effluent, presently being discharged into the Don, for a distance of some seven miles, right out to the sea at a cost of £40,000. The mill owners were the only parties who objected to stump up their moiety of the cost, and so the scheme, as a voluntary one, has been in abeyance. It must now be made compulsory, and the mill owners be made to pay for their whistle—and obstinacy. It is certainly not a light scheme; but to object to it because it might pollute the North Sea at the mouth of the river, is a pitiable official exhibition of straining at the gnat and yet swallowing the camel. Yet such far-fetched arguments are being seriously trotted out since the battle of pollution has gone against the Aberdeen Corporation. How have the mighty fallen.

G. M.

A FULL BAG IN '98.

MY luck of late had not been quite of the best amongst the fjeld trout. The weather had been cold and the wind far too rough for really good sport. Consequently, I was not expecting a by any means heavy bag when I started from our soter to try what a fair-sized burn would afford me in the way of fish.

A few days earlier one of the party had reported having seen a quantity of fine trout in some deep pools, about two miles distant down the stream, running past the soter, and once or twice some six to eight good trout had already been caught in this particular stream. But up to the present time nothing remarkable had been done there. However, some fish were wanted for dinner, and after three long days of ryer shooting and conse-

quent hard walking over the fjeld, I thought a turn at the trout would be something of a rest and a change. For it was not laborious work casting over the burn, which could all be very well covered by a 10ft. rod, whilst a pair of shooting boots and gaiters made the equipment considerably less cumbersome than that required for wider waters, and since the walking before me was not exactly along a well-kept main road, carefully steam-rolled and swept by the County Council, waders and brogues were impedimenta joyfully left behind.

There was a strong north-west wind blowing directly upstream; so strong was it that the lake which formed the source of the burn was covered with miniature rollers, emulating in a very small way the more formidable white-crested waves which make the North Sea of such uncomfortably evil repute among bad sailors.

The stream after leaving the lake was for some half a mile or so nothing more than a tiny rivulet, bending and turning in many directions, with a deepish pool at almost every sharp corner. I spent but little time over this portion of the water, as but few large fish were in the habit of frequenting it, although fingerlings swarmed on most of its shallows. It was not until a larger and deeper pool, formed by the junction of another stream, was reached that I began to fish carefully. The wind was still blowing a whole gale, and was straight in my face. Accordingly, casting became rather an erratic matter, and as the heavier fish did not seem keen on the March Brown or anything else I could offer them, I soon left the pool, after throwing back three or four little beggars not big enough to keep.

For some distance after this the water was too thin and rocky to hold large fish, but at last the stream made a sharp bend, and as usual there was a deep pool at the turn. Here I caught one about $\frac{1}{2}$ lb., and put back several of the ubiquitous fingerlings. Notwithstanding that there was some very likely-looking water in this portion of the burn, all of which was carefully fished, I could neither take nor see anything of a decent size. I began to fancy that the heavier trout must have migrated from their usual haunts, and I was somewhat disappointed when two o'clock came and there was nothing but one solitary miserable $\frac{1}{2}$ -pounder in my bag.

Lunch, and a soothing, consoling pipe at an end, it was time to fish my way back towards our soter. By this time the wind had dropped a little, but was still occasionally hurling violent squalls up the stream quite forcible enough to make it at times an affair of some uncertainty as to where my fly would be allowed to fall. Once or twice, in fact, the wind took sole control of the business, and lifted fly, line, and all clean off the water.

I worked away for nearly half-an-hour with just as much want of success as earlier in the day. Plenty of tiny ones—about five to a pound—but nothing of any size would look at my fly.

Fortunately, as it happened, I made my way up stream slowly and carefully, for at length I fancied that I saw the back fin of a good trout appear for a second about 15yds. above me, close in to the side I was standing on, and just at the edge of some sedges which fringed the margin of a long stretch of deep water.

Before casting I waited a few moments to make sure that the cast and fly were both still in good order and repair. Whilst I was so doing a fish jumped straight into the air—so straight, indeed, that for a fraction of a second its attitude was just that of those brightly-coloured varieties which perpetually dangle at the end of a pole, planted over the door of some tackle sellers in England. This trout went through its acrobatic feat rather nearer the place where I was standing than where a back fin had made its appearance, but also close into the sedges.

The banks of the stream are here quite as high or higher than a man, but luckily there is a narrow shelf about a foot or so above water, and just broad enough to afford standing room. To this I scrambled down and commenced casting carefully towards the sedges, near where the fish had moved. Close in by the lower end of the weed clump a trout rose greedily to a medium-sized March Brown, and was firmly hooked. He made one strong dash right across the stream, and then tore away down the pool past where I was standing. Gradually he was worked back,

and for a few moments—anxious moments, too—I feared I should lose him, for straight under my feet he darted, and gained the shelter of the hollow bank. Luckily, heavy stamping over his head dislodged him, and that without breaking down my narrow standing place. This dangerous manoeuvre on the part of the fish entailed a very heavy strain on the little 10ft. rod, and the greenheart must have been of exceedingly good quality to bear such a test without breaking. However, no accident happened, and at length a plucky fish of about 1 $\frac{1}{2}$ lb. was in the bag.

The rather rumped March Brown was quickly smoothed out, and once more drifting down close past the sedges. Again a good rise, and another fish made a hard fight for life, but he, too, was before long safely in the bag.

As I was inspecting my tackle preparatory to making a third venture, I saw for the second time a goodly trout jump straight into the air, as if anxious to discover what accident could have befallen his comrades so rudely plucked from their proper element. Before the noisy splash and commotion caused by the return of the inquisitive fish to his haunts had ceased, my fly fell almost in the centre of the widening ring. Almost instantaneously a trout seized it, rushed away down stream, struggling even harder than his predecessors in misfortune; but he, too, soon followed his forerunners to the bank. My hopes of a decent basket began to rise rapidly, for a number of good trout seemed to have collected along the edge of the weeds, and to have suddenly become almost madly hungry.

Another cast or two brought yet another rise. But this time the trout had the best of it, for after some wild, frantic rushes up and down the stream, the hook came away, and the bag was no heavier by that fish. Thinking it quite possible that after this a short rest might be advisable, I waited a few minutes before setting to work again, meanwhile changing the fly from a March Brown to a White Tip. I had no sooner worked the new fly close in towards the sedges than it was swallowed by a greedy trout, destined, before many minutes had elapsed, to join his comrades in misfortune. Whilst I was playing this last, another fish jumped high into the air, and I fully believe that I hooked and landed that particular acrobat very soon after.

However, to cut the tale short, I landed from a stretch of water, certainly not exceeding 15yds. or 20yds. in length, twenty-three trout, weighing 3 $\frac{1}{2}$ lb. My bag was crammed, my capacious landing net was full, and at least two miles of very rough walking were before me. But for these hindrances my score would have been considerably augmented, for when I had determined that both net and bag were choke full, I crept on hands and knees very cautiously along the bank of the pool and peered down into its depths, where some twelve or fourteen good trout could be seen, all of them close into the sedges, from whose edge so many weighty fish had already been obtained on that afternoon.

What attraction had collected so many trout in that particular piece of water I cannot guess; but there they were. It was a very even basket I brought back, nothing under 1 lb., and only two or three above 2 lb., and these only a trifle. One of the oddest things about that day's fishing was the frequency with which fish not hooked threw themselves straight into the air. I saw these jumping performances at least six times in the course of the afternoon, and feel pretty certain that no fewer than three of these acrobats were eventually caught by me. All this militated very considerably against my ideas as to jumping fish never taking a fly, and always foreshadowing bad sport. Very few fish escaped when once hooked, and if such a break in my good luck did happen I changed the fly, and waited a few minutes before making a fresh cast. No doubt much of my good luck was to be attributed to my seeing that particular trout move which was lowest downstream of all the collection, and to being able to turn the heads of the hooked fish downstream, and thus not disturbing those lying higher up the pool.

It goes without saying that I was not a little pleased with the afternoon's sport; but I am nevertheless bound to confess that before I reached the soter door my load had become quite sufficient, the more so as slipping on some wet ground I tripped and tumbled into a bog hole,

luckily without doing much damage beyond bruising my leg and side, and getting a pretty complete wetting—an accident which did not make the rough walking and steep rise at the finish at all easier to negotiate.

The burn, which was the scene of these events, will for the future be regarded with feelings of the deepest respect. Hitherto, I had looked upon it merely as a pleasant place to ramble along on an off day, rod in hand, where one was sure to see any quantity of small and some few bigger trout, but whose greatest attraction was to be found, not so much in the fishing as in the number of birds, more or less rare in Great Britain, who made its willow-fringed banks their haunt. No doubt some years of preservation have at last begun to tell on the stock of trout, and the fish being no longer speared or netted in season and out of season, begin to repay the bother and outlay connected with the difficulty of inducing Hans, Per and Ole to observe the law. THYMALLUS.

A REMINISCENCE OF WINTER ROACH FISHING.

FIFTY-SIX or fifty-seven years ago Good Friday happened, I think, on Lady Day, March 25, when, as a lad, aged fifteen years, I had just left school.

That 25th of March was my birthday. I remember it well, because a fortnight's keen frost, such as this of the past week, had ice-bound many of the rivers and most of the ponds. The large lake of the Dartford Mills was frozen over, and I skated there that morning until nearly noon, when a rapid thaw set in; so I unbuckled my skates and made for home, meeting on my way Jack Ridley, the roach fisherman, who was my mentor in that branch of the gentle art. He said: "Alfred, the frost has ended; it is warmer; roach will feed; let us go at once, and fish for them in the creek at Stringer's Hole"—a pool at the top end of a backwater where numerous dykes and ditches discharged their waters through a culvert into Dartford creek, and where a young man named Stringer was drowned from a seizure of cramp when bathing. In the backwater or pool I have mentioned was a three-foot rise and fall of tide, and we were lucky to arrive there just as the ebb began. Owing to the frost, worms were not procurable, and gentles of course, were equally unobtainable, so we used bread paste and the tails of boiled shrimps, which I always found a killing bait in the creek waters.

We had three hours of very nice sport, each of us taking about a score roach and a brace of trout; these, and some of the roach, weighing 1 lb. each.

Ridley brought his gun—an old flint-lock musket, altered into a percussion—and on our way home, through the marshes by the dykes, he shot a hare, a couple of wild duck, and a mallard. Thus we returned with a mixed bag, of which, as my share, he generously made me a birthday present of the hare and mallard.

ALFRED JARDINE.

SOME PECULIARITIES.

I WOULD not give twopence for the angler who did not follow his own ideas as much as possible with respect to catching fish. His style of angling, like his style in writing, should be absolutely his own; not only this, there is a singular pleasure in successfully carrying out one's own ideas.

It is just possible that, in following one's own methods one may be called an "old fraud," a "know nothing," &c., and yet, in spite of these forbidding epithets, I have often known an "old fraud" catch fish when other anglers have failed. There is a certain class of angler who often proves how very ignorant he really is, by attempting to show how very clever and knowing he is. I have repeatedly witnessed it. Other anglers again possess such wonderful skill, unbounded knowledge and experience that, when I have been in their company I have felt such very small potatoes that I have been almost afraid to even look at the river, much less venture an opinion. As stated, the "old fraud" and "know nothing" has often caught fish when these gentlemen have signally failed.

The fact is, on these occasions there has been some peculiarity in connection with the swim, the tackle, and bait employed, or some sudden, unaccountable, and extraordinary habit in the fish for once in a way that the "old fraud" has taken full advantage of and other anglers have not. I shall mention one more peculiarity which will be more the nature of a warning than otherwise, and those who do not care to read it can peruse the next article.

In your rambles should you see a row of anglers enjoying fishing a match, eager to catch fish weighing, say, as little as an ounce (I mean fish that would grow to pounds), all I can say is, if you do not want to be thrown into the river, shut eyes, shut mouth, shut ears, and say nothing; for, so far as I can see, nothing will ever stop this useless and unnecessary slaughter but an Act of Parliament.

On one memorable occasion over 1000 fish (amongst which were baby roach, chub, and dace) were slaughtered in a favourite river in a few hours, nine-tenths of which, I have no doubt, would eventually find their way to the dustbin. Further comment is unnecessary. A.

THE FISHERIES EXHIBITION.

By an oversight we omitted to notice the exhibit of Mr. J. Ogden Smith, of Twickenham, last week. This, with a few other matters will be noticed next week.

PISCATORIAL SOCIETY.

ANNUAL DINNER.

ANY popular institution like the Piscatorial Society—which first saw the light of day in the good old time of William IV., or, to be more precise, in the year 1836, a twelvemonth before even the accession to the throne of Her Most Gracious Majesty the Queen—must of necessity hold a high position in the particular sphere in which its operations are conducted. It speaks volumes for the able manner in which the society has been handled during so long a period as sixty-three years to find that not only does it continue to flourish in 1899, but to increase in importance and favour as time rolls on. Such an interesting social function as the dinner tends greatly to bring together those old friends who, despite advancing years, are still as devoted as ever to the sport of their youth—those past masters in the piscatorial art who look forward to these gatherings with no little degree of interest, and with the pleasurable anticipation, too, of having an opportunity of fighting o'er again, for the benefit of the younger generation of anglers, their battles with monster salmon or big trout in the days which are gone beyond recall. But the Piscatorial goes a step further than any other angling fraternity in that it invites the fair sex to share its hospitality, realising to the full the additional brilliancy, charm, and lustre the presence of ladies gives to their annual banquets. Monday evening saw congregated in the Grand Venetian Salon of the Holborn Restaurant a right goodly company of ladies and gentlemen to the number of over 130. Under the Chairmanship of Mr. Chas. Butler, and with Mr. W. Thomas in the vice-chair (assisted as they were by Stewards so competent as Messrs. Robt. C. Blundell, H. Neville Campbell, Regd. E. Booker, Frank Ward, and H. Harden), the proceedings from first to last were of the most enjoyable character. One thing, and one only, marred somewhat the unqualified success of the evening, and that was the enforced absence of Mr. Edward Foreman, the society's hon. treasurer. For weeks past this gentleman (than whom no one is held in higher esteem by the whole body of members) has been confined to the house by illness, and although it was almost confidently hoped and anticipated that he would take his accustomed place at the festive board, yet at the last moment a veto was put upon his participating in the festivities by his medical adviser to the unfeigned regret of himself and the very keen disappointment of his many friends and acquaintances. The menu discussed was worthy of the best traditions of the Holborn. Indeed, Mr. T. J. Hamp (himself an old Piscatorial, by the way) surpassed, in the opinion of those competent to judge, all his previous efforts in the direction of providing a really admirable dinner.

At the conclusion of the repast

The CHAIRMAN gave the toast of "The

Queen," remarking that there was no body of men more loyal to Her Majesty than anglers. (Applause.) The toast was drunk with enthusiasm.

The CHAIRMAN then gave "The Piscatorial Society." He said: Ladies and Gentlemen,—The first toast which I have to propose to you this evening is that of the Piscatorial Society. (Applause.) In other words, "ourselves." To me personally it is a very great privilege to have the honour of proposing this toast, as I believe we stand in the proud position of being second to none as regards any other angling society in this country, and probably in any other. (Applause.) From the annual report which has just been issued, you will have seen that the society, I think I may fairly claim, is in a substantial condition. We have a balance at our bankers—at least, I should say a balance on the balance-sheet on the right side, and we have a "plum" also at the bank, designated a reserve fund. This is strictly preserved, and is labelled "Not to be touched" or even looked at by any designing member. (Applause.) Now, it is well known to most anglers that the past season was one of very indifferent sport—(hear, hear)—but every one is anxiously looking forward for better luck during the fishing year which is coming. (Hear, hear.) The Piscatorial Society has lately acquired the lease of some new water at Uxbridge, on the river Colne, which, we are told by those gentlemen who have practically tested it, will prove a very great acquisition to the society, and I have no doubt that it will turn out to be all that can be desired as what is termed a coarse fishing water. In this connection I may say that the best thanks of the members are especially due to Messrs. R. C. Blundell and E. Foreman for their untiring efforts to secure this water on behalf of the society. (Applause.) As a fly water we have not, up to the present, had an opportunity of judging of its value; but before many days are over it will be put to the test by those well qualified to pronounce an opinion upon its merits, and I hope that our new committee, full of energy, and comprising many gentlemen who are expert anglers, will see their way during the year to re-stock the water with good trout for the benefit of the fly fishers within our ranks. (Applause.) This gathering, ladies and gentlemen, is, I think I am right in saying, our sixty-third annual dinner, and I have no hesitation in stating that the society is growing in prestige as its age goes on. (Hear, hear.) I feel sure, too, that every member will exercise the same strict caution in the election of new members to its folds that he has ever done, and that we shall continue to increase in numbers and influence. The objects of the society, I believe, are the cultivation of the art of fishing, together with the dissemination of the knowledge of fish culture, and I think, with those aims in view, we need not fear but that progress will attend us and prosperity also. I give you "The Piscatorial Society;" long may it flourish. (Applause.)

The toast was warmly received.

The CHAIRMAN: Ladies and Gentlemen, I have now a very pleasing duty to perform, and that is to present the challenge cups to the winners during the past year. Those cups are, first of all, the "Twenty-one Guinea Private Challenge Cup," which has been carried off by Dr. P. D. Head. (Applause.) I am sure that every member of the society will agree with me when I say that no worthier member could have secured the handsome trophy. (Applause.) The next cup is the "Hamar Cup," won by Mr. Harry Wilson, and I regret very much to say that as that gentleman resigned the society at the end of the year, I have not the pleasure of being able to hand him the vase. The next cup is the Brunton "Grayling Cup," which has been won by our dear and respected friend, Mr. H. Harden. (Applause.) I must tell you, ladies and gentlemen, that this cup has been won outright by Mr. Harden, that is to say, it has been won three times by the member named. It is well known to every member of the Society that whoever attempted to take it from Mr. Harden would have found him a "hard 'un" to beat. (Oh, oh, and laughter.) Then there is the "Booker Cup," won by Mr. W. T. Gomm, who is well known amongst anglers as one of the best Thames trout fishermen. I think he is the most successful of almost any man who has fished the Thames, and

I regret very much that he is suffering from influenza, and is unable to be present with us this evening to receive the reward of his skill.

The cups were then handed to Dr. Head and Mr. H. Harden amid manifestations of pleasure on the part of the company.

Dr. CHARLES S. PATTERSON gave the "Press." He said: Mr. Chairman, Ladies, and Gentlemen,—There is no one more than myself regrets Mr. Fred Russell's engagement at the Alhambra (referring to that artiste's apology for responding to an encore for a capital ventriloquial sketch). He would have given me a further five minutes to have prepared a speech to deliver to you this evening. Now I made some very careful notes, amounting to fifteen and a half pages of foolscap on the subject of my toast, that of the "Press." I regret, however, to say that owing to a momentary absence of mind I forgot to bring my "groundbait." Therefore, I appear before you having prepared nothing, and trusting only to my slight memory of the Press to place before you one of the leading toasts of the evening. I say it is an all-important toast, because what would the Piscatorial Society do without the Press? We have had sixty-three years of life, and during that long period we have had the Press always supporting us. Everything we have done in this society has been chronicled in the Press. If Mr. Jones shows a 15oz. roach, it is recorded in the Press; if Mr. Robinson catches a 28lb. salmon, it is chronicled in the Press, and the position of the Piscatorial Society, which the chairman has remarked is the leading society in England, is entirely due, in my opinion, to the manner in which the Press has supported us. Now, you will excuse me, Mr. Chairman, for making a very short speech, for the simple reason that I can hardly speak, physically. This is due wholly to the fact of the prevailing epidemic—not that I have had the prevailing epidemic—but I have experienced so many vicissitudes of heat and cold during the past three or four weeks, that I have acquired a very fine bronchitis "on my own." The thing that troubled me in preparing my speech for the Press, was to know who was going to reply to the toast. For many years we had here, on one side of the chairman, Mr. R. B. Marston, of the *Fishing Gazette* and Mr. W. Senior, representing the *Field*, on the other. Neither of them are with us to-night; but we have present amongst us the sub-editor of *Land and Water*, Mr. Cavanagh. (Applause.) It does not require many words on my part to recommend *Land and Water* to your notice. It is one of the oldest of sporting journals. It was started by a member of this society—the late Frank Buckland—and any paper that had any connection with that hard working enthusiast requires no words of recommendation on my part. I would draw your attention to the fact that during the past six months a very valuable memorial has been prepared, which was presented last week to the Privy Council, praying that the museum inaugurated by this hard working enthusiast should be preserved for the nation—(applause)—and I am pleased to say that that memorial has been signed by some of the most influential men in the country. I will not detain you longer except to ask you to drink the toast of the "Press," coupled with the name of Mr. Cavanagh, the sub-editor of *Land and Water*.

The toast was duly honoured.

Mr. H. CAVANAGH in reply, said: I do not suppose that there is a colleague of mine here to-night but would be proud to be in my position, and to reply for the Press, and I cannot say that I would not be very glad to give up the honour to someone else. Dr. Patterson has put me in somewhat of a "hole," and I hardly know how to respond. He has made his cast, and has not caused very much of a flutter. I am below the surface, and have taken the fly because I simply had to do so. But I will say this: That, as far as I know as representing Frank Buckland's paper, the Piscatorial Society is one of the best societies I have ever met with in my life. I hope it may long continue so. Now, as regards the memorial, to which Dr. Patterson alluded just now, in connection with the Buckland collection at the South Kensington Museum, we have backed it up as far as we possibly can, we—*Land and Water*—are prepared to continue to support it right through to the end. (Applause.)

MR. HORACE H. BROWN proposed the "Visitors

and the Ladies." He said: Mr. Chairman, Mr. Vice-chairman, Ladies, and Gentlemen,—We anglers, I think, are generally looked upon by the public at large as a sort of solitary sparrow on the house top, but I assure you that we are naturally gregarious, except perhaps when we are fishing, and then we like the whole stretch of water to ourselves, not selfishly, but for the sake of sport. Yet we are never happier than when we have the privilege and the pleasure of asking visitors to meet us at the festive board. (Hear, hear) We are always exceedingly delighted to see our brother "sports," and more than delighted when they are ably supported by their sweet-hearts and their wives. (Applause.) I have heard it suggested that we offer a little hospitality to the ladies as some return for their good nature in permitting their "hubbies" and sweet-hearts to go angling. I scorn the idea (Laughter.) We would never consider it possible in one evening's entertainment, to make an adequate return to the ladies for their undoubted good

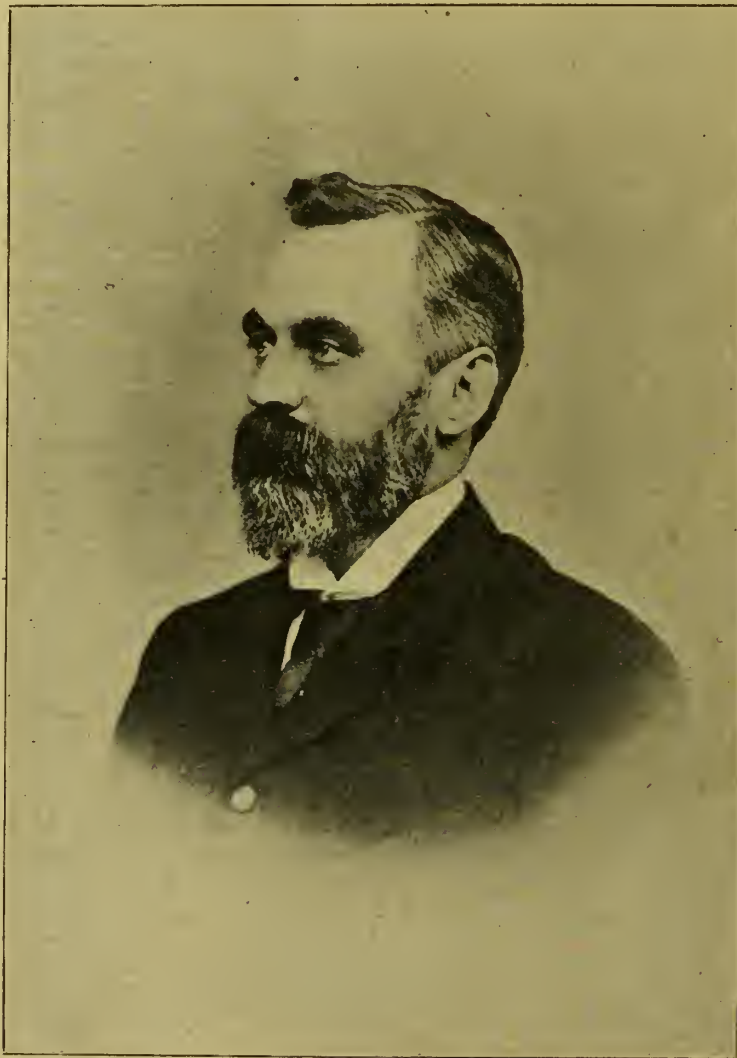
get up early in the morning to have breakfast ready and in time, so that pa shan't lose his train. (Laughter.) It's awfully kind of them. I have noticed when down at Newbury—a place some of you know—how beautiful it is to see all the ladies at work making every effort so that we should have our breakfast at eight o'clock. (More laughter.) I say this with an object. I am going fishing there probably this Easter, and think it perhaps as well to mention the fact that we always *do* get our breakfast at eight o'clock. Now I would only ask you now to join me in heartily drinking to the health of our visitors, both ladies and gentlemen, wishing the single married, the married happy, and all gentlemen the greatest happiness I can wish them—to become members of the Piscatorial Society. (Applause.)

CAPT. A. H. THORPE, in replying for the ladies, said: "As the last bachelor who has had the pleasure of joining the society it devolves upon me to respond on behalf of the fair sex. I am only very sorry I was not aware that as a

heartily, on their part, for the very kind way in which you have drunk their healths, and for the most pleasant evening we have all spent here to-night. (Applause.)

MR. GEO. CAMPBELL replied for the visitors. He said: I suppose the distinction which has been conferred upon me arises from the fact that I have had the pleasure of enjoying the hospitality of the most hospitable society it is possible to meet with for many years. We have had a delightful evening, as we invariably do have whenever I have been privileged to attend your entertainments, and on the part of the visitors I thank you for the manner in which you have treated us. (Applause.)

The VICE-CHAIRMAN (Mr. W. Thomas) submitted the health of the Chairman. He said: Every gentleman who has the honour of proposing a toast to such a gathering as this flatters himself that the toast intrusted to him is the most important one of the evening. I do not claim that myself to-night, because I consider that the toast given by the Chairman, that of the "Piscatorial Society" stands first and foremost. Next to that must, of necessity, be that of "The Ladies." But to-night, Mr. Chairman, and Ladies and Gentlemen, I regret to say that that toast has not been submitted to you by the proper person upon an occasion like the present. We all know the elocutional abilities, genial and kindly feeling with which Mr. Horace Brown is capable of undertaking any important duty; but I think that a bachelor has no right to propose "The Ladies." (Laughter and "Question.") He knows nothing whatever about them—(more laughter and "Oh!")—and is thoroughly unacquainted with the best part of their nature and their loving disposition—(roars of laughter)—having gone so many years without knowing the faces and features of these delightful specimens of humanity, who form part and parcel of ourselves, and mould us to be kinder, gentler, and more amiable. I demur altogether to the view that a bachelor should be intrusted with such a toast, and I hope Mr. Horace Brown will never be asked to do it again—(laughter)—at least not until, on some future occasion, when he has mended his ways and improved his position. Then he will have acquired a certain amount of respect, and we will listen to him with indulgence. But he must even then make up a lot of leeway before he can be considered capable of speaking to married men like myself. (Loud laughter.) Our chairman has told us that this is the sixty-third annual dinner of the Piscatorial Society. I was very young at that time. I don't remember so long ago as that. (Laughter.) At the same time I do think that the success the society has met with and the progress it has made are very important. Our chairman had also said that the object of the society is to practise the gentle art and also to develope the science of pisciculture—and we do all that. But my toast is a very important one, inasmuch as I have to offer to you a sentiment which I am sure will be well received by all present—that of your chairman. (Applause.) The committee must have exercised themselves very seriously to find a gentleman capable of carrying on the reputation of those who have presided at these annual gatherings when ladies have been present. At ordinary meetings it is the cultivation of the gentle art that is in question, but when we have the fair sex with us, as we have to-night, our aim and object is to acknowledge the friendship and bear witness to the happiness which ladies can bestow upon us by permitting us to fish twelve months in the year without any grievance on their part—not, like our brother Brown said, that they must get up and get our breakfasts ready by eight o'clock like slaves. (Laughter.) I am perfectly sure that the committee could not possibly have selected a more genial gentleman, and a better angler, or a man who carried out the ideal of Izaak Walton as a piscator, a gentleman in feeling, sentiment, and kindness of disposition, than my old friend, Mr. Butler. (Applause.) Owing to the decorations in front of me on the table, I have not been able to see much of his face during the evening. I wish they were cast to the winds or burnt, so that I might get a good sight of him. However, I am sure that so long as the committee of the Piscatorial Society are able to select so worthy a representative and brother



MR. W. C. BUTLER.

nature, that lasts all the year round. (Laughter.) But, gentlemen, I do not think that the favours are all on one side. I was out the other day, and I happened to meet a bright, nice, sharp little fellow, and I said to him, "Good-day, Tommy. Father coming up to the society to-night?" He replied, "I hope so." I said, "Father better?" Reply, "I think so." "You hope father will come, eh?" "Yes," said the boy; "I do hope so." This was very good-natured of Tommy. But he added, "When pa's away me and ma and the girls *do* have a spree." (Laughter.) So I really think that the Piscatorial Society has, as it were, something to ask from the ladies for the privilege they confer upon them by taking pa out. (More laughter.) It does pa a lot of good to go out for a day, or to come up to the society for an evening. Then, again I say it is a beautiful sight for those old friends who are married (lucky dogs) to see ma

bachelor it would be necessary for me to answer for the ladies, otherwise I might have arranged that I should have been here as a Benedict. (Laughter.) That, however, remains to be seen. I feel I am perfectly inadequate to the task set before me. It would have been much better, in fact, if you had asked some lady to have spoken, but a friend tells me they are all "dumb belles." (Laughter.) I am, however, confident of this—that we are most pleased to see them here to-night, and I am equally certain that, on behalf of all the ladies, I may say that they, too, are gratified to be present at the annual dinner. I may add, that should you have more dinners of a similar nature, they will be delighted to come yet again. (Applause.) Some one said that they thought it would be very nice if, in the summer, we had some picnics to which ladies were invited. I am sure that would be a success, at least, I may say so on behalf of the ladies. I thank you very

angler to preside here, the annual dinners will be a success. (Applause.)

The toast was drunk with musical honours.

The CHAIRMAN, replying, said: I thank you, Mr. Vice-chairman, for the very kind and cordial manner in which you have proposed my health. I am not vain enough to think that I deserve all the good things you have said about me, but there is one thing that I feel I can say, that is, that I have an interest in the Piscatorial Society—(applause)—and as far as my ability goes I will do my best to advance its well being. I understand that my friend Horace Brown has a grievance—(Mr. Horace Brown: Yes)—and I hope you will listen to him after I have done. I take this opportunity of proposing a toast, which is second to none which have been offered, and that is the health of our worthy Vice-chairman. I am sure you will agree with me that he has well filled the vice-chair to-night. (Applause.) I have had the pleasure of knowing Mr. Thomas for some twenty years or more. I have always found him a genial fellow, a good companion, and a thorough sportsman—(applause)—a man worthy to be a member of our society. I have only one regret, and that is that we do not see him often enough, because my experience of our worthy vice-chairman is that the more you know of him the better you like him. (Applause.) I am sure I express the sentiments of every member of this society when I say that we should like to see him more frequently at our weekly meetings. (Hear, hear.) He has spoken to-night of the ladies in a very nice manner indeed, and I am sure that his worthy partner would not object to him coming more amongst us, so that we might have the benefit of his practical experience and his good fellowship. I have met him on various occasions at another society to which I belong, and of which he is also a member, and I can assure you that he is always received there with the same good feeling as he has been welcomed here to-night as your vice-chairman. (Applause.)

MR. HORACE H. BROWN said: Ladies,—I feel that I really must apologise for a fellow clubman for making such an attack upon you to-night. It is not my fault. (Laughter.) My heart has been broken very frequently, I assure you. (More laughter.) I am afraid that perhaps I made one little mistake in proposing the toast, and that was when I said that sometimes the ladies were glad to get irritable men out of the house on any excuse whatever. That is where the shoe pinched—(laughter)—and if Mr. Thomas will ask his wife if it is so or not, he will cease to be "doubting Thomas." (Great laughter.)

The VICE-CHAIRMAN: Time is ever on the wing, and the time of the most delightful evening like this has been, must come to an end, so I rise at once to thank you, Mr. Chairman, for the kind way in which you have proposed the health of the vice-chairman. It has been a great pleasure to me to occupy this chair, and I will also say that all I can do to promote the best interests of the Piscatorial Society shall be done. I cannot attend your weekly meetings as often as I should like. I can, however, tell our friend Brown—Brown of the Piscatorial Society and bachelor (laughter)—that if he had such a genial wife as I have, and such genial wives as we all have who are married (and as we hope, too, he will himself some day have), the shoe will not pinch at all, for he will have perfect freedom and liberty such as he has never experienced as a bachelor. (Loud laughter.)

The CHAIRMAN, before closing the gathering, said: Ladies and Gentlemen,—There is one matter I should like to speak of before we part, and that is the regret of every member of the Piscatorial Society at the absence of our dear old friend Mr. Edward Foreman, our hon. treasurer. (Applause.) I am sure each and every one of us is exceedingly disappointed that he is unable to be with us to-night through illness. I look upon him as one of the pillars of the society—(hear, hear)—and one of our dearest and most respected members. No more genial gentleman ever existed or was ever one of our members than our old friend Mr. Edward Foreman, and I am sure that I voice the sentiments of all present when I say that our sympathy is with him, and that we hope that before long he will be amongst us again, restored to full health and vigour. (Loud applause.)

"Auld Lang Syne," led off by Dr. Brunton, brought a most enjoyable evening to a close.

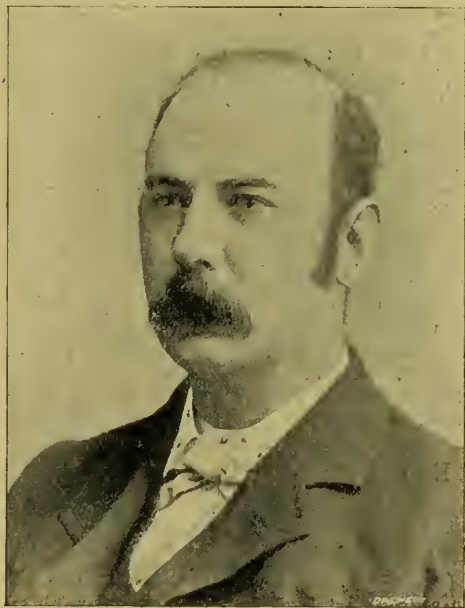
It may be added that during intervals between the toasts an admirable selection of music, &c., was given by the following well-known artists, Mr. J. A. Collings acting as accompanist: Miss Edith Sexton, Miss Emily Foxcroft, Mr. Dyved Lewys, Mr. R. A. Roberts (musical sketch), and Mr. Fred Russell (ventriloquist). The grand piano was kindly lent by Messrs. Maple and Co.

KINGSTON PISCATORIAL SOCIETY.

THE fourth annual meeting of the Kingston Piscatorial Society was held at the Sun Hotel, Kingston, on Monday, Mr. A. W. Homersham, J.P., in the chair, Mr. W. H. Cate being in the vice-chair. About fifty members and friends were present, including Mr. A. E. Hobbs (Henley and District Preservation Association), Mr. W. A. Smelt, Mr. J. R. Richardson, Mr. Offer, Mr. Percival Turner, Mr. F. Littlewood, Mr. Sinibaldi, sen., Mr. T. Baxter, Mr. G. H. Howard (*Fishing Gazette*), Mr. W. Evans, Mr. A. Drinkwater, and Mr. M. Enright.

The CHAIRMAN read telegrams regretting absence from Mr. G. D. Deuchar, Mr. Arthur Matthews, and Mr. Malins.

After the loyal toast, "The Kingston Piscatorial Society, coupled with the health of the President," was proposed by Mr. W. H. Cate (vice-chair), he said that the K.P.S. had jumped into the foremost rank of angling societies. They



MR. A. W. HOMERSHAM, J.P.

had about 100 members, and that they were keen and skilful anglers there was every evidence by the fish which were shown in the room. The members travelled to remote parts of Ireland and Scotland, even to the Orkney Isles, in search of sport, whilst others have been content with the Thames and the Broads. They had caught pike of 24lb., and bream of 8lb. 9oz., which was an unparalleled size. They were not content with taking fish out of the river, but were strongly identified with the Thames Re-stocking Association, which was founded by their hon. sec., Mr. Amphlett. They had a worthy president, who was always willing to do all he could to further the interests of the society. He was a gentleman in the best sense of the word. It was a pleasure to meet him at their meetings, and he deeply regretted to hear of the illness of Mrs. Homersham—(hear, hear)—for it was mainly owing to that that their president had not of late been able to follow his sport among the fish; but they all hoped for better things for him in that respect, and that his wife would soon be restored to health. Might the club and its president long flourish.

The toast was accorded musical honours, and

Mr. A. W. HOMERSHAM, in replying, said he should like to see the membership of the society increased to 250, and if every individual member would help this could be achieved. Each member should, before the next annual meeting, introduce a new member. (Hear, hear.) He congratulated the club upon its specimen fish, especially Mr.

Hayer, Mr. Sinibaldi, and Mr. Gunn. If they could not get to Timbuctoo to fish they must be satisfied with the Thames. (Mr. Arthur: "A very good river, too.") The Thames and the Broads wanted a lot of beating. It was his hunting ground. It was where he obtained most rest after hard work; and his wife generally accompanied him on these trips, and also fished, for she was a most ardent angler—(hear, hear)—and they had had many a good day's fishing. He would like to see the members attend well on "show days," that was when fish were weighed-in on competition days. He hoped that the club would continue to flourish, and that it might always be known in this little Britain of ours for many years to come. (Cheers.)

Mr. T. LYNE then proposed "Kindred Societies and Visitors." He said, he naturally felt a great interest in this toast, for the cementing of good social amity amongst anglers was an important point. Their visitors belonged to other angling societies. He was glad to see Mr. M. Enright present, also Mr. A. E. Hobbs, whose splendid record amongst Thames trout must be a source of great gratification to him. They had also Mr. G. H. Howard present. They were glad to know "Dragnet," for he was recognised throughout the angling world as the angler's guide, philosopher, and friend. Therefore, they welcomed him with heartiness. They kept only one brand of welcome, and that was the very best, and he would ask him to kindly respond.

Mr. G. H. HOWARD, in responding, addressed them as "My lords and gentlemen of the jury," and said he appeared on behalf of his client, and was there to obtain damages for the loss his friend had sustained. He begged pardon, but was slightly mixed, having just been cabined in the jury box at the Law Courts for seven hours, and he had told the judge just what he thought of the case, and asked him to settle it quickly, as he had to get away to the K.P.S. annual dinner. While counsel were arguing, he had written down something about kindred societies, but had left his note-book in the jury box. (Laughter.) He was glad to meet the members of the K.P.S. and to hear friend Lyne propose that toast, for it was more in his line. If they put their shoulder to the wheel they would soon have one of the best societies in the world. They had eleven angling functions fixed for that night, but, nevertheless, he had come to Kingston in a blinding snowstorm. But someone had said, "one touch of nature makes the whole world akin," he believed it was his old friend Charles Dickens. (Laughter.) Perhaps he was thinking of kindred societies. (Laughter.) He echoed the sentiments of the other visitors when he said that they had been heartily invited, warmly welcomed, and splendidly entertained. He hoped the society would long live, and try and increase its sphere of influence. (Hear, hear.) He hoped to be invited again next year or there would be a row. In conclusion he said, "The K.P.S. is alive. Keep it alive and thou shalt live." (Laughter and Cheers.)

Mr. A. E. HOBBS, who was also called upon to respond, said he was most pleased to be present. He had bargained with Mr. Amphlett to be left off the toast list, but the chairman had succeeded in getting him on his legs. The work of the Henley Association was not at all easy, through the lack of interest amongst anglers; but he was gratified to announce that he had lately received donations that had not been definitely asked for. He appreciated that, for the principle which prompted those clubs to give towards his association was a very honourable one. If only one half of the great angling societies were to give a little, much good re-stocking work might be done in a quiet way, which would take a deal of beating. Every penny was spent in re-stocking and preservation work, and he hoped that what had been accomplished was only an instalment. If any of those present wished to go to Henley for a Thames trout, and if he (Mr. Hobbs) knew of one, he would be only too pleased to put them on to it. He could, of course, not guarantee that they would catch a fish, but he would show them one. (Hear, hear.) They must go early in the season, as in the later months they were not blessed with a good water supply, and the stream became very slack except at the weirs.

The CHAIRMAN then proposed "The Prize Winners." They had an excellent list of prizes,

and he took that opportunity of thanking the donors. He congratulated the winners. They had probably spent a good deal of time before they secured a specimen. They only gave prizes for specimen fish—(hear, hear)—and the members had, doubtless, caught many other fish besides those which had won their prizes. He felt sorry that he did not figure in the prize list, and that his silver cup had not been won. He had two taken last year. One was won, and the other was stolen. (Laughter.) He should offer the cup again, and he hoped that it would be taken during the coming season.

The prizes were then distributed, the following being for specimen fish:

SILVER CHALLENGE CUP, Mr. M. GUNN.

Description.	Name.	Weight. lb. oz.
Thames Trout ...	G. Sinibaldi ...	7 6
" " " " " "	P. Armfelt ...	6 4
Barbel " " " "	M. Gunn ...	9 11
" " " " " "	F. H. Amphlett ...	8 1
Pike " " " " " "	M. Gunn ...	15 15½
Roach (Silver Cup) ...	F. H. Amphlett ...	1 15½
" " " " " "	F. J. Girling ...	1 12½
Bream " " " " " "	D. Hayer ...	8 9
" " " " " "	H. E. Lukyn ...	4 6
Tench " " " " " "	D. Hayer ...	4 9
" " " " " "	H. P. Hill ...	2 3
Brook Trout " " " "	" " " " " "	3 0
Chub " " " " " "	P. Armfelt ...	4 12
Perch " " " " " "	M. Gunn ...	1 5½
" " " " " "	F. Littlewood ...	1 5
Dace " " " " " "	T. Lyne ...	0 13½
" " " " " "	M. Hill ...	0 8½

Several prizes were also awarded for competitions.

In presenting the challenge cup to Mr. Gunn, the Chairman said that as the cup had to be won twice before it became the property of the winner he hoped that Mr. Gunn would be again successful next year. (Hear, hear.)

Mr. GUNN said he was very proud to be the winner of the cup and his other prizes, for they were not easily won. His fish had all been caught within five miles of Kingston, and owing to the excellent work of the T.R.A. there should be very little excuse for not getting good fish from the Thames. They were there, and only wanted finding. He had noticed six otters at work at Hampton, and there was evidence of destruction daily. Two trained otter hounds and a man ought to be employed, and he would subscribe to a fund for such a purpose if it were started. They had tried traps, but the otters were too artful. He would like this matter brought before the interested persons.

Mr. A. DRINKWATER then proposed "The Hon. Secretary and other Officers," which, he said, he did with the greatest feelings of sincerity. They knew what Mr. Amphlett's work had been in that club, and of his courtesy, friendliness, and immense energy, which had been the main factors that had brought the club to its present position. He was proud to know him, and trusted that he would long know him as a personal friend. The committee, too, was composed of excellent workers, and as long as they had such a set of fellows the club could not but go on and increase in prosperity. (Hear, hear.)

Mr. F. H. AMPHLETT, in response, said that he thoroughly appreciated the kind remarks of Mr. Drinkwater; and he agreed that the committee worked conscientiously, and whether it was a new member or an old one they had the same treatment. Members appreciated short after-dinner speeches, so he would condense what he had to say into headlines, as follows:

Kingston Club—very strong;
Full of life—nothing wrong.
100 members—love the lot;
Splendid record—not a blot.
List of prizes—very fine;
Fishing for them—sport divine.
Clubhouse question—same old tune;
Need not worry—settled soon.
Subscriptions due—from some of you;
So hurry up—or you will rue.
Enjoyed your dinner—quite a treat;
Here I ought—to take my seat.

But before doing so he would like to add that during the close season the rules of the club would be brought up to date. They had a punt on the Thames for the free use of members, and this ought to induce some London anglers to join, as it would be a great financial saving to them. He believed it was the wish of the members that at the next annual meeting Mr. A. Drinkwater should be elected a vice-president of the society—

(loud cheers)—and Mr. Drinkwater well deserved it. In reference to the otters, the T.A.P.S. had bought twelve traps, and they were all distributed, but he had not heard that any otters had been caught by them. The T.R.A. did not profess to be a preservation society. It confined its work to restocking, and that day he had received a letter from a Mr. Charles Dejonge from Malta, inclosing a donation. This showed that the work of the T.R.A. had already become known outside of this country. The hatchery for the Thames would only be started if sufficient funds were received to enable the association to do it properly, and an effort was now being made to raise the necessary funds. He thought, too, that the K.P.S. should subscribe towards the Henley Association. (Cheers.) Mr. Littlewood had been obliged to resign the assistant-secretaryship of their society, and he thanked him for his past work, and announced that Mr. Armfelt had agreed to undertake the duties in future. (Cheers.)

Mr. F. SANDS also responded, and said, as treasurer, he would urge members to put their names in his account book as soon as possible, so that the accounts could be settled promptly.

Mr. J. R. RICHARDSON, in proposing the "Press," said he had had the pleasure of proposing that toast at each dinner the society had given, and he had nothing but what was good to say of the Press. They regretted the absence of Mr. Senior, of the *Field*, and Mr. R. B. Marston, of the *Fishing Gazette*, but he had been worthily represented by Mr. Howard. They also regretted the absence of Mr. Matthews, of the *Angler*. Three local newspapers were represented, and they must not forget the editor of *Thames Angling News*, whose new paper they took such a pride in. (Hear, hear.)

The *Surrey Comet* representative having responded, the prize list was sent round, and over £25 was offered in the room.

The following new members were proposed: Mr. Percival Turner (of Hampton Hill), Mr. T. Baxter, Mr. E. Fielder, Mr. E. Caines, Mr. M. Enright, Mr. W. R. Nightingale, Mr. Newman, Mr. H. Offer, and Mr. H. Ivimey.

During the evening a splendid musical programme was rendered, the artists being Mr. D'Anville (Prince of Wales Theatre), Mr. Fred Edwards, Mr. M. Enright, Mr. W. H. Cate, Mr. A. S. Martin, Mr. F. Arthur, Mr. T. J. Smith, and Mr. W. R. Nightingale.

THE HOME OF BIG ROACH AND BREAM.

HAS it ever been your lot, "Gentle Reader," to be placed in that happy position of not being able to add a single specimen of an undersized roach to a bag that would probably plump down the beam at 35lb.? In a spot where sport continues throughout the all too short winter's day, and when thumper after thumper, and tonker after tonker, has found its way to that receptacle in the punt, from which it is conveyed to the setter-up? Such has been my good fortune on several occasions during the last three years, upon which occasions I have never brought home a roach under 1lb., nor a bream under 3lb.

I would premise by saying that, in early life, I held rank as a good cricketer, in fact, had my engagements permitted it, I should have, in the early sixties (being invited by Mr. Burrup), appeared for the county of Surrey. I was, upon one occasion, playing in Battersea Park, against the Civil Service, and fielding at long-on. A ball was hit to the long-off, when the fieldsman, running backwards, at full-speed, essayed to take the ball, as a chance. Instead of holding it, he so badly judged it, that it fell upon the top of the third finger of his right hand, driving the nail down into the "quick." The man fainted from pain, and I held him, while a medical man, who was upon the ground, extracted the nail. Thirty years after this, a gentleman was driving a dog-cart through Epsom. As he passed, he and I looked hard at each other, and simultaneously nodded. I had seen the face before, but could not recall to my mind the when or the where. Observing that he pulled up at the King's Head, I retraced my steps, where I found him at the bar. The time and circumstance then flashed across my mind, and I put the question to him: "Did you, about thirty years ago, meet with an

accident in Battersea Park, at a cricket match?" "Yes!" replied he, "had my nail driven down by a falling ball; and you're the man who helped me." "I thought I had seen you before." Of course, another bottle was ordered, and we drank to past memories. In the course of conversation it came out that I was an angler. "Would you like a few days where the roach and chub are very large, and where the bream, for size, are not to be beaten?" was the question put to me. Of course, I jumped at the offer, and paid my first visit to the chain of fishing stations, from which I have never taken a roach under 1lb. in weight. There are three stations in all, from which the fortunate angler, who obtains the necessary permission, may exercise his vocation, the best being the centre one, to fish which leave is very rarely given. In the eight or ten miles through which the stream passes, there are abundant lay-byes, small lakes, and other places, which act as stews for replenishing the stream, while at the southern end, where the tributary flows into the larger river, a huge pentstock crosses the stream, and effectually bars the escape of the corpulent roach, the aldermanic bream, and the big logger-headed chub.

The time, that is to say, the best time, to fish these stations is when a strong freshet comes down from the uplands to colour the water, and a few days ago, the opportunity presented itself to me. I started off the night before, in order to be at the fishing ground by early dawn, which I easily managed, by arranging for a bed and early breakfast at an inn in the neighbourhood. I found the punt all ready in the morning; but, as the help of an attendant fisherman was strictly forbidden, I had to do my own punting, and my letter of instructions and introduction expressly said that I was to hold no conversations with workmen, and that smoking was strictly prohibited. I found it easy to comply with both regulations, as I never smoke when angling, and no workmen passed the spot where I was located. Time was when I was a fairish puntsman, but advancing years, and the amount of adipose matter which one puts on as those years advance, made my progress up stream rather a difficult one; but at last I reached the desired spot, and anchored by one of the small inlet islands. Trees and shrubs were thickly planted everywhere, and I saw the big roach dodging in and out among the boughs of those trees that stretched out into the stream. Plain bread, well soaked, so as to flake at intervals is the only way to ground-bait, and bread-crust is popularly supposed to be the only bait that will bring the roach to the creel. I carefully squeezed a part of a well-soaked loaf, and quietly allowed it to slide from my hand into the eddy. Then, with new tackle ("Hercules cast"), to which was attached a No. 9 hook, I sent my dainty bit of red and white crust upon the waters. The first swim was a failure, so I worked the bait well into the spreading boughs, and hitched the No. 1 plait-line over a piece that jutted higher than another, to keep it in position. In a few seconds the float began to shiver, or tremble, rather, and then it disappeared like a flash. I struck, and drew the struggling and powerful fish round to the outside of the punt, played him there, and lifted him, as soon as I possibly could. He turned out to be a splendid specimen roach, apparently about 1½lb. in weight. I could not help stopping to admire him, as he lay on the straw at the bottom of the punt. I then placed him in the well, and went on with my work. From the same spot I took two others, nearly the same weight. Then I saw that the fish had moved lower down, no doubt, from being disturbed. I therefore followed them, and pursued the same tactics, tying one end of the punt to a bough, or twig, rather, and just slightly fixing the punt-pole at the other. Fortunately, the water was on the thick side, as, when the stream is flowing gin-bright, the routine is one fish and a move, and occasionally, one fish, and only one, after a long wait, and several moves. From the next pitch I took three fish, the largest of which went just over the 2lb., and still the immense shoal of big roach moved onward with the stream to the next clump of spreading bushes, where I gently followed them. The water at this point ran somewhat deeper, and inclined into a little bay, that looked as though it held the fish. I was not mistaken; there they were, and from this spot I took six fish, all of the same pattern as

the former lots. I had now shifted down to the spot where the bream were to be found, so, as I was about a mile from the spot from which I started in the early morning, I determined to leave the roach for a time, and to try for bream. I cast the broken lohs well down the stream, and trotted down to their hole, or habitat. The float sailed gently away, and then slowly disappeared. Striking, I found that I was well into a fish that felt like a roach; but I was mistaken. It was no roach, but a splendid bream, and what appeared in the preliminary canter to be merely a 2lb. fish was really one of the largest bream that I had ever had the pleasure of impaling upon my hook. It was quite a minute before the real struggle began, and then he commenced to show his true colours. Once I brought him close to the punt, and saw his white belly, when down he surged again, in the direction of his haunt. Certainly I had never had a bream to give me so much play; but at last he turned upon his side, and I placed the landing-net under what proved to be a 6lb. fish. I took two smaller ones from the same run, when I had a period of quietude, and I began seriously to think of again going for roach. But after another swim or two the bait was taken, close up to the punt, and in response to the stroke another beautiful fish fought out his last battle. He took me all over the water, and at one time I must have had out 40yds. of line. Once, I thought I had lost him, for, in removing my right hand from the reel, the handles caught my fingers, and jarred tremendously. But my good fortune continued, and I still held him; but it took a good ten minutes to bring him to the punt in a condition for lifting. On placing him upon my steelyard, his weight proved to be 6lb. 3oz., the largest bream it has ever been my lot to capture. Owing to the hustling rushes of the last fish, the bream went off, and as it was past 3 p.m., I spread out my lunch, uncorked the "Bass," and spent at least an hour at my repast, and in admiring my fish. The roach in the well gave signs of "turning it up;" but the bream were very lively. I therefore took the roach out, and gave them their quietus. At 3 p.m. I recommenced lower down and took three more roach and one bream, when, as the day was waning, and the clouds became lowering, I decided to give up for the day. For scientific reasons, and for reasons otherwise connected with the manufactures that are carried on, permission to fish this water is rarely given. The fisherman whom I wished to take with me informed me that the company refused their own relatives, and that there was no chance of him being allowed to accompany me. But by a "side wind" I obtained leave for myself, and as I before remarked, have for the last three years fished one or other of the stations described.

STRAW HAT.

A WINTER VISIT TO A NORWEGIAN RIVER.

ONE day towards the end of last summer we happened to remark, probably for the nine hundred and ninety-ninth time, that the "Stangdal," a stream in Southern Norway, on whose banks our lot was temporarily cast, could not possibly get any lower; whereupon, our ally, "Stor Johan" (as he was called, on account of his many inches), annoyed probably at the frequent enunciation of the statement, suggested that if we would only visit the river in question during the winter we might alter our opinion. In a rash moment we ventured to declare our absolute disbelief in the possibility of such a state of matters, and, furthermore, that in order to prove ourselves right (or, as it turned out, *wrong*), we would visit the valley the following January. Hence this brief paper, some interesting experiences, and our present abode.

Having reached the Danish capital overland just after the New Year, we thought we might, without serious discomfort, venture on the voyage to Norway (usually a matter of some thirty hours, or even less) by steamer; but at a dinner party we heard such awful accounts of the weather in the Kattegat and off the Swedish coast, and of the fogs in the Christiania Fjord, that we elected to stick to the railway as being the more certain mode of transit. From Copenhagen *via* the ferry between Elsmore and Helsingborg (over which the mail train is conveyed bodily), Göttenburg and

Frederikshald to Christiania is a journey of about twenty-two hours. Under ordinary circumstances it is *not* exciting, but, unused to travelling in the north in winter, to us it was interesting. Everywhere there was snow and ice; along the margin of the fjords, and on the bays and inlets thereof; on the innumerable Swedish lakes, streams, and canals; on the dreary moorlands and morasses, and throughout the interminable forest tracts. Heavy masses of snow weighed down the pines, and the leafless trees and shrubs were outlined, every branch and twig, with hoar-frost, which glittered beneath the rays of the cold winter sun; while icicles of stupendous dimensions depended from and clothed the rocks on either side of the many deep cuttings. At the Sarpsfoss (over which the line passes) we received a shock, and for the first time began to entertain serious doubts as to the correctness of our judgment in regard to the summer and winter levels of the Stangdal. No mighty torrent rolled down the pass with sullen roar; no cloud of spray hovered o'er the tortured waters and glittered beneath the moon; the great cataract was reduced to such insignificant dimensions that the most energetic sightseer would have scorned to cross a space as wide as Piccadilly in order to inspect it; while above the fall the bed of the Glanmen stretched away hare, dreary, and lifeless—a steamer or sailing craft, high and dry every here and there, giving evidence of the tremendous shrinkage of the great river.

In Scandinavia they think much of Christmas. Some people, indeed, reckon that there are twenty Christmas Days, counting from Dec. 25 in each year, and act accordingly in the matter of festivity. So, indeed, it appeared, and although the first week of the new year had very nearly expired, the population seemed to be decidedly on the *qui quae*. The restaurants at the various stations were all gaily adorned with Christmas trees, and full of somewhat lively natives; the hells of sledges, full of holiday folk, were everywhere in evidence, and queerly attired little children humped and bounded in "kilks" down the slopes in every direction. Ice, snow, sleighs, and furs permeated the atmosphere, and, except on the railway line itself, wheels were invisible.

Over Christiania hung a pall of fog, and within the town, owing to the comparatively slight quantity of snow that had fallen, sledging was a somewhat doubtful pleasure; ere long, however, and by various stages, we reached our destination, a pine-clad valley sheeted in winter garb (down which trickled a streamlet, in the iron grasp of King Frost), and finally, at the head thereof, a comfortable homestead.

A big capercailzie (victim of "Stor Johan's" rifle) and smoked trout, washed down with libations of remarkably good home-brewed ale, constituted the evening meal; then many pipes, and—to bed at a disgraceful hour. Our host had been fortunate enough to kill three elks the previous autumn, one of them an "egte stôr ox," whose great palmated horns adorned the "spise sal"; wood game birds had been fairly plentiful, and foxes were less numerous than usual, owing probably to the presence in the neighbourhood of a small troop of wolves. But Johan abused the latter freely, and had done his best to trap or poison them, as they had done a lot of damage, not only among the flocks and herds, but among the elk, upon which he set much greater store! There had been a fair show of salmon upon the spawning beds, and a terrible big chap—local gossip said of 30 kilos—had been speared up near the foss. And so on; a lot of "haivers," pleasant to listen to and discuss over the baccy and the whisky toddy, the principal ingredient for which we had brought from beyond the Tweed, to rejoice the heart of our host, and to comfort our own withal, in these northern wilds.

The next morning at 9.30 we breakfasted by the light of the rising sun, which shone red and frosty across the snow covered landscape. Shortly afterwards a merry jingling of bells announced the advent of our sleigh, and in a few minutes we were flying over the snow, clad from top to toe in furs, towards the "Red Pool," behind the "blaa hest," a worthy animal, which, in spite of his thick, rough coat, made much better time in winter than he was wont to do in summer, when the meadows are gay with wild flowers and the haycrop is not yet gathered. "Now we shall see,"

remarked Johan from the depths of his wolfskin garment, as after a delightful spin through the buoyant air we reached the end of the woodland path that leads to that famous cast. One glance sufficed to assure us that our companion had been very much in the right; no one, indeed, who has not visited a Norwegian river in winter can imagine the shrinkage that takes place when the earth and the snow on the mountains are frost bound, and when all the springs and confluent from which the main stream derives its volume of water are from the same cause rendered inoperative. The cliffs on the opposite bank (from whose colour the pool derives its name) were sheeted in ice, and huge icicles depended on either side of the little fall at the head; it was as much as our life was worth to venture along the ledge, from which in summer time we are wont to throw *la ligne volante*, and to play the fish attracted by our offering of fur and feather; while the cast itself was a truly melancholy spectacle. Between two sheets of snow-covered ice, which commenced on either side of the miserable dribble that filtered down the fall, and which ran the length of the pool, a narrow stream of black looking water flowed; the erstwhile great rapid below (down which, encased in waders, we have struggled times without number in the endeavour to land salmon imbued with an insane desire to revisit salt water) was pretty nearly filled up to the surface with ground ice, and every rock and boulder had its crystalline covering. A grand salmon cast, indeed, and a grand piece of spawning ground below it, forsooth!

At first it seemed as if there had been some mistake, and that Johan, with intent to "frivol," had taken us to another locality altogether—another world, one might almost say. But no, the place was the same, the circumstances only different. There behind us stood the great red pine, beneath whose "spreading shade" we had been wont to rest (and drink libations of Norsk Ol) between the periods of pounding; the black point of rock upon which Johan used to stretch himself, gaff in hand, in act to strike, jutted out into the ice below; and in the hirsch thicket that crowned the opposite cliffs we could descry the little hay house, a familiar feature, deeply buried in the snow.

The temperature of the air was hardly suited for *al fresco* pipes, so once again mounting the chariot drawn by the "blaa hest," we glided down through woodland tracks to inspect some of the lower reaches. If possible these were more altered in appearance and surroundings than the casts above. Ice extended over their greatly narrowed width from bank to bank; here a collection of logs protruded above the frozen surface, and there a melancholy looking boat was dimly discernible through a dense coating of snow and ice. Of bird life in the woods there was none—no more magpies or croaking grey crows, no chirping of small birds among the branches; but down near the fjord a few depressed looking gulls were picking up a precarious livelihood along the frozen watercourse. It was enough; a Norwegian river in June or July, with its plenitude of power, its brimming pools and foaming rapids, winding between leafy woodlands and pine-crowned cliffs, is an altogether delightful spectacle; but in winter—well, we do not intend repeating our recent experience!

Three more days with good old Johan—days in the forest, rifle in hand, in search of the wily capercailzie "paa top," succeeded by restful evenings in the quaint old farmhouse (inhabited by our host and his forbears for generations), and here we are at a well-known winter resort in the neighbourhood of the great valley of the Drammen river. Although in front of the house there is a nice trout lake, angling can hardly be referred to as one of the pursuits indulged in therefrom at the present season of the year; still there are plenty of fishing yarns about, with which of an evening the brethren of the rod encourage one another. Except sleighs "ski" may truthfully be described as the only means by which people of all classes, men and women, young and old, now condescend to get over the ground from any one point to any other, be the distance 100yds. or 100 miles. Inside the sanatorium rows of "komager" and fur garments of every sort and description adorn the passages and halls; outside there is any amount of snow and 10° Réaumur of cold. Clad in suitable

clothing, and shod with the long ski, every living soul turns out, irrespective of weather, after breakfast, either to perform artistically upon the snow-clad surface or to tumble about ignominiously (but apparently with equal pleasure) *en amateur*. It is all very well for bairns to learn to go upon ski—they have not far to fall—but for the “grown pusson” it is (literally) an altogether different pair of shoes. We speak from painful experience!

On one occasion, while making our way very gingerly through the woods, we overheard sounds—those of the human voice—which recalled to our memory times passed in the society of certain kinds of beasts of burden (Cape oxen, Spanish mules, camels, Hampstead “mokes,” and the like) which required elaborate language on the part of their drivers to induce them to do their duty. It was an American colonel taking private lessons on ski!

Reference has already been made in this paper to the Glommen, which, after draining over 40,000 square kilometres of country, forms the Sarpsfoss and discharges on the coast of Smaalenorut Amt at Frederikstad. Some idea of the volume of water which this, the largest river in Norway, discharges, and of the fluctuations to which it is subject, may be formed from the following, translated from a Norwegian official work:

“The volume of water in Glommen varies greatly at different periods of the year. Exceptionally high floods occurred in the years 1675, 1740, 1773, 1789, 1808, 1827, 1828, 1846, 1850, 1860, 1863, and 1867. The flood of 1860 is the highest known on this water system. According to measurements taken at Blaker, above “Oieren” (an extensive lake from which—some fifty kilometres above the Sarpsfoss—the Glommen flows) the volume of water in transit was then 3,900 cubic metres per second. At the Morkfoss, immediately below “Oieren,” and at Sarpsborg water gauges are placed. At the former zero stands 97.8m., at the latter 25.1m. above the sea. The average height of the water during the period 1847-1876 was 4.8m. in Oieren, and 0.75 at Sarpsfoss. When at this level the Glommen discharges 650 cubic metres, which may be taken as its average.

“In 1860 the water marks showed a height at the Morkfoss of 10.45m., and at the Sarpsfoss of 7.86m., while the lowest known level at the former is 1.27m., and at the latter 2.67m. Like all Norwegian rivers, the Glommen is at its lowest in February and March. During the preceding months the country which it drains has been under the influence of hard frost, and the sources of supply have therefore been reduced to a minimum, while any fall that may have taken place has been in the form of snow. To such an extent does this apply to Glommen that in some parts at that period of the year its breadth is reduced to one-tenth of its summer size, and tracts of sandy mud brought down by the floods are exposed to view. In winter these mudbanks being, of course, frozen over, people can walk and drive upon their surfaces; but when the thaw comes in spring, quantities of fine dust are blown from them on to the grass, upon which it has an injurious effect, rendering it unhealthy for cattle.”

Excellent trout and grayling fishing may be enjoyed on the upper waters of the Glommen; but although perfectly accessible as far as the Sarpsfoss, a distance of eighteen kilometres from the fjord, remarkably few migratory fish ascend it. Salmon and sea trout have been and still are occasionally taken with the rod among the heavy rapids below the great fall, but in such insignificant numbers as hardly to be worth mentioning. Whether this singular antipathy on the part of the salmon to a great volume of fresh water is due, as many people believe, to the masses of clay which the river discharges, to the quantities of refuse from the numerous saw-mills, or, as Herr Landmark, the Government Fishing Inspector would appear to think, to the lowness of the water temperature in spring and early summer, it is hard to say; the fact remains that the Glommen is not a salmon river in the proper sense of the word.

In conclusion, it may be remarked as illustrative of the character of Norwegian rivers, that the Glommen and the Drammen, two of the most important water-systems in the country, and which drain nearly 60,000 square kilometres, are accessible to migratory fish for some fifty kilometres only.

“RUGDE.”

THE BUCKLAND MUSEUM.

THE memorial praying that the Buckland Museum of Economic Fish Culture shall be maintained and kept in an efficient manner, in accordance with the terms of the bequest accepted by the Department of Science and Art, has been numerously signed, and this week was forwarded to His Grace the Duke of Devonshire, Lord President of the Council, and the Right Hon. C. T. Ritchie, President of the Board of Trade. Full details of this movement were published in the *Field* of Dec. 3, and it may be remembered that it arose from the recommendation presented to Parliament last year by a Committee for the abolition of the museum. Previous recommendations to the same effect had been made, one of the allegations being that the collection was dangerous, because of the amount of alcohol in which the fish were stored. Another objection was that the museum was obsolete, and did not carry out the obligations under the testamentary conditions of Frank Buckland's will. There was no public attempt to obtain signatures, but a thoroughly representative list was obtained. Amongst others the memorial is signed by the Dukes of Richmond and Gordon, Beaufort, Bedford, Northumberland, Sutherland, Westminster, and Abercorn, the Marquises of Tweeddale, Bute, Dufferin and Ava, Worcester and Granby, the Earls of Home, Stamford, Sandwich, Jersey, Portsmouth, Radnor, Kimberley, and March, Lord George Hamilton, M.P., Viscount Powerscourt, Viscount Folkestone, M.P., Lords Chelmsford, Tweedmouth, and St. Levan, Lord Justice A. L. Smith, Sir William Harcourt, Q.C., M.P., Mr. Justice Ford North, the Hon. A. Lyttelton, M.P., the Prime Minister, the Fishmongers' Company, Mr. R. B. Martin, M.P., Sir Watkin Williams Wynn, Sir W. Wedderburn, M.P., Sir E. Grey, M.P., Sir E. Birkbeck, Sir L. Lyell, M.P., Sir E. Hill, M.P., Sir Spencer Walpole, Sir T. Brady, Sir W. Priesdy, M.P., Judge Bompas, Mr. Aird, M.P., Mr. Bousfield, Q.C., M.P., Mr. Buxton, M.P., Mr. Burdett-Coutts, M.P., Mr. Cradock, M.P., Mr. J. H. Johnstone, M.P., Mr. Lough, M.P., Col. Wyndham Murray, M.P., Mr. Pinfie, M.P., Mr. Pollock, M.P., Capt. Pretyman, M.P., Mr. Walton, Q.C., M.P., Mr. J. Williams, M.P., Mr. H. Pfenell, Mr. R. B. Marston, Mr. W. Senior, the Rev. Walter E. Buckland (nephew of Frank Buckland), Mr. George Cox Bompas (brother-in-law of Frank Buckland), with representatives of many piscatorial societies and the chairman of various provincial fishery boards. The memorialists point out that the select committee consisted of fifteen members, of whom seven only approved the report, three, including Sir John Gorst, voted against it, and five abstained. Against the opinion of Sir John Donnelly and Major-General Festing is cited that of Sir Richard Owen, who considered that the collection would be a most valuable appendage to the Salmon Fisheries Commission and Office. The memorial relates the history of the museum, and submits suggestions for extending its usefulness as suggested on different occasions by the Prince of Wales and by Professor Huxley. For this, the co-operation of the Board of Trade is considered essential. It should, it is submitted, be made a part of the duties of the Inspectors of Fisheries to preserve and deposit in the Museum of Economic Fish Culture any objects of permanent interest which may come under their notice, together with photographs or models of improvements in fish-passes, fish-culture apparatus and appliances, and other matters useful for reference or record; while the inspector's knowledge and varied experience may perhaps be further utilised for the public benefit by lectures in connection with the museum. The secretary and inspectors of the Fisheries Department, together, perhaps with representatives of the Fishmongers' Company, or other important bodies connected with the sea and river fisheries, should, it is suggested, be appointed visitors to advise on and aid in the management of the museum. The memorialists have asked the Duke of Devonshire and Mr. Ritchie to receive a deputation, to be introduced by the Earl of Portsmouth. The Duke of Devonshire, however, will not be able to receive them till after Easter.—*Field*.

BRISTOL GOLDEN CARP ANGLING ASSOCIATION.

ON Wednesday last the twentieth annual dinner of this association was held at their headquarters, Crown and Dove Hotel, Bridewell-street, when between sixty and seventy members and friends sat down to a capital repast. Mr. R. D. Frost presided, Mr. D. M. Ford occupying the vice-chair.

The chairman, in submitting the loyal toasts, spoke of the Royal Family as being ardent anglers, and he believed there were no more loyal subjects than the angling fraternity.

The vice-chairman, in a lengthy speech, submitted “Old England's Defenders,” and Trooper T. F. Griffiths suitably responded, remarking that good old English pluck still existed amongst our ranks.

Mr. C. Franklin proposed “The Bristol Golden Carp Angling Association,” coupling with it the names of Mr. R. D. Frost (president) and Mr. Lewis C. Wride (secretary). As one of its oldest members, he felt proud to propose the toast of the evening. He felt sure the secretary's work was not an easy task; nevertheless, Mr. Wride had one object in view which he worked very hard to maintain, that object being to keep the G.C.A.A. at the top of the tree, and as long as they had a good man at the wheel they had nothing to fear.

Mr. R. D. Frost ably responded.

Mr. Lewis C. Wride thanked Mr. Franklin for coupling his name with the last toast, also for his very flattering remarks. He agreed with Mr. Franklin that there was always plenty of work for the secretary to do. Still, no matter how good the secretary may be, he must have a

good working committee if success was to be obtained, and he was pleased to say they had a committee second to none, which was the backbone of the society. He was also pleased to state that the treasurer had a substantial balance in hand.

A great many names were standing on the books for admission, but as they were limited to 120 members, there were no vacancies at present. He would remind them that the Golden Carp had been established twenty years, and although seven clubs had branched out from this society, they held the proud position of being the largest of its kind in the west of England.

Mr. W. H. Mallard proposed the health of the visitors, who had so kindly assisted in making so large a gathering, which was ably responded to by Messrs. J. Webb and N. C. Hariman.

Mr. E. Havill proposed the health of the president and vice-president, remarking that they were not only two jolly good fellows, but were also two jolly good workers. Mr. R. D. Frost responding, thanked those present for their kind support.

A hearty vote of thanks was accorded to Host Crombie for the manner in which he had catered; also for his general kindness to the society.

LEWIS C. WRIDE.

WHY NOT SOCIAL ANGLING ASSOCIATION (WOLVERHAMPTON).

THE sixth annual dinner was held at the Why Not Inn, Stetthouse-lane, on Tuesday evening, the president in the chair. Amongst the company, which numbered over fifty, were Alderman Craddock, Councillors T. H. Parky, G. F. Steward, and A. Lamsdale, Messrs. E. Potte, F. J. Nickless, W. Stevens, H. O. Lowe, W. Smith, S. Severns, J. B. Hennefer, A. Jessop, E. Hartshorn, W. Cleve, B. Jones, W. Blues, F. Brommage, H. Rollason, W. Rutter, J. Simmons, W. Bennett, &c. Letters of apology for non-attendance were announced from Alderman McBean (ex-Mayor), Councillor E. C. Pratt, Messrs. G. Craddock, T. H. Sawyers, and F. Myatt. An excellent repast was provided by the host and hostess, Mr. and Mrs. Knottley. Afterwards, the loyal toast being honoured, Alderman Craddock most ably and wittily proposed the toast of “The Association,” and remarked upon the successful results which had attended its past year's working. Financially, they had a balance in hand of £7 18s.

Mr. Councillor Johnson suitably responded.

Mr. Stevens (chairman of the association) proposed the health of the vice-presidents, the list of which, he said, would compare favourably with that of any similar association throughout the country. (Cheers)

Mr. Councillor F. H. Parkyn responded.

Mr. Councillor G. F. Steward proposed the health of the president Mr. Councillor Johnson, and stated he would be pleased to give the association a prize. The chairman having responded, an excellent musical programme was proceeded with, amongst the contributors to it being Messrs. E. Eccleston, H. Rollason, F. Brommage, H. Jones, B. Jones, &c. Mr. S. Lamsdale ably accompanied on the piano.

J. W. VANN.

HAWES AND HIGH ABBOTSDALE ANGLING ASSOCIATION.

THE annual meeting of the above society was held recently in the Crown Hotel, Hawes. There was a large attendance, Dr. Grime in the chair. Mr. Platt gave the financial statement, which showed that the total receipts had been £72 10s., and that a balance of £36 12s. 11d. remained in his hands to the good of the association. The report also stated that 2000 yearling trout had been purchased and put into the tributary waters during the year. The Earl of Wharfedale was re-elected president; Mr. T. E. Platt, treasurer; Mr. B. Thompson, secretary; and Mr. James Fawcett, Crown Hotel, assistant ditto, from whom all tickets are to be obtained. Mr. E. Moore, Harrow, was added to the list of vice-presidents. A resolution was carried to purchase and insert 2000 additional yearling brown trout in the tributary streams at as early a date as possible. The annual dinner was held at the Crown Hotel on Wednesday evening, March 22. Mr. G. Broderick occupied the chair, and, in addition to the members of the association, about sixty farmers having water used by the association attended with free tickets, and an enjoyable evening was spent. Toasts to the Queen, the Hawes and High Abbotsdale Angling Association, the farmers present, and the host and hostess were unanimously given, in proposing which Capt. Fryer, Mr. Moor, and others strongly condemned spawn fishing and other illegal baits, and hoped every member would do his level best to have those practices suppressed.

J. ROUTH.

LARGE PIKE.—It was reported last week that Mr. A. Menzies, of Watgate, Grantham, had taken out of the canal water, connected with the Grantham Angling Association at Denton Bridge, a handsome pike, weighing 16lb. 2oz., and since then Mr. R. G. Briggs, of Leicester, has landed one of similar weight out of the Denton Reservoir, which can only be fished by permission.

TOO MUCH STRESS cannot be laid on the fact that in the whirl of unnatural excitement, and in the struggle for existence in this generation, to attention whatever is vouchsafed to the most ordinary rules of health. When the muscles become relaxed, the nerves over-sensitive and delicately strung, and the brain wears at the slightest task, these symptoms are part of Nature's warning that the delicate organism of the human frame is out of gear. In most cases a gentle stimulant and mild restorative is all that is required to impart fresh vitality to the jaded nerves, and it is a well-known fact that a few doses of Holloway's Pills work wonders, and restore the lost tone of the nervous system.

REVIEW OF PAST SEASON'S ANGLING AT OVERSCAIG.

Now that the trout angling season in the North of Scotland is approaching, it may be of interest to give the following statistics of the sport obtained by anglers from Overscaig Hotel, on the Duke of Sutherland's estate. The details are taken from the well-kept register provided by the estate, and filled up daily at the hotel, but here we only give summaries, which are as follows:—

Months.	Salmon.	Weight.	Ferox.	Weight.	Trout.	Weight.
	mon.	lb.		lb.		lb.
March and April	—	—	—	—	51	25
May	—	—	—	—	102	57
June	4	40	—	—	2396	985
July	—	—	1	5½	4787	1820
August	—	—	4	34½	2606	958½
September	—	—	2	13	367	177½
Totals.....	4	40	7	43	10,309	4023

In the course of the season the various waters yielded as follows:—

Months.	Salmon.	Weight.	Ferox.	Weight.	Trout.	Weight.
	mon.	lb.		lb.		lb.
Loch Shin	4	40	—	—	3011	1495½
Loch and river Merklam	—	—	1	9	1962	1115½
Loch Grian	—	—	1	10	1196	504
Garvie, Gorm, Carru, and other minor lochs and streams	—	—	1	5	4140	908
Totals.....	4	40	7	53	10,309	4023

The sport of season 1898 has been a record one so far as known. The following abstracts will show at a glance the total takes and total weights for each season during the past five years, viz:—

	1894.	1895.	1896.	1897.	1898.
Total fish (all kinds)	5038	8093	7450	7992	10,309
aggregating	0	1	1	1	1
ton.	0	1	1	1	1
cwt.	0	1	1	1	1
qr.	0	1	1	1	1
lb.	0	1	1	1	1
Grand total in five years	38,893				

Regarding the largest number of trout to one boat in one day it may be mentioned that during the season sixty-eight baskets made forty trout and upwards, nine baskets eighty to one hundred trout, and eight baskets 100 up to 185 trout each in one day. The heaviest of individual baskets for one day ranged as follows: Seventeen baskets ranged from 15lb. to 20lb. each, thirty-five baskets from 20lb. to 30lb., and five baskets from 30lb. up to 36lb. in one day. From the foregoing it will be seen that July is the most prolific month for sport, while Loch Shin yields by far more fish than any other loch. Its trout are also the heaviest, being in round numbers about ½lb. each for the whole season. B.

BAD BOLL FLY FISHING CLUB, LTD.

(NEW REGULATIONS GREATLY IN FAVOUR OF NON-MEMBERS.)

The fishing of the club extends to sixty miles, both banks of the river—which is practically the whole length of the River Wutach.

About eight miles of this (i.e. four miles in the immediate vicinity of the hotel, and four miles at a distance of about ten miles) is free to visitors stopping at the hotel.

Weekly tickets enabling visitors to fish the whole of the river, price M. 12.50, and (Government Licence M. 12).

The whole of the river is carefully preserved and stocked by the club—no fish under 9in. may be taken out. All applications for books should be forwarded to—

HERR BOGNER,
Bad Boll Hotel,
bei Bonndorf, Baden.

Or, Herr Fritz, Ochsen Hotel, Thingen, Baden.

There are three ways of getting to Bad Boll:—

1.—To Biele from thence to Thingen and Weizen—drive about fourteen miles to the hotel.

2.—To Freiburg via Strassburg—from thence by rail to Neustadt (twenty miles)—thence drive of about fourteen miles to the hotel.

Freiburg may also conveniently be reached from Biele in about fifty minutes by rail.

3.—To Donaueschingen via Strassburg, from thence drive of about fourteen miles to the hotel.

By either route a carriage would on application be sent from the hotel to meet visitors.

Fare, return to Biele, 1st class, £8 3s. 9d.; 2nd class, £5 19s. 8d. Available forty-five days.

Best train 11 a.m. Victoria, arriving at Biele 6 a.m. next morning; Thingen about 8.30.

The hotel tariff is from six to eight marks per day, exclusive of wine.

Visitors, of course, must adhere strictly to the fishing rules of the Club, which can be seen at the hotel.

The surrounding scenery is lovely, and the river undoubtedly affords good sport.

Any enquiries can be addressed to Mr. Bogner, at Bad Boll; or to Mr. K. Munro, at No. 1, The Sanctuary, Westminster; or B. A. Bevan, Esq., Horsgate, Cuckfield.

SCHOOL BOOKS, DICTIONARIES, &c., including Mr. Jackson's Upright Writing Copy Books, in English and other Languages, published by Sampson Low, Marston & Co., Limited, St. Dunstan's House, Fetter Lane, London. Can be had on application.

LOUTH AND DISTRICT ANGLING ASSOCIATION.

THE annual meeting of the members of the above association was held in the Rising Star, Eastgate, on Monday evening last. The president (Mr. C. W. J. Bell) occupied the chair. The hon. secretary (Mr. Jos. Osborn), read the report and statement of accounts, which showed that the total receipts (with £9 9s. 6d. brought forward from last year's account) amounted to £17 7s., and the expenditure to £9 19s. 6d., which with £44s. for one year's rent of water at North Reston, due 1st June, 1899, would leave a balance in hand of £3 3s. 6d. The report showed that three angling competitions had been held during the past season: two down the canal on June 16 and Nov. 3 last, at which there were four and three prizes given respectively. The other was at Hobhole on Sept. 22, three prizes being awarded on that occasion. The weather on each day was all that could be desired. Lord Henegave gave the members permission for a day's fishing on his preserves at Benniworth on Sept. 1, a good number of members taking advantage. A fine trout was caught by Mr. Clements at this outing, which weighed 4lb., and which has since been preserved by Mr. Kew. Mr. Elsey, of Baumber, also gave permission to the members for a day's outing, on Jan. 19 last, to the lake and ponds at Stourton Hall, which was greatly enjoyed by the members who availed themselves of the opportunity. Very good sport was obtained. The Chairman moved that the report and statement of accounts be passed. Mr. Cartwright seconded, and they were unanimously adopted.

REPORTS FROM RIVERS, LOCHS, &c.

River Reporters who want forms and envelopes should send a post card to the Manager of the FISHING GAZETTE, St. Dunstan's House, Fetter-lane, London.

ENGLISH AND WELSH REPORTS.

Lower Thames.—GENERAL REMARKS.—The weather has not been genial enough for the trout to make any movement in the river to give evidence of their whereabouts, and inspire the anglers with any encouragement for the opening day at the end of next week. It will be the first time in the history of the Thames river-keepers' dinners I have been conspicuous in my absence, and under any circumstances it could not have been avoided owing to my being physically unable to put in an appearance. There is no denying the fact, these friendly re-unions were of my own origination, and there was no function in connection with the river I enjoyed more than to meet the keepers and others on that occasion. All I could do this year was to send the usual subscription. My great supporter in the first movement was the present Baroness Brndett-Coutts, and it was through her liberal support it was successfully carried on, and limited to the society's own men, and others who were helpers in the work. It was the custom of the late Mr. Gowland, of Crooked-lane, to present on each occasion a choice fat goose; and amongst other contributions in kind was a splendid York ham from the late Rev. J. Drummond Money, then residing at Weybridge, who was brother-in-law of the baroness, and I believe one of his sons is now the popular rector of Weybridge. These recurring events remind me of many happy gatherings of various kinds during my long period of office. I have also been compelled to decline this week the kind and courteous invitation of the committee of the Piscatorial Society for the annual banquet on Monday last, and at which I have regularly attended, except last year, for over thirty years, and also one I received from Mr. Amplett some little time back for the annual dinner of the Kingston Piscatorial Society, which he has made so eminently successful. This bitterly cold weather is a stoppage to everything. Head river-keeper William Douglas informs me as regards the perch, "They have not begun spawning yet." He also says: "The jack up the country have begun, but this cold weather will keep them back again." There can be no doubt directly we get a mild change the perch will be ready, and no doubt the T.A.P.S. will get the swans away.—B.

(**Eton.**)—The prospects for the opening of the season for trout on the 1st is far from promising at the present time, snow having fallen during the past two days, and the frost being more severe than at any time during the winter. Needless to say, not a single trout has been seen on the move during the last week, with one exception, that being 1000 turned into the river on the 20th by the Windsor and Eton Preservation Association, every one of which arrived in the most healthy and lively condition, and which were turned into their new home without delay, 500 being taken upstream by Messrs. Stevenson and Strange, piloted by James Bunce, and 500 downstream by the popular chairman of the association, Mr. Arthur Brown, and your humble servant. A number of trout anglers assembled opposite Her Majesty's waiting-room at the G.W.R. station to inspect the above consignment on arrival, and the one gratifying expression to be heard from one and all was: "I never saw a better lot in my life."—CECIL HOWLETT.

(**Hampton Court.**)—This is the only report of any consequence, and William Milbourne writes: "I have seen several trout move between here and Thames Ditton, but most of them have been small ones. This cold weather will keep the big fish down, and it is impossible at present to say what big fish we have got."—B.

(**Lechlade, Crick ade.**)—The coarse fishing season closed in these districts under favourable conditions as far as water and weather was concerned, the water being in capital condition, and the weather left nothing to be

desired. Some excellent sport brought the season to a close at St. John's Bridge, a gentleman here getting a splendid catch of roach and perch, several of the former being 1½lb. each. In the Kempsford and Castle Eaton waters some good sport was had with perch and pike, a lot of the latter falling to Mr. Falkner's rod. A résumé of some of the best specimen fish taken during the past season may not be out of place. A pike of 19lb. in the Radcot waters, one of 19lb. and another of 13lb. in the St. John's Bridge waters. A barbel of 9½lb. from the same waters, and a perch 11b. 13oz. From the Inglesham waters a brace of perch of 6½lb. weight, and a brace of chub, caught on my own rod with a Brown Alder, at the mouth of the Coln, weighed 6½lb. Several dace of 12oz. and 14oz. have been taken, and on the Leach near to the Thames one night, in two hours, fourteen nets were good for nearly 600 very fine crayfish, baited for with bullock's liver. Troutling prospects at present are excellent, the water being in fine condition.—RAMBLER.

(**Richmond to Staines.**)—Head river-keeper William Douglas made his customary visits on the two first days of the fence season throughout the entire district watched over by the T.A.P.S., and, after carefully searching all the parts, he reports having found them all clear of any fish.—B.

(**Ancholme District.**)—Angling operations are quite at a standstill owing to severity of the weather. We have sharp frost and a coating of snow. Before the storm, one young gentleman took four trout, and several aquatic flies were beginning to hatch out, as well as a few land flies.—THOMAS FORD (Caistor).

(**Bottisham Locks (Waterbeach, Cambs.).**)—The last three days of the past season finished up with summer weather. Numerous anglers took advantage, when fifty pike were had round the Lode up to 5lb. each. Considering the quantity had here during the last three months it must improve the roach angling the next season. On this water the fish generally are early spawners, but this year they are full six weeks earlier. Taking everything into account, this river, with its many drawbacks with the continued drought, compares very favourably for sport upon the whole.—J. O. GEORGE, Beche-road, Cambridge.

(**Bure (Norfolk, Wroxham District).**)—March 21.—We have relapsed into mid-winter—six inches or more of snow and stinging frost, accompanied, curiously, by one or two claps of thunder, and flashes of lightning. Wind N., bitterly cold, threatening more snow; river full of snow broth. Angling is consequently off. There will not be much more done now before the summer season commences, about the latter part of June. Pike fishing has been rather poor during the past season, and roaching only fair. During the bright, though cold, days succeeding the 15th I sampled a trout stream, and found fish in fair condition. There is, however, practically no public, and very little subscription trouting in Norfolk, though the private trouting is generally equal to any obtainable elsewhere. There are changes at both the Wroxham riverside inns, but anglers and visitors will still, I believe, find good accommodation for fishing and boating.—C. H. TAYLOR.

(**Dart (Totnes and District).**)—Some very nice baskets of fish were creel'd at the end of last week. Mr. J. Edmond had a fine lot of four dozen, fishing the waters from Totnes up to Buckfastleigh, and Mr. H. Wright, of the latter place, has had more good sport. On Saturday he basketed three and a half dozen, and two dozen the previous day, the fly mainly used being the Blue Upright. Other takes were somewhat small, but the fish taken are in good condition. This week very little has been done, the snow water from the moor, together with the sharp frosts, having made the water too cold. The river is too low for salmon fishing, and it is hoped that there will be a flood down soon, which would tend to improve sport considerably, as fish are plentiful. The same flies (Edmond's Palmer, Half Stone, and March Brown) may be used.—DEVONIAN.

(**Devonshire streams.**)—The streams are running very low, and a good spate is needed to brighten sport up. The water, too, is very cold, owing to the frosts and occasional snow showers, so that only small takes have been made. The Dart has shown about the best sport with trout, but salmon fishing has been almost entirely unproductive. The March Brown and Uprights are most used. The northern streams are well stocked, but baskets are small; and on the southern rivers the cold snap has interfered with the good sport which was being obtained. Eight inches is the limit now placed on trout taken from the Otter, and, as fish do not run large, anglers will be considerably handicapped. The first two salmon taken from the Teign fell to the nets, and trouting has been practically nil in the lower waters, although bass are plentiful.—DEVONIAN.

(**Exe and Canal (Exeter).**)—Weather has now taken a very wintry turn, the wind hovering in the east, accompanied by light falls of hail, sleet, and snow. Trouting is, of course, slightly "off" for the present. Several rods have been out during past few days, and in spite of cold and generally bad conditions some fair creels have been had all round. One fish (of three brace), which fell to Mr. Hussey's rod on Saturday last, was exceptionally well-conditioned, and weighed 1½lb. Salmon fishing is at a standstill now for want of water, even the rods at Salmon Pool having to give over. Messrs. Baker have killed ten springers, all being had in first week or so of season, and a day or two since Mr. Baker, jun., landed a well-mended kelt after an hour and a quarter's play weighing close upon 4½lb.—RED PALMER.

(**Fen Dittri (South Lincs. and Cambs.).**)—A cold snap which set in last week has delayed for the present all thought of pursuing the dainty trout in this district. There are one or two items worth mention for the last days of the coarse season. A fine perch, scaling

2lb., was secured from Jackson's Hole at Surfleet. There were also some good specimen roach secured. Trout prospects are by no means good at present.—LIMPET.

Idle District (North Notts).—Coarse fish anglers have laid away their tackle for three months, and only a very few anglers will yet be tempted to turn their attention to trout. There are a few of this species in the unprotected waters of the main stream, but the protected waters of the Idle and its tributaries are well stocked. Proprietors of fisheries, however, do not trouble them till about the middle of April. For a week or two, therefore, angling will be at a discount.—L.

Lake Vyrnwy (North Wales).—Arctic weather has prevailed during the week, and, in consequence, anglers have not been able to do very much. On Saturday, however, there were a couple of hours of mild sunshine, during which Mr. David Pine creeled twenty-five fish, 14lb. 2oz. On the 15th, Mr. Briggs took four fish, 2lb. 13oz.; Mr. Pine, five, 3lb. 12oz.; Mr. Horne, three, 2lb. 5oz.; and Dr. White, one, 12oz. On the 17th, Dr. White killed five, 4lb. 3oz.; Mr. Pine, three, 2lb. 1oz.; Mr. Crowther, four, 2lb. 7oz.; and Mr. Horne, two, 1lb. 9oz. On the 18th, Dr. White took seven, 3lb. 5oz.; Capt. Tomkin, four, 2lb. 11oz.; Mr. Horne, four, 2lb. 9oz.; and Mr. Crowther, five, 2lb. 11oz. On the 20th, Mr. Crowther killed six, 2lb. 14oz.; and Mr. Pine, five, 2lb. 7oz. On the 21st, Dr. White killed four, 2lb. 1oz.; and Mr. Crowther, two, 1lb. 5oz. The best fish of the week was taken by Dr. White—weight 1lb. 4oz.—LONG DRIFT.

Lea.—Friday, March 31, is the last day up the Lea for retaining roach, chub, bream, &c., and at the time of writing, prospects for the wind up of the season are far from encouraging. Snow has fallen in the Lea Valley, and the weather appears very unsettled. Bitterly cold winds have been experienced lately, and no sport worth recording among the roach is reported down to the time of writing (Wednesday night). The water has been very bright. Should the weather improve, a good many anglers may be expected to visit the river this next week. There are a number of club matches fixed for to-morrow. The opening of the trout fishing season is a month later than the Thames, viz., on May 1, and when the weather was more genial, several fish were noticed on the move in the upper reaches. The present season for roach has been the worst experienced for years on this river. Earlier in the season want of water was undoubtedly one of the prime causes of the wretched sport experienced. There are plenty of fish about, however, most anglers being united on the point.—ISAAC WALTON.

Lugg and Arrow (Leominster).—Both these noted trout streams still keep in capital order for angling, being clear and a nice level. The weather was fine and suitable for angling up to the end of last week, but a sudden change took place, and snow and sharp frosts have been had this week which has quite upset anglers' calculations, and has also been the means of preventing a good number of flies coming on the water. The flies to use when the weather gets warmer are the February Red, Blue Dun, and Palmer. A good few March Browns were coming on, but the frosts have been against them. Sport will be quiet until the weather takes up for warm, but more snow has to fall before we get that. The Pinsley is running clear and in order.—GWYNNE.

Lugg, Arrow, and Pinsley (Kingsland).—Rivers are in good order, but the weather is a complete bar to sport. Severe frosts by night, and every sort of weather by day—fog, snow, and sunshine—with wind for the most part north or east. Very few flies to be seen, and scarcely any trout rising. I see no prospect of improvement till a favourable change occurs, and the atmosphere becomes warmer and more spring-like.—R. T. WILLIAMS.

Nene (Peterborough).—The pike fishing season is generally considered to have been a fairly average one, and finished with several good catches. Fishing at Blatherwyche, near Oundle, a Stamford gentleman caught a pike scaling 18½lb., and a short time previously he caught two others, weighing 14lb. and 14½lb. respectively. Mr. A. Menzies, who is well known in Peterborough, while fishing near Grantham, secured a splendid pike of over 16lb. in weight.—E. A. S.

North Staffordshire Rivers.—The lovely spring weather of last week has been superseded by the severest winter. Snow, ice, and cutting winds have once more proved the variability of the English climate. All this has given a check to angling. Rivers are tempting enough so far as their appearance is concerned, but fishing is off. Last week a few reds tried the fly and obtained sport, notably Mr. Alderman Hampton, who fished the Dove at Clifton, and succeeded with Blue Dun, March Brown, and Coachman. The lucky angler on the Sow referred to last week caught a burbot, not a "barbel," a very scarce fish.—F. W. DALE.

Plymouth.—The rivers are running down to summer level, and trout are sporting fairly well. The moors are now covered in snow, so I expect for a few days nothing will be done. A new rule to be enforced on the Tavy and Plym district is that all fishermen using day tickets must have them with them or they will not be allowed to fish. Last year a fisherman living at Mannamoor or Devonport could post a 1s. postal order, and say he had gone fishing; and the agent could fill out the card and keep it for him to send to the keeper. This he cannot do now; he must obtain it before he goes out. The Dart has provided some good baskets, and the Moavy also; but it has been too cold for the upper waters on the moors yet.—WILLIAM HEARDER.

Severn, Vyrnwy, Tanat, and Cain (Llanymynech).—On Tuesday last there was a very heavy fall of snow in this neighbourhood, which did not remain very long on the ground, but in consequence of this state of affairs all these rivers are tinged with snow water, and very little sport has been had by anglers. In the Severn and Vyrnwy several large pike have been taken, and at

present they are getting more voracious every day, so that trollers have every prospect of good sport during the Easter holidays, and all trout anglers will most heartily thank them for their efforts to rid these rivers of the most deadly enemy of the trout. For some reason or other, best known to themselves, no permits have as yet been issued by those in authority on the Tanat, but it is hoped they will see their way to do so very shortly, so that visitors to this pleasant place during the ensuing holidays may be allowed to fish in this noted trout stream, which, like the Cain, holds trout of the very best flavour.—VYRNWY.

Sussex Rivers and Chichester Canal.—From recent reports the past season for coarse fish has not been up to the average. Drought in the early period of last year interfered materially with sport; and year after year, despite improvements in tackle and skill, fish keep pace in wariness. How many big fish have been hooked and lost in all waters? It is always the biggest fish that break away, and the lesson learned is not soon forgotten. We have had the first foretaste of winter in the south now that spring is upon us—snow and frost in a slight degree. Rivers are in good order, and the Conservators of the Ouse have decided to keep the water open between the Flour and Oil Mills for pike fishing, as the rainbow trout are having a bad time of it with *Esox lucius*. The water will be kept open until the end of April for coarse fishing, excepting pike and dace. The Rother is worth a visit later on, as it holds some good trout up to 3½lb. The canal at Chichester has, as far as I can glean, yielded over 200 pike this season, the heaviest 7½lb. There are some heavier fish in the water, and with the enormous quantity of small fry, pike thrive well here. Harbour fishing will soon be remunerative among the smelt. A few have been taken with ragworm from the sluice at Appledrum, but warmer weather is needed to bring them up in quantities.—GEORGE F. SALTER.

Taff (Llandowor, Carmarthenshire).—We have had a fresh, and the river at time of writing (March 20) is a good colour. A few nice fish have been caught. Weather very cold.—H.

Taw (North Devon).—No rain for weeks, and fishing has been very bad, the rivers almost down to summer level, clear as crystal, and the mornings frothy. No fisherman of any knowledge would attempt it at present. The flies which are tempting are the Blue Upright (real), hare's flag, gold twist, with a hackle colour of dry rust, and the same with Red Upright, with black list. March Browns, this fly is not plentiful on the waters yet. Rain must come soon, or no Easter fishing. A gentleman returned to-day with a dish of trout, averaging 6oz.—RUSTY GAME.

Teifi (Campeter, Cardiganshire).—Fishing not so good as last week owing to low state of the river and nightly frosts.—H.

Teme (Ludlow).—The Teme in this part is running clear and a nice level, and in good order for fishing. The weather up to the end of last week was good for fishing, and since then we have had a change, and winter has come on us quite sharp. On Monday night there were sixteen degrees of frost, and on Tuesday the weather was very cold, and snow fell at intervals, and covered the ground about an inch deep, and this was followed by a sharp frost. To-day (Wednesday) the sun is shining brightly, but is very cold, and snow threatens, and before any warm weather will be had we shall have more snow. The snow and frosts have been against the flies coming out, and March Browns were coming on in good numbers, and the fish had begun to take them, but they will be thrown back, and the prospects for sport with them is little. Angling this week has been very slow, and only a few rods out. Fishing on Friday, Mr. R. Smith, with the minnow under Whitcliffe, landed two small pike, and run a third. The same angler on Monday took a nice trout nearly 1lb. weight. The Ony, Corve, Clune, and Ledwyche are all running clear and a nice level, and in order for fishing. The snow has made no difference to them, and with warmer weather there will be some good dishes of fish taken with fly and worm.—S. LUDLOW.

Teme (Tenbury).—The Teme in this part is continuing to run in good order for fishing, being clear and a nice level. The weather of the last few days has been very severe, and there has been quite a return of winter, and snow has been had, followed by very severe frosts at night, and has been against anglers going out. The fish have not been moving well, as the cold has been against flies being on, and the March Brown, which was coming on in good numbers, has been thrown back, and the outlook for sport with it is not at all promising. The best flies to use are the Blue Dun, March Brown, and February Red.—WORCESTER.

Urk and Tributaries (Senny Bridge).—Rivers at present are very low, with cold easterly winds, and very little fishing done just now. Another flood is needed very much.—PONTSENNY.

Witham, &c. (Mid-Lincolnshire).—In consequence of the cold and wintry weather anglers of this district are not inclined to turn their attention to sport. We shall want more sunshine and a more genial atmosphere. The last days of the coarse season were notable for the captures of pike. At Bardney Lock a Lincoln sportsman caught eighteen, and another fifteen, averaging 4lb. each. A short distance off a couple of sportsmen got fourteen brace of pike up to 6lb. Many pike were caught between Tattershall and Boston. Several heavy fish were also reported.—LUCI.

Wye (Builth Wells).—River very low. No angling done. Very cold, and slight snow.—W. B. ROBERTS.

Yore, Swale, Wharfe, Aire, Rye, &c. (Yorkshire).—The trout fishing season opened with very low water and remarkably hot weather, and on Thursday and Friday last the few anglers out caught some nice fish with

the minnow on fine Ariel tackle and with the worm fished well up stream, but in no single instance was anything like a decent basket made, and piscators who tried the fly met with very moderate sport. During the hot weather a good few flies were to be seen on, but now all are gone, for on Saturday the weather changed from summer to winter, since then the fearful north-east and north-westerly winds with keen frost and blizzard-like snowstorms have played havoc with outdoor pastimes and work, and the farmers with early lamb flocks are having a sorry time of it, in some places in Yorkshire 13, 16, 20, and 24 degrees of frost having been reported. I need hardly say few anglers have been out this week, and the few that have braved the intense cold have only met with very bad sport. The contrast between the aspect of the country now and a week ago is great, and Wensleydale, as I see it to-day, looks far more like grayling fishing than trout. Everything and everybody looks shrivelled up, and until a much desired change takes place trout fishing is out of the question, many of the trout streams being frozen.—J. E. MILLER, Northern Anglers' Depot, 19, New Station-street, Leeds.

By TELEGRAPH.—Respecting the Nidd, Mr. Riley Fortune writes, angling matters are very quiet. Several of us, tempted by the fine weather on the 16th, had a day, but very little was done. We got a few, but they were not in good condition. The hard frost has sent them off again, and brought grayling on. A good number have been hooked and returned. It was ever thus! No sooner has the close time arrived for either trout or grayling than they commence to feed madly. Rainbows were in evidence. A fair number have been landed. They have increased in size considerably from last year, and were in very much better condition than brown trout. The Harrogate Angling Association turned in 500 brown trout (yearlings) into the water. The energetic Farrar Stead is still on the warpath, and at Richmond-on-Swale Charles Spencer has fished £4 12s. 6d. for suppling salmon roe for angling purposes. The storm continued very severe, with every prospect of a continuance, according to indications, for the aneroid is rising.—J. E. MILLER, Northern Anglers' Depot, 19, New Station-street, Leeds.

SCOTCH REPORTS.

Border Esk and Liddie.—Although the weather is gradually becoming more genial for angling purposes, sharp frosts have been frequent during the last ten days, and few anglers have been out. Spring salmon are still scarce, and little sport has been got with them. Trout are improving in condition, and a few have been creeled in the Canonbie water and in the upper reaches. Salmon kelts are still in the river, but fewer than in some former seasons previous to the advent of April. Mr. Mason hooked a salmon in the Metal Bridge water, but after a brief run, it escaped. The river is now running low and clear, and a flood is badly wanted to sweep away the remaining kelts. The Netherby reserved water has yielded nothing up to the present worth recording.—GILNOCKIE.

Carron (Easter Ross, Ardgay, N.B.).—Sport has been so poor—almost nil, in fact—that several anglers, including Messrs. Young and Simmonds, left for London a few days ago. Mr. and Mrs. Barratt are still on the Invercharron waters; but, unfortunately, there is not the ghost of a chance, owing to the severity of the weather. Snow lies from 7in. at sea level to 1ft. in inland districts, where wreaths accumulated, and road traffic is suspended.—B.

Deveron (Banffshire).—The rod and net salmon fishings on the river Deveron has been very unproductive during the past week. Up to the end of the last week the water was getting low and clear, but on Saturday a snowstorm of unusual severity broke out, and showed little abatement in the middle of the present week. The heavy snow fall brought down masses of snow, which put the river into very bad order. Angling, meantime, is at a standstill. The net fishermen continued working the nets on the river, but scarcely a fish was got. One caught on Monday scaled 9lb. On the coast the fishermen have not been at sea since Friday of last week. The heavy gale from the north brought in a tremendous sea, sweeping the nets at the various stations from their position, and it will take some time when the storm subsides before they can be repaired and put in position. For this week only one light box of fish was railed to the market.—H. W.

Lairg (Sutherland N.B.).—A few days ago Mr. H. Mackay was out for a couple of hours on the hotel waters, Loch Shin, and landed nineteen trout, aggregating 7lb., which is considered very good so early in the season. At the beginning of this week a very severe snowstorm set in.—B.

Loch Naver (via Lairg, N.B.).—Mr. John Fraser, head keeper, Altnaharra, was out on the 9th inst. and caught a salmon of 8lb. On 14th he landed two, weighing 7lb. and 10lb. At present the whole country has a deep coating of snow. Such a storm in March has seldom been experienced.—B.

Loch Ness (Foyers Hotel), N.B.—On Monday, March 13, Mr. James R. Sloan, Glasgow, killed one salmon, weighing 9lb.; and on March 18, one of 16lb.—S. TILSTON.

Loch Tay (Kenmore, N.B.).—On the hotel water, 16th, Mr. Smerdon Roe killed salmon, 18lb. 15th, on the reserve water, Mr. McIntyre killed salmon, 22lb. 16th, on reserve water, Mr. McIntyre killed salmon, 19lb. 20th, on the hotel water, Mr. Smerdon Roe killed salmon, 18lb.—W. KNIGHT.

Loch Tay (Killin).—On March 15, Mr. Ware had two salmon, 18lb. and 20lb. 16th, Mr. Ware, one, 20lb.; Mr. Menzies, one, 19lb. 18th, Mr. Pigou, one, 19lb. 20th, Mr. Clephan, three, 21lb., 20lb., and 19lb. 21st, Mr. Clephan, one, 17lb.; Mr. Ware, two, 30lb. and 22lb.; Mr. Pigou, one, 20lb. Two boats out; loch in good ply.—H. J. MAISEY.

Naver (Bettyhill, N.B.).—On 13th, Mr. Campbell, Dalvina Lodge, got a salmon on Beat No. 1; and Colonel Fryer, Dalvina Lodge, two, of 19lb. and 9½lb., on No. 4. On 14th, General Hume, Syre Lodge, landed two salmon on No. 3. On 15th, Mr. Campbell caught on the same beat. On 16th, Mr. Earle Drax, Skelpick Lodge, had one salmon on No. 2; and on 17th, two on No. 3. Very severe weather at present prevails.—B.

North-East of Scotland.—The blizzard towards the close of last week, and the severe snowstorm prevailing since then, has almost put sport out of the question for the nonce. On the upper reaches, however, a few fish have been got, although the Duke of York, who is staying at Abergeldie Mains, has scarcely wet a line since coming north. With a thaw, however, matters will be quite different. On the Ballater Hotel waters, Mr. Bristowe had two, of 20lb. and 8lb., one of 7lb., one of 7lb., and two, of 7lb. and 8lb. respectively, on different days out; while Mr. Ferguson had two, of 17lb. and 13lb., and one of 12lb. On the private waters at Invercauld, Mr. H. L. Craik had two, of 7lb. and 8lb. On the Cambus O'May water, Mr. Tyingbam creelred one of 8lb., and Phillip (gillie), one of 8lb., while Mr. Granville had one of 12lb. Col. Felix Rhodes has taken the Morven fishings for the season. On the Monaltrie water, Sturton had one of 8lbs. and one of 7lb. Fish are plentiful and quality steadily improving. On the Glentana waters, Col. Brinkman (from Profits) had two fish, of 7lb. and 10lb., and one of 8lb. On the Huntley Arms reaches, Mr. White Jervas creelred one of 7lb.; Mr. Scott, five, about 8lb.; and Mr. Crawshaw had four, from 13lb. to 22lb. A freshette is much needed, and will improve sport vastly in these parts. On the Ballagie water, Mr. Edward Drummond creelred one of 7lb., three, of 7lb., 8lb., and 10lb., and one of 8lb., during the past week, while Sir John Gladstone, on the Blackhall water, had six on the 13th, 14th, and 15th inst., ranging from 6lb. to 14lb. in weight. On the Lodge water, Mr. Wm. Lamond creelred his first fish for the season, of 8lb., while Major Davidson had one of 7lb., and one of 7½lb., two days out on Dess waters. On Carlogie, Dunn (gillie), had a small fish of 5lb. On the Cairnton, Mr. T. Turner, Farley, had several of average weights. There is a scarcity of fresh run fish in the lower reaches. WEDNESDAY EVENING.—The snowstorm still continues, with heavy frost accompaniment. Rivers full of ice floats, and anglers fairly snowed off. Lord Garioch and the Earl of Lisburn arrived at the Borrowstone fishings on the 18th. They found their quarters at Potarch Inn occupied, which were secured in October last, and have raised an action against Machray, the proprietor, in the Aberdeen Sheriff Court, to obtain access to them. Four days have been granted wherein to lodge defences. Such an action is quite peculiar in the north. The salmon fishings on the east coast have been almost nil. Prices reached the top figure of the season to-day, when salmon sold for 3s. 1½d. per lb. The Ythan tidal has been yielding good sport till present storm intervened. The Duke of York has not been able to be on the river but at very trifling intervals all this week past. No signs of abatement of storm; rather the opposite.—G. M.

Shin (Inveran, N.B.).—On 6th inst, Mr. Park, fishing from Sutherland Arms Hotel, landed a 10lb. salmon. On 7th, Mr. Slater caught a 7-pounder. On 10th, Mr. Menzies got one of 9lb. On 14th, Mr. Park landed one of 10lb.; on 15th, a 12-pounder; and on 16th, one of 8lb. This week, weather stormy and sport blank.—B.

South of Scotland.—The bleak weather experienced during the closing days of last week has been followed by most severe wintry weather. The frost has been most intense in this part of the country since Sunday night. The river Annan was frozen over in some of the still running pools on Monday night. Such severe frost in the third week of March has not been registered for a great many years. The power of the sun soon asserts itself but where the sun's rays does not reach the ice holds. To-night (Wednesday), the temperature is again extreme. Angling has been out of the question this week, no one caring to face the cold north winds. In the Annan, on Monday, two or three salmon, all kelts, were hooked and landed. These were of course put back to the water, uninjured. No rods have been out trout fishing this week, but a few trout were caught last week by a number of anglers. It is yet too early for river trout, as they are not in condition for taking; those that I have seen have been lank and out of order. There has been no rise of fly on the water except the February Red, which I saw a fortnight ago. No March Brown have batched out this season. The prospects for the Easter holidays are not very bright for anglers this year. The waters are very low and clear, and with no more rain between now and Easter trout will take some catching with fly. Any of the small baskets lately caught were taken with the clear water worm at the head of pools. In the Solway the nets have been having a poor time of it lately. At one of the chief stake net fishings not a single salmon was caught during the whole of last week. Some of the other stake net fisheries on the Scotch side of the Firth have been taking a few odd salmon, but there is not a sixth part of the fish caught as compared with the corresponding period of last year. The fishermen were getting 3s. per lb. for salmon at the end of last week. The Nith, of Dumfries, the Galloway rivers, as also the streams of Ayrshire show no sport to anglers at present, and nothing is being done in the tributaries. In the Derwent the sea trout kelts are making their way down to the Solway now in numbers. We want a good fall of rain to take away the frost. With a turn of mild weather and south-west winds some sport would probably be had by anglers during Eastertide. There is no appearance of a change, but this severe weather cannot last long at this time of year.—HEATHERBELL.

Tay.—Fishing on Taymount water, on the 15th inst., Mr. Ronald Murray landed one fish of 17lb.; and on same water, 16th inst., Mr. Cox, Dungasthill, had two, of 26lb. and 17lb. Mr. Herbert Lewis, fishing on Stanley water, on 16th inst., caught three fish, weighing 23½lb., 20½lb., and 17lb. On Dulguise water, on 17th inst., Mr. R. H. Mackworth Praed landed two fish, of 22lb. and 15lb. Fishing the Upper Delvure water, on 15th inst., Mr. Leaf had a fine salmon of 15lb.; and on 17th inst. he had another of 20lb. Out on the Tay, from Fisher's Hotel, Pitlochry, Dr. Anderson had one salmon of 19lb.; and Mr. Younger, one of 18lb. on 18th inst. On the hotel water, on the Tummel, Mr. R. McLaren landed a salmon of 21lb. On Faskally water, Mr. Henry Peters, on 18th inst., killed a splendid new run salmon of 20lb.; and on 22nd inst, one of 22lb.—A. A.

Tweed, Teviot, and other Border Rivers.—The uncertainty of the weather in this northern climate of ours has been signally verified since my last notes. Last week up till Friday night the weather was almost June like; since then, however, the scene has changed, and winter—frost and snow—reigns supreme, while the cold, north-east winds are enough to pierce one to the marrow. Of course, there has been no fishing this week owing to the weather conditions, and should the temperature not change soon anglers will be disconsolate. Of those who had the best baskets of trout last week, when it was fishable weather, Mr. David Maxwell, Kelso, had two fine baskets of 10lb. and 5lb., both got on the Teviot with fly, while Mr. James Affleck, clothier, Heiton, had one of 4lb.; Mr. James Robertson, Kelso, one of 5lb.; Mr. Robert Robertson, one of 8lb., and 4lb. of grayling, and on another fishing day he had a dish of 2½lb. of nice trout. Mr. William Barff had a dish of 3lb.; Mr. W. Thompson, 6lb.; and Mr. Robert Ferguson, one of 2½lb. Other baskets have been killed varying in weight from 2lb. upwards to 3½lb., but those given above are the best. Pike fishing still goes on apace here, and on the Teviot last week Mr. Frank Stephani, Kelso, had one of 5lb., with spoon bait; Mr. James Affleck, one, on the same river, at a favourite place above "Gogran," which scaled nearly 6lb., and on Friday last he had one at the same place of 5lb. weight. Mr. A. Denholm, on the Tweed, has had a basket of 4lb. of grayling and trout mixed, while Mr. Richard Newton had 8lb. of trout and grayling in the Tweed and Teviot combined in one day's fishing. I have just learned that a beautiful basket of trout, weighing 13lb., was killed on the Eden and Tweed by Mr. John Mercer, fishing tackle maker, Kelso; but this was a whole day's fishing, not merely an hour or two. On Friday last, Mr. Charles Hunt, Commercial Hotel, Kelso, had a fine basket of two dozen of Tweed trout, all in good condition, and all killed with fly. Of salmon fishing there is not much to speak of. A few have been killed on the various waters, but fish seem to be very scarce. On the Hendersyde water (Sir Richard Waldie Griffiths's), Mr. Thomas Pringle, Westwood Cottage, Kelso, has had three good size salmon, and again this week I understand he has had two more. On the Tweed, at Tillmouth, Capt. French had a nice salmon of 7½lb. I hear that two fish have been got on the Floors upper water, but no authoritative record has come to hand regarding this take. No fishing has as yet taken place on the lower Floors water, nor yet on the Ednam House casts, while the same remark applies to the famous stretches at Makerston and Rutherford. I may state that the common yellow trout are not yet rising freely to the fly, and that a great preponderance of these fish are to be found in all trout anglers' baskets. These fish are very numerous at present in both the main rivers, Tweed and Teviot, and are taking the fly freely, but they are now beginning to spawn, many of these fish having been seen lately on their favourite spawning grounds at the West end of Kelso Bridge. The Tweed net salmon fishing during the past has not been as satisfactory as could be wished, having been somewhat worse than the previous week, which was bad enough. Salmon show no improvement in numbers, and there has been a slight decline in the number of trout caught in the river and on the sea coast. At the sea coast fisheries matter are even worse. Prices are high: Salmon, 2s. 11d. per pound; trout, 2s. per pound; as compared with 2s. 2d. per pound, and 2s. for trout.—MAXWHEEL.

IRISH REPORTS.

Boyle.—Fishing here has just commenced, and notwithstanding the cold weather, those who ventured out are having very fair sport. In fact, for the last few weeks, fishing has been better than the opening of any season recorded. Mr. Wills, Rockingham, fishing Lough Key has got more trout up to to-day, March 21, than he killed all last season. Hopwell J. S. Morrell, Esq., Corradoo Hall, fishing on Lough Arrow is also having very good sport; up to the present his best day was five trout and six pike. A local angler on Lough Gara, Friday, March 17, hooked and played six good trout but only killed two of them, and this was casting from the boat with the artificial fly, which speaks well for the Fish Preservation Society, as five years ago such fishing at such a place would be folly. Owing to the extensive netting carried on there, and which I am glad to state is not heard of now. May Fly fishers to Lough Gara this year have a glorious time before them, as I know the lake is much better stocked with trout than last year, and then it was the best lake in Ireland for dapping. Mr. Dickie and two friends killed in one day last May, twenty-two trout over 40lb., and Mr. F. Monson, same day, killed twelve trout to his own rod. They weighed 28lb.—GEORGE TAYLOR.

Boyne (Navan Section).—Notwithstanding the adverse conditions in respect to weather and low water, a few fish are being taken on the best fisheries. Indeed, on the Slane Castle water, Capt. Coppinger and friend have had good sport, having, I hear, taken about forty fish since the season opened, including several about 30lb. It

seems that the first run of big fish did not, as supposed, pass this section in the big flood in the latter part of January, but were stopped below Slane by the hard weather. A strong westerly breeze two days last week has, however, brought forward a springing of these, with the result that on Upper Black Castle Mr. Francis Ley and his fisherman have during the past week taken eleven fish, average weight 18 lb. On Ardmulcan four were taken, including one 28lb., and I understand two or three fish were taken in the Stackallan Reach. On Lower Blackcastle, and on the Blackwater, the river is far too low, and angling is useless on these until we get a flood. At present the water is lower than it generally is in the summer.—CLARET FLY.

Caragh Lake (Caragh).—Fishing since last report has not been up to the mark. However, trout fishing on the mountain lakes is better. Mr. Steele took a spring salmon 8lb. weight on the lower Caragh river; Mr. Eyre Stack, a trout, 3½lb.—G. C.

Cork Rivers.—Salmon angling returns from all the principal rivers open for angling show generally an improvement, though matters are still far from satisfactory.—T. J. D.

Corrib (Galway).—The river is running down fast. Spring fish are showing up better, and there must be a fair stock in it. The takes up to date do not number a dozen spring fish. The weather is bright, but cold and frosty.—J. A. B.

Cummeragh and Inny.—Sport has shown much improvement on the above waters, and baskets of two dozen brown trout were common last week. The fish had were, on the whole, of a small size.—T. J. D.

East Tyrone Rivers.—Angling is almost at a standstill on the Blackwater and Ballinderry, owing to the "cold snap" and low water. There will be little or no sport till the temperature rises.—J. A. B.

Erne (Ballyshannon and Belleek).—Trout did not rise well on this river during the greater part of the past week, in consequence of north-east wind prevailing since last report.—M. ROGAN AND SONS.

Kerry Rivers.—Sport at salmon has been of the dulllest description on all the Kerry rivers where angling has commenced. The weather has been, on the whole, favourable since last report, though the water in some instances was not in the best order. Brown trout fishing, on the other hand, has been of a good description, generally speaking.—T. J. D.

Lee (co. Cork).—The continued north-east wind and clear sky is anything but inviting from a fisherman's point of view, and few, except "hardy" anglers, have been out for the past week. However, those who have ventured, have been fairly successful. On Warrenscourt, Mr. J. A. Jameson, 13½lb. On Lee Mount, Mr. W. T. Crawshaw, 9½lb., 8½lb.; Mr. A. C. Bonring, 9lb. On Upper Nettleville, Col. Broderick, 10lb. On Oak Grove, Mr. F. M. Leader, 9lb., 11lb.; H. G. Stanley, 12½lb. On Ballineadig, Capt. Richards (Hants Regiment), 7lb., 12½lb.; Mr. S. Haynes, 8lb., 15lb.; Mr. J. Bullen, 9lb.; and R. St. John Belbin (London), 16lb. On Cronody, Capt. Gubbins, R.A., 7lb., 7lb. At the waterworks numbers of fine fish are congregating, waiting for a rise in the river, to move up, and a few have been taken by the rod anglers. Mr. R. Murphy, 12lb., 10lb., 6lb.; Mr. J. Caulfield, 10lb.; Mr. J. O'Donnell, 9lb.—W. HAYNES AND SON.

Lough Currane (Waterville, co. Kerry).—Salmon angling continues very bad on Lough Currane, the principal free water at Waterville. Only two salmon have been had since last report—one of 14lb., by Major G. Cresswell, Butler's Arms Hotel, and one of 10½lb., by E. Denneby, a local professional angler. The brown trout fishing, on the other hand, has given good sport to the few anglers that have been out occasionally specially after these fish.—T. J. D.

Lough Mask (Clonbur, co. Galway).—This water is in excellent order for fly fishing, and although the weather is cold, several baskets of trout were killed this week. The best trout I have heard of yet was a 6lb. one killed by a local gentleman. Everything points to a successful season.—J. A. B.

Lough Melvin.—During the early part of the past week the weather was very mild for the time of year, and consequently salmon anglers availed themselves of the opportunity afforded, and tried their luck amongst the salmon, and had some first rate sport for the few times they were out. Mr. J. McCorry, Mr. J. R. Mulholland, and Mr. Murry arrived at Scott's Hotel, Garrison, on March 16; and on the 17th Mr. J. McCorry landed a beautiful fresh run salmon of 19lb. weight, and another of 10lb. weight; Mr. J. R. Mulholland landed one, on same day, of 10lb. Mr. Walter H. Wilson landed a nice fresh run salmon weighing 9lb., on the 16th; and the Rev. Wm. Verner landed one of 10lb. on same day, and a fine trout (*Salmo ferax*) of 5lb. Mr. H. G. landed a handsome fresh run salmon of 11lb. on a trout fly on the 18th; and the Rev. Wm. Verner, on same day, landed another fresh run salmon weighing 11lb., and a splendid brown trout of 5½lb. Mr. C. P. Blackham landed several nice trout recently from 3lb. to 4lb. Mr. Blackham also took a fine plump sea trout weighing 2½lb. This is an unusual occurrence in the lake, as sometimes years elapse without a sea trout being caught in it. Trout anglers did not do much owing to keen north-east wind and bright sunshine during the latter part of the past week, but in the early part of the week some nice baskets of gillaroo and brown trout were taken. At time of writing the weather is looking settled, and good sport is now certain.—M. ROGAN AND SONS.

Lough Melvin (Lower Reaches, Kinlaugh End).—The past week was one of many weathers, changing suddenly in the early part to bright summer-like days, and again in the latter part to real winter showers of snow, with hard frosts at night, almost enspending fly angling. Some nice gillaroo and brown trout were had

trolling with artificial minnows, from 1lb. to 3lb. Milder weather, with some rain, must be had before angling is again a success.—P. GALLAGHER.

Mountain Lakes (Waterville, co. Kerry).—Sport has been very good on the above waters since last report. Prospects for next week are not as good as could be wished for, as, owing to dry weather, which is likely to continue, the waters will be getting low rapidly.—T. J. D.

Mourne (Newtownstewart, co. Tyrone).—Unless a flood comes in the meantime this fine river will be rather low for the opening day—Saturday next, April 1—a very suitable date for those who believe in the Johnsonian dictum. The prospects are very good. The past spawning season was a successful one.—J. A. B.

Moy, Loughs Conn and Cullen (Ballina, co. Mayo).—Owing to the cold north wind and snow showers sport was dull for the past week. Mr. Benson and Mr. Bailes landed several kelts. Few kelts were landed on the lough. Also quite a number of clean fish are to be seen in the pools on the river.—PAT HEARNES.

Shannon (Castleconnell).—On Doonass, Mr. G. C. Williams killed two salmon, 32½lb., 39lb., on 20th. On Hermitage the fishermen killed one salmon, 20lb., on 16th. On the Castle fishery, Mr. G. W. Greenhill killed one salmon, 38lb., on 16th, and one salmon, 18lb., on 20th. The weather is now a trifle colder, with a few very light falls of snow.—J. ENRIGHT AND SON.

SEA FISHING.

Deal (The Pier).—Though several local and visiting anglers have almost daily spent a few hours upon the pier, not a single fish of any kind has been caught during the present week. The water has been so much disturbed and thickened by recent strong breezes from north-east and north-west, that fishing prospects are exceedingly poor. Several falls of snow have taken place during the last three days, and the weather is still bitterly cold.—J. RICHARDSON.

Penzance.—Pier anglers have only had very poor sport during the past week, and now we are having snowstorms from the north. Long liners have been catching great quantities of ling during the past week—two to four hundred a boat—and selling at the absurdly low price of 7d. a fish. Mackerel boats off 20th, but no fish as yet.—H.

Plsmouth.—I am writing this under more favourable circumstances than last week, when I had a nasty fall over the stone steps at West Hoe Pier. I don't know which is worst, stepping on orange peel or sea weed. I have had ten days' confinement, anyhow, through it. The weather is summer one moment and winter the next, with snowstorms. Not much doing with sea fishing in such unsettled weather. A few pollack about, but small; bass also are shy, owing, I expect, to the snow water from the rivers. The trawlers have been having good catches, but being Lent, of course, prices have been high. Not much benefit to the trawlers, though; the retailer gets the biggest pull. Some of our hooking boats that fish with boulders, having as many as 2000 hooks, have had bad luck, losing their lines through the heavy catches of fish—gear all parted, and they have lost all. They use, as a rule, lines of sixty fathoms length, and sometimes from six to a dozen of these tied to each other, so the loss is considerable. Two or three boats have lost their lines through fish carrying them away. There has been a lot of porpoises in the bay lately, and sharks also. This may, in a measure, account for it; they are very fond of fish.—WILLIAM HEARDER (B.S.A.S.).

Southend and Leigh.—March 23. Fishing here continues at a standstill. The weather is very cold, and for the first time for three years there has been a considerable snowfall. Some members of the B.S.A.S. have been trying their luck, Messrs. Parker, Handley, and Smelt amongst the number, but, I regret to hear, with poor results. I cannot recommend fishing here just now as the weather is Arctic, and there are no fish, even the trawlers have been doing little. Barometer 29.6in., with upward tendency. Wind N.E., variable. Sea smooth. Weather clear.—CHARLES HUSSEY (B.S.A.S.).

EASTER HOLIDAYS.—SPECIAL NOTICE.—In order that the *Fishing Gazette* may be published at one o'clock on Thursday, March 30, to ensure delivery in all parts on Good Friday morning, all river reports intended for insertion for next issue must arrive NOT LATER than four o'clock on Wednesday next, March 29.

Reports from Clubs

Anglers' Benevolent Society.—Since my last report I beg to acknowledge with thanks the receipt of £2 4s. 6d., Albion Brothers, and £2 2s. 9d., Royal George Angling Societies' donation boxes.—R. GURNEY.

Anglers' Association (No. 1 EASTERN DISTRICT) Visiting List.—The next return visit will be to the Brunswick Brothers A.S., Cherry Tree, Brunswick-road, Bromley-by-Bow, on Tuesday next, March 28. Anglers who will favour us with their company will oblige.—G. MANNING.

Anglers' Association (No. 2 EASTERN DISTRICT) Visiting List.—On March 21 the Edmonton and Tottenham Angling Society's A.B. box was opened by Mr. La Mond, and contained the sum of £5.—T. R. C. LA MOND.

Anglers' Association (No. 2 DISTRICT) Visiting List.—Will the North London let me know the date which they wish to have their return visit, as I wish all societies on my list to take a visit while the fence months

are before us? Will my friend Stretch kindly announce date in *Fishing Gazette*?—BEN ABRAHAM.

Anglers' Association (WESTERN DISTRICT) Visiting List.—The next return visit takes place on Monday next, 27th inst., at the Harcourt A.S., Harcourt Arms, Harcourt-street, Marylebone-road, near Metropolitan Railway, Edgware-road Station.—BEN ABRAHAM.

Acton Piscatorial Society, George and Dragon, Acton.—Last punt competition of the above took place at Twickenham (six punts engaged for same), with following result: Messrs. N. Chick, first; F. Blake, second; and A. G. Cole, third. Roach over 5in., dace over 7in. only weigh; club size. Mr. N. Chick and friend, fishing at Shepperton, with G. Rosewell, caught nine jack (largest fish, 8lb. 10oz.); also landed trout of 9lb., in very poor condition, which was carefully returned by puntsman to become wiser in future.—W. HOWELL.

Albion Brothers' Angling Society, Frampton Arms, Wells-street, Hackney.—On Monday, the 13th inst. we had our return visit, fourteen clubs being well represented, our clubhouse being filled to overcrowding. A most enjoyable evening was spent. Mr. Manning being asked to speak, said it was without a doubt one of the best attended visits it had been his pleasure to be present at. He could safely say he had never been present at a visit where so much care had been taken to make it a success. After a few words to the members and friends present re concert in aid of the restocking, he announced the amount in the Benevolent Box—£2 4s. 6d., which was received with loud applause. Our chairman, Mr. C. J. King, responded, thanking Mr. Manning and all clubs represented; passed a vote of thanks to the *artistes*, which was responded to by Mr. A. Carey, vice-chairman, after which the entertainment was kept up until closing time.—C. J. KING.

Allason United Brothers' Angling Society, Duke of Sussex, Uxbridge-street, Notting Hill Gate, W.—On March 22 was quarterly night at the above society, when the following officers were elected: Mr. E. Jackson, chairman; Mr. C. Turner, vice; Mr. A. Campion, check secretary; Messrs. Blades and E. Jackson, A.A. delegates; Messrs. Barker and Turner, auditors; G. Prouten, tyler. An important special general meeting takes place on April 5, when all are requested to be present. I must also draw the attention to absentees to Rule 23 and 25. Messrs. Jackson and Blades gave the A.A. delegate report of 20th, and was passed. Several of us were out on 26th, and the only one who saved us from a blank was—BEN ABRAHAM.

Amicable Waltonian Angling Society, The Fox and French Horn, Clerkenwell Green.—In my report last week, I gave notice that we were to have a smoking concert on behalf of the Anglers' Benevolent Society on April 17, but finding that Mr. Wade is to give a lantern lecture on that date, I have postponed it until May 1, when I trust to have the hearty support of brother anglers. In giving this long notice I trust brother secretaries will avoid clashing if possible.—G. MERRY.

Anchor and Hope Angling Society, Duke of Kent, Old Kent-road, S.E.—Several of our members were out on March 19, but had very poor sport. I beg to remind all members that next Wednesday being quarterly night I shall be glad to see them all on that evening, when we shall have to elect new committee, new chairman, and new secretary. Report sent in last week was reported one rudd, 11lb. 10oz., should be 11lb. 10oz.—F. W. MARTIN.

Bermondsey Brothers' Angling Society, Woolpack, Bermondsey-street, S.E.—Only one member weighed-in on the 19th, Mr. J. Hobbs, 20½lb. of roach; one fish, 11lb. 2oz. None of the five members who were eligible to fish for the four consolation prizes in the Lea succeeded in taking a fish, so the four prizes are still open for them to fish for on the 26th, under the same conditions as last week. Mr. W. Wade will give a lecture, accompanied by lantern views, on a fishing trip on the S.E.R., on Tuesday, April 18 (not Monday, the 17th, as announced last week), followed by a smoking concert in aid of the A.B.S. at this society, when the company of brother anglers and friends will be esteemed a favour.—ALF CONN.

Blackfriars Angling Society, The Imperial, Southwark-street, S.E.—Our members who attended meeting Wednesday evening have subscribed a prize outing for March 26, to take place from Rye House (roving) as a consolation prize for members not having taken a prize during season. Also there are two prizes for all members to fish for. Start 9 a.m. train. Our three leading prize winners for the season are Mr. Merrygold, Mr. G. Howard, and Mr. J. Wheelhouse. I shall thank members to settle up soon, so as to bring off supper and distribution at an early date.—J. WHEELHOUSE.

Bloomsbury Brothers' Angling Society, Rose and Crown, Broad-street, Bloomsbury.—On March 19 Mr. C. Davis weighed-in dace. Mr. J. Taylor has offered a special prize for the specimen roach from the Lea on March 26.—T. PATEROSTER.

Cambridge Heath Brothers' Angling Society, The Good Intent, Mowlem-street, Bishop's-road, Cambridge Heath.—On the 19th several of our members journeyed up the Lea as far as Hertford, but met with the first blank this season. On the 21st there was a fair attendance of members, when Mr. E. Luffingham was elected an honorary member. Our worthy host has given a timepiece to be fished for on March 26, River Lea only. Prize winners are eligible. Next Tuesday (28th) will be quarterly night.—P. E. LOFT.

Clapham Strollers' Angling Society, Alexandra Hotel, Clapham Common, S.W.—Our competition on March 5 proved very successful, Mr. Frank Monks taking first prize with a good show of jack, and W. Wallis running second with perch. Our final prize outing took place on March 12 for three prizes, Mr. Frank Monks again taking first prize with jack; Mr. B. Lowrence,

second, with fine roach and chub; J. Smith, third, with jack. A good attendance is requested next Tuesday to arrange for annual dinner.—S. VIOLET.

Clerkenwell and District United Visiting List.—A successful visit on the above was paid to the Prince of Wales's A.S. on Monday evening. Mr. Pevril in the chair, faced by Mr. Baxter. The following twelve societies being well represented, viz., Lincoln, Eustonians, North London, Royal George, Queen's Piscatorial, Prince of Wales', Dibden, Harcourt, Camden, Brompton, Cobden, and Golden Barbel. They had a room full of company and plenty of talent. The next visit will be to the Dibden, date later.—F. CASTLE.

Cobden Angling Society, Kensal-road, W.—On March 28 the financial year closes. I hope members will come up and clear the books, and also pay up for the concert tickets taken last October. All members not clear by April 4, will be fined as per Rule 43.—T. TWYMAN.

Collingwood Angling Society, The Lord Nelson, Nelson-square, Blackfriars-road, S.E.—Members are informed that the St. Alban's A.S. take a visit on the S.L.U.V. List on Monday next, March 27, at their clubhouse, the Rising Sun, Prince's-road, Kennington Cross. Members please attend and give them a bumper. Members mustner next Wednesday evening for important business.—W. H. STAFFORD.

Dalston Angling Society, Brownlow Arms, Brownlow-street, Dalston.—On March 19 several members competed for five prizes in the Lea at St. Margaret's. Messrs. J. Eagles, first; H. Poore, second; and W. Thompson, third. The two remaining prizes will be competed for on March 26, at St. Margaret's; same conditions. Members please note that next Tuesday will be quarterly night.—S. MALBY.

Dibdin Angling Society, St. Martin's Tavern, Pratt-street, N.W.—At Wednesday's meeting the date of visit was settled for Monday, April 10 (first Monday after Easter). Clubs will be duly notified by post. Delegates' report stands over until next week. The members then adjourned to Bostonian A.S., and spent one of those evenings for which that club is noted.—JOHNNY EDWARDS.

Eagle Angling Society, Red Lion, Tottenham.—On 13th inst. Mr. T. F. Barlow had a fine show of roach, twenty-eight fish scaling 14lb.; Mr. J. Dyer had 7lb. of roach and perch; and Mr. F. Reed, 4lb. of roach. On the 14th Mr. G. Baynter had a nice show of roach. On the 15th Mr. T. F. Barlow had 10lb. of jack.—W. S. PRICE.

Good Intent Angling Society, The Crown, Church-street, Shoreditch.—Several of our members were out on the 19th for the three lapsed prizes, but only one was taken, by Mr. J. Lloyd. The remaining two to be fished off on March 26, on same terms as last week, namely, roaming of the Lea, towing-path only.—R. MURPHY.

Grange Angling Society, The Earl of Derby, Grange-road, S.E.—The fortnightly meeting was held on Tuesday last, Mr. Chris Green occupying the chair. A lantern lecture on fishing in Norfolk and Suffolk, to be kindly given by Messrs. W. J. Wade and F. Lee, was fixed to take place on Tuesday, the 28th inst., at 8.30 p.m. Brother anglers and friends are specially invited. A collection will be made on behalf of the Thames Angling Preservation Society.—W. K.

Harcourt Angling Society, Harcourt Arms, Harcourt-street, Marylebone.—We had a poor show from the Lea on March 19, in fact, almost a blank. Our return visit takes place on Monday next, when our old friend Mr. T. Twyman will take the chair.—A. E. PAYNE.

Hoxton Brothers' Angling Society, Spread Eagle, Kingsland-road.—On March 19 Mr. J. Wiltshire saved us from a blank, with roach. On the occasion of our next Bohemian concert, on Tuesday, April 11, Mr. G. B. Shipton, host of Sturt Arms, New North-road, has kindly consented to occupy the chair; faced by Mr. E. Brockett, secretary Original Alexandra A.S., in the vice.—JOHNNY.

Islington Brothers' Angling Society, Myddleton Arms, Canonbury-road.—Several of our members were out on March 19, but returned with a blank. We met on Tuesday last, Mr. Howard in the chair, when the minutes were read and confirmed.—J. H. HERBERT.

Izaak Walton Angling Society, Old King John's Head, Mansfield-street, Kingsland-road.—There are two special prizes to be competed for on March 26, on the Lea, between the Rye House Bridge and Ware Park Mill. There are also two to be fished for on Wednesday next, 29th inst. Same conditions as on March 26.—H. B.

Liverpool Angling Association, Bee Hotel, Queen-square.—Our last competition for the season 1898 was not a pronounced success, as only a small number of members attended it. The day was remarkably fine, bright sunshine being in dazzling evidence all day. The water was very low and clear, so much so that thousands of fish could be seen on the gravel beds, evidently preparing for family duty. The first prize was not won, the limit of weight not being reached; but the second prize was won by Mr. Jefferies, and the third by Mr. Pierce. So far the trout taken from the Reservoir at Pen-y-Cae are backward in condition, as it is a later water, but by Easter they ought to show up much better. For the fine competition promoted by Capt. Ormrod, Wyresdale Fishery, which is fixed for 24th and 25th inst., the five prizes for which are live trout for stocking purposes, Mr. Hunt has been elected to represent this association. Capt. Ormrod clears the fifty competitors from all expenses of refreshment and lodging, and has arranged the programme very methodically. The trout given, which are principally rainbows, are of considerable commercial value, nearly £100, and the Captain has done the thing thoroughly and well.—RN. WOOLFALL.

Liverpool East End Angling Association, Court House Hotel, Commutation-row.—Now that the

ose season for coarse fish has arrived, the members are requested to do all in their power to protect them. The lawful season for fish being observed by this association, fish out of season will not be eligible for specimen and other prizes; new members note this. The above-named association having secured a place in the Wyresdale fishery competition, they have decided to send the chairman as their representative. Members are requested to attend the meeting on Monday next.—JAMES REYNOLDS.

Maldon and Heybridge Angling Society, White Lion Inn, Fullbridge, Maldon, Essex.—During the last week of the season few roach were taken, but pike anglers had had a fair share of sport. Several fish up to 5lb. were caught from Uting Hoe Mills, Sugar Bakers, Beeligh, and Langford waters. Messrs. S. Vince, S. Isaac, T. Springett, F. Keen, H. Cuthbee, A. Everitt, and several others were successful on the 11th and 12th inst. I beg to acknowledge the receipt of tackle given by Mr. C. Evans for the last monthly competition, and have much pleasure in thanking him on behalf of the winners for his kindness in giving the prize, which was much appreciated. I shall be pleased to hear from the subscribers to the Langford Fishery, if they will renew their subscription next season in the event of the waters being again rented? Please reply to F. Keen, 26, Spital-road, Maldon.—F. KEEN.

North-East Brothers' Angling Society, Star and Garter, Green-street.—On Wednesday, March 29, we hold a special meeting to arrange date for supper, when the secretary will read balance-sheet; and also prizes won by members during season.—A. LEWIS.

Original Alexandra Angling Society, The Lamb, Three Colts-lane, opposite Bethnal Green Junction.—Members please note that Tuesday next, March 28, will be quarterly night. Our distribution of prizes will take place on April 25.—E. BROCKETT.

Prince Albert Angling Society, Prince Albert Hotel, Woodfield-road, Harrow-road, W.—We hold a smoking concert, in aid of the funds of A.B.S., on Thursday, April 13. We have the promise of many good artists, and hope to make a grand success of it. We finished the season with a good show of fish. Mr. Stainford had a fine show of chub and roach, largest chub 3lb. 9oz.; Mr. Burrows, barbel; Mr. Fricker, perch and dace; Mr. Boverstocke, roach. Several others had fish, but didn't weigh-in. The tickets for the above concert will be ready on Thursday next.—W. B. F.

Queen's Piscatorials, Queen's Arms, 1A, Chapel-street, Edgware-road, N.W.—On March 12 the following weighed-in: Messrs. J. Reeve, C. Shepherd, W. Shepherd, G. Parker, T. Elcome, and J. Taylor; and prizes were won respectively by J. Reeve, W. Shepherd, C. Shepherd, and G. Parker. Special prize for the largest roach was taken by C. Shepherd, a fish of 1lb. 2oz., and the second special prize by W. Shepherd. Could a few members possibly attend on Tuesday next, to do a little business?—GEO. KEENE.

Royal George Angling Society, Queen's Arms, Bateman-street.—We were fairly represented at our last meeting, and got through what business there was to be done. Will members kindly make it convenient to attend next meeting night, as we have some very important business to be discussed, and should like to see all members in their places. Any member requiring Aquarium tickets can get them by turning up next meeting night.—J. GIBBONS.

St. Albans Angling Society, Rising Sun, Prince's-road, Kennington.—General meeting called for 29th inst. It is also quarterly night. All members must attend. South London visit next Monday, March 27, in which we trust to be well supported.—H. ALLAN.

Second Surrey Angling Society, the Sun, Boniface-street, Westminster Bridge-road.—We fish on the 26th, at Ware, for three prizes left over from the previous week.—W. ANSTED.

South London United Anglers' Visiting List.—The next visit on the above list will take place on Monday next at the St. Alban's A.S., Rising Sun, Prince's-road, Kennington Cross, when I should like to see a good muster.—ALF. PAINTER.

Stockwell Angling Society, Old Queen's Head, Stockwell-road, S.W.—The grand evening concert at Gresham Hall on March 20 was a huge success, as far as the entertainment was concerned, but beyond our own members anglers were conspicuous by their absence. I regret that the object in view, i.e., the aid to the A.B.S., will have to be postponed. This is my first attempt in the interests of this society, but I am not discouraged.—THOS. LUCAS.

Twickenham Piscatorial Society, Black Dog, London-road, Twickenham.—At the meeting on March 21, Mr. Garwood in the chair, some nicely framed etchings of the River Thames for the club-room were presented to the society by Messrs. Garwood and Brougham. The chairman announced that the hon. secretary had received a deputation from the Thames Conservancy as an honorary assistant river-keeper.—W. E. G.

Uxbridge Rovers' Angling Society, Queen's Head, Windsor-street, Uxbridge.—The annual dinner was held on March 15, at the clubhouse, when there was a good number of anglers present. A capital spread was supplied by host Harry Sanders; Mr. H. Payne, treasurer, in the chair, and Mr. G. Stacey vice-chair. The prizes were presented to the successful members, to the value of £8 7s. 6d. The chairman stated that the society was in a very prosperous condition, both numerically and financially, there being a fair balance in hand to carry forward to the forthcoming season after meeting all liabilities. The season of 1898-9 has been a record one. Seven specimen prizes were taken, together with four special prizes for gross weights. On one occasion 72lb. of roach and dace were landed by six rods, at Maidenhead; and on another occasion 18lb. 2oz. and

11lb. respectively were landed with two rods, the last take being on Monday, March 13, at the same place. The remainder of the evening was spent in harmony.—SECRETARY.

Waltham Green and Chelsea Angling Society, Black Bull, Fulham-road, S.W.—Our roving match on the 12th inst. was successfully contested, Mr. Price proving the victor. The weights were as follows: Messrs. Price, jack, 2lb. 9oz.; King, roach and perch, 2lb. 3oz.; Achong, roach, 2lb. 2oz.; Alder, dace, 1lb. 5oz.; Dungate, roach, 12oz.; Duffield, perch, 10oz. On March 15 Mr. Price received his prize. Our annual dinner will take place at the clubhouse some time in May.—W. H. BATCH.

West Ham Brothers' Angling Society, Coach and Horses, The Grove, Stratford.—It was decided at our meeting that the fish caught on Good Friday will be weighed-in in our club on the night.—R. LOWTHER.

West London Angling Club, Dartmouth Castle, Hammersmith.—A special meeting is called for Thursday, March 30, to arrange the annual dinner and other important business matters. Members having any arrears in their subscriptions are desired to clear the books on the above night to enable our auditors to balance the accounts for the past season.—J. J. HUNTER.

Westminster Angling Society, The Telegraph, Regency-street, S.W.—At the adjourned meeting, held on March 22, all officers were re-elected, Mr. Dickens being elected junior auditor.—S. H.

White Hart Angling Society, The White Hart, Tottenham Vale, N.—On March 22 our return visit on behalf of the A.B.S. took place, we being well supported by the following clubs: Enterprise, Eagle, Houndsfield Otters, and Forest Piscatorial. Pianist, A. F. Dubbins, R.A.M., L.C.O.; chairman, W. F. Butler; vice-chairman, W. Butler. The following artists supporting us: Messrs. Wilson Farrington, prestigator, Mr. Gus Robinson, H. Sawyer, Mr. Lefevre, A. Langton, J. Allen. During the interval £1 6s. was handed over to the visiting officer, Mr. L. A. Moud, as proceeds of the club box and collection during the evening. The health of the Queen, and success to the A.B.S. and White Hart Angling Society, closed the very enjoyable evening.—W. E. BEAUMONT.

Wolverhampton (North) Working Men's Club.—On March 11 the members of the fishing club journeyed to Penkridge in quest of a little sport with the rod. The party, numbering close upon thirty, left the High Level by the 2.30, arriving at the historic little village shortly before three. They then proceeded to the riverside, and were soon eagerly watching their floats, their patience being amply rewarded. Returning to the hotel at dusk, an excellent repast was served by Host Robson in his usual admirable manner, the tables being tastefully decorated. After doing full justice to the good things provided, Mr. J. Hill was voted to the chair. Mr. J. Mason officiating as vice. After various toasts had been proposed and responded to, the remainder of the evening was spent in conviviality and harmony, to which several members contributed by a display of their vocal abilities. During the evening a hearty vote of thanks was accorded to the host for the splendid way in which he had catered for the party, and his health was drunk with musical honours in his presence.

Angling Fixtures.

March 26.

Allason United: Consolation prize outing.
Amicable Excelsior: Match at Egham.
Amicable Waltonians: Lapsed prize outing.
Bermondsey Brothers: Consolation match.
Blackfriars: Consolation match at Rye House.
Bloomsbury Brothers: Prize outing.
Brunswick Brothers: Consolation outing.
Cambridge Brothers: Outing to the Lea.
Collingwood: Consolation prize outing.
Crown and Buckland: Lapsed prize outing.
Dalston: Lapsed prize outing.
Good Intent: Lapsed prize outing.
Izaak Walton: Prize outing.
Second Surrey: Lapsed prize outing.
Ye Olde Clapham Rovers: Lapsed prize outing.

March 27.

Harcourt: Visit.
St. Alban's: Visit.
Stepney: A.B.S. concert.

March 28.

Brunswick Brothers: Visit.
Grange: Lantern lecture.

March 29.

Izaak Walton: Prize outing.

March 31.

Good Friday.

April 1.

Thames trouting commences.

April 3.

3.—Easter Monday.
8.—Gresham: Chesham dinner.
11.—Hoxton Brothers: Bohemian concert.
11.—Seymour Brothers: Annual smoking concert.
11.—Wimbledon Piscatorials: Annual dinner.
12.—British Sea Anglers: Annual dinner.
12.—St. John's: Annual supper.
13.—Prince Albert: A.B.S. concert.
18.—Bermondsey Brothers: Lantern lecture by Mr. W. J. Wade (secretary of the Central Association).
25.—Drayton Park Piscatorials: Annual dinner.
25.—Gresham: Annual dinner.
25.—Original Alexandra: Distribution.

Doings by the Way.

Will correspondents kindly note, that, in order to ensure delivery in all parts, on Good Friday morning copy must arrive, addressed "Editor, St. Dunstan's House," NOT LATER than four o'clock on Wednesday, March 29. The *Fishing Gazette* will be published at one o'clock on Thursday next, March 30.

ON April 25, 1896, under the title of "Anglers of the Day," a portrait appeared of that well-known and highly respected all-round angler, Mr. J. W. Clifford. It is with great regret that I have to announce his death, on March 18, in his sixty-third year. His remains will be interred at Waterbeach, where he had been staying for some months, in order to recover his health.

"I HAVE always thought," says "Halcyon," in *Weekly Supplement* to the *Leeds Mercury*, "that sooner or later, the question of salmon roe would come to the front, and the following is only the first of a series of cases that will shortly come before the courts: At the Auckland Petty Sessions, held March 13, a man, residing at Bishop Auckland, was charged with having in his possession 19lb. of salmon roe. Mr. J. T. Proud prosecuted on behalf of the police, and Mr. T. Dowling appeared for the defence. Mr. Proud said that it was the first prosecution of the kind that had appeared in that court. The proceedings were brought under the Fisheries Act of 1861, the fourth section of which described what was salmon roe, which included bull trout. The act also gave power to issue a search warrant, and in this instance one was obtained. Sergeant Barlow said that he and Inspector Cowen went to the house of the defendant, who, after some parley, admitted the offence, and produced nine 1lb. jars and five 2lb. jars, which were exhibited in court. There was a certain element of humour about the case, for the defendant told the police officers to keep the roe in a damp place, as he should want it back again, and was evidently anxious that its welfare was properly provided for.

"IN the Durham district the local name for salmon roe is 'candy,' in the Hawes district 'Wensleydale cheese,' and I have even heard of it being called 'paste.' Mr. Dowling's defence was most certainly ingenious, but failed; he said that the roe was not for fishing purposes, but to be eaten on bread and butter. Five shillings per pound was the price asked for the roe to a man who wrote for a supply from Middlesbrough, so, to my mind, for edible purposes it would come in rather expensive, especially to a working man. Dripping possibly would come in cheaper, and most certainly be more palatable. The result of the case was £5, or a month, and the 19lb. of roe to be forfeited.

"ANOTHER case was heard against a Bishop Auckland man, who had 4lb. of salmon roe in his possession. In this instance Inspector Cowen went to his house, but the defendant, with a childlike smile, like unto that of the Heathen Chinee, denied all knowledge of such a thing. Now, whether his loving and affectionate spouse had got an attack of influenza, or whether her lord and master was in her black books, or what, history deponent not, but the fact remains that the lady rounded on him and produced a 4lb. jar from the pantry. Upon seeing that practically the game was up, the gentleman grew defiant, and said that he could get plenty more, upon which statement the bench smiled benignly, consulted together, and fined the defendant £2 and forfeiture of the 'stuff.'

THE proposal at present mooted to do away with the Frank Buckland collection at South Kensington, says *Truth*, which illustrates various interesting principles of fish breeding, is rather too sweeping. What is required is a transfer of the collection to the adjoining Natural History Museum. It is at present very anomalously placed in the Engineering section, where naturalists are not likely to look for it; and the engineers in charge of the section, though they may be excellent men in their own line, can hardly be expected to have much acquaintance with matters piscatorial.

ACCORDING to the *Daily Mail* the Zoological Gardens will be pleased to receive live British specimens of the pole cat and pine marten, now almost extinct. Mr. Claud Alexander has kindly presented the society with a genuine wild cat (*Felis Catus*), caught in a trap at Invergarry, Inverness-shire. It is with great regret that the public will learn that this noble animal is fast becoming extinct, and only a very few specimens are to be found in three counties of Scotland, where once they were freely distributed. Thanks to the "sportsmen" (?), gamekeepers, and taxidermists of the present day, these will all soon be no more found. The society have a beautiful pair of Irish otter, which differ from the English otter in colour, size, and shape of tail, and the small amount of damage done by otters in a salmon or trout stream does not justify their wholesale slaughter. The Duke of Richmond and Gordon has lately presented a common seal, and a badger has been procured from Worcester-shire. Now is the time to obtain a complete collection of the fast disappearing species of Britain's most ancient quadrupeds.

Just a reminder that the grand champion concert at the "Champion" will take place in aid of printers' charities on Saturday evening, March 25. Doors open 6.30. Commence at 7 sharp. Those who want a seat must come early. A splendid programme has been prepared.

DAISY has evidently been reading that "par" re the "atmospheric strata" from the Twickenhamites last week, for I found the following pinned to my coat-tail last night:

"Fine days!" my dear "Jack," of Twickenham,
You cannot expect to go pickin' 'em;
I'd give it you "strata," but have no more "papa,"
And supper's just ready—it's chicken-ham."

[N.B.—I'm going to buy Daisy a Walker's Rhymer.]

As Messrs. John Ray and M. O'Carroll, of Madeley, were pike-fishing in the Severn, at Atcham Bridge, near Shrewsbury, on the 17th inst., they captured a beautiful fish, weighing 18lb., and 3ft. 3in. in length. Both fishermen were using live-bait—gudgeon—and as the fish would not take this bait—although it followed it to the surface of the water—a live roach was put on. After a couple of minutes this was successful, and the pike gave very good sport for close on twenty minutes, dying game. The fish was only hooked on the lip. It is being preserved.

THE Westminster Aquarium attractions will have a sensational addition on Tuesday, when Dr. Walford Bodie, described as "The greatest scientist on Earth," is to commence proceedings by "Electrocuting" a subject. I understand the result will not be the same as an American "Electrocution," as the subject will be utilised for future appearances.

WE hail thee, we hail thee.
Glad Springtime, we hail thee!
Azure violets blowing,
Limpid waters flowing,
Songs of love and glees
Ringing merrily;
All earth and air resound,
And join the joyful sound,
She comes—the glorious spring!

Let us hope the bnlk is not equal to the present sample!

I HEAR our Eton correspondent, Cecil Howlett, has again been returned unopposed as the Rural District Councillor and Guardian for the classic town.

MR. GEORGE SMITH, with whom I have often fished, writes: "Dear Drag,—Looking round the Aquarium, on Saturday evening last, for the cases of stuffed fish, I was very much impressed with the beauty of several cases of plaster casts, beautifully painted in oils, taken and executed from life, by a working man angler, an amateur, and result of his first attempt. The prodigious patience, persistent perseverance, and priceless skill, brought to bear on such exquisite works of art, deserve recognition, and are beyond all praise. My fishing experiences have been few and far between, this winter; but I had my usual Boxing Day's fishing with Lumsden, of Datchet. After live-baiting for jack for some time with varied results, hooked a pike well in his teens, which rushed upstream under the punt. Keeping a tight line on him, turned him, and brought him up to the net, when suddenly he left go the bait, which came back, scored well behind the hooks. Afterwards tried the paternoster with minnows for perch; got amongst them; and, having fished a length of camp-sheathing, resolved to go back and try it again, the puntman easing down with hands on the bank. Suddenly, a great gale of wind arose, and he crying aloud 'Look out!' I turned round, the punt's nose struck a post of the bank, and landed me on the top. I clinging with both hands and arms, the punt rebounded, leaving me with my legs in the water. I calmly hung there until the punt returned and rescued me from my perilous position. Finding there was no early train back, and emptying my boots of water, I wrung out my socks, replaced them, and went on paternostering. Caught two perch, 1½lb. each, and four jack after; these being small, were duly returned to grow larger."

Oh, the joys of winter angling!
They are keen, and rich, and rare;
Especially when you're dangling
On camp-sheathing, in mid-air,
And the punt has missed its mooring,
And your legs in icy stream,
And the wind and torrent roaring
Surpass a poet's dream!
Do you doubt this simple story?
Or think he slings the hatchet?
Go! share the joy and glory—
Fish on Boxing Day at Datchet.

A FISHING TACKLE TRADES' DINNER will be held at the Holborn Restaurant, on Thursday, March 30, at 7.30 p.m. Chairman, Mr. A. Carter. Vice-chairman, Mr. A. Meyer. Morning Dress. Mr. Mike Enright and Mr. Frank Clay have arranged a musical treat. Visitors who would like to be present at what promises to be a most enjoyable function may obtain tickets or any further information, of Mr. Frank Clay, 137, St. John-street-road, E.C. Invitations have been sent to all the principal trade houses.

THE mail steamer *Norham Castle*, having on board Messrs. Williams and Fip Pulham, of the Lychnobite Angling Society, arrived safely at Capetown on March 22.

MR. W. WADSWORTH, water bailiff at Offord D'Arey, Hunts, says that during the close of the season some good pike have been taken. Mr. Vessey eight, one of 8lb., and Mr. Beecham, one of 15lb. Application should be made to Mr. Wadsworth for particulars as to joining the Offord and Buckden Fishery Association.

"THE time has arrived," says the *World*, "when the thoughts of the keen salmon fisher incline to the glancing streams and sullen pools where dwell the silvery objects of his ambition. As, in pensive mood, he watches the blue smoke of his after-dinner cigar curling and wreathing aloft, he wonders if the river is in order, fears that the apates will have injured the pools and changed the 'lies' of the salmon, and hopes that a goodly number of cleau fish have found opportunity to ascend. His eye lights on a bundle of rods in the corner, on an array of tin cases ranged on the shelf above. He remembers to have found that eighteen-foot greenheart a trifle heavy last season, and, recalling the ease with which he wielded it a few years ago, he conjures up a bit of Latin—'Ehen, fugaces!'—to express his sentiments on the march of time. One of the tin boxes comes in for a share of his attention. Flies of many colours, patterns, and sizes, casting lines, traces, phantom minnows, are there bestowed in numbers suited rather for a tackle-shop than a private collection. How shall a man choose from such abundance, and how, having chosen, can he be sure of the soundness of the tackle?"

"UNUSED, brilliant of hue as when it left the tier's hands, that Jock Scott may yet be unsafe. With the lapse of years—and its owner cannot place the date of its purchase—the whipping may have dried on the shank of the hook, and the pull of a ½lb. trout may suffice to withdraw it from the accompanying gut. There is danger in the multitude of flies, in an accumulation of miscellaneous tackle, and a day or two is well employed at this season in discarding everything that is doubtful. Reel lines, also, should be subjected to careful scrutiny, for in these machine-made days it is hard to resist the temptation of a low price when combined with a good appearance. In no sport is economy less advisable than in salmon fishing. How miserable are the reflections of the too-careful angler when that 40-pounder—atmost goal of his desires—departs with fly, casting line, and half a dozen yards of the cheap reel line be considered such a bargain at the time of purchase! Sadly he contemplates the point of fracture, and his opinion of the man who sold him the line is expressed in language which cannot be reproduced. Tackle makers there are, in plenty, who can be trusted to sell first-rate articles at fair prices. With such, only, will the experienced salmon fisher deal."

T. S. H. (Llanymynech) sends the following:
PRO BONO PISCES.

If you're ever in doubt, whilst fishing for trout,
Regarding the most deadly tackle,
If the water is thick, with the stream running quick,
Try a lobworm—without any hackle
Should the water be clear, go ahead without fear,
Your basket to fill without failing,
For as sure as a gun, with the Red Tag or Dun,
You'll get a few trout—if not grayling!
When the water is low and you find it "no go"
With the fly or the worm threaded artful,
With a wee bit of lead, spin the minnow instead,
You may catch 'em on this by the cartful
When the winds in the east, you then have the least
Chance of creeling the fish that you follow
When it's in the sou'-west, then the spoon "does the
rest,"
And beats all the other baits hollow.
And now comes the rub, when the fly and the grub
Are lures after no fish will linger;
You then try the paste, which may be more to their
taste,
And land 'em—the length of your finger!
And here, sad to relate, such is my hard fate,
When fishing the Tanat or Vyrnwy,
The wind's either wrong, or the whisky's too strong,
Which accounts for an oft fishless journey!
But little I care, I enjoy the fresh air,
The sight of the stars—say Orion,
The fishermen's tales, the stunning Welsh ales,
And the "wines from the wood" at the "Lion."

YOUR Englishman is a curious animal; never given to gush, and extremely chary with whom he makes friends, and then laconic to a degree in his speech, as witness the following, overheard on board a Cunarder in mid-Atlantic: First Englishman (making himself known to a fellow passenger): "Going across?" Second ditto: "Yaas, are you?"

TALKING about Transatlantic travelling reminds me of another yarn. Two American bagmen, and extra voluble at that, told an English gentleman their names, where they lived, where they had been, and all their business. The Briton listened, but said nothing in reply, notwithstanding the fishing inquiries of his interlocutors. At last one of them said straight out, "Wal, stranger, and what might your name be?" "Sir," replied the Englishman, "it might be Beelzebub, but it isn't."

"It may seem a paradox," says the *Western Mercury*, "to assert that people living in towns have the advantage of their country friends in studying nature, but in one respect, at least, they have. Mr. W. H. Hudson has demonstrated by his book on birds in London that quite an intimate acquaintance can be made in the Metropolis with many species that are haughty and distant in the country. It is an illustration of the old fact of adversity humbling, in this case, the perky from their seats in the

trees. The writer of the article has observed wood-pigeons freely eating from the band of a man in Rotten-row who had never shown them any kindness before, the truth being that it was his first experiment in this kind of charity. Then again, it is possible in St. James's Park, on occasions, to watch the grebe diving with its young, and so initiating them into the mysteries of angling.

"These performances, which surpass any comedy on the stage, would not be given in the presence of spectators had not the birds become accustomed to the stir and babble of human life. The starling succeeds in rearing, even in the worst seasons, a family in the parkless districts of London. Mr. Hudson relates an account of the way in which these very coy visitors became quite confidential and chatty when they were fed on the window-ledge of a London top-floor. The struggle, in these cases, of the feathered tribes to accommodate themselves to its uncivilized expanse, as it seems to them, with its crowd of strange and uncanny savages, is amusing and instructive. The Metropolis is for them what the backwoods of Canada are to the European. The birds, however, soon get to distinguish; and they rarely make mistakes in their judgments of character."

THIS comes from Ireland. A mighty salmon angler was staying at Ballysloughguttery, or some other place with an equally unpronounceable name, in Connaught, for the pursuit of his favourite sport. "Larry," said he, to the hotel waiter, "bring up my brogues, please." "Yes, sorr," was Larry's reply; and he returned with a heavily nailed brogue in one hand and a patent leather shoe in the other. "What do you mean, you fool?" angrily demanded the fisherman; "can't you see that is not a pair?" "Well, sorr," replied Larry, apologetically, "it's a most extraordinary thing, but there is another pair just like them downstairs!"

ACCORDING to the Paris correspondent of the *Daily Mail*, M. Jean Charles, a sausage merchant of the Rue Notre Dame de Lorette, has for some time past noticed that his sausages, which he manufactures himself, in the courtyard behind his shop, disappear in large quantities. He has dismissed several of his employees from time to time, suspecting them of the theft, but it made no difference, the sausages continued to disappear; and he could not blame the passers-by, for they disappeared from the courtyard before ever they entered the shop. Yesterday afternoon M. Charles stood in his courtyard, looking at a heap of sausages and wistfully wondering how he was to catch the thief, when, to his amazement, he saw the top sausage of the heap rise slowly into the air and vanish from sight. M. Charles rubbed his eyes in amazement. He knew that his sausages were made of fresh meat, and yet—Presently he smiled, laid one finger against his nose and disappeared in search of a *sergent de ville*. And ten minutes later Monsieur Jules Dubois, whose apartment upon the third floor looks out upon the courtyard, was carried off to pay a visit to the neighbouring police commissariat, where he was charged with—possibly—fishing without a licence.

If any aits (eyots) have disappeared lately from the Thames, this is the reason: Kate Tate at a tête-à-tête at 8.8, ate 8 aits.

"Not care for shooting, man? What's life without it? All nature shoots. Say, what's the earliest thing Boys learn at school? Why, shooting in the ring. The seed you sow must shoot before it grows; We feel the very corns shoot on our toes. We shoot our bolts, our game, our foes, what not? We're told where even rubbish may be shot. The stars shoot in the sky—nay, I've heard say, Folks sometimes 'shoot the moon' on quarter day; And voyagers upon the stormy seas Off 'shoot the cat,' their qualms to ease."

PAPA: "Tommy you should have got those breeches four inches longer. In two months they won't fit you." TOMMY: "But if I got them four inches longer they wouldn't fit me now. And isn't now the best time for them to fit?"

AN old salmon fisher, whose piscatorial aspirations extended even beyond the grave, made a speech at an anglers' dinner, and said: "When I die, should I go to heaven, I will fish in the 'Water of Life' with an artificial fly 'dressed' with a feather from the wing of an angel; but should I be unfortunately consigned to another place, I shall, nevertheless, hope to angle in the river 'Styx' with 'the worm that never dies.'"

"You say you have the fishing right of this water?" "Yes." "Well, you're welcome to the water, too; for there's no fishing left."

TO-DAY, March 25 (go d old quarter day!), the race for the ribbon will be rowed on F's her Thames. I am asked to "please give me your opinion as to which crew should win?" The best, certainly. I remember when both won. The result came out like this, "Cambridge won; Oxford too." That was a dead heat. I always have a pair of gloves on this classic race with Mrs. "Drag." She's "gone" on Cambridge; but if the Oxford crew are all as good as "Gold" then there's (?) a pair of gloves for DRAGONET.

Eighth Annual Fisheries Exhibition.

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Sizes.	Prices.	Sizes.	Prices.
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2¾in.	17s. 6d.	4½in.	32s. 0d.
3in.	21s. 0d.	5in.	35s. 0d.
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The Fly-Fishers' Winch (registered). This reel is made in two sizes; can be had with click or silent check. It has two special recommendations—extreme lightness and quick winding.

Also a large collection of the following patterns: Ordinary Wood Sea Reels, The Future Sea Reels, Slater's Combination in Wood and Ebonite, The "Zephyr," the lightest Nottingham, Gun-metal Salmon and Trout, Bronzed Salmon and Trout, &c., &c.

We have a few old patterns Combination Wood Reels, also Ebonite Salmon and Trout, which will be sold regardless of the cost of manufacture during this Exhibition.

Mr. David Slater will be in attendance at the Royal Aquarium during the Fisheries Exhibition, which closes on April 5.

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JACK RODS.—Brazen upright rings, winch fittings, 3s. 9d.; Hickory do., 2 tops, 5s. 6d. to 0s. 6d.; Hickory or Mottled Cane, 15ft., bronze or German silver fittings, solid rings, division bag and spear, will make Jack Rod, 10ft. 6in., 12s. 6d.; do., double brazed, 14s. 6d. to 21s. 6d.

REELS.—Nottingham Wood, polished, 3½in., 1s. 9d.; 4in., 2s. 6d.; movable check, 3½in., 4s.; 4in., 5s.; bronze revolving plate, check reels, 3in., 6s. 6d.; 4in., 9s. 6d.; hemp, ¼d. per yard. Plaited Flax Lines, 20 yards, 7d.; Tanned, 8d.; 60 yards, 2s. Cable Laid Cord, 50 yards, 7d.

TRACES, Gut or Gimp.—Two swivels and lead, 5d.; Twisted Gut do., from 7d.

SNAPS, &c.—Ryder's, 2d.; Pennell's, 2½d.; Jardine's, 3d.; Double Live Bait Hooks, 1½d. each; 1s. 3d. per dozen.

BAITS.—Spoon, from 6d. each, very best quality; Silver Plaited, from 1s.; Devons, Totnes, and Minnows, from 6d. each. GUT LINES, from 1d. per yard; Best, 3 yards, 6d.; "Fishing Gazette" Gossamer, 8d. Flies dressed to any pattern.

Postage Extra on all Orders. All Orders must be accompanied by a remittance.

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(Corner of Nine Elms Lane.)

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Branch: 19, LEICESTER SQUARE, LONDON. CATALOGUES GRATIS.

GRESHAM ANGLING SOCIETY.

At the society's ordinary meeting, on Tuesday last, Mr. Fourmy, of Chesham, occupied the chair. The members had very little to report as to recent fishing, but Mr. Fourmy captured a very handsome pike of 15½ lb. from private water, besides many others; and a friend who accompanied him caught several pike, largest 10½ lb. The annual dinner will take place at the Mason's Hall Tavern, Coleman-street, E.C., on April 25 next, when Mr. C. H. Cook ("John Bickerdyke") will occupy the chair. Members are requested to make early application for tickets.

ALEX. WRIGHT (Hon. Sec.).

BRITISH SEA ANGLERS' SOCIETY.

THE usual weekly meeting was held at the Cannon-street Hotel on Wednesday, March 22, at 8 p.m., Mr. H. Edwards in the chair. Mr. Parker recorded some boisterous weather at Southend, accompanied by hut poor sport. An interesting discussion took place on depletion of the sea by steam trawling, and Mr. Little, our Southend agent, spoke on the subject. The question of long, large-barrelled and multiplying winches was discussed, Messrs. Bates, Gardner, Norman, Parker, and Graham taking part. Members were reminded that the annual dinner will take place on April 12. The usual vote of thanks to the chair closed the meeting.

CHARLES S. PATTERSON, Hon. Sec.

CENTRAL ASSOCIATION OF LONDON ANGLING CLUBS.

THE annual smoking concert, held at the Bedford Head Hotel, Maiden-lane, Covent Garden, on Monday evening last, was in every way an unqualified success, and, notwithstanding the recent structural alterations and enlargement of the concert hall, there were many visitors unable to find standing room. This is not a matter of surprise when it is considered the committee always submit a good programme. The many talented artists who gave their services on this occasion certainly deserved the unstinted praise given by an appreciative audience. Mr. Walter Emden, J.P., L.C.C., presided in his usual cheery and genial way, being supported by the president (Mr. Medcalf), vice-president (Mr. W. H. Elsmore), Mr. T. Crumple, nearly the whole of the committee, and a host of well-known people. The programme was contributed to by the following gentlemen: Messrs. Walter Hunt, C. Winter, J. Game, J. Taylor, Will Musgrave, F. and W. Menage, Tom Tiner, A. Evans, J. Batten, S. Worland, Dan Dent; and Mr. Cyril Lester's performance on the mandoline was exceptionally clever. Mr. A. H. Brooker efficiently acted as accompanist throughout the evening. During an interval Mr. Medcalf submitted the toast of "The Chairman," remarking the association greatly appreciated the honour conferred by his attendance, and anglers were greatly indebted to him for his kindness and influence as a member of the L.C.C. and in many other directions, the toast was received with great enthusiasm and accorded musical honours. Mr. Emden, in reply, thanked the members for their kind reception, stating he was exceedingly fond of all sports, encouraging them whenever possible, and would gladly assist angling interests on the council at any time, congratulating the association on its success, also for the generous assistance it had given to the Charing-cross Hospital and restocking the Thames; to the surprise of the company, he then produced a very handsome twenty-guinea silver cup, which he wished the president to accept, and suggested that it might be the means of rendering some assistance to the Queen's Jubilee Nurses Fund, an institution which had proved of immense service to the London poor by going into their homes, nursing the sick, and generally ministering to their wants in time of illness. Mr. Elsmore also stated he should be pleased to give a second cup value of £5 for same objects. Mr. Fordree promised a picture of the pegged-down match. Mr. W. Parkins, an old member of the committee, was presented with a silver mounted malacca walking stick with ivory handle, which had been subscribed for by members of the committee as a token of their regard and esteem. A very hearty vote of thanks was accorded the chairman, artists, and pianist for their kind services. The meeting concluded with the National Anthem.

RIVER DOVE ANGLING CLUB (KIRBY-MOORSIDE, YORKS.).

At the annual meeting held the other day, the president, J. Reginald Shaw, Welburn Hall, and the committee were present. There was found to be a small balance after paying all expenses, and arrangements were made for improving the numerous beats, extending over several miles, and making them more accessible. The Yorkshire Fishery Board have already granted 500 yearling trout, which are to be added on the 23rd of the present month, and will be turned down on the upper and middle beat of the Dove, where there are plenty of gravel streams for protection. Seeing that fish cannot proceed further north, owing to the running underground of both rivers (Dove and Hodge), before appearing again at the commencement of our club waters, their retention in the same is a natural consequence. This applies also to the fresh run trout, coming up stream from the Rye (in the next farm). Howkeld Beck (a spring containing the volume of water from the Hodge), about two miles in length, is within a mile of the town, and enters the Dove some two miles below the town. This is a clear fishing stream similar to the Costa, but with less volume of water, and strangers should note the fact that good fishing can be had here when the surrounding waters are in flood. Trout have had this heat little disturbed on account of the numerous bushes; but the committee have commenced to

judiciously thin out places for fishing here and there. Dry fly fishers should have good sport during the season, as trout have become numerous, and run up to 1 lb. each. The two lower beats (containing the whole of the volumes from Hodge and Dove), become a different class of fishing, much deeper, with large pools here and there, and quite free from hushes. There is a direct highway from the railway station which cuts off a considerable distance, and arrangements are made to run parties down at a nominal charge of 1s. a trap load, or return for them if preferred. Strangers unable to obtain fishing in the Rye can here have similar fishing by day ticket any time during the season, as well as access to all our club fishings, on payment of 2s. 6d. per day, 7s. 6d. per week, or 20s. per season, without entrance. There is no lack of accommodation in and near the town of Kirbymoorside, and charges are most moderate. To those who are not so particular as to size of fish, or specially preserved club waters, the Duncombs Park Estate Office ticket, at 1s. per week (or less by month or season), gives a ramble amongst lovely scenery extending north of the town for twelve miles or more, with purely trout fishing. The committee have taken into consideration the exceptional length of fishing and the numerous heats, and are still disposed to issue a few more season tickets, without entrance for the present season.

J. C. FRANK.

THE WIND-UP.

MARCH 14 was not an ideal day from an angler's point of view. Nevertheless, meteorologically speaking, there have, during the season now ended, been many worse days, and, as anglers are, or ought to be, a hardy race, a little fog and a good deal of cold do not count for much. But it is an incontrovertible fact that the man, or woman, who goes fishing desires above all things to catch fish, and if matters in this particular respect on the old river generally were at all akin to the state of affairs which existed at Twickenham on the 14th inst., the wind-up of the 1898-99 season will not be entered in many diaries as a red letter day. Just why the fish were not in evidence nobody on the spot seemed to know. When our little party, consisting of a lady and two mere males—all novices, one male very much so—turned out, it was distinctly foggy, but in other respects not very unpleasant, the sun giving good promise of shining later, a promise, by the way, it failed to fulfil. A move was made for the deeps off Pope's Villa, where, when we arrived, at least six punts were already moored. We took up our position to the rear of the crowd, and from this point of vantage it was amusing to see the abortive efforts of those in front of us to kill anything, the burly Spong, of Two Sawyers celebrity, especially being like a pea in a frying-pan, shifting from one place to another and yet another in his vain efforts to hit upon a likely spot for his two clients. Personally, we went off with a bang, our lady angler hooking three small bream in about five minutes. At any rate, no more fish came to hand during the ensuing two hours, and the arrival of an immense steak and the et ceteras—hot *à la carte* meals are a feature of Twickenham fishing—constituted a welcome break to a very monotonous time. That steak was good, but we did not allow it to drive our thoughts from the real object of our outing, and so soon as it was disposed of moved down to the front of the fleet, which had increased to nine. Here the lady once again distinguished herself, by immediately hooking a dace, but nothing more occurring in the course of one hour, and the jocular remarks of those at the back of us convincing us that others were faring very ill, we cleared off down stream to a swim almost at the end of the island, passing, en route, the genial Jack Spong, with one of his enthusiastic clients fast asleep! Ye gods! and this on the last day. Fishing in about 4 ft. of water with the bottom clearly exposed to view, we at length managed to capture a few dace and roach, but they were all on the small side, and the majority went back to grow. In this shallow water our novice created some diversion by frequently landing his tackle right into the punt, greatly to the danger of the faces and clothes of the rest of the party. Poor fellow, it was his first day's fishing, and in all probability will be his last. Not one solitary fish came to his rod after six hours hard work. Certainly the others of the party had not much to boast of. We sallied out, armed with two fish baskets, and the catch altogether only weighed about 2 lb., nearly all the fish falling to the lady's prowess. To add to the chagrin we felt at our want of success, on landing we met a friend who had ridden over on his surplus stock. When subsequently we foregathered at the Two Sawyers with other brave spirits, we had at least the satisfaction of learning that if we had done badly others had done still worse. We could not, therefore, lay the blame for a blank day on our professional helper—Draper. As a matter of fact, "Jack" is all right, but the weather, or the water, or something or other, was all wrong. I am now looking forward with great interest to the next issue of the *Fishing Gazette*, to see if some learned contributor is hold enough to tell us the actual cause of such a shockingly bad wind-up.

FRED BUCKLE.

EASTER HOLIDAY ARRANGEMENTS, 1899.

THE GREAT EASTERN RAILWAY

Announce that in addition to the tourist, fortnightly, and Thursday, Friday, or Saturday to Tuesday tickets to the east coast and the Norfolk Broads district (Yarmouth, Lowestoft, Cromer, Mundesley, Southend-on-Sea, Clacton, Walton-on-Naze, Dovercourt, Harwich, Felixstowe, Aldeburgh, Southwold, Hunstanton, &c.), which are issued from Liverpool-street and their other London and suburban stations. They will on Thursday, 30th March, issue special cheap excursion tickets from London (Liver-

pool-street and suburban stations) to most of the above stations; also to Norwich, Cambridge, Wisbech, Lynn, Fakenham, and the other principal stations in the eastern counties, and by the cathedral route to Lincoln, Doncaster, York, Leeds, Manchester, Scarborough, Darlington, Newcastle, Berwick, Edinboro', Glasgow, &c., and to Chesterfield and Edwinstowe (for the Dukeries). Cheap week-end tickets will also be issued on Saturday, 1st April, to most of the G.E. country stations. Tickets (both ordinary and excursion, &c.), can be obtained in advance at Liverpool-street station, and at the company's West-end offices, 2, Cockspur-street, Trafalgar-square; 51, New Oxford-street; 215, Edgware-road; and 120, Brompton-road, and at their other City and West-end booking offices. In addition to relieving trains, special trains will be run from Liverpool-street on Thursday, at 8.30 a.m., 1.35, 4.5, and 7.12 p.m., to Ipswich, Yarmouth, Lowestoft, &c.; at 1.30 p.m., to Ipswich, Norwich, Cromer, &c.; at 1.30 and 4.5 p.m., to Walton-on-Naze; and at 1.30, 4.5 p.m., and 12.3 night (snapper train), to Colchester and Clacton-on-Sea. On Good Friday, at 5.10 a.m., to Colchester, Ipswich, &c.; and at 8.55 a.m., to Ipswich, Yarmouth, Lowestoft, &c. For the accommodation of persons detained at business until late in the evening of Saturday, special midnight trains will leave Liverpool-street at 12.0 for Norwich, via Cambridge, and at 12.30 for Yarmouth and Lowestoft, via Ipswich, calling at the principal intermediate stations. The 12.3 supper car express to Colchester and Clacton will run as usual. On Easter Monday special excursion trains will run from St. Pancras to Cambridge, Ely, and Yarmouth, and from Liverpool-street to Southend-on-Sea, Clacton-on-Sea, Walton-on-Naze, Cambridge, and Ely. Excursion tickets will be issued to Epping Forest, Broxbourne, and Rye House. A special service of trains will be run from Liverpool-street, Fenchurch-street, and Gospel Oak to Epping Forest, and from Liverpool-street to Rye House.

SOUTH EASTERN AND CHATHAM AND DOVER RAILWAYS.

The above companies announce cheap day excursions on Good Friday and Easter Monday from London to Tunbridge Wells, Hastings, Ashford, Canterbury, Whitstable, Herne Bay, Deal, Walmer, Ramsgate, Margate, Broadstairs, Hythe, Sandgate, Folkestone, Dover, Aldershot, Gravesend, Rochester, Chatham, Sheerness, &c. On Easter Monday frequent special and ordinary trains will run to and from Holborn, Victoria, Ludgate-hill, St. Paul's, and intermediate stations and the Crystal Palace (High Level Station). Return fare, 1s. 6d., third class, including admission. Special trains will be run to Hayes, Blackheath, Greenwich, Gravesend (for Rosherville Gardens), &c. The usual extension of time for certain return tickets during the holidays will be allowed. A cheap Friday to Wednesday excursion leaves Charing Cross and Cannon-street at 2.45 p.m. for Boulogne, and 9.0 p.m. for Calais, on Thursday, March 30, and from Charing Cross, Victoria, Cannon-street, and Holborn at 9.0 a.m. for Calais, on Friday, March 31. A cheap Saturday to Monday excursion leaves Charing Cross, Victoria, Cannon-street, and Holborn, at 9.0 a.m. on Saturday, April 1, for Calais, and Charing Cross and Cannon-street, at 2.45 p.m., for Boulogne, available to return up to the 7.50 p.m. Cheap tickets to Paris will be issued, leaving Charing Cross, Victoria, Holborn, and Cannon-street via Calais and Boulogne. Tickets available for fourteen days. Cheap tickets to Brussels, via Calais or Boulogne, will be issued from March 29 to April 3 from Charing Cross, Victoria, Cannon-street, and Holborn. Tickets are available for eight days. Tickets will also be issued to Brussels, via Ostend, March 29 to April 3, from Charing Cross, Victoria, Cannon-street, and Holborn. Tickets available for eight days. Special day excursions will be run on Good Friday, Easter Sunday, and Easter Monday, leaving Charing Cross, Victoria, Cannon-street, and Holborn for Calais, and from Charing Cross for Boulogne. Cheap eight day tickets to Amsterdam, Arnheim, Rotterdam, Utrecht, and The Hague will be issued each day from March 29 to April 3 from Victoria, Holborn, St. Paul's, and Herne Hill by the 8.25 a.m. day service via Queenhoro' and Flushing. A special boat train will leave Victoria (Chatham and Dover) at 9.5 p.m. on Wednesday and Thursday before Good Friday for Dover, in connection with the boats to Calais and Ostend.

NEW PISCATORIAL PATENTS.

THE following particulars are compiled by Messrs. Hughes and Young, Patent Agents, 55 and 56, Chancery-lane, London, W.C.

24,802. Fish, threading on wire. Patentee: Mr. E. Andersen, Stavanger, Norway, relates to apparatus for threading fish on wire in a regular row, preparatory to smoking them, or for any other purpose. The fish are placed head downwards between a series of wedge-shaped projections along the edge of a table, and are held in a folding frame formed by two hinged pieces, each formed with a series of tapering notches. An elastic band runs behind the notches, and when the fish are held in position they are pressed against this band by a hinged angle-iron. The wire is then threaded through the hole formed by two corresponding grooves.

4175. Charles Hellyer, St. Andrew's Dock, Hull. "Improvements in shoes for otter boards and the like."

15,886. Trawling. Patentee: Mr. H. Smethurst, Polham-terrace, Grimsby. To dislodge the mouth of the net, floats are fitted to the head line.

Notes from the North.

THE great event in angling circles in the north has been the defeat of the Aberdeen Corporation Bill, in the Select Committee of the House of Lords, as far as the clauses pretending to deal with the Don were concerned, and they have accordingly been dropped at the instigation of the Don Fishery Board.

It speaks well for the future of the Donside Fishery Improvement Association, that within four months or so of its formation, it should practically have been the means of gaining so signal a victory. The association includes the members of the Don Fishery Board *ex officio* and prefers to work through it. The association confining its operations to raising the needful.

The association has its work cut out for it for some time to come—pollution, dam-dykes, abstraction of water, and other abuses, which must be tackled and overcome before the Don can regain its ancient prestige as a salmon river of the first water; and all for want of a stitch in time ten or a dozen years back.

It was a telling bit of evidence which Inspector Martin gave to Lord Northbrook and the Lords' Committee, when he said that some two or three years ago the Cruives fishings on the Don were worth £500 annually. Now they cannot find a tenant. The rent is practically *nil*.

It is funny of the Aberdeen Corporation to have taken Dr. Macadam to London to say that the mill (paper) effluent was not hurtful to the Don, and now to raise a fuss over the same effluent polluting the North Sea at the river's mouth.

The Duke of York has been again unfortunate with regard to his advent on Deeside this spring from a weather point of view. A veritable snowstorm has raged since the morning after his Royal Highness's arrival. The same thing happened last year at the time of his visit, and continued all through his three weeks' stay.

Provost McConachie Fraserburgh was entertained to dinner in recognition of the many valuable services he has rendered the fishing community, and especially in the establishment of a fish mart, which was opened the other day.

Owing to the advent of a fresh snowstorm, sport for the nonce has practically been suspended. The trout (yellow) season had hardly set in, although a few have been trying it, and it will be April 1 now before anything like a basket need be looked for.

The "ripper" consists of a flight—string would be a better appellation—of clear galvanised fish hooks of the largest cod size, and is worked by hand from a boat or pier. It is an engine of the "snigger" order, and is often used by trout poachers where finnock and sea trout abound along our coasts and even in the estuaries.

Last week, a Fraserburgh fisherman, while looking for cod (?), caught up a halibut on the ripper, which was better, as it fetched him £2. The halibut weighed 1 cwt. It is the first time such a fish has been caught after this fashion.

Colonel Fairfax Rhodes has taken the Morven shootings and fishings belonging to the estate of the late Mr. Keillor on Deeside for the season.

Nicoll, keeper to Lord Garrioch on the Borrowstone Dee water, had a fine fish of 25lb. last week. This is the top weight for these parts.

Only an occasional fish is being got on miles of Spey water, and on not a few sections nothing has yet been done since the season opened.

The salmon fishings on the east coast are as backward as ever, but, then, so is the weather. Till the latter alters for the better, neither need any encouragement be looked for from the former.

A regular blizzard has prevailed all over the North since Saturday morning. The wind was not so violent on Monday, but more snow fell. Arctic conditions reign supreme.

The Balmoral and Invercauld estate managements have an agreement not to use spinning baits on their respective waters till May 26 in each year, so that the fly is alone permissible on their sections of the Dee for spring angling.

Both above and below these parts, however, all conceivable legal lures may be used *ad libitum*. However, the fly has been the favourite lure since the season opened.

April is the best month for early Don and Deveron trouting on the lower waters. On the upper waters, again, May and June yield the best baskets.

Most of the tidal waters, such as the Dee, Don, Ythan, Ugie, &c., are closed during the first three weeks of May, on account of the smolt season. The restriction, with its opening and closing dates, is purely local. With an early advent of smolts in force it is soon over, especially if a timely flood sets in. Angling is even then only suspended in the purely tidal waters of the respective rivers.

SPECIAL SCOTCH.

Provincial Notes

FROM BIRMINGHAM AND DISTRICT.

In my notes, a short time ago, I mentioned that Mr. G. Stanley, of exhibition fame, was about to open an exhibition at Bingley Hall, Birmingham, and that he had placed himself in communication with the secretary of the Birmingham Angling Association with the view of getting a display of specimen fish, at the same time offering to pay the expenses of getting the fish together and giving the sum of £20 to the owners of the best specimen and rare fish. The secretary, Mr. C. White, accepted the offer on behalf of his association, and commenced to get the fish together. This has exceeded his expectations, inasmuch as a large number of grand fish that had been kept from the public gaze were collected. They now occupy three very long shelves at the exhibition, and number some 180 cases containing fish of almost every kind. Pike and bream are very plentiful, the former fish commencing at 27½lb. and the latter at 7½lb. The roach class includes the giant roach, 3½lb., lent by Mr. R. D. Frost, of Bristol. The perch commence with a 4½lb. fish. The dace are not very numerous, but, still, some good specimens are to be seen, the largest 13oz. Chub are to be seen, but not in great numbers, the largest being over 4½lb. There are two very fine carp in the show, but not for competition—the largest over 17lb. The show all round is very fine, and well worth a visit. There is a falling off in the trout and barbel, but with the other fish it has been said by good judges that it is the best show of fish outside London that has been seen for years. The rare fish include a barbel of 4½lb. and several smaller ones, a gudgeon over 4oz., a ruff 5½oz., and a bream roach. The exhibition was opened on Monday last by the Lord Mayor of Birmingham, who, in referring to the show of fish, said that it gave him great pleasure to see that Birmingham had so many expert anglers, and also to know that all the stories they told of their large fish were not altogether exaggerated. The exhibition will be open until May 13, during which time excursions will be run into the city to see the exhibition, which contains a large number of attractions independent of the show of fish. The Birmingham Anglers' Benevolent Society at their last meeting decided to take time by the forelock and consider the future arrangements for their annual contest. It was decided that this year it should be a day contest. Four places were selected, namely, Tewkesbury, Alrewas, Fenny Compton, and Pershore; and the matter as to the railway fares to the places mentioned were left in the hands of Mr. C. White. The Visiting Committee gave in some very flattering reports, and a number of new members were added. It was decided to visit the Baltic, Green Lanes, Hope and Anchor, and Salmon clubs prior to the next meeting of the committee. The Camden Society held their annual *soirée* at the Camden-street Board School, on Saturday evening. The affair was a success, and the prize fund will be assisted by the financial result. The Vine Unity held their first concert on behalf of their prize fund on Tuesday evening last; this was also a success; and another concert will be held on next Tuesday. The meeting of the committee of the Provincial Angling Association will be held on Saturday, March 25, at the Sportsman Inn, Wood-street, Kidderminster; chair taken at five o'clock. At the close of the meeting, Mr. T. Coles, the president, will be presented with his testimonial. Several of our clubs are making rapid headway numerically. Some of them have more than doubled their strength this year. We have several more new clubs being formed with a view of joining our association. The Severn Fishery Board are again issuing permits for the taking of coarse fish during the close season. When shall we be able to prevent this kind of thing?

FROM THE FEN DISTRICT (LINCOLNSHIRE).

The season for coarse fishing has now closed, and, taken as a whole, the sport obtained in the Fen district was up to the average of former years. The mild winter enabled anglers to pursue their operations without any interruption, and the closing weeks were remarkable for the splendid results obtained by both pike and roach fishermen. The premier water—the Witham—has been responsible lately for some excellent bags, and it is doubtful whether better sport has ever been obtained towards the end of the season. The Forty-foot, too, has yielded exceedingly well, and the champion fish, a 14-pounder, was secured a few days before the season ended. The weather has now taken a wintry turn, in fact, the temperature has been lower this week than any recorded during the winter, and there have been several falls of snow. Under these circumstances trout fishermen will not bestir themselves just yet, and, moreover, some rain is wanted to improve the condition of the streams.

FROM HULL AND DISTRICT.

During the past few days, in this district, we have experienced some unlooked-for heavy falls of snow, and snow is continuing to fall, more or less, causing all our local waters to be out of condition and full of "snow-broth"—quite a contrast from the beautiful summer-like weather of the previous week—and the weather is also extremely cold, with hard frosts, so that it will be some days, should an agreeable change take place, before anything successful can be anticipated in trout fishing, and the drains and havens are also in bad condition for worm fishing for flounders and eels. Therefore the prospects are not very promising for our Easter holiday matches, which will be a great disappointment to our local anglers, for several of our societies have made their opening fixtures of the season and arrangements for that time, the river Hull and the Winstead Drain at Patrington being the waters selected for their operations, which are

pretty fairly divided. On Good Friday the Hull Ramblers' will fish on the river, at Minto Flatts; the Stoneferry Star A.S., at Figham; the Brunswick and Waltonians, at Weelferry; the Duke of York A.S., at Grovehill; the River Hull Club, on Swinemoor; and the Derringham A.S. at Hull Bridge; whilst the Albion, Alexandra, Excelsior, and Hull Town Angling Societies have selected the drain at Patrington for operations. On the Saturday, the Sisson's Brothers A.S. and Clarence A.S. will visit the river at Weelferry, and the Tigress A.S. will fish on Minto Flatts; the County, East Hull Band, and Izaak Walton Societies, fishing at Patrington; and on Easter Monday the Progressive and Albert Societies opening their season at the same place; Messrs. Amos and Smith's club, choosing the river at Hull Bridge for that day. On the closing day for coarse fish, one of our local anglers, Mr. G. H. Caley, a member of the Royal Albert Angling Society, secured two nice sized pike in the neighbourhood of Hull Bridge, the best fish scaling 8lb. 6oz., and the other 4lb.; three more decent fish were also taken on the same day, near to Wawne; and on the opening day for trout one was caught near to Burton Hall that scaled 11b. 7oz. It was only in poor condition, but it is full early for trout on this river, even if the weather was favourable. The Bowling Green A.S. fished their first match of the season on the river at Weelferry last week, but unfortunately not one of the competitors caught a fish, so that the match will have to be fished over again on some future date. This club held their annual dinner at headquarters the other evening, which was a very enthusiastic affair, and several valuable prizes were given for competition during the season. On Monday evening next the East Riding A.S. will hold their annual *soirée* and ball; and on Monday, April 3, the Clarence A.S. also hold their annual ball. Last week the Hull Stipendiary Magistrate (Mr. E. C. Twiss) gave his decision in an important case under the Salmon Fisheries Act, instigated by the Fishmongers' Company, in which a Melton Mowbray gentleman and three Hull fish merchants were mulct into heavy costs for being in possession, for sale, of certain salmon, on Oct. 27 last, contrary to the provisions of the Salmon Fisheries Act, 1873 (86 & 27 Vict. cap. 71, sec. 19).

FROM THE LAKE DISTRICT.

Since the end of last week the weather in this district has become a topcoat colder. Although the sun has shone brightly in the daytime, biting nor'-east winds have swept down the hills, followed by sharp frosts at night. Ten and twelve degrees of frost have coated sheltered pieces of water with ice, and some of the mountains have had a coating of snow. As a consequence angling is somewhat off just at present, but fair sport was enjoyed towards the end of last week. All the rivers in the district are now open, and fishing may any day be in full swing. A very sensible decision has been come to by the Derwent Fishery Board, namely, to abolish their system of "suspects," and all who wish to apply may now obtain a fishing permit. It is to be hoped that one and all will in future fish fairly, and that no more cause may be given for the enforcement of rules which have caused irritation and cast suspicion on possibly innocent persons. Trout appear to be in fairly good condition in the Cumberland streams (Derwent, &c.), single fish up to nearly 3lb. in weight having already been taken. A favourable opening was made in the Keswick waters, particularly the lake, and baskets of over a score of fish have been secured, Messrs. J. Lowther, Wilkinson, Denwood, Hill, and Beadle being most successful. A few small pike have also been taken, the best 9½lb. It seems strange after so abnormally wet a winter that there should so soon be an onrly for water. Two or three wet days, however, would be welcome.

FROM LANCASHIRE.

Of course the great event at Wyresdale is a topic very extensively discussed, and, while admitting the right of the proprietors to conduct the event on their own lines, it is admitted that they would have done better had they consulted some experienced officials used to arranging large competitions. An event of this kind cannot be criticised as many events open to the public are, but a little more explicitness in the general conditions would have been advisable and have saved a lot of disappointments. The St. Helens Angling Association, on the 23rd, suitably acknowledged the lengthened services of Mr. R. Ball to the interests of angling in the district. "Lancashire" was invited, but he could not go—his health stood in the way of honouring one of the very best of men and anglers. Mr. Editor, there is not enough of this kind of thing amongst fishermen; not enough of gratitude to the self-denying hon. sec. or hon. office bearer in any capacity; but there is always plenty of holes to tear in his coat. Well done Warrington. Last week we had to record good work in getting the Shropshire Union Canal closed until June 16, and this week comes the news of the acquisition of fresh waters for both themselves and others. They have secured a length of the Bollin between Bollington Mill and Warburton Mill, the nearest railway station being Heatley; and another resort is a length of the Weaver, at Newbridge. The nearest railway stations are Hartford or Over and Wharton. There is plenty of good roach fishing in this water. The Warrington hatchery and its rearing ponds are admittedly well equipped, and they will shortly receive for treatment 10,000 rainbow ova. The fry, when ready, will be turned into the foregoing waters. The best thanks of the fraternity are due to this body of sportsmen for trying and accomplishing some good for others outside their own town, and not like some, trying to use outsiders to benefit their own townsmen. Staleybridge and district are also doing good work up to the last, for within two days of the close season they placed the final consignment of coarse fish in their private waters, consisting of 200 exceedingly fine roach.

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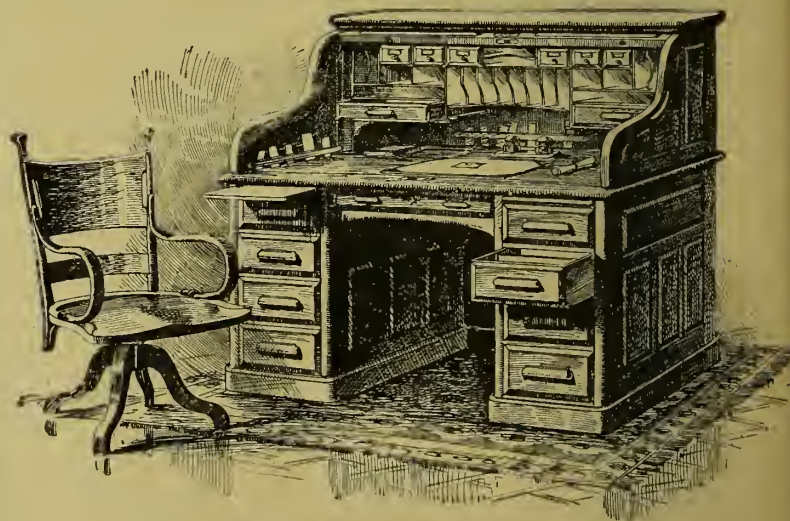
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James Davis, Mr. Albert Walter, Mr. Fred Rome, Mr. Tom Mulroy, Mr. Joe Levett, Master Albert
Walter, Mr. F. G. Read, Mr. W. Skinner, Mr. Cecil Graeme, and Mr. Alf Smart. *Instrumentalists*—
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FROM MANCHESTER.

The annual meeting of the Baldwin Angling Society, Hulme, has recently been held, when the balance-sheet and report were found equally satisfactory, and the following were elected to office: President, Mr. D. Dixon; vice-president, Mr. R. Grayson; secretary, Mr. D. Butler; assistant secretary, Mr. J. Woodley; committee, Messrs. H. Hills, J. Shaw, W. Hilton, T. Baldwin, and C. Smart. The last match of the South West Manchester was an enjoyable event, but sport was poor, Mr. W. A. Leigh, with one fish, took both first and special prizes, and, strange to say, both were timepieces—he now knows the correct time. The Pendleton Angling Society held a very successful concert on the 22nd, but too late for any detailed notice. The event was a most enjoyable one. The Welcomb Angling Society, Hulme, negotiated the second half of their concluding item on the 17th with a smoker and supper at headquarters. One member says they bit freely, and had the fish done the same in their last match more fish would have been caught. The programme was contributed by Messrs. F. Smith, T. Foden, T. Ashworth, and H. Hyde. The Moss Side Socials had a good time at their social evening, everyone enjoying themselves thoroughly. There are a lot of preparations in hand for the Easter holidays. Many of our citizen fishermen intend going to Llanymynech, as usual, where for years they have spent Easter. The existing inclement weather has put a damper on all enthusiasm, and just as tackle dealers were experiencing a revival in trade a sudden reaction has taken place, and the old dull times returned. On Tuesday last the Manchester Angling Association, at their March meeting, had a paper from Mr. R. Burn, entitled "The Best Fly for the Tarn." Experience showed that for the last twelve years the March Brown, in various sizes according to the season, had proved by far the best. The Alder Fly in June, only when it would be in season, had also been successful, but was of little or no use in any other month. The results for the past twelve years have been carefully scrutinised before the above decision was given. Messrs. C. H. Robinson and A. Smith have opened the season as usual in the old style with good baskets, fifteen brace in all. At this rate last year's large total may possibly be passed. It is a pleasure to learn that Mr. J. Pendrigh, president of the C.P.A.A., and manager of Messrs. Hardy Brothers' Manchester depot, is so far recovered from his serious illness as to contemplate a return to duty before Easter. The concert at Openshaw on the 27th is to receive the official support of the C.P.A.A.

FROM NOTTINGHAM.

Odd salmon anglers have again patronised the weir head at Holme, Pierrepont, but up to the period of writing no fish had been run. The weather, since my last, has been bitterly cold, and snow must fall before it becomes warmer. News is extremely scarce, for, as yet, it is premature to speculate on the chances of trout fishing. There is said to be a good head of fishing in the Greet, and on parts of the Dover Beck, but operations do not usually begin until the first of May. The Nottingham Shoulder of Mutton Association held their annual business meeting at headquarters on Wednesday night (March 15), when Mr. J. Truman presided over an extremely large attendance of members. Mr. D. S. Garner, the enterprising secretary, submitted the yearly report, from which it transpired that the association have a balance in hand of £35 odd. The reports and accounts were adopted, and subsequently the whole of the old officers were unanimously re-elected. The banquet was fixed for last Thursday night, when it was understood that Lord Henry Bentinck, M.P., would preside. Mr. J. W. Foster, honorary secretary of the Trent Anti-Pollution Society, has received official intimations from his lordship, Mr. Bond, M.P., and Mr. Yoxall, M.P. (these are the three local representatives in Parliament), to the effect that they intend supporting the Rivers Pollution Bill in the House of Commons. The annual meeting of the Trent Fishery Board was held at Derby on Tuesday afternoon, under the presidency of Mr. A. F. Hunt, when a voluminous report on the subject of pollution and the security of salmon in the rivers under the jurisdiction of the board was read by Mr. C. K. Eddowes, the clerk. The board have a balance in hand of £29 7s. 7d., and it was stated that nearly the whole of the income of the board was derived from the sale of trout licences. Next to nothing was got from coarse fishing. After discussion, the report being adopted, it was decided that a question raised as to the re-stocking of trout streams with trout should stand over for another twelve months on account of the financial question involved. But it was decided to give the consent of the board to netting for pike in the Dove so as to protect salmon, parr, and trout.

FROM SHEFFIELD.

The bitterly cold weather of the last few days has put a stop to fishing, and consequently there has been no sport to record during the past week. The last few days of the coarse fishing season, which terminated on March 15, were taken advantage of to the fullest extent, and as the frosty weather had put the fish well on the feed, the excellent catches made compensated in a certain degree for the lack of sport met with in the beginning and middle of the season. Some splendid chub and pike were caught in the Trent during the closing days. The prospects for salmon fishing in the Trent are said to be remarkably promising, large quantities of heavy fish having been seen at Shardlow and King's Mills and other places. Rod fishing will commence shortly. The termination of the coarse fishing season in the Witham, the Glen, and the Bain was fairly

satisfactory, the principal catches being composed of pike. Trout anglers are anxiously waiting for April 1, when sport commences in the Wye and in the majority of the best waters in Derbyshire. Anglers who wish to have a little sport in the Wye between Bakewell and Rowsley during the Easter holidays should make application for tickets at once, as the number of rods is strictly limited. In the Derwent the number of rods is not limited, and the charge is moderate; whilst excellent accommodation can be obtained at the hotels in Chatsworth and Edensor by those who wish to fish the Derwent in that locality. In the private waters near Matlock Bridge some very nice trout have been taken, whilst all the Derbyshire streams are said to be well stocked with fish this year. The annual meeting of the Trent Fishery Board was held on Tuesday at Derby, and the report contained many instances of the rivers and streams being polluted by sewage and other refuse. The question of encouraging trout fishing by re-stocking the rivers was left over on account of the financial question involved. The board decided to give permission for the pike in the Dove to be netted, in order to protect salmon and trout.

FROM YORK AND DISTRICT.

The old song, "Rivers low and clear," had a pretty general application at the end of last week, though the weather was fine for the opening of the trout season. In the Yorkshire Fishery Board's district this commenced on the 16th inst. On that date the atmospheric conditions were delightful, and fly fishing was fairly successful. Rods out on the 17th also did well on the Wharfe and the Yore. Trout fishing on some of the club lengths, however, does not begin until the 25th, and on others until the middle of April. The open winter has been very favourable to trout, and the streams being well stocked, there should be fine sport later on. But for some days the cold has been intense, and the most doughty anglers have not been anxious to face the biting north winds and the driving snow showers, with the accompaniment of a cutting frost. It is, then, a time of waiting just at present. We have now entered upon the close time for coarse fish, which ends on June 15. The White Rose Friendly A.S. have just held their annual dinner in York. The club has been in existence for four or five years only, and yet the members in each year have held the record for the best average catch in club matches. One of the speakers suggested that prizes should not be given for the smallest fish, it being contrary to the laws of fishing to catch and retain the small fry. The River Dove A.C. have held their first yearly meeting at Kirbymoorside, when a gratifying report on the past season was presented. Five hundred yearling trout granted by the Yorkshire Fishery Board would, it was stated, shortly be turned into the water. On Tuesday, at the Richmond Police Court, Mr. Chas. Spencer, gunsmith and dealer in fishing tackle, was fined the full penalty of 40s. and £2 11s. 2d. costs for illegally dealing in and selling salmon roe for bait. It was stated that this practice had become very common in the Yorkshire Fishery Board's districts. It was not only damaging to the salmon food, but also very destructive as a trout bait. The defendant admitted the offence, but pleaded that it was committed in ignorance.

Correspondence

[We do not hold ourselves responsible for the opinions expressed by our Correspondents.]

AFTER MAHSEER IN INDIA.

[A correspondent sends us the following interesting letter from a friend describing mahseer fishing in India.—Ed.]

MY DEAR SAM,—You have asked me to do a rather difficult thing, and in such a case I must do my best and act in sympathy with the poet's thought, "he that doth his best, angels can no more." You want such a description of Mahseer fishing in India as will enable you at the distance of 12,000 miles to realise the way one enjoys that sport in such a distant country. It occurs to me that this can be most effectually done by taking you on one of my fishing expeditions, giving you a full description of all its varied details, involving the preparation for the start, provision for the journey, and how life is spent in camp.

A fishing expedition in India is a much more serious undertaking than it is at home. In the former you are obliged to carry all your requirements with you, food and tents, and numerous servants, who have all to be provided for as well as yourself. You have then to estimate the length of the journey, the quantities of the supplies, and the number of the coolies that may be requisites for their transport. No more enjoyable life is conceivable than camp life in such a glorious climate as that of the Himalayas in the cold weather, when the climate is the finest in the world, the fishing all free, and such a thing as poachers unknown, for the fish are held sacred by the natives, who, in point of fact, are literally the water bailiffs or guardians of the rivers.

And now let me entreat short my prefatory remarks, and take you with me on one of those expeditions which occupy so sunny a spot in the fields of memory.

In the spring of the year 1876 we decide on visiting a lovely river about sixty miles north of Simla, and about ten marches from our starting place. As to scenery, this river was most picturesque, abounding in splendidly-wooded banks, many gorgeous rapids, and well filled with fish throughout. On the day previous to our starting we engage the requisite number of coolies through the agency

of the Bazar Kotwal, who is found to supply us with any number of coolies required. These are warned the night before to be ready for starting at dawn next day. Next the various supplies for our commissariat, including rice, sugar, tea, bacon, and tinned goods are all packed in small kiltas (hampers) specially made for being carried on the coolies' backs. These are made of bamboos split, and are very light and strong. These are sometimes covered over with leather, which, of course, add to their durability for long journeys. All the provisions are carefully packed the evening before our start. The kiltas alluded to very much resemble in shape those used by the Swiss peasants during the vintage. For the supply of milk we take a small flock of goats, numbering ten or twelve, and half a dozen sheep for that of meat. When the latter have been consumed we renew our flock somewhere on the march where more sheep are procurable. We do not indulge in the luxury of bedsteads, as there would have but a short existence in a state of entirety, being liable to speedy dislocation or broken legs, quite inevitable from the roughnesses of the journey. Our beds consisted of dried ferns placed on the bare ground, and a waterproof sheet spread over them, affording a most comfortable bed, quite suitable for any of the seven sleepers.

Well, all is now ready, and to-morrow at dawn of day we start! The morning is a lovely one, the sun rising in Oriental splendour into a cloudless sky, every sight and sound those of beauty and joy. The first sounds we hear are the cooing of the doves, soon to be followed by the chattering of the coolies as they arrange and settle what loads they are to carry respectively.

The extreme loveliness of a summer morning in India is a thing that must be seen to be realised. The sun rises into a cloudless sky, the air is cool and refreshing, the whole of Nature gradually wakes up and becomes vocal with the songs of birds, the air is perfumed with the flowering jasmine that grows in profusion, while the rhododendron trees, some 30ft. and 40ft. high, and profusely covered with their scarlet flowers, clothe the hillsides.

As soon as we have assigned to the coolies their respective loads, we mount our hill ponies and start. These ponies are most delightful and valuable animals—small, but very strong and docile, and as sure-footed as goats. They are never shod, nor are the hoofs ever pared or interfered with in any way, while their power of endurance is great.

We ride on ahead, leaving the coolies to follow, in charge of a head man, called a Chuprasse. In about an hour and a half they arrive, and in a very short space of time our tents are pitched. All hands speedily collect wood for the fires, which are soon lit; the cook sets the kitchen in order, and in an incredible short time breakfast is ready. These coolies all cook their own food, consisting invariably of boiled rice and flour cakes, cooked on a species of girdle—simple fare, to which they do ample justice. At night they sleep under the trees or rocks, simply wrapped in a coarse kind of home-made blanket, which envelops them even to covering their heads.

Each day's march involves a very similar routine, and at the end of ten days we arrive at the happy hunting ground. We find our river in splendid order, running plenty of water, beautifully clear and of a pale greenish colour. During the time the snows are melting the water becomes a milky-white colour, caused chiefly by the immense quantity of sand mixed in it. At this time the fish will not take any bait, owing to the disturbance caused by the flood and the low temperature of the water. As soon as the flood subsides, the water again becomes as clear as crystal, and the fish take freely. At the conclusion of the fishing season all the large fish go up to the higher reaches for the spawning. When the process of incubation is completed, and the young fry take to the shallow water, the parent fish happily cannot revisit the regions where they are, and thus the young fry escape being devoured by their parents. We selected a lovely spot for our camp, on a rising ground close to the river, where a grove of mango trees shade protected us from the heat. We arrived about 10 a.m., and our first impulse was to go to the river for our morning bath. My friend chose to bathe, while I elected to try my luck by committing a spoon to the lovely pool and rapid in which my friend was bathing. After fishing it up till quite close to him, and in less than five minutes I hooked a lovely 10-pounder. He gave me grand sport, and finally landed him, to the astonishment and delight of my friend, who had hitherto laughed at my piscatorial experiment. We then returned to our tents, where we breakfasted and rested for the remainder of the day. I need hardly tell you that we were provided with all manner of splendid large salmon flies, which had cost us a small fortune.

As the water was in splendid order we decided to try the powers of fascination of these flies. But, alas! to our horror and disappointment, that instead of proving the great attraction we anticipated they scared the fish. We distinctly saw the fish approach them, and then quickly run away affrighted at them. We soon discovered that a medium-sized fly was the best for the smaller fish up to about 5lb. to 8lb.; and for any about this weight the artificial minnow of gutta percha, about 6in. long, and the spoon, about 3in. in length, was the most killing bait. The very large fish rarely rise to the fly.

On the evening of our first day, when the sun showed signs of going to bed, we made our way to the river. We fished from 6 p.m. till 9 p.m., bagging in that space of time nineteen fish, aggregating 190lbs., our heaviest fish scaling 34lb.

Our usual plan was to fish in the mornings from 5 a.m. till about ten o'clock, and in the evenings from 6 p.m. till nine o'clock. We always returned with as many fish as a coolie could possibly carry. We supplied our men with fish, the surplus we pickled in salt and lime-juice, and completed their cure by hanging them in the sun for

twelve hours. On our return from our present tour we brought back 200 cured fish. From these an excellent dish is made by shredding them finely and mixing potatoes and baking them in the oven.

The time now arrives for us to move to fresh fixing ground, so we go two miles higher up the river. On our way we came across a very curious and interesting application of hydropathy much resorted to in many parts of the Himalayas.

At a most picturesque spot shaded over by lofty and umbrageous trees, where a small stream trickled down the mountain side, we met with an old woman taking care of a number of mere infants of various ages, from one to three years old. The children were tightly swathed with cloth to flat boards, and these were placed at different altitudes up the side of the stream, each child being so placed that a jet of water played on their foreheads through a leaf folded funnel-shape, so as to form a kind of small spout. These children slept soundly for the greater portion of the day. Such an arrangement allowed the mothers to attend to their outdoor and domestic duties. This one old woman acted as nurse for the whole village, and in the evening the respective mothers came and carried home the children. The principal reason of the adoption of so strange an arrangement and treatment is founded on the belief that it wards off a fever to which most children are liable in these places.

Very close to our next place of encampment we came on a very small lake of about half a mile in circumference and surrounded by a dense pine forest. It was simply swarming with mahseer of enormous size from 40lb. to 60lb. weight, but no effort on our part could induce them to take any bait. The natives of this locality fed them daily with Indian corn, and it was a wonderful sight to see them at the usual feeding hour, 4 p.m., all crowding to the particular place where they were daily fed. The weather continued fine, we had excellent sport in the river, bagging a considerable number of large fish.

At our next encampment we saw a very curious native piscatorial contrivance for catching the larger fish. The river here flowed between two large masses of rock, with a wall of rock stretching across the middle, over which the water rushed with considerable violence. On each of the projecting rocks at the side men stood holding a large sheet just over the intermediate wall. When the fish, in trying to jump over the fell, failed to do so and fell back, the sheet was adroitly lowered and the falling fish was captured. We saw a number of fish taken in this way. In these rivers it often happens that dead bodies are carried down, and, after decomposition, may be seen lying at the bottom of the pools, and the mahseer feeding on them. From a long experience, I am of opinion that in the early morning the fish take most freely. The large fish are found generally near the top of the rapids, down which, when hooked, they rush with great velocity, sometimes taking out at one rush as much as 100yds. During the rush any attempt to stop them is fatal. When the first run is over, gently wind up and bring them towards you, and you probably will find the first long and furious rush is merely an exhaustive effort, and that an easy compliance with your wishes speedily follows.

In many cases Indian rivers are most dangerous from the size and number of the boulders and the frightful weight and rapidity of the water, rendering crossing on foot impossible, except at the risk of being swept down or drowned. And I may here mention that in such cases you may often make use of your pony.

I remember on one occasion having been tempted to try crossing on foot, but when about midway lost my footing and was carried down, rod still in hand, a considerable distance, but being a good swimmer, I kept my presence of mind amidst the roaring torrent, and gradually reached the bank in safety lower down.

These hill ponies are never shod or even the hoofs pared, a fact to which may be attributed their marvellous sure-footedness.

No doubt you will be wondering how food is provided for such a regiment of men as we had with us, especially in a country where the villages are so small, and so far apart that you may travel for twenty miles, even more, without seeing a human habitation. But the custom of the country meets this apparently unsurmountable difficulty. The headman of the village on the arrival of our camp waits on us, and gets the number of the coolies. He then levies contributions from each household of as much rice or flour or butter as may be required. Having done this, the whole of the provisions is brought to the camp, where it is duly distributed, each man's due portion being weighed out. These coolies are for the most part excellent and most willing servants, and I can only remember one occasion when malingering broke out, and we found them dropping out and lying down on the march on the pretence of illness. In cases of illness in the jungle we have generally immediate recourse to quinine or brandy, the latter medicine being by far the most popular with these men. On one occasion in our early morning march we came upon two coolies who had lain down besides their loads, complaining of severe pains in the stomach, which they attributed to the extreme cold of the morning. We at once administered a suitable dose of brandy, which speedily enabled them to proceed on the march. Next day, to our disgust, we found three men complaining of the same kind of pains as our patients of the day before, and which we had so pleasantly and effectually cured. But it at once occurred to us that these were malingers pure and simple, and, accordingly, thought it best to adopt quite a different treatment. On our morning march we always carried our guns with us, in case of our meeting with any game, and the happy thought occurred to us that gunpowder in a certain form might prove an effectual cure. We soon prepared (with some moistened gunpowder) what we, as boys, called a devil, in the shape of a small cone. We then persuaded patient No. 1

to lie down on the broad of his back, telling him that in the first instance his stomach must be well rubbed. We then so placed ourselves as to prevent him seeing our preparations for his cure. As soon as the little devil was ready, we adroitly placed it on the centre of his stomach, and immediately set fire to it. On its explosion the terrified patient jumped frantically up, and implored a discontinuance of our operation. It is almost needless to add, the others preferred to bear their pains to adopting the gunpowder cure! After this we had no more cases of malingering. As a cure we gave gunpowder the palm, being cheaper and more rapid in its operation than brandy! Our patient on this occasion was only slightly scorched, and took our practical joke most good humouredly.

And now what more shall I say? All nice things come to an end too soon, and so with this expedition on which you have accompanied me. As I look back upon it my spirit whispers the wish, "Long may my heart be with such memories filled." If there is anything else you wish to know about camp life in India, you have only to write and indent on the humble store of the experience of—Your old friend,

FLY.

PROPOSED BIRMINGHAM FLY FISHERS' CLUB.

DEAR SIR,—Although the idea of a Birmingham Fly Fishers' Club has been suggested on several previous occasions, yet it is believed that up to the present no active steps have been taken to put the matter into definite shape.

An opportunity has, however, now presented itself of obtaining the fishing rights on a stretch of the Staffordshire Blythe (both banks), about three-quarters of a mile in extent, at the village of Hametall Ridware, near Armitage, and as this water is eminently adapted for fly fishing purposes, and well suited for stocking with trout, it is thought that a fly fishing club on a modest scale might be formed to take over the fishery, and stock it for immediate use.

The water is situated about two miles from Armitage Station (L. & N. W.) from which conveyances are obtainable, and at present contains a few trout and a large number of grayling. Dace and chub also provide good sport for the fly in the summer months.

The present scheme is that the club should have a limited number of members (say thirty or forty), with a moderate subscription for the first year, and that the water should be stocked at once with a few hundred two-year-old trout so as to ensure good sport being available at an early date. It is also proposed to cultivate the social side of the sport by the holding of monthly meetings for the discussion of matters of interest to fly fishers, &c.

Intending members should make early application.

A meeting for the organisation of the society will be convened at an early date; meanwhile, any further information can be obtained from—Yours sincerely,

ARTHUR T. SADLER
(Hon. Secretary, pro tem.)

Water Orton, Near Birmingham, March 14, 1899.

SEA TROUT IN THE SEVERN AND VYRNWY.

DEAR SIR,—It has been stated on very good authority that sea trout were, some years ago, not uncommon in the Severn and Vyrnwy, and, as the matter is interesting to anglers in Shropshire and Montgomery, some correspondence which has taken place is, I think, well worthy of publication.

The gentleman who first raised the question is the Rev. J. B. Meredith, of Kinnerley Vicarage, near Oswestry, and he asserts very definitely that sea trout were at one time caught by angling in the River Vyrnwy. He is an observant naturalist and a good angler, and his testimony in the matter is so clear as to be practically incontrovertible. He was in the habit of exchanging notes on natural history with the late Mr. Beckwith, a naturalist of high repute, and, in one of his letters to this gentleman, Mr. Meredith wrote as under:

"I am much interested just now in a natural history question rather out of your line. For the last few years I have now and then caught fish in the Vyrnwy, which I strongly suspected to be sea trout. I had been pooh-poohed by local fishermen, but on Wednesday last I had an old college friend with me who has been regularly fishing for sea trout for years past in Scotland, Ireland, and Lancashire, and who has caught lots of them. I caught a very pretty thick fish, and as soon as he set eyes on it he exclaimed 'Why, that's a sea trout.' We caught several brown trout the same day and the difference was most marked in shape and spots."

A subsequent letter from Mr. Meredith to Mr. Beckwith contained the following:

"Vyrnwy Fish.—I can give you a tolerable list, having sampled them pretty freely myself—salmon, sea trout, trout, grayling, chub, roach, bream, dace, bleak, pike, perch, ruff, gudgeon, roach, minnows, bullheads, and sticklebacks. I have caught all these. Sea trout I have taken undoubtedly several times. I thought so for some time, and poor Henry Shaw laughed me to scorn; but one day I had a friend with me—one Harry Potts, the owner of the Glaurafon estate, near Mold, who has caught hundreds of sea trout in Ireland, and in Lancashire. I have not said a word to him about the existence of sea trout in the Vyrnwy; but I was having a controversy with a very lively fish of about 1lb., and he came and landed him for me. Directly he got him into the net he exclaimed, 'Why, it's a sea trout.' And a further examination confirmed his first impression. So I take that as proof positive."

On Jan. 12 in the present year the Rev. J. B. Meredith wrote to Mr. H. E. Forrest, of Shrewsbury (who is now publishing a work on the "Fauna of Shropshire," and

including fishes therein), a letter in which he refers to sea trout as below:

"I cannot give the year; the particular one I mentioned was not the first nor the last which I took in the Vyrnwy. I have not, however, seen one for some years, certainly not since the formation of Lake Vyrnwy. Those I took occurred in the days before they began to stock the Severn at Shrewsbury. I have no doubt as to the fact that they were sea trout. My friend Mr. Potts, who identified one, was a very keen fisherman, who had years of experience in Scotland, Ireland, Wales, and Lancashire, and sea trout fishing was quite his favourite sport. I remember at the same time I came across a Scotchman, a rare good angler, who told me that he had taken one or more heavy sea trout just above Shrewsbury. Moreover, since those days I have made the acquaintance of sea trout at Cricketh, and in some of the rivers of Carnarvon, and they were of the same type as the Verniew fish, only a trifle brighter, owing, I imagine, to the proximity to the sea."

"I have an idea about the sea trout and Lake Vyrnwy. Since its construction we have never had floods equal in magnitude or duration to those of the old days until this winter. Now, will the sea trout re-appear?"

In a later communication to Mr. Forrest, Mr. Meredith writes:

"My theory rests upon Mr. Potts's identification as a sea trout of one of the fish which I took, which certainly differed from the ordinary trout."

"Another fact is worth noting—I always got these fish out in the stream. The regular Vyrnwy trout almost always lie close under the banks; at least, those of any size. My sea trout always fought very hard, and ran from 3lb to 12lb. in weight."

If you, Mr. Editor, or any of your readers, can furnish information upon the subject, it will be appreciated.—Yours, &c.,

HAFREN.

RIVER AND LOCK-KEEPERS' DINNER.

DEAR SIR,—I have received and formally acknowledged the following subscriptions, since your last issue:

FROM ANGLING SOCIETIES.

St. Pancras, Great Northern Brothers, Cobden, Piscatorial, Holloway, Jubilee, Earlsfield, Amicable Waltonians, Cosy, Silver Trout, Olde Clapham Rovers, Westbourne Park, Chiswick, Wenlock, Anglers' Association, Ormonds, Globe, and Alma.

FROM SUBSCRIBERS AND FRIENDS.

F. G. Clark, W. Back, A. Collis-Browne, L. Macdonald, Mrs. E. Saddler, G. Tagg, and W. S. Harding.—Yours faithfully,

H. W. HIGGINS.

THAMES RE-STOCKING ASSOCIATION.

DEAR SIR,—Will you kindly allow me to state that I have received 10s. from Mr. J. W. Zaehnsdorf as a donation towards the T.R.A. I have also received from Mr. Charles Dejonge, at Malta, 2s. 6d., and 1s. from Mr. Stuart, of Chancery-lane. Mr. Zaehnsdorf has informed me that he will subscribe 10s. annually. The money has been forwarded to Mr. Hankins, hon. sec. of the T.R.A., who will send receipts.—Yours truly,

F. H. AMPHLETT.

WHEN AND HOW TO USE GENTLES.

DEAR SIR,—In reply to "Fosdyke" in the *Fishing Gazette* of March 18, who says gentles are not to be had freshly bred, if he sends me his address I will send him some which will convince him he is wrong in his statements. I have bred them for years artificially. I found out a way last year how to preserve from hatching until required the ova of the blue-bottle fly, which is the best way, as most can be bred when most will be required by this process.—Yours faithfully,

FRANK FISHBURN, Entomologist.

Silsden, near Keighley.

YOU NEED NOT GO HOME WITHOUT CATCHING ANY.

DEAR SIR,—I should like to know if it is usual, on hiring a punt, to be told there is something in the well, so you need not go away with an empty bag? Fishing recently, for the first time, we (a fellow member, myself, and wife) had a punt at Twickenham, and while being pointed to the swim I had selected, that is what our puntsman said. I brought the fish to my club to substantiate my statements as to this, in my humble opinion, grossly illegal proceeding. The punt was hired of—

JOHNNY EDWARDS
(Member of the Dibdin A.S.,
66, Camden-street, N.W.).

TRAILING AT PULBOROUGH.

DEAR SIR,—As you will probably publish the fact that a good jack was captured in the Arnn, at Pulborough, on March 12, it may interest you to know that one was caught by some persons (? anglers) trailing spoon baits from a boat. The fish weighed about 10lb. The trailing business is practised a good deal at Pulborough, and not much by locals, and I think it some angling clubs wish to keep their reputation up for fair fishing, a weeding out of a few members might have a good effect, both for the clubs and sport.—Yours obediently,

T. WILLIAMS.

DEATH OF MR. GEORGE MASON.—The veteran host of the Wherry Hotel, Oulton Broad, has passed away, in his 79th year, and was well known and respected by many of the Thames anglers and rowing men. He has been the proprietor of that famous hostelry for over a quarter of a century, which is now pulled down, and a more palatial structure being erected in its place.

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NOTICE.

THE FISHING GAZETTE is published every Saturday, and can be obtained at Messrs. W. H. Smith and Son's Railway Bookstalls and of the principal Newsagents and Fishing Tackle Dealers in London and the Provinces.

Communications relating to the Literary Department, Fishing Tackle for Notice, Books for Review, &c., should be addressed to B. B. MARSTON, Editor of the FISHING GAZETTE, St. Dunstan's House, Fetter-lane, London.

Correspondents are requested to write on one side of the paper only, and give their real names and addresses, not necessarily as signatures to their letters, but as a guarantee of good faith. Unless this rule be adhered to no notice will be taken of such communications.

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For One Year, post free to any part of Great Britain and Ireland	10s. 6d.
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TELEPHONE, No. 83 Holborn.

THE WM. BLACK MEMORIAL.

WE are glad to be able to report that the William Black memorial is now taking a definite form. At the first meeting of the committee various suggestions were made and discussed as to the form of the memorial. The one most generally approved was the *Lifeboat*, and it was decided to aim at raising the sum of £2000 necessary to endow one. Other suggestions were, a cot in a Highland hospital; a fisherman's or shepherd's shelter near Oban; a bursary at a Scotch university. Let us hope that many of our friends who are admirers of Mr. Black's delightful works, will be glad to subscribe towards the provision of such a memorial as the committee may finally decide on adopting. Lord Archibald Campbell is hon. treasurer, and Miss A. L. Stronach, 118, Warwick-street, Eccleston-square, London, S.W., is hon. secretary. We are glad to learn that subscriptions are coming in freely.

A SEA TROUT PROBLEM.

"IN the multitude of counsellors there is wisdom," saith the proverb, but we think Sheriff Burnett, of the Aberdeen bench, who presided over an important angling prosecution last week, will, from his past experience, be inclined to favour the rendering of the wise saw otherwise, and fall in with the view that in the multitude of anglers' opinions "there is muddle." The learned judge was called upon, after a judicial manner, to say what a sea trout was, and he practically did so by saying what it was not. To help him to this open opinion he had the aid of a round score of practical fishermen and anglers, who were called upon *seriatim* to put their views before him from the witness box in a case which arose after the following manner, and which, as it now stands, is of more than local interest, in addition to being generally highly instructive as well:

Mr. Robert Archibald, an angler of undoubted standing, was brought into the Sheriff Court at Aberdeen on Thursday last charged with catching sea trout in the tidal waters of the Dee. There was no charge of poaching, and the *bona fides* of Mr. Archibald as an angler were fully safeguarded by the prosecution, which was at the instance of the Dee Fishery Board. The case was regarded by both sides as a test one, and the defence was that the fish in question were finnock—or whiting, as they are termed in England, and as they are also legally known in Scotland, although popularly termed finnock in the north generally, and particularly so in the Aberdeen district—and not sea trout.

For some years back there has been a disposition on the part of the proprietors and lessees in the north to claim the finnock or whiting as their property; and, on the other hand, there has been, if not so strong, yet as persistent a disposition on the part of tidal anglers to resist the claim. The law is certainly on the side of conserving all proprietary rights; but "use and wont" instigates the tidal angler to set up a certain claim, however shadowy, to the finnock swimming in the tidal waters. It is only in recent years that any claim has been put forth by proprietors, and is no doubt the outcome of the growth of angling, and a sign of its increasing popularity north of the Tweed. At one time finnock and finnock waters were not worth considering, and that not very long ago either. They were in the same category as the brown or yellow trout in the paying sportsman's eye, and were not of any consequence as far as the rent roll was concerned.

This indifference to the value of brown trout and finnock waters in the past has led, not only strangers, but folks at home as well, to regard these waters as free to all, and as such they have been angled on from time immemorial. Of course the idea is quite erroneous; but "use and wont" has made it very hard for proprietors, on the one hand, to assert their just rights, and the angling public on the other to part with their supposed ones. Hence it is no uncommon thing to find trout fishers wandering all over the country enjoying the sport of making record baskets when they can, in the quite innocent belief that as long as they stick to brown trout they are all right. Of course there are others who know better, and even on a mountain burn would no

more think of trespassing without leave than of entering the royal preserves at Balmoral themselves.

On tidal waters again, and especially near towns and burghs where the foreshores are town's property, the "use and wont" claim comes more into prominence. When there is a riparian proprietor to insist on his right of property in the fishings—whether salmon, grilse, brown, or sea trout, finnock, or whiting, as the case may be—the matter is simplicity itself. Either the offending party can then be prosecuted for poaching or for trespass. If it is "fish of the salmon kind" he has been angling for and taken, then it is a case of poaching; and if, again, he is angling for brown trout or finnock, then it is a case of trespassing on proprietary rights, and he can be interdicted from such interference. This was the outcome of the famous Spey trouting case, which established without doubt a proprietary right, which has not been disputed since. When the foreshores belong to corporations or burghs, or are otherwise Crown lands, there is no restriction on the angler so long as he confines himself to brown or yellow trout. The salmon fishings on such parts may be let at high rentals, and may be under a different proprietorship even from the lands adjoining, and yet the brown trout angler can go on his way rejoicing, for there is no one he can possibly trespass against. But the pity is that such places are scarcely worth his time and attention, for there the brown or yellow trout love not to dwell, or, if they do, they are pretty well accounted for, and soon kept pretty well within bounds. On the other hand, the finnock or whiting affect these quarters, especially in the spring and autumn, and fatten in their prolific currents.

For some time back, owing to the growing popularity of angling, as we have hinted, and the demand for sporting quarters, salmon fishing lessees have been gradually asserting their claims and disputing those of the tidal or free (?) angler to the finnock or whiting. "He may kill brown trout as he likes," they say, "but finnock or whiting are 'fish of the salmon kind,' and are our property as much as salmon, grilse, or sea trout undoubtedly are." In short, if finnock or whiting are the young of sea trout, then the salmon lessee has a claim upon them. If, on the other hand, they are not, then they are as free to the tidal angler as the brown trout are; but there's the rub.

The agent for the prosecution said, "If I had been charged with killing four whiting or finnock I would have pleaded guilty at once," but he was charged with killing four sea trout, and it was round this point that the evidence was led. It fell to the witnesses for the fishery board to prove that Mr. Archibald's four white trout were sea trout. It was not disputed, as a settled point in law, that an angler was not entitled to catch a finnock if it was a sea trout. But said the defence, "Prove it." It was here the muddle of the multitude came in, and probably gave the cute and learned judge the chance he seized of deciding the case, not on its merits, but by a sort of legal quibble, if we may be pardoned for using the expression. The sheriff himself will, we are certain, heartily agree with us, and it is hoped that when a similar charge is preferred in future the sheet may show that the fishery board is not afraid to use the word whiting or finnock, and then a more authoritative finding may be had.

It is of little moment to enter upon all the details of this most interesting case—the most important, in many respects, since the Speyside exciseman's prosecution, which was ultimately decided in the Court of Session. There were some brilliant examples of the "experienced fisherman" of from twenty to forty years standing who had theories of their own, not only on finnock and sea trout, but on salmon and "fish of the salmon kind" generally. They had a chance to air them, and they did not hesitate to do so. Probably they had a distant feeling that it was the last and only opportunity of illuminating the world (interested in *Salmo salar*) generally, and the dark intellects of scientists (in this particular line) in particular, as to their convictions that "grilse and salmon were different fish"; that "a finnock or whiting were never more than a year old," and so on. Nor were the regiment of anglers (tidal) less dogmatic in their beliefs, although their theories were mostly con-

— The —
Fishing Gazette
WITH WHICH IS INCORPORATED
ANGLING AND CLUB GOSSIP.
SATURDAY, APRIL 1st, 1899.

DEATH OF DR. JOHN BRUNTON, M.D., M.A.

It is with great regret that we announce the death of that well-known veteran angler Dr. John Brunton, which took place after only a few hours' illness last Saturday evening (March 25). The genial Doctor had been out visiting his patients up to the day before his death; and we are sure that all who knew him will join us in expressing to his widow and his family our sincerest sympathy with them in this great and sudden loss. We hope to give a portrait and some account of our late friend next week. It was only very recently that he called at our office to have a chat, and he was then looking as well as we have seen him for a long time. Dr. Brunton was an original member, and for years a member of the committee, of the Fly-fishers' Club; he was also one of the oldest living members of the Piscatorial and Gresham Angling Societies. He was an accomplished all-round angler, and one of the first contributors to the *Fishing Gazette*. He has not long survived his old friend Dr. Ramskill, whose obituary notice he wrote for our columns. It is sad to think we shall none of us hear his cheery "Hullo! how are you, my boy?" or see his pleasant face again.

finned to the matter under dispute and of a purely negative order.

The sheriff was not without a flash of humour in his decision when he remarked that he was not called upon to determine the "origin of species," and then to pass judgment after the following manner: "This complaint against you must be read that you did, contrary to an Act of Parliament, take four sea trout on a certain day from a certain river, and I hold that it has not been proved that you did that. . . . It is not whittings that you are accused of having taken, and the prosecutor attempts to bring the circumstances within his complaint by trying to show to me that whittings are sea trout. I am not prepared to express an opinion upon that, but I think all the prosecutor has proved here is that whittings, whether they ever become sea trout or not, are not, at the time they are whittings, sea trout, although they may be 'fish of the salmon kind' ? Therefore, I find this charge not proven, and I dismiss you from the bar."

We have given the decision in full as it is very instructive. "Fish of the salmon kind" will not do in an angling prosecution of this kind. They must be specified, and surely, in these days of scientific research, there should be no difficulty in establishing the "legal" connection between a whiting and a sea trout. On the other hand, there are migratory trout (tidal at least) which offer some colour of doubt as to their distinct class. They are mostly hybrids, and the outcome of artificial propagation—over which it is right to pause, for they all go under the name of "finnock," when found in the tidal waters, silvered, after the sea trout order, but which may not be sea trout. As artificial propagation by importing trout ova from hatcheries is more and more on the increase, and likely to become more so in the near future, this doubt has all the more weight. But when a test case is brought into the court by the tacit consent of both sides, it is a great pity that a legal quibble should be even permitted to come in and shelve it, for we look upon it as absurd to find a case of "cattle lifting" not proven, because they happened to be calves, as to find Archibald's case not proven when he had four whiting instead of four sea trout.

G. M.

SPECIMENS OF FLIES SEEN BY ANGLERS WANTED.

MR. R. B. MARSTON, editor of the *Fishing Gazette*, St. Dunstan's House, Fetter-lane, London, will be much obliged to anglers who will be kind enough to send to him specimens of flies which they meet with on rivers and lakes in any part of the world, with the following particulars:

- (1) Name of water, locality, and date of capture.
- (2) Local name of fly if it has any.
- (3) Name and address of sender.

THE LAKES OF KILLARNEY.

AMONG the thousands of people who visit Killarney every year many anglers and a considerable number are anglers. We make this distinction advisedly, for hardly a pleasure boat traverses the lakes but flies, from a rod of some sort, trail in its wake, and hardly a fly is trailed without at some time or other hooking a fish. There are not many, probably, who visit these far-famed lakes for the sole purpose of fishing. The scenery is the first, the angling but the second consideration. Indeed, most brethren of the rod prefer to seek more secluded spots, where they meet none but kindred spirits upon the water. Killarney is certainly too touristed to make ideal angling quarters. The hotels are hotels, not fishing inns, and are consequently expensive; still, there are people to whom comfort goes for something; and, moreover, many men who are blessed—shall we say?—with a wife and family find it a delightful place in which to spend the summer holidays; for while, to amuse the ladies, tennis, golf, boating, and society are available, they may still enjoy capital fun with their beloved trout literally at their very doors.

The formation of the Killarney Fishing Development Association should mark the beginning of a new angling era in this district. Energetic measures are being taken to cope with poaching in all its branches. The *Irish Times* states that

night lining has already been suppressed, a statement we are inclined to think a little premature, and we believe that the association has not so far succeeded in obtaining the abolition of cross-lines. It is to be hoped that their laudable efforts will be supported. What these lakes suffer from is over-fishing, and the damage done to sport by cross-lining can hardly be over-estimated. But the association does not confine itself to the prevention of poaching. During the last few years a large number of Loch Leven trout have been turned in, and the lakes are now to be stocked on an extensive scale with rainbow trout. It is thought that as the temperature of the water is singularly uniform, these fish should thrive and multiply. The experiment will be watched with keen interest by pisciculturists.

The prospects of the salmon fishing this year are exceedingly good, owing to all the heavy floods which we have had. A good head of fish are already reported, and there is every reason to hope for better sport than that recorded for some years past. The favourite flies for salmon are the Fiery Brown, Golden Olive, Jay's Blue, Thunder-Lightning, Blue and Black Doctors, sizes No. 1½, 1, 2, 3 D. L. hooks, old numbers. The best spinning baits are rather small Brown Phantoms and Devons, or blue ones when the lake is discoloured. It is, however, as a trouting resort that Killarney is particularly famous, and to trout we accordingly turn our attention. The average size is rather under the half a pound, but fish up to two or two and a half pounds, though infrequent, are not rare.

The lakes proper are three in number. The lower, and largest, Lough Leane, holds many small and some good trout; but it is much fished, or "hacked," as the locals call it. In the middle lake, Muckross, there are better fish. The upper lake, Torc, holds fish in plenty, but they do not run large. Flies and minnows for all of these should be small. The angler cannot do better than put himself in the hands of Mr. Haynes, Patrick-street, Cork, who knows all the best patterns, and may be relied upon to supply those suitable for the time of year. The grouse, green, blue, or orange are always good, and the Zulu is, perhaps, more killing than anything. On a good day the basket should contain one fish of a pound, several between ½ lb. and ¾ lb., and many of about five and six ounces. The trout in these, as indeed in all the Kerry loughs, are exceedingly sporting, and fight surprisingly well. They are pretty fish, and excellent eating. Within easy distance are many mountain tarns, where dozens of tiny trout may always be taken. The same may be said of the mountain streams. The river Flesk was affected by the bog slide, and has not yet entirely recovered. It is only good in high water. Near Headford Junction, the next station on the Dublin line, runs the Anna Cree, a river with a great reputation, to which Killarney boatmen much enjoy an excursion. The latter are deserving of all praise. Keen, quiet, and steady, they combine a thorough knowledge of their work with the simple courtesy so characteristic of the Irish peasantry. Many of the hotels supply boats (to fishermen) free of charge. The cost to the angler is thus reduced to the 5s. a day and lunch, which is the boatman's wage.

We have preferred to mention last the bit of trouting, which we regard as the best in this district. Some three miles away, beneath the precipitous slopes of Crohane, lies a spherical lough named Guitane, a name variously rendered in maps and guide-books as Gutane, Guttane, or Kittane, which all signify the same sheet of water. Its shores are bleak, and bare of vegetation. It has no further claim to beauty than the weird contrast between its placid surface and the rugged mass which towers above it; and is consequently less frequented than its more entrancing neighbours, being seldom visited, as we read, except by fishermen.

Mr. Jones, let us say, has been fishing Lough Leane, and, owing, no doubt, to the bright sun and stilly air, and beyond all question not to the fact that Mrs. Jones, who accompanied him, persisted in displaying a red parasol, to which he himself attributes his failure, has been much disappointed in his hopes of a bag. Wiping his bald head with a green pocket-handkerchief, he at length lays his rod along the sides of the boat, and turning to Mikey, says, with some irritation, "I don't believe there's a blessed fish in the lake;

confound the sulky brutes." "Faith, sor," replies that worthy, "they're not taking at all, bad luck to 'em. I never knew sich a day." "What's to be done, then, Mike?" "Begor, sor, an you'd thry Guitane, you'd have a bit of sport. That's a fine lake, and there's a power of fine trouts in it, too." Jones says no more, but thinks a lot; and that evening, when Mrs. Jones has gone up to dress for dinner, he arranges with Mikey to leave for Guitane at eight o'clock the following morning, an hour at which he knows very well his faithful spouse will not be stirring.

Punctually the car is at the door. Our friend betrays his Saxon origin by holding on to the rail behind, and it is just as well he does so, for Jarvey cuts the corners fine, and they swing round them in a manner calculated to disturb a tyro. A little excitement is supplied by a collision with a milk cart, which Jarvey and Mikey take with philosophical unconcern. Not so, however, the indignant Jones, who informs the driver that he is the worst man behind a horse he (Jones) had ever seen. "Ah, sure," said Jarvey, "it's a very awkward beast to drive, and when you've an awkward horse you must have an awkward man to drive him." They arrive at their destination without further mishap, and proceed to bail out the leaky boat, whose dirty condition is sufficient evidence that this is no resort for pleasure parties. "You may try a larger fly than down along," says Mike, as our friend is adjusting his tackle. Accordingly he mounts a Claret and Blue at the tail, with a fiery Brown and Blue Towser for droppers. Nor has he long to wait ere he is justified in his selection, for by the end of the first drift half a dozen pretty little fish are lying in the basket. There is a southerly breeze, a nice ripple on the lake, a cloudy yet not overcast sky; all the attributes, in fact, of an ideal fishing day; and the fun is fast and furious. Sometimes two, and once three, of the ravenous *fario* are captured at one cast, yet Jones is not satisfied, for though they have thirty fish by luncheon time there is not one over the half pound. It is pleasant to land after a morning afloat; the meat pies and beer are also good; so is the soothing pipe, which has a relish all its own on these occasions. There are few things sweeter than a pipe by the water-side. He smokes his peacefully beside a little stream which trickles from a mountain lakelet into the silver lough; along its shores the butterwort and bog plants thrive amazingly. Their rest enjoyed, they embark again, and Jones, who has already captured more fish than he knows what to do with, determines, to Mikey's delight, to devote the rest of the day to trolling for a big one. It is not till evening that his patience is rewarded, but then there is a pull that bends the rod top (which by the way is not a spinning one) to the water's edge, and he is certainly fast in a good one. He obligingly follows the boat for some way, and is within fifteen yards before he seems to grasp the situation. Then, quite suddenly, as if for the first time realising his danger, he runs out several yards of line, and our worthy friend's heart is fairly in his mouth as a magnificent golden fellow, whom he mentally puts down as at least a 3-pounder, leaps into the air. "Begor!" exclaims Mike. "That's a great fish! Five pounds, if not six." But Mike is a master of the multiplication table. Who but the man with the rod in his hand can experience the exquisite thrill of pleasure which vibrates through every nerve as a gallant trout struggles gamely to the end? Such a mixture of joy and anxiety now agitates Jones, as he deftly drops the rod point, and finds the fish, in spite of these gymnastics, still well and firmly hooked. Minutes, which seem hours, of desperate play ensue before, after a splendid but unavailing effort, the quarry comes heavily alongside, and is instantly landed by Mikey's practised hand, anon to propitiate the angry goddess, Mrs. J., for her husband's desertion. Jones was a proud man that night, and decided to spend yet another week at Killarney.

MARK BENCH.

WE have received the first number of a new publication entitled *The Thames* (price one penny), dated March 25, dealing with all things connected with the river, and those who are in the habit of passing their leisure time on the water will find it very interesting. The first number contains a supplement giving the portraits of the Oxford and Cambridge University crews.

OTTERS AND CRAYFISH.

In some parts of Germany otters are still so numerous as to cause great loss to fishery proprietors. The President of the Thuringian Fisheries Society, Colonel von Egloffstein, writes to our contemporary, the German *Fishing Gazette*, about baits for otter traps. He says that otters are so fond of crayfish that they do not trouble about other fish if they can get them, and that the best bait for an otter trap is crayfish. Colonel von Egloffstein has killed as many as five otters in one place. As regard the question, can otter flesh be eaten by man, he says it can, but that those who have once eaten any are not likely to make a second attempt.

"BLAGGLEWAITHE v. FATE AND ANOTHER."

In one corner of my friend Blaggelwaithe's study is a small glass fronted cabinet, and in one corner of the cabinet, amidst china pots and other gewgaws, is a rusty mackerel spinner and a few yards of frayed line attached. Mrs. Blaggelwaithe, a most proper and particular lady, permits it to remain in that honourable position, and even once in my hearing spoke of having it placed in a separate case and a better position.

Dinner was over, and the ladies had retired into the drawing-room. B. pushed his cigar case across the table, and I selected one of the tapering beauties and sent a wreath of grey-blue smoke curling around the decanters. Then said I:

"Blaggelwaithe, is there a story attached to the spinner in your study?"

"A story indeed!" he replied. "Never heard of such a story before! Marvellous! Happened to me, too!"

"Would you tell it to me?"

"Certainly my boy, with pleasure. You play cards, I think, occasionally?"

"A little whist, that is all."

"Well, you will then understand that whist is a queer game. Sometimes your hand is good, and your opponents' bad; more often the reverse, and now and then all four hands are 'much of a muchness,' which increases the necessity of good play to give you the odd trick, to say nothing of honours. But did you ever play at whist with Fate, my boy—double dummy? That's a very different game, and yet I once played so—and won. I will tell you how it happened."

"If you have been to Penzance you will remember the old 'Dolphin Inn' on the Quay, a queer old place, half smuggler's holes, now filled up with fish boxes and cordage, half underground apartments, now filled with casks of good honest ales and spirits. I well recollect the clock case in the bar parlour which swings back and reveals a dark grimy passage beyond leading either into the bowels of the earth or the chimney."

"A few years ago I was staying at this same hostelry, and having a right good time fishing around the rocky coast; and a rocky coast it is, too! Huge green and yellow coated boulders piled one upon another, with the transparent blue water eternally dashing and howling around them; great snarling crags, topped with emerald moss—and all the rest of it. My visit was nearly at an end, so I resolved that I would have one last day among the mackerel—great pearly-flanked fellows, with skins like broken rainbows."

"Now, at Penzance there are currents as well as rocks. If you lose an oar at Marazion, you pass the Wolf Lighthouse—miles down the coast—before you have finished ejaculating 'Oh, bother!' or words to that effect, according to the morality of the loser; and you stand a fair chance of being able to ask a homeward-bound liner off Cape Clear for the loan of another before you really emphasise the remark. My reason, my boy, for explaining all this is to prove that a really competent idiot is justified in dispensing with the services of the man-who-knows-the-coast, and he can whiff for mackerel alone, leaving the current to work the boat. Having chartered my craft, I gathered together the implements for my sport, and stowed them in the bows fitted for immediate action; then I returned to the inn for my luncheon."

"When I returned to the boat I found the stern seat and three-quarters of the bottom occupied

by a stranger. He was a tall man, bronzed by the Cornish sun, and fast asleep. His apparel denoted him a man mixed up with the fishing industry—peaked cap, guernsey, heavy cloth trousers tucked up his legs, and wearing no boots. He was Fate's first card.

"Wake up!" said I. He snored long and deep. "Wake up! this is my craft," I repeated. He only snored again.

"If you don't clear I'll pitch you out!" I shouted. It was an idle threat, for I stand but five feet in my boots; whilst he, my boy, lay six without 'em! A man sitting on the harbour steps called out, "T'won't matter, Sir; take him along with you! He may be useful!"

"I did so, and Fate pulled in the trick with a grin. Rowing is hard work in a small whale boat when the whale is inside. I pulled one way, and we surged slowly ahead, whilst now and then the sleeping man snored a long and vibrating snore; then the boat moved faster. In this manner we gained the outer waters and the currents. There were two of the latter at that spot, and the boat lay undecided, when the man's cap fell overboard as he lurched violently from one side to the other. One current took that, and the other, satisfied with the division of the spoil, took us."

"As quick as thought I seized the rod, and, with a grand 'whirr-r-r,' sent the spinner flying and curving after the fast receding headgear. It missed by a few yards. I reeled in again, and the cap disappeared."

"Said I to the sleeper: 'Wake up; your cap is gone!'"

"He snored, and a hideous fear came oozing out of my forehead. Suppose the man was drunk? I pinched his arm hard, and yet harder; only grunts in response. Clearly the man was drunk. Fate's hand was a good one."

"However, I trumped that move, for I stuck a pin into him and took the trick. He did not though—at least, not in the spirit I had intended—for he sat up with a jump, found himself all at sea and alone with a smaller man than himself, therefore he came floundering over the seats towards me. His eyes were half closed, yet through the slits I saw mischief gleaming, so I retreated hurriedly into the bows. Still he came on. I retreated farther into the bows; they couldn't last for ever—all bows come to a point—and yet he advanced in so wobbling a manner that cradles were not in it beside that boat. Suddenly he collapsed over the bow seat, and hung sprawling over the side. I had a most decided wish to administer a slight push in order to relieve my adversary of a useful partner, yet ordinarily I am an honest, perhaps timid man, who shrinks from the thought of murder. However, I fought over the temptation, and pulled him inboard, so giving Fate the trick."

"All this time we were drifting speedily out to sea, and I cast an anxious look ahead, for I had no wish to go ashore on the coast of Ireland at our present alarming velocity. A short distance ahead of us I saw an iron post with a curious openwork ball poised on the top. It rose above the waves majestically, and seemed a hope-inspiring beacon to my weakened nerves. The boat took us towards it, and I calculated that if we passed within five yards of it I would make the leap or die in the attempt—most probably the latter!"

"My companion made a drunken effort to get at my legs, and the current took us some distance to the right of the pillar. That was Fate's play. Seizing my trusty rod once more, I made a cast for life."

"I can, when attacked by nightmares, see that post yet, and all the incidents attending the throw. Again the boat hurtles over the deep blue waters of Mount's Bay. Again I see those beetling crags beyond Newlyn, emblematic of stony failure, and again around the barnacle-grown base of the iron pillar the tide froths up into myriads of swirling bubbles with the deep throbbing sound of the ravenous sea. The silvery spinner flashed through the sunny air as true as ever a cast was made, and circled again and again around the rusty post. I have been told it was placed there to afford shelter and clinging room to shipwrecked mariners. No mariner ever looked on it with more joy than did I, for it was heaven to me as a refuge from the dev—, I mean from the man in the boat."

"Never did experienced angler use his rod and

line more delicately. I prayed that the boat might get out of the horrible vortex which was fast drawing us to America, and my prayers were answered, for the craft swung gracefully round into calm water, when I had but a few yards of line left on the reel."

"I gently wound in toward my novel catch, and when at last we reached it, I threw my arms about it from the point of vantage in the bows and kissed its rusty surface, crying aloud, 'Hurrah! My trick!'"

"Horror! Accumulated agonising horror! The boat's nose bumped affectionately and slid away at a tangent, leaving me with but one foot hooked over the side—the other in the water—whilst my arms firmly clasped the pillar, and my body—Ugh, my poor body!—doubled down like a tightly strung bow."

"I had to leave the boat, the pillar, or both, so I chose to stick to my pillar, because at that moment my foot slipped, and never did that cold iron feel a warmer embrace than mine as I spluttered around its base."

"My agonised eye sought the cage-like ball above. There was an opening in it large enough to admit my body if I could but reach it; and although portly in figure, and not used to violent exercise, my boy, I did it, after a world of scraping and slipping, pulling myself into the globe with a thankful sob."

"When I had regained my breath I looked below again. My rod had so hitched in the woodwork of the boat as to be fixed fast, whilst at my end the line was securely tangled. So the wayward craft was moored to my metallic island. Its occupant was asleep again. Penzance lay white and glistening in the centre of the bay, the houses being clearly visible, so I set myself to think out a means of attracting attention. Clearly the best thing would be to wave something—my coat—through the bars. It was feasible, and might be visible, so I began wagging it backward and forward slowly, for it was wet and heavy. I wagged for a long time, when, at last, my straining eyes detected a movement at the harbour mouth. What was it? A boat! Yes, a blessed little boat, like a black spot, came dancing over the waters, and I watched the rowers bend and pull—bend and pull as they made their way towards us."

"As they approached I cheered them, for I thought that I had now finished the game, and when they were within a quarter of a mile I put on my wet coat again and slowly lowered myself through the hole till I had a good hold of the pole, when I slid gently down it. Down, down until my feet came heavily on the line which moored our boat, so suddenly that the frayed cord snapped, releasing its charge, which immediately found a current bent on business elsewhere, and went along with it without a thought of how much inconvenience it was causing. Fate had played a high trump indeed!"

"The fishermen of Penzance, who occupied the oncoming craft, saw a draggled morsel of humanity clinging to his last hope; they also saw a boat—their boat—speeding away before them, and they followed the boat."

"Ah! could they but have known how weary were my arms, how heavy my body, they would have aided me first. Fate's trick, plainly!"

"I shrieked after them. I cursed them, as a foiled villain curses in a provincial melodrama, and I slipped down my pole a little. I tried to climb again, but an unseen hand had grabbed my coat collar and pulled me down, so I slid a little farther."

"No hope! No chance! One more effort to reach that beautiful cage; one slip more, and I released my hold, falling gently into the warm blue waters, which gurgled me a horrid welcome. The end had come!"

"Then why did I not sink? I didn't, my boy! And began to wonder whether my brother-in-law was right when he called me a hollow fraud? If so, perchance I should float. Then I felt that same invisible grip behind me holding me up. Carefully I put my hand round to my coat collar, when the mystery became clear. The behooked spinning bait had caught my coat as I slid, and that blessed little piece of steel held me above the suffocating flood. I dared not sneeze or move for fear that the strained line would break; and so the Penzance fisherman found me when at length they returned with the runaway boat in tow. So I won."

"They kindly unhooked me and pulled me in, when I at once told the still sleeping beauty what I thought of him. I did it in so complete a manner that the men treated me with marked respect all the way back. You see, my boy, language, and a command of it, are good passports in fishing circles. Eh! Take another glass of port and pass the bottle!" KRYPTOS.

TWO PICTURES.

AN article of mine, entitled "Then and Now," which appeared in these pages last summer, and dealt with subscription fisheries past and present, and their frequenters, touched such a responsive chord in the breast of an old Lea angler that he was led in turn to contribute a very interesting account of Flander's Weir, in which he mentioned the names of some good anglers who were very well known to me (Mr. Grimmo, to wit), although I could not quite identify the author—"Lea Valley"—himself. It is quite possible, however, that we have spent together many days, bad and good, on the banks of that most alluring stream.

Doubtless it is difficult for a North British angler, who never thinks of applying the description "a fish" to anything but a salmon, to understand the overmastering charm which the sluggish southern Lea exercises over so many of his fellow-sportsmen who dwell within, say, a twelve-mile radius of Charing Cross.

The memory of Walton and his work is, of course, responsible for much of this charm. The scenery, too, of the backwaters especially, is quietly beautiful; but the chief fascination, I think, of Lea fishing to its followers lies in the extreme wariness of the fish, which necessitates, in those who would capture them, the employment of tackle almost daring in its fineness, together with judgment and experience in a greater degree than perhaps any other kind of fishing in the world.

It is all very well to say, as some people will, that the fish so caught are, after all, not worth much as food; but the red-coated sportsmen, who find so much pleasure in hunting Master Reynard, never by any chance think of eating him.

I have been led thus to think and write of this old angling love of mine by the sight of two pictures just lately in a West-end shop. They are entitled respectively "Fly Fishing" and "Bottom Fishing," and are coloured engravings, first published, I should think, quite sixty years ago. Odd copies of them are still to be seen in old riverside hostelrys, but in too faded or smoke-dried a condition to render inspection of them interesting. The two under notice, however, being quite clean and well preserved, allowed me to easily identify the two scenes represented. "Fly Fishing" depicts two anglers engaged in casting fur or feather on the surface of the stream, one of the two in a most theatrical attitude, from the Walthamstow side of the Lea, exactly opposite the old wooden house once occupied by one Ford, whose name was long associated with the adjacent fishery which is now well known as Game's.

Anyone acquainted with the house would at once recognise it in the picture, although the row of poplars, there shown as flourishing, have of late years sadly decayed, as is the nature of poplars; while the apparently swiftly flowing stream is now replaced by something much more sluggish. A reader desirous of making a similar picture from the same point of view would have to take his stand on the bank of a new channel, cut for the purposes of a water company. Two channels for only the same quantity of water will account for the lack of pace in the stream now.

One of the cleverest anglers and best men I ever knew served his apprenticeship to the rod on this same water in the days of Ford, and many a happy hour (which, alas! for one of us, can never be repeated) have we spent together on the banks of that water, or, when weather or appetite rendered it necessary, in the old house itself. I believe that some anglers who knew poor Dick B. still frequent the fishery and obtain good fish from it; but no more 10lb. barbel, as he did.

The "Bottom Fishing" picture, again, undoubtedly shows a portion of the old Lea with much the same old-fashioned sportsmen fishing for roach or perch. On the bank of the river is a house of refreshment, which I at once recog-

nised as one which still stands between the old river and the navigation at Angel-road. It is a house which one might well imagine to be haunted by the shades of many sterling anglers, for was it not once occupied, as the signboard in the picture denotes, by "Benjn. Wicks," a famous angling host of days long past, who was widely known and respected by London anglers in his time, and is a household word to many of the more modern school.

This is the house, too, of which Baddeley, the true Waltonian, wrote in 1834:

"The old wooden house occupied by Matthew Cook has been pulled down

Near Old Cook's Ferry, Benjamin Wicks,
Has turn'd the wooden house to bricks."

I understand that the barge cut of the Lea near here has been so well stocked recently with fish from the East London Water Company's reservoirs by the London Anglers' Association that the ghosts of some of the departed veterans referred to previously might well be tempted to come back again in the twilight to fish their favourite stream. If only one could fall in with them while so engaged what hints they could give, what sorrow they would express for certain changes in the district, and what copy they might afford!

CLAYR KENWAL.

CRUISES ON THE COAST OF NORWAY.

THERE is not much use nowadays in poking ones way in rowing boats up out-of-the-way fjords on the coast of Norway in search of streams where salmon are and fishermen are not. Such an expedition is pretty sure to result in the discovery of several scores of previously unheard of bagnets, while should an inflowing stream with water enough to fill a ½ in. pipe be fallen in with, on its banks will be found a house "where the Englishman" lives, or an encampment of knickerbockered young men. But it was not by any means "ever thus," and we can recall sundry prospecting expeditions made on the strength of chance local information that did not turn out at all badly, and the results of which compare favourably with the extremely modest ones so frequently obtained nowadays in exchange for enormous rents.

On a certain occasion we had been urgently pressed by a worthy Norwegian to attend a ball which was to be given at his house for all the people in the neighbourhood of his abode. To get at the place it was necessary for us to row down a long fjord for quite twenty miles, but the particular river on which we were at work had run down below proper level, our friend promised us great fun, and he finally clinched the matter by expressing a desire that we should try, as often as we liked, a stretch of some five miles of semi-tidal water on a large river where he owned the rights, and which had never been let. Although from the description we did not expect to add much to the season's bag, still it was an experience, and as "members of the house party" we attended the function in question, which commenced at a very early hour in the evening, and at midnight looked like going on for ever. As the company danced with ever increasing energy the noise made in the great wooden house by the numberless pairs of heavy boots became appalling, and beginning to perceive sundry "hiddicks" in process of manufacture we determined on disappearing, without ceremony, as quickly as possible. An opportunity shortly offered of suggesting a visit to the river to our host's principal boatman, who was, of course, one of the guests, and he being a keen fisherman at once acquiesced. *Vi et armis*, he unceremoniously grabbed and bore off from a fair partner's society his eldest son, who was in the very thick of the festivities, and within ten minutes we were pulling across the fjord, the sounds of revelry dying away behind us on the still air, and the faint light that comes before dawn tinging the mists and snowdrifts that lay on the higher tops far above us.

The entrance of that river (now, by the way, one of the best known salmon streams in Norway) struck us as very grand. The great walls of rock—a couple of thousand feet high at least—that environed the fjord, closed in at the head, and through the magnificent gateway thus formed

the broad stream flowed in majestic silence. In the dim light it was not easy to determine where fjord ended and river began, but within an hour from the start, the increasing difficulty of progression intimated the existence of a current, and beneath a great wooded bluff we commenced operations by letting out a blue and a silver Phantom, as being more adapted to the style of water than the fly. The place did not appear a likely one, there being no pool outlined or other feature symptomatic of a salmon cast and the water flowed with slow even current, showing hardly a trace on its smooth surface of submerged boulders, or other objects likely to prove attractive to fish; but the bank on one side was rocky and abrupt, pine trees maintained precarious hold on the supervening ledges, and old Ole said it was a good place when the tide was out for a fresh-run "lax."

And sure enough he was right, for the minnows had not been five minutes in the water when the blue one was taken quietly under water, the reel screamed, and a bar of living silver sprang a yard into the air. About a quarter of an hour later, as a matter of fact, that fish reposed in the bottom of the boat; but that he remained on was little short of marvellous, for the performances he went through before Ole got the clip into him were perilous to a degree. In spite of these, however, and the softness of his mouth, the tail triangle held, and we started the morning's bag with a beautiful 10-pounder, straight from the sea, plentifully studded as to the lower part of his person with sea lice. During his comet-like progress, two or three other fish threw themselves, astonished no doubt, at the extraordinary excitement displayed by their friend, but they would not take, and a sea trout of 3½ lb. was all we could secure before Ole announced that it was time to go elsewhere. The next spot was very similar in character (or, to be more accurate, in absence thereof), but the surroundings were very beautiful; great wooded bluffs and terraces towered one above the other in endless perspective on either side, slight wreaths of mist clinging here and there to their rugged sides, while in a sheltered nook on the right bank a little homestead nestled, from which a thin blue column of smoke ascended on the still morning air. Friend Ole was in the middle of a terrific yarn in regard to a gigantic halibut, which on a certain occasion he had been instrumental in slaying, and his hopeful son (who pulled bow) was grinning over his parent's shoulder as at a tale he had heard before, and mayhap with variations, when bang went both reels almost simultaneously. For a brief space the two salmon kept fairly clear of one another, and we had just time to indulge in the faint hope that with care and patience both might ultimately be landed, but the next minute the lines fouled, and disaster succeeded. One fish made a most astonishing jump, and shook himself clear of the hooks, while the other secured his liberty by smashing the trace and walking off with minnow and everything. Greatly disgusted were we all with this catastrophe, and as we pulled ashore to repair damages, each man expressed his belief that never had such a thing happened before, and the weight of the fish that annexed the phantom was liberally estimated, 30 lb. being the very lowest suggestion. There was nothing for it, however, but to try again, so having adjusted a fresh minnow in place of the lost one, and seen that the other was once more equal to the ordeal of battle, we again put forth. This time we were more fortunate, and succeeded in capturing, without either grief or loss, three good fish of 12 lb., 18 lb., and 21 lb. respectively, all, it need hardly be added, as clean as salmon can possibly be, and in the height of condition.

The morning mists had now entirely disappeared, the air was much warmer, and the whole of the beautiful valley bathed in sunshine—so much so that only where a bluff intervened, and threw its shadow across the river, was there any use in trying. On arriving at one of these places, which Ole intimated must be our uppermost limit for that day, the water looked so clear and comparatively quick-flowing that we thought well to replace the minnows with flies—a double Silver Doctor and a Namsen. The head of this cast was too shallow, and nothing showed in it; but a little way down the stream passed over a submerged ledge of rock, on the lower side of

which the water was much deeper, and along which, it soon became evident, the fish lay. First of all, the Namsen scored with a handsome 15-pounder, which fortunately elected to rush down-stream the moment he was hooked, and right out into the sunshine, where he disported himself to admiration, pretty nearly his every movement being visible from the boat. Then, as we once more essayed the same spot and the flies dropped over the ledge, a fish dashed wildly at the "Doctor," sending the water flying all round, missed with his mouth but got hooked foul. A nice dance he led us before the gaff transferred him from his native element to terra firma, but like his immediate predecessor, he also elected to play in the open, and amiably refrained from disturbing the water upon which the shadow of the friendly bluff still lay. As a result of this considerate behaviour on his part, we were enabled to seduce two more salmon (15lb. and 21lb.) from their comfortable quarters beneath the ledge, before the sun came round the corner; to say nothing of a grilse, which, by its violent antics, effectually destroyed any chance that might have remained.

Having duly admired our eight fine fish, and covered them over with fresh bracken as a protection against the heat of the sun, we started on the return journey, all greatly elated with the night's sport. Prior to pushing off, however, we shipped a fourth individual, who was fated later on to exercise an unfortunate influence on our fortunes. This was Ole's dog Jeppe, one of the regular Norwegian type, whose tails never, under the most depressing circumstances, deviate from a complete upward circle, whose ears are always cocked, and whose coats—even in the height of summer, are invariably of enormous thickness. No doubt he had wandered off from his owner's house (which we passed on the way up) in order to have a bit of sport on his own account, and probably hearing his master's voice when excited over the capture of a fish, he elected to join our party. When in the boat, however, he would not remain still, got mixed up with a phantom minnow, and made himself such a nuisance that it was determined he should be shunted. There remained one more spot which we had not tried on the way up, where it appeared there was still a chance if we got there before the tide began to affect it. On arriving there, therefore, and in order to make the best of the time, Ole walked off home with the dog, leaving us to fish the pool with young Johan as oarsman. The place was deep, slow flowing, and by no means attractive; but it was destined to afford the excitement of a by no means uneventful day. We fished it over without a stir of anything, and, having taken in one rod, were about to do likewise with the other, when the top of the latter was slowly bent, and, on picking it up, there was a dead pull suggestive of nothing but the bottom or a snag. In this we were confirmed by our youthful boatman, who said that somewhere close by there was a sunken pine root on which he had known his father foul his line on several previous occasions, and as no strain that we could apply with the rod had the smallest effect, we proceeded to put the boat over the supposed obstacle, in order to get a straight pull, and save as much of the gear as possible. Catching hold of the line close to the water, we held on, the gentle downstream motion of the boat communicating a steady drag, that seemed certainly bound to effect a disconnection in some form or another very quickly. But suddenly the line was wrenched away (most fortunately, no hitch occurring), the reel revolved at terrific speed, and we realised that, instead of a snag, we were fast in a very heavy salmon. For a good quarter of an hour he travelled all over the place, never remaining still for an instant, and never approaching the surface, Johan being hard put to it in order to keep up with his movements, over which, owing to his great strength, we had no control. At the end of that time Ole turned up, and promptly realising the position of affairs, yelled an urgent desire to come on board again, a desire which, it need hardly be said, was fully shared by his son and by ourselves. An effort was made with that object; but just as we had got within a couple of yards of the rock on which the excited Ole was balancing himself, preparatory to making a spring, the fish started off in most determined fashion for the opposite bank, and we had to follow at best speed. Then he shot off

down stream, and the opportunity of obtaining effective assistance was lost. After travelling for about a quarter of an English mile in his wake in most erratic fashion we encountered the tide, and as a long stretch of brimming waterway extended below devoid of obstacles of any sort, we began to entertain hopes of an ultimately successful issue to the adventure; but, singularly enough under the circumstances, our friend evinced no desire to return to salt-water, and as soon as he had investigated the altered conditions, made a "volte face" and began the return journey upstream.

The sun was now very hot, and a strong breeze blew down the valley, which, meeting the volume of water pressed up from the fjord, created quite a nasty little "sea," while the fish's eccentric mode of progression—a series of fierce rushes—made the work still harder for Johan. At intervals we could hear his worthy father struggling through the brushwood on shore, anathematising everything he could think of in fluent Norsk—the dog which had brought about his absence from the boat he was now trying his best to reach, the innumerable obstacles that interfered with his progress, the cussedness of the fish we had hooked, the heat, the flies, his inability to find another boat with which to join us, and so on. All this was amusing enough to recall afterwards, but at the time we were far too much occupied in "holding on" to appreciate the humour thereof. To make a long story short the salmon succeeded in making his way back to the very point from which he started, and we—after many hairbreadth escapes from being run out—in following him. A couple of hours' hard travelling had told its tale, and we had the satisfaction of forcing him to the surface once and getting a glimpse of his huge proportions. It was the last and only one, however, for in spite of our most strenuous endeavours he managed to get back to the abominable snag, beside which he had no doubt been lying, and broke away.

Thus with a great disaster ended a fine morning's sport upon a piece of water which at that time—nearly thirty years ago—might have been leased for £10 a year. As it is a portion of "a famous river" the rent is now a stiff one, even for Norway; moreover, the fjord is now full of bagnets, and a day such as the one crudely described above is absolutely unknown.

"RUGDE."

(To be continued.)

A TARPON ANGLER AND ARTIST.

MR. ROWLAND WARD, F.Z.S., 166, Piccadilly, is showing some pictures of tarpon by Mr. Mielatz, an angler and artist. Mr. Mielatz combines the painter, etcher, and lithographer with all the enthusiasm of the thorough sportsman. In the spring of 1897 Mr. Mielatz made a yachting trip along the coast of Florida, dividing his time between shooting, fishing, and painting. Here it was that he first became acquainted with the tarpon, and proved himself the keen sportsman he is by landing over thirty of them for his first season. He could have caught twice as many, but a great deal of his time was given up to making studies and sketches from life of the tarpon. A small houseboat was secured and fitted up as a studio. A scaffolding was erected at one end for hauling up and posing a tarpon—no easy matter to pose a fish weighing over 100lb. Some of the sketches were made by Mr. Mielatz from tarpon fresh from the water, when their colours were still marvellously bright with opalescent flashes, and the fins, &c., retained all the rich hues of life. His study of a king fish hooked in the Gulf Stream is from a fish fresh caught. It is this conscientious working out of details on the spot that gives his pictures their brilliant colouring. To us here in dingy London such colours seem false, but the real fact is, as anyone knows who has seen a tarpon freshly caught and the indigo blue waters of the Gulf Stream, all the colours are really toned down.

One of Mr. M.'s pictures represents some tarpon blowing in a pool up the Caloosahatchie river after sunset, representing, as it does, the quiet stillness of the scene, with the smooth surface of the water broken here and there by tarpon curving quietly out and in, with the peculiar puffing sound so well known to the tarpon angler.

These etchings are the forerunners of a set of about a dozen, which Mr. Mielatz is preparing for an art book on the subject of Angling in Florida. It is his intention to combine sport and art in this book.

At Captiva Pass, in Florida, where Mr. Mielatz spent several weeks on the yacht *Decoy* angling for tarpon, and then using them as models, he met with several most interesting adventures. One, in which a 15ft. shark figured, was a great dramatic success from the artistic, but a decided failure from the sporting, point of view, as the said 15ft. shark, after a most exciting chase, in which the boat was nearly upset several times, stole a magnificent tarpon, taking it in in two bites, although the tarpon was close on 7ft. long. Another time Mr. Mielatz had caught his tarpon, and, having passed a rope through his gills, was towing him ashore to use as a model, when there was a heavy jerk, which stopped the row-boat, throwing Mr. M. and the guide down. On getting up, and looking behind, the water was seen stained with blood, while twisting around in the current at the rope's end was seen the tarpon's head, with a few shreds of skin hanging from it, the water gurgling through the mouth and out through the throat, now wide open. Mielatz did not paint that day, for he had no model, and, to tell the truth, he had no desire to paint or angle for models, for the shadow of evil, in the shape of some large shark, had come too near for comfort of mind.

However, one gets used to everything, and after a while it became on some days so customary, this playing hide and seek with sharks in an endeavour to get the tarpon ashore before the shark got it, that it created but little comment.

It is amusing to see Mr. Mielatz start off in his boat with:

1. Art side—palette, paint box, easel, brushes, &c.

2. Sport side—tarpon rod, reel, hooks, gaff, &c.

When he gets his first tarpon ashore, then comes the struggle between his artistic and sporting temperaments. Up goes the easel on the beach and the umbrella, the tarpon is posed, gleaming and glistening like a big jewelled work, and for a while all goes well; then Mielatz's eyes would wander off over the waters of the Pass. A tarpon or two would appear, puff, curve over, and disappear. Mielatz would move restlessly and resume his painting. Again his eyes would wander over the Pass; this time perhaps a dozen tarpon would appear simultaneously. This would prove too much for Mielatz, who, leaving his easel, umbrella, brushes, &c., on the beach, would call the guide, jump into the boat, and hurry out to see if he could not get another of the big chaps. That he did this with success at times is proved by the fact that on one day he landed five tarpon to his one rod. It is this mixture of the artist and sportsman which makes Mielatz such an interesting personality. A favourite with all who know him, he is acknowledged by artists to be one of the most promising of American painters, etchers, and lithographers; by sportsmen he is acknowledged to be thoroughly "one of them."

MESSRS. HARDY'S NEW EDITION OF THEIR CATALOGUE.

WE have so often referred at length to this excellent catalogue, and pointed out that it contains practical hints on angling, that it is only necessary to refer briefly to a few of the new features in the new edition.

In the first place, there are many new illustrations in those pages devoted to articles on fishing of all kinds; in fact, they appear to be all new, and we hope Messrs. Hardy will later on lend us one or two of the very attractive fishing views.

Another improvement, and one sure to be greatly appreciated, is that, in the new full pages of flies, tackle, &c., the actual sizes are given and the references in the text made to correspond with each illustration. This is far better than trusting to ordinary by-numbers, since the different scales of numbers in use are so utterly confusing. Then, again, if you want to order one of Hardy's capital "Crocodile" spinners for spinning a natural bait, you have on the plate facing p. 127 photographic reproductions of the actual sizes (five) in which

the spinner is made, from No. 4, 2in., for minnow spinning for trout and perch, up to No. 1, which takes a 4in. dace for pike fishing. The same applies to the plates of prawn tackle (facing p. 128), Hardy's "Wobblers," for wobbling a bait; the original pattern of this is as old as they make them, but was "perfected by the Right Hon. Earl Cairns," and it is certainly much improved. Then the illustrations of salmon and trout flies show the actual sizes. These plates are so useful that we shall have a set framed for reference.

Illustrations are given of Messrs. Hardy's new patterns of rods, reels, &c., which we noticed recently, and which can be seen at their exhibit at the Royal Aquarium. Their guinea greenheart fly rod can now be had with a cork handle, and either stiff, whippy, or medium action. It is a first-rate rod, and has given great satisfaction.

This is much the best list Messrs. Hardy have produced, and that is saying a great deal.

MR. J. OGDEN SMITH'S EXHIBIT AT THE FISHERIES EXHIBITION.

ALTHOUGH his show is not a large one we had no intention of overlooking it in our notice of the Fisheries Exhibition the other day, and we have much pleasure in now calling special attention to it (his address is 9, London-road, Twickenham). As a rule, an angler feels mistrust of any general rod made to do for different kinds of fishing, and our experience of these rods, until we tried Mr. Ogden Smith's, was not encouraging. But after twelve months' trial of his three guinea Combination, making up into twelve rods, or, rather, rods for twelve kinds of fishing, we can thoroughly recommend it, especially to the angler who is going to some district where he does not know whether fly fishing, or coarse fishing, or sea fishing, or pike fishing will offer most attractions. With Mr. Ogden Smith's "Combination" he is ready for any fresh or salt water fish (except salmon with the fly), from salmon to smelts.

For spinning from the Nottingham reel we have never used a better rod than the pike rod in this combination, and it is a perfect pleasure to fish with it, so light that, after eight hours' spinning, you feel no wrist ache, and yet so powerful that it makes long casts without a sign of strain. Mr. Ogden Smith makes all the rods of whole cane, with greenheart tops, with cork handles to the butts, and will make the two fly rods to suit individual requirements, as nearly as possible. Except for fly fishing for salmon, we should feel safe in fishing for any fish with this handy combination rod.

At 25s. he makes another good combination, making up into rods for six styles of fishing.

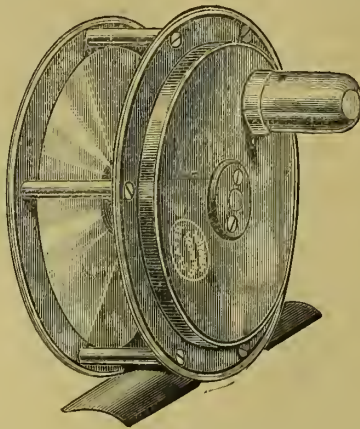
A novelty worth the attention of cyclists is Mr. Smith's Bicycle and Pocket Rod for fly-fishing, and ditto for general fishing, at £1 1s. His Thames Trout Rod at 25s., and whole cane Punt Rod, at 6s., can be recommended. An ingenious addition to the shoulder strap for the pannier is worth noting. Being a practical angler himself, Mr. Ogden Smith soon gains his customer's confidence, and keeps it.

SLATER'S ALUMINIUM ALLOY SALMON AND TROUT REELS.

MR. SLATER, of Newark (now exhibiting at the Westminster Royal Aquarium), is now making his celebrated "Combination Nottingham and Ordinary" reels partly in aluminium alloy and partly in gunmetal, the bearings and running parts being of the latter metal. This makes a very strong, light reel, and the price is about the same as the ordinary reels.

Mr. Slater sends us a reel he made specially some years ago for a very good salmon angler, Mr. Reginald Corbet. It is a 5in. "Combination Nottingham and Ordinary" reel, made of brass and ebonite, with ordinary optional check action, and there is a separate silent check also. You turn a screw on the back of the reel until you have the amount of stiffness you want. When both checks are taken off the reel runs freely, and can be used for casting from in the ordinary way or for letting a long line run off the reel. In sending this reel back to Mr. Slater in order to

have another made on the same lines, slightly modified, Mr. Corbet says it has given him every satisfaction, and adds: "My reels get pretty hard work. I killed in the North of Norway last year, in six weeks, over 3000lb. of salmon with this

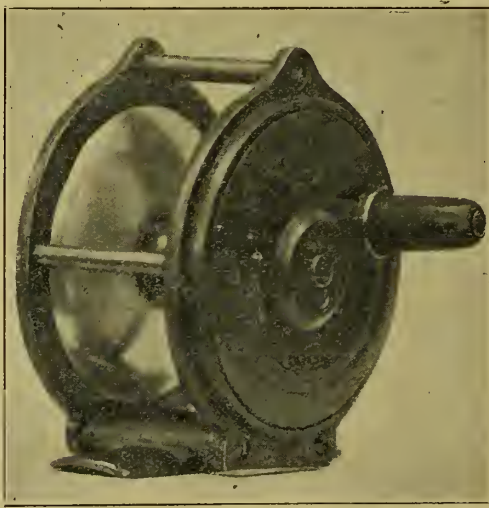


reel; and on two separate days seventeen salmon, averaging 21lb., and fifteen on another."

This is very high testimony to the good work in the reel, which is practically as good as ever. Of course, the teeth of the cog-wheel show some signs of wear after killing so many fish, but will last a long time yet.

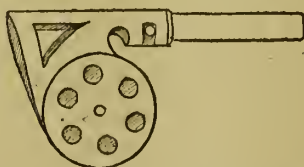
CARTER AND CO.'S NOVELTIES.

THE accompanying illustration is a novelty of Messrs. A. Carter and Co., of 137, St. John-street Road. In our notice of the Fisheries Exhibition of March 18 we said: "Another novelty is their trout reel in aluminium—very strong shape—the cheapest reel of the kind we have ever seen. Such a reel would have been £5 a few years ago,



before aluminium dropped so in price." This aluminium trout reel has gun-metal spindle and fittings. The two side bars are revolving; the friction of line over bars when playing fish is thus minimised. Weight, about 3oz.; size, 2½in. Price, 8s. 6d.

We also said on March 18: "Now that special wire reel lines are being used and advocated by some members of the British Sea Anglers'



Society, it has become necessary to enlarge the revolving wheel in the pulley arrangement at the end of the top joint, and this Messrs. Carter have done." It is called the "Big Wheel" sea loop, made specially for use with wire lines. The pulley wheel is somewhat larger than a shilling piece, and, being countersunk, hitching of line is impossible. The loop is so made that it adjusts itself to any direction the line takes.

PISCATORIAL SOCIETY.

THOSE who were present at the annual dinner held on the 20th ult., and heard the late Dr. Brunton lead off "And Lang Syne," in accordance with his usual custom, little imagined that ere the week had closed their old colleague would have passed away. From information imparted to Monday's meeting, it would seem that the Doctor was taken with an apoplectic seizure on Friday afternoon last, after returning from visiting his patients. A bloodvessel on the brain subsequently burst, and he was hardly conscious up to the time when death ensued on the next day (Saturday). This sad intelligence cast a gloom over the members assembled under the chairmanship of Mr. Robt. C. Blundell. Only a couple of weeks previously the Doctor had contributed an interesting paper on the Uxbridge Fishery, taking, as he did, an absorbing interest in the new acquisition. His popularity was undoubted, his kindness and frankness of disposition rendering him a great favorite with all with whom he came in contact. His courtesy was acknowledged on all hands, for never was he happier than when he was imparting information to the younger members of the society—information which it had taken him years of thought, study, and observation to get together. As an amiable companion he had few who could surpass him, and many will have cause to regret not only the loss of a brother piscatorial, but of a true and genuine friend also. His counsel and advice, always at the disposal of the society, proved of invaluable assistance, for his lifelong experience as an angler gave him that insight into all that pertains to angling which stamped him as an authority on many branches of Walton's favourite pastime. The area of his piscatorial knowledge was extensive, although as a fly fisher of the wet school he perhaps shone most brilliantly. As a raconteur he was invariably amusing and entertaining, possessing, as he did, a rare fund of humour. His perceptive faculties were exceptionally strong and discerning, added to which his judgment was sound, true, and to be relied upon. By his untimely decease under such peculiarly sad circumstances the society has had removed from its ranks one whose place it will be impossible adequately to fill. It was no matter for surprise, therefore, that the members consoled most sincerely with Mrs. Brunton and the family in their untoward bereavement. Very kind and sympathetic reference was made to the event by Mr. R. C. Blundell and the chairman of the late dinner, Mr. C. Butler, who have had the pleasure of knowing the doctor for many years past. The society were represented at the funeral, the members being anxious to pay this last tribute of respect to one whom they knew and esteemed so well as a friend, colleague, and adviser.

Next Monday being Bank Holiday there will be no meeting. The water on the Ver having been disposed of, it will no longer be available for members to fish. A postcard to this effect will have been duly received from the hon. secretary. M. G. E. DE C.

GRESHAM ANGLING SOCIETY.

AT our ordinary meeting Mr. C. S. Bentley occupied the chair. The occasion was a sad one, as it had to be recorded on the minutes that we had lost one of our honorary and honoured members, in the person of Dr. John Brunton, M.A., M.D. He attended the previous meeting of the society, and was attending to his professional duties on last Friday, but was taken ill during the evening, and died on the Saturday evening. He has always been a very good friend to the Gresham, and I am certain that every member will mourn his loss. A deputation will represent the society at the funeral, which takes place to-day (Wednesday), at Finchley Cemetery. The angling world in general, and the Gresham Angling Society in particular, have lost a good and honest angler, and angling writer. *Requiescat in pace.* Members are reminded that the annual dinner will take place on April 25, when Mr. C. H. Cook ("John Bickerdyke") will preside. I shall be glad to receive applications for tickets as early as possible. ALEX. WRIGHT (Hon. Sec.).

THAMES RIVER KEEPERS' DINNER.

THE river keepers and those who assist them in the good work of preserving and watching over the Thames, in the interests of anglers, between Richmond and the City Stone at Staines were, in accordance with the annual custom, entertained by the Thames Angling Preservation Society on Thursday night, the festive gathering taking place in the Prince's Room of the Criterion Restaurant, Piccadilly. Mr. Alfred Nuthall, J.P., chairman of the society, presided, and the vice-chairs were occupied by Messrs. F. Berry and T. Crumplen. Letters of regret and absence were announced from the president (Mr. H. L. W. Lawson), Mr. W. F. Grimmett, Mr. R. B. Marston (editor of the *Fishing Gazette*), and others. The latter gentleman, with his usual kindness, sent a consignment of pipes for the men, these were handed to them during the evening by Mr. W. Douglas, head keeper. Among those present were: Messrs. C. E. Nuthall, J.P., J. H. Gough (secretary Thames Conservancy), G. J. Chatterton, A. Price, A. Nuthall, jun., Pincott Hill, W. H. Elsmore, J. Hongh, G. J. Shepherd, F. Berry, A. R. Mathews (the Angler), W. Mardsden Smith, S. Shum, W. Meakin, G. Tagg, W. Back, J. Sandbrook, W. H. Brewer, W. H. Holland, F. Walker, A. Weston, W. Dongworth, J. McDermott, J. F. Marchant, &c. The keepers, lockmen, and Conservancy officials present included: Messrs. W. Douglas (Hampton Wick), J. Johnston (Kingston), J. Knight (Kingston), H. Buttery (Thames Ditton), W. Milbourne (Hampton Court), E. Rosewell (Halliford), G. Rosewell (Shepperton), H. Curr (Weybridge), A. Harris (Laleham), C. Hone (Staines), A. Pryor (Walton), E. Clark (Sunbury),

G. J. Rongh, sen., G. J. Rongh, jun., J. Barker, W. Marsh (Chertsey Lock), Wilson (Sunbury Lock), Walters (Teddington Lock), Steve (Shepperton Lock), Delany and Fielder (Brentford).

In proposing the usual loyal toast, which was heartily received, the Chairman, referring to the Duke of York's visit to the Dee for the salmon fishing, said they all very much regretted to hear that His Royal Highness was snowed up, and, so far, had not been able to follow the sport. The Chairman next gave the health of Mr. J. H. Gough, secretary of the Thames Conservancy, remarking that he was delighted to see him among them once again. (Applause.) Mr. Gough not only held a high position in connection with that board, but was a true friend to all anglers. (Applause.) He took a great interest in the Thames fisheries (applause), and he sincerely hoped he would always honour them by his presence at their gatherings.

Mr. Gough, in responding, thanked those present for their kind reception, and said it always gave him great pleasure to meet the T.A.P.S. representatives. It was also very pleasing for him to meet his colleagues of the Thames Conservancy, and the keepers and fishermen on the river. (Applause.) He had known some of them for a good many years. As secretary of the Thames Conservancy, he could assure them that the conservators took much interest in the fishery of their great national river, and when he (Mr. Gough) received from the T.A.P.S., through Mr. Higgins, any communication with reference to the fishery, everything they asked for was so intensely reasonable that the conservators were only too delighted to give them their help. (Applause.) The society recently had expressed their opinion that it thought the cast net was being used too much. The society considered for the purpose of supplying live bait to various parts of the country the river was being depleted. He (Mr. Gough) spoke to Sir P. Dixon Hartland, M.P., their chairman, on the subject, and he at once agreed that it would be a desirable thing to have the cast net restricted. The society suggested that it should be used by professional fishermen only, because they could rely upon them, and so the use of the net had been confined to such river keepers as were registered professional fishermen. (Applause.) He believed that it would be to their great advantage to maintain a good head of fish in the river and give continued sport to the anglers growing up with that society. (Applause.) Continuing, Mr. Gough said that Sir Dixon Hartland, who was a most active and popular member of Parliament, had, in his examination recently before the Royal Commission on the London water supply, told them that the conservators had in contemplation a proposal for the re-stocking of the Thames with salmon trout. The matter was under the consideration of the board, and the conservators were in communication with some very influential gentlemen who also had the same object at heart; and he might tell them that there were proposals to breed in the Upper Thames, then to take them into the tideway when they had attained a certain size, with the hope that they would return to that portion of the river. (Applause.) He could assure them that the Conservancy would always endeavour to promote the interests of angling and the interest of lovers of that important sport, from Twickenham up to Cricklade; and they could rest assured he should have much pleasure in assisting them at all times. (Applause.) Referring to the Conservancy men, he paid a high tribute to the way in which they carried out their work, especially mentioning Mr. Rongh; and said they had got a very high class and trustworthy body of men looking after the river. (Hear, hear.) He also thought the Thames fishermen were a very highly respectable and honest body of men. (Hear, hear.) As for Mr. Rongh, he was one of the truest men that ever trod shoe-leather. (Applause.)

The next toast was the toast of the evening—"Success to the River Keepers, Lockmen, and Conservancy Officials." Proposing it, the Chairman remarked that he had been known to many of them for over twenty-five years. The fact that the society did not have many convictions for illegal fishing showed that the river was well protected, and that the keepers and those who assisted them were doing their duty. (Hear, hear.) At the same time, he could not help asking them to continue to do their utmost to prevent anything like poaching. The more they looked after the fish, the better it would be for the keepers. They would earn more money, because more patrons would come and fish with them. He also urged them to give attention to the novice angler, and anglers who fished from pleasure boats in the summer, as they frequently caught undersized fish, and he (Mr. Nuthall) had made many return them as he took his morning walk on the banks of the Thames. Referring to the re-stocking work carried on by the T.A.P.S., he said he believed the large specimen roach which had been caught during the past season were the result of their nettings at the reservoirs. He was convinced they could do nothing better than continue to net those reservoirs, and place the fish in the Thames. (Applause.) He was very pleased to hear from Mr. Gough that it was on the tapis to place salmon trout in the Thames. His old friend, William Milbourne, would remember the time when Frank Buckland said that he would wager a big sum that salmon would return to the river, and also that he said he would offer a prize for the first salmon taken in the Thames. In his opinion it would come to pass that they would see these fish in the Thames again—(applause)—because the river in the tidal waters was becoming cleaner and purer, as Mr. Rongh would hear him out. They now caught smelts right up the river, and that was an important point in favour of the return of the salmon to the metropolitan river. In view of the great work being carried on by the County Council, Conservancy, and other bodies to purify the river, he did not doubt for one moment but that they would have salmon back again in the Thames. (Applause.)

Mr. ROUGH (Thames Conservancy) responded, and said that the river was very much purer now than it had been for some years, while in the tidal waters they had more fish. The smelts were on the increase, and a gentleman and his son who fished for smelts with rod and line at Kew Bridge had taken over 200 dozen during the past season. Little illegal work was now going on on the river, and he was pleased to say that all his men kept a sharp look-out with regard to netting, &c. He thanked them for the kind way in which they had received his name. (Applause.)

Mr. W. DOUGLAS (head river keeper) also suitably acknowledged the toast, and said he thought certain anglers at Kingston who took so many fish from the Thames might subscribe towards the T.A.P.S. (Hear, hear.)

In eulogistic terms Mr. T. CRUMPLEN proposed the health of the Chairman, who, he said, for many years had been one of the most devoted workers in the cause of the Thames preservation; and

Mr. ALFRED NUTHALL (who was received with musical honours), in reply, said he hoped to do in the future as he had done in the past as regarded the T.A.P.S. (Applause.)

The health of "The Vice-chairman" having been heartily honoured,

Mr. C. E. NUTHALL, J.P., proposed the toast of "The Hon. Secretary and Hon. Treasurer," and spoke very highly of the great interest Mr. Higgins took in the welfare of the Thames Angling Preservation Society. The society was in splendid hands, and he felt certain that Mr. Higgins would maintain the prestige it had gained in the angling world. (Applause.) Mr. Higgins was a most kindly and genial angler, and he knew of no one who desired to forward their interests and the interests of Thames anglers more than Mr. Higgins. (Applause.)

The company having sung "For he's a jolly good fellow,"

Mr. HIGGINS responded. He said his sole desire in taking over the hon. secretaryship of that society was to encourage, and, if possible, improve the sport in the river in that portion over which, by the kindness of the Conservancy, they had quasi jurisdiction. The society was striving to do all it could for the great body of anglers and the professional fishermen who fished the Thames, and he was only too delighted, he could assure them, to do what he could to promote sport in that splendid natural fishery. (Applause.) He knew something about water, and something about angling, and he was sure that from Staines to below Twickenham they had one of the finest pieces of water that Providence could have endowed them with for the sport—the noble sport—which took them away from the toils and cares of business, and tended to improve them in all ways. (Applause.) He should be only too pleased to work with the professional fishermen, and to forward the common interests of our sport. (Hear, hear.) He (Mr. Higgins) was assisted by a splendid executive committee, the chairman of which was their dear old friend Mr. Nuthall—than whom a better sportsman never breathed—and they worked hand and glove together. (Applause.) They had no hole and corner meetings. They would welcome new members. They wanted to do something more than make a name. Continuing, Mr. Higgins paid tribute to those who had worked for the T.A.P.S. years ago, and, referring to the Thames as a salmon river, said he did hope that the efforts of the conservators might be crowned with the success they and the T.A.P.S. most heartily desired. As regards the T.A.P.S.'s protest against the taking away of fish for sale as bait, he believed the society would have the support of all the professional fishermen. (Hear, hear.) Millions of fish were taken from the Thames and sold to the bait dealers. He knew that for a fact himself. He sincerely hoped that the fishermen would work with him in his efforts to improve the fishing in the Thames. He thought there had been better results since trailing and netting had been put down, and he hoped before long that they would have some of the "beautiful gobblers" off the water. (Laughter and hear, hear.) Now the T.A.P.S. had decided to remove them, however, lots of objections were being raised, but they intended to fight them honestly, let the swans belong to whom they might. (Applause.) The Lord Chamberlain now objected because there were 150 barren swans to take off between Teddington and Staines, and the swanherd had stated that it would cost £100 to house them. He (Mr. Higgins) should not be surprised, however, from inquiries he had made, if they could find fifty barren swans, and if they were to pay 2s. a week for each of these "feathered otters"—(laughter)—they could do it for about £30. Mr. Lawson, their president, had promised to bear the cost of the removal of the barren swans, and the society would see that the proper number and no more were paid for. As regarded the society, they wanted the sinews of war to carry on the work, and he was very pleased to be able to announce that Mr. C. E. Nuthall had that night promised them £5 5s. (Applause.) Mr. Nuthall was not an angler himself, but he was, as they knew, one of those kind and noble hearted men who were only too pleased to promote the interests of sportsmen and their fellow men, and make happiness wherever they could. (Applause.)

Mr. BUTTERY (Fisherman, Thames Ditton), in the course of the proceedings, complained that the ducks—the half-bred wild ducks—devoured a great deal of fish ova in his district. They could dive, and caused much harm.

During the evening there was an excellent programme of music—thanks to the efforts of Mr. Walter Back—among the artists being, including the worthy musical director, Messrs. John Sandbrook, A. Nuthall, jun., Feversham, Harry Payne, C. E. Nuthall, C. Hone, W. J. Marsh, E. Cox, &c., and the proceedings eventually closed with "God Save the Queen."

BIRMINGHAM FLY FISHERS' CLUB.

A LARGELY attended meeting of Birmingham fly fishermen was held at the Great Western Hotel on Monday evening last, the 27th ult., to discuss the proposal lately brought forward to form a local fly fishers' club. Mr. Hugh A. N. Smith was elected to the chair, and after hearing a number of letters of apology from gentlemen unable to attend, several of those present submitted their views and suggestions as to the form the proposed club should take, and, after considerable discussion, it was unanimously agreed that a club should be formed under the name of "The Birmingham Fly Fishers' Club," with the object of furthering the interests of this particular branch of sport in the city, and of acquiring, at the discretion of the members, such suitable waters as may come into the market, with a view to stocking and otherwise developing the same to provide fair fishing in the neighbourhood of the city. It was also arranged that a short length of the river Blythe (Staffordshire), at Ham-stall Redware, should be forthwith leased; but as this particular fishery is of only limited extent, it was thought desirable that the rods should not—until further water is obtained, for which negotiations are already in progress—exceed twenty. This number of members was immediately enrolled from amongst those present, and a committee, consisting of Messrs. Hugh Smith, W. S. Pritchett, H. B. Hagne, A. E. Cooper, and W. H. Flint, with Mr. A. T. Sadler, of Water Orton, near Birmingham, as secretary, was elected to prepare a code of rules, &c. Mr. Arthur Round, of Birmingham, consented to act as honorary solicitor to the society. The secretary is already in possession of the names of a number of gentlemen who wish to become members when more fishing is available, and he will be pleased to furnish any particulars to other fly fishermen who may be desirous of adding their names to the list. HON. SEC.

EASTER HOLIDAY ARRANGEMENTS, 1899.

THE GREAT EASTERN RAILWAY

Announce that in addition to the tourist, fortnightly, and Thursday, Friday, or Saturday to Tuesday tickets to the east coast and the Norfolk Broads district (Yarmouth, Lowestoft, Cromer, Mundesley, Southend-on-Sea, Clacton, Walton-on-Naze, Dovercourt, Harwich, Felixstowe, Aldeburgh, Southwold, Hunstanton, &c.), which are issued from Liverpool-street and their other London and suburban stations. They will on Thursday, 30th March, issue special cheap excursion tickets from London (Liverpool-street and suburban stations) to most of the above stations; also to Norwich, Cambridge, Wisbech, Lynn, Fakenham, and the other principal stations in the eastern counties, and by the cathedral route to Lincoln, Doncaster, York, Leeds, Manchester, Scarborough, Darlington, Newcastle, Berwick, Edinburgh, Glasgow, &c., and to Chesterfield and Edwinstowe (for the Dnkersies). Cheap weekend tickets will also be issued on Saturday, 1st April, to most of the G.E. country stations. Tickets (both ordinary and excursion, &c.), can be obtained in advance at Liverpool-street station, and at the company's West-end offices, 2, Cockspur-street, Trafalgar-square; 51, New Oxford-street; 215, Edgware-road; and 120, Brompton-road, and at their other City and West-end booking offices. In addition to relieving trains, special trains will be run from Liverpool-street on Thursday, at 8.30 a.m., 1.35, 4.5, and 7.12 p.m., to Ipswich, Yarmouth, Lowestoft, &c.; at 1.30 p.m., to Ipswich, Norwich, Cromer, &c.; at 1.30 and 4.5 p.m., to Walton-on-Naze; and at 1.30, 4.5 p.m., and 12.3 night (snapper train), to Colchester and Clacton-on-Sea. On Good Friday, at 5.10 a.m., to Colchester, Ipswich, &c.; and at 8.55 a.m., to Ipswich, Yarmouth, Lowestoft, &c. For the accommodation of persons detained at business until late in the evening of Saturday, special midnight trains will leave Liverpool-street at 12.0 for Norwich, via Cambridge, and at 12.30 for Yarmouth and Lowestoft, via Ipswich, calling at the principal intermediate stations. The 12.3 snapper car express to Colchester and Clacton will run as usual. On Easter Monday special excursion trains will run from St. Pancras to Cambridge, Ely, and Yarmouth, and from Liverpool-street to Southend-on-Sea, Clacton-on-Sea, Walton-on-Naze, Cambridge, and Ely. Excursion tickets will be issued to Epping Forest, Broxbourne, and Rye House. A special service of trains will be run from Liverpool-street, Fenchurch-street, and Gospel Oak to Epping Forest, and from Liverpool-street to Rye House.

SOUTH EASTERN AND CHATHAM AND DOVER RAILWAYS.

The above companies announce cheap day excursions on Good Friday and Easter Monday from London to Tunbridge Wells, Hastings, Ashford, Canterbury, Whitstable, Herne Bay, Deal, Walmer, Ramsgate, Margate, Broadstairs, Hythe, Sandgate, Folkestone, Dover, Aldershot, Gravesend, Rochester, Chatham, Sheerness, &c. On Easter Monday frequent special and ordinary trains will run to and from Holborn, Victoria, Ludgate-hill, St. Paul's, and intermediate stations and the Crystal Palace (High Level Station). Return fare, 1s. 6d., third class, including admission. Special trains will be run to Hayes, Blackheath, Greenwich, Gravesend (for Rosherville Gardens), &c. The usual extension of time for certain return tickets during the holidays will be allowed. A cheap Friday to Wednesday excursion leaves Charing Cross and Cannon-street at 2.45 p.m. for Boulogne, and 9.0 p.m. for Calais, on Thursday, March 30, and from Charing Cross, Victoria, Cannon-street, and Holborn at 9.0 a.m. for Calais, on Friday, March 31. A cheap Saturday to Monday excursion leaves Charing Cross, Victoria, Cannon-street, and Holborn, at 9.0 a.m. on Saturday, April 1, for Calais, and Charing Cross and Cannon-street, at 2.45 p.m., for Boulogne, available to

return up to the 7.50 p.m. Cheap tickets to Paris will be issued, leaving Charing Cross, Victoria, Holborn, and Cannon-street via Calais and Boulogne. Tickets available for fourteen days. Cheap tickets to Brussels, via Calais or Boulogne, will be issued from March 29 to April 3 from Charing Cross, Victoria, Cannon-street, and Holborn. Tickets are available for eight days. Tickets will also be issued to Brussels, via Ostend, March 29 to April 3, from Charing Cross, Victoria, Cannon-street, and Holborn. Tickets available for eight days. Special day excursions will be run on Good Friday, Easter Sunday, and Easter Monday, leaving Charing Cross, Victoria, Cannon-street, and Holborn for Calais, and from Charing Cross for Boulogne. Cheap eight day tickets to Amsterdam, Arnheim, Rotterdam, Utrecht, and The Hague will be issued each day from March 29 to April 3 from Victoria, Holborn, St. Paul's, and Herne Hill by the 8.25 a.m. day service via Queenboro' and Flushing. A special boat train will leave Victoria (Chatham and Dover) at 9.5 p.m. on Wednesday and Thursday before Good Friday for Dover, in connection with the boats to Calais and Ostend.

MATLOCK AND CROMFORD ANGLING ASSOCIATION.

THE annual meeting of the above association was held in the Devonshire club-room on March 25. On May 21, 1898, 500 well-developed two-year-old trout, bred and reared by the association, were turned into the river—thirty-five brace between the Jubilee Bridge and the railway station at Matlock Bath, and the rest were spread in the river below Cromford Bridge—making a further valuable addition to our already well-stocked waters.

The hatching operations in 1898 were very successful, and there are in the tanks a grand lot of yearlings, running from 3in. to 7in. long, in the pink of condition, and numbering probably about 10,000.

There are also upwards of 1000 two-year-old trout, which are in perfect condition and well developed, running from 8in. to 11in. The committee have decided that none of these shall be sold, but that all shall be turned into the river on May 20. This is a very interesting operation, and should be witnessed by every member of the association who can possibly attend.

In consequence of the mildness of the past winter our stock fish were ready to spawn much earlier than in previous years. We took our first lot of ova on Nov. 16, and finished spawning on Dec. 14. The ova was the finest lot (so Collinson, the keeper, says) we have ever taken, and filled all the trays in the hatchery. This ova has now been hatched out, and we have a full stock of lusty fry, remarkable for their size and strength, which may be accounted for by the fact that our stock fish have now reached the five to six years old stage, and number ninety-six.

The summer and autumn of 1898 was not a good time for anglers on any water, the early part being very wet and the river in flood; later it was very dry, and the water very low and clear. Yet, in spite of this, average baskets were made by those who knew the water and its ways, which knowledge will soon be acquired by our new members.

During the past winter Collinson, the keeper, besides spawning and superintending the hatching of the young fish, has attended carefully to the feeding of our whole stock, so that few have been lost. The trees and bushes on both sides of the river have been carefully topped and trimmed, and trimming for any pike which may have found their way into our water has also been done, but very few have been caught, principally, I think, because there were few to catch.

The members now number fifty, and it is thought this should be the limit, to prevent the water being over-fished.

I deeply regret to say that during the year we have lost, by death, two of our old members—Mr. Skinner, of Matlock Bridge (one of the most energetic of our committee), and Mr. Gibson, Manchester—two good men, and true anglers.

The association is now in a sound and flourishing condition; finances as they should be—a full members' list—and water well stocked with trout and grayling, which will annually be kept up (from our own breeding tanks), and everything points to a good time in 1899, if only the clerk of the weather will favour us with settled conditions.

Mr. Mountney, the landlord of the Holmesford Cottage Inn, has kindly consented to allow our members to fish his three meadows—below the Birchwood stream, on the west bank—on condition that they will ground bait when they reach his hostelry.

HENRY COOPER (Treasurer and Secretary).

"LEST WE FORGET."

MR. J. BAILEY WALKER, Secretary of the Royal Alfred Aged Merchants Seamen's Institution, asks us to insert the following, which we gladly do: "Throughout the United Kingdom, with what keen interest we have been watching for news of vessels overdue, whether it be the grimy little coaster which flies a faded ensign on Sundays by way of a treat, or the great and costly liner which tears its way over the deep like some huge marine monster, and what feelings of relief we experience when their safe arrival is announced. Within the past week, our hearts have been thrilled by the courage and devotion to duty shown by British seamen in the midst of extreme peril and danger, such as that displayed by the crew of the Cunard Company's s.s. *Pavonia*, and our national pride has again and again been awakened. But what of British seamen who after forty or fifty years of hard and perilous service at sea become old, destitute, and 'too feeble for another cruise?' How fitting an expression of this general admiration, if a help-

ing hand be held out to them at such a time. H.R.H. The Duke of York, R.N., has graciously consented to preside at a festival dinner to be held at the Hotel Cecil, on Wednesday, the 17th May next, in aid of the funds of that national and unique Old Sailors' Charity, the Royal Alfred Aged Merchant Seamen's Institution, Office:—58, Penchurch-street, E.C., and the committee are earnestly appealing for universal and annual support for this, 'Poor Jack's List Port.' There are now some 250 British seamen on the list of approved applicants, whose ages range from sixty-five to ninety years—men upon whom have depended the lives and property of tens of thousands of all nationalities—many of them left with nothing but the 'Royal Alfred Institution' between them and the work-house or the grave. The appeal is to all, and though it has been written that—

'Our God and sailor we alike adore
In time of danger, not before:
The danger past, both alike required,
God is forgotten and the sailor slighted.'

the committee hope that this appeal will not be in vain."

SALMON AND FRESH WATER FISHERIES ACTS, 1861 to 1892.

SALE OF FRESH WATER FISH.

THE Fishmongers' Company hereby give public notice that under the provisions of the above Acts it is illegal to buy, sell, or expose for sale, or have in possession for sale, any fresh water fish, other than pollan, trout, char, and eels, between March 15 and June 15, both inclusive, subject to a penalty not exceeding 40s.

By order.

J. WRENCH TOWSE,
Clerk of the Worshipful Company of Fishmongers,
London.

Fishmonger's Hall, London Bridge, February, 1899.

THE FISHERIES (OYSTERS, CRABS, AND LOBSTERS) ACT, 1877.

(40 AND 41 VIC., CAP. 42).

UNSEASONABLE OYSTERS—TO OYSTER PLANTERS, &c.

WHEREAS under sect. 4, sub-sections 1 and 2 of the above-mentioned Act of Parliament, the sale or purchase of deep sea oysters between the 15th day of June and the 4th day of August, and the sale or purchase of any other oysters between the 14th day of May and the 4th day of August (except oysters taken within the waters of some foreign State) is prohibited under certain penalties.

The Fishmongers' Company hereby give public notice that all persons contravening the above Act of Parliament by selling, exposing for sale, consigning for sale, or buying for sale oysters as described in the above-mentioned Act of Parliament, will render themselves liable to be prosecuted.

By order.

J. WRENCH TOWSE,
Clerk of the Worshipful Company of Fishmongers,
London.

Fishmongers' Hall, London Bridge, February, 1899.

REPORTS FROM RIVERS, LOCHS, &c.

☞ River Reporters who want forms and envelopes should send a post card to the Manager of the FISHING GAZETTE, St. Dunstan's House, Fetter-lane, London.

ENGLISH AND WELSH REPORTS.

Lower Thames—GENERAL REMARKS.—The reports this morning (Tuesday) are not very favourable in regard to the commencement of the trout fishing season, but with the water being somewhat satisfactory, and the probability of a sudden change in the weather, it would not be a matter of surprise to find the river quite ready for the anglers on Saturday next, which is "the opening day." I can remember the time when angling for trout was permitted by the bye-laws to begin on and after the 25th day of January, though not recognised by the committee of the T.A.P.S., who instead recommended the first day of April as the proper and sportsmanlike time, and in only one instance did they deviate from it, when the Easter Holidays commenced at the end of March, and being so near the time, they passed a resolution permitting the anglers to go out during that holiday period. There was no violation of the law in doing this, but after referring to the permission in the angling Press, someone wrote to the conservators, and complained that I had exceeded my duty in getting my committee to grant this permission. I need scarcely add the board completely negated the complaint, and attributed it to the ignorance of the writer. Such permission could not be granted now, and the anglers will regard Good Friday as a sealed day for commencement, but any time after sunrise on Saturday morning they can make a start, and I have heard of several fishermen who are engaged for that day. All will depend on the weather, as the opinion is general that there are plenty of good fish in the river, and it must not be forgotten there are other species of trout in the river which are not of the Thames kind, and I should think some of those fish which came from Mr. Corrie, of the Itchen species, will have grown to the standard size of the Thames. There were amongst them some very fine specimens, and the weir at Chertsey was well supplied with some of the best, placed there by Mr. A. E. Armstrong in the presence of several gentlemen, and the practical wife of my friend, Mr. C. H. Wheelley, who is as much interested in the Thames fishery as himself, and travelled some distance in

the Conservancy steam launch during their distribution. The river at Staines, opposite the Pack Horse Hotel, had a good supply, which were turned in by Mrs. E. H. Blamey, the wife of the practical host.—B.

Cornish Streams.—Until this week nothing worth mentioning has been done since the trout fishing commenced on March 16. The waters have been low, clear, and the weather bitterly cold. A change has, however, come, and although the rain has not been sufficient to affect the rivers much, yet the wind is warm, and trout are taking. The prospects for Easter are by no means bad. Baskets of twenty and thirty trout have been taken in the Camel and its tributaries, and many of them in good condition. Heavy rain is necessary to help the kelts back. Spring salmon of grilse size have been noticed in the Camel lately.—BODMIN.

Darehth, Farningham, &c.—The water is now in capital order, tending towards being low, and this weather should have brought the trout on the feed. As a matter of fact, it has not. The explanation seems likely to be that the fish are even more backward than usual. If so, little sport can be expected at Easter. Very few fish were visible at all during my walks by the Darehth, and not one rose on either occasion, though the weather was mild and pleasant. The wood at lower end of the water belonging to the Lion is very swampy and muddy, so intending anglers will require waders if they object to wet feet. There is very little fly on. A March Brown would give as good a chance as any.—J. P. T.

Dart (Totnes and District).—The rain of Saturday has put the river in better fishing trim. The spate was needed, as the water was very low. With milder weather this week, several rods have been on the river, but only small creels of trout were made. If the weather keeps fine there should be a chance of good sport for the Easter Holiday rods, and the best flies are Half Stone, Edmond's Palmer, with the Blue Upright or March Brown, whilst on the moorland water the Partridge Hackle with green body is being used. It is not known if the rule of the Fishing Association prohibiting fishing with any bait but the fly within 100yds. of Totnes Weir will be suspended after this month. A few days since Mr. Edgebrook hooked a fine salmon near Buckfastleigh, but lost it after a struggle.—DEVONIAN.

Devonshire Streams.—The cold snap of last week brought sport almost to a standstill for the time, but the weather is now much milder, and more favourable to fishing during the Easter holidays. The rain of Saturday was welcomed, as most of the streams were running at summer lowness, and it no doubt had the effect of clearing out the migratory fish which were lying in the rivers. Sun is badly needed, as the water is very cold. Trout are reported plentiful in the Upper Lyd and Tavy, and there has been some fair sport. Peal, too, are pretty numerous, and it is thought that fishing prospects will be greatly enhanced when the pollution of the rivers is dealt with. The river banks through the famous woods at Lydford have been put in order. On the Creedy, Otter, and other East Devon streams the dark Duns and February Reds are being used, and this latter fly, with the Blue Upright, accounted for the fish killed on the North Devon rivers. A good stretch of water having been withdrawn from the association, anglers in the Tiverton district are handicapped somewhat. Mr. George Hopewell, fishing in the canal at Topham, was fortunate enough to land eighteen pike in three hours.—DEVONIAN.

Fen District (South Lincs. and Cambs.).—The frost and snow last week put an end to all thoughts of fishing, particularly for the dainty trout. Skating was more thought of in the Fen District than angling. Easter, however, will be likely to induce some to try the inland waters. We understand there are a good many trout in the smaller streams that run from Rutland, Northamptonshire, &c., into Lincolnshire and Cambridgeshire.—LIMPET.

Idle District (North Notts).—There is practically nothing to report from this district concerning angling. The return of wintry weather last week put an end to sport while it lasted, and the water is not yet rid of its wintry influences. We hear of some little fishing being done in the Southwell district on streams which fall into the Trent, but this must be limited, as most of the clubs fix May 1 as opening day. Salmon are also reported below the weirs on the Trent between Gainsborough and Newark; but so far there are no reports of captures.—L.

Lea.—In the way of coarse fishing results there is absolutely no sport to record, the unsettled weather lately having been greatly against successful roaching. Good Friday is the last day for retaining roach in the river, and I hope some sport will be met with. To-day (Wednesday) a very boisterous wind prevails, and if fish are to be taken it will have to drop considerably. I have heard of an otter being seen in the old river at Hoddesdon. Good trout have been observed on the move in the upper waters—several at Dobb's Weir—and if the right kind of weather prevails the season for *Salmo fario* should open well on May 1 next.—IZAACK WALTON.

Lugg and Arrow (Leominster).—Both these streams continue to run clear and a nice level. Sharp frosts and snow were the order last week, but it has now turned mild, and some showers of rain have been had; but it has not altered the colour of the rivers. There has been a strong wind since Tuesday, but there has been several anglers out, and the March Brown having been on thick, there has been some very nice trout landed. The outlook for fishing during the holidays is good, and some good sport should be had. The Pinsley is clear. The best killing flies will be March Brown, February Red, Blue Dun, and Cowdung.—GWYNNE.

Lugg, Arrow, and Pinsley (Kingsland).—Rivers are in good order. The weather on Saturday last completely changed, and rain fell, whilst the wind got round to the south, where it has been for the most part since.

A few showers, with sunshine intervening, must soon bring out flies and put trout on the move. The prospect of sport during the holidays has decidedly improved, and is encouraging. Flies should be March Brown, February Red, Blue Dun, Red Palmer, and Brown Spinner, and on warm, windy days, the Cowdung Fly.—R. T. WILLIAMS.

Plymouth.—There is much to report from the rivers; the weather has been too unsettled for much sport, still, a few rods have been out, but several blank days have to be recorded. I hear there are several fresh run salmon and pike in the Tavy and Plym, and the day or two's rain we had has greatly improved the fisherman's prospect.—WILLIAM HEARDER.

Severn, Vyrnwy, Tanat, and Cain (Llanymynech).—During the early part of this week all these rivers were much flooded, but are fast recovering their normal condition, and by the end of the week will be in very good condition for fly fishing and other kinds of angling. The snow on the Welsh hills has nearly all disappeared, and the late flood has washed out all the snow water from the rivers, and with the weather at present very mild and seasonable, there is every prospect of good sport during the Easter holidays. Many visitors, taking time by the forelock, have already arrived, and it is confidently anticipated that, should the weather continue favourable, this pretty neighbourhood will be more crowded than ever with holiday visitors. Sport during the past week has been much below the average, but in the Severn and Vyrnwy several pike have been captured, and it is hoped that the flooded state of the rivers will tempt salmon to ascend the upper waters.

Teifi (Lampeter, Cardiganshire).—The river is now in very good condition for fishing, the water being quite up to the banks. Not much sport with trout last week, but during the past few days it has much improved.—H.

Teme (Ludlow).—The Teme in this part is still running clear and a nice level, and in good order for fishing. The weather turned quite warm at the end of last week, and rain fell, but did not interfere with the water. It refreshed the river, and more flies have been out since; and, with the exception of a strong wind on Tuesday, it has been suitable for anglers to get out, and a fair number of rods have been on the river. The flies used are the Blue Dun, March Brown, Cowdung, February Red, and Palmers. Bottom fishing has been tried by a few, and some very nice trout taken. Pike fishing has been very slow this week. At the end of last week an angler on private waters tried the fly, and landed a nice lot of trout, one scaling over 1lb. The Hucks Barn water has now passed into private hands, and the free tickets usually available to visitors will not be obtainable. On Monday, Mr. R. Smith was out on the Teme, and landed six very nice trout with the fly, scaling 3½lb. With the worm some nice trout were taken on Tuesday. An angler says that the river below the town has been "letted of late," as there were signs on the bank where the net was emptied; this does not look promising for sport in that part. The Ony, Corve, Clun, and Ledwyche are all running clear and a nice level, and in good fishing order. Sport in them has been fairly good, and with warm weather good lots of fish will be landed.—S. LUDLOW.

Teme (Tenbury).—The Teme in this part is now running clear and a nice level, and in good order for fishing. The weather has now changed from frost and snow to March winds and April showers, but it has not altered the state of the river, and the mild weather has brought a good few March Browns on the river, and the fish have been rising better, and the prospect for sport has been improved. Rain threatens, and it may upset calculations for fishing at Easter, but at present there is every prospect of some good sport being had. The best flies to use will be the Blue Dun, March Brown, February Red, and Cowdung. A few fish landed this week with the fly. The Rea, Kyre, and Ledwyche are in order.—WORCESTER.

Witham, &c. (Mid-Lincolnshire).—Persons who have been in the habit of patronising the Witham District from Yorkshire and Lancashire will, for the Easter holidays, betake themselves to other quarters. Some Manchester men are for trying Llanymynech and other spots in North Wales. Leeds men are going on the Wharfe and Ure, whilst Sheffield will foregather on the Amber and Derwent. Local men have trout nearer than these. The head waters of the Witham and its tributaries above Lincoln are good trout streams, as are also the streams which come from the North or Wold district of the county. From the latter a few brace were captured before the storm.—LUCI.

Wye and Derwent (Derbyshire).—The opening of the trout season on the above streams are as follows: The Derwent, March 25th; and the Wye, April 1st. Only a few anglers have been out this week. Some snow showers fell at the end of last week, and on Sunday a heavy downpour of rain, which caused the Derwent to rise several feet, and was much discoloured. However, it is rising down very nicely. If no more rain falls it will be in order for the fly on Saturday. I am pleased to hear from the water bailiffs in the various districts trout are plentiful, and may be seen close to the side, which is a good sign at this time of the year, and we Derbyshire anglers are looking forward to a much better season this year than we have had of late. The following flies will be useful: February Red, Blue Dun, Cock-winged Dnn, March Brown, and Claret Bumble, this latter to be used as a wet fly.—DOTTRELL.

Yore, Swale, Wharfe, Nidd, &c. (Yorkshire).—Luckily for Easter holiday anglers the severe frost and bitter north-east winds gave way to more genial weather. After a fall of sleet on Saturday, the temperature continued to rise on Sunday and Monday, and the rain on the hills brought a freshet down. As there has been little or no snow up the valleys of the Yore, Swale, Wharfe, or Nidd during the late wintry visitation, anglers have not had the

dreaded snow broth to contend against. Melting snow is often the bugbear of the early trout fisherman. Grayling do not mind it much, but snow water is poison to trout, and when it is present in any quantity the fish keep in their holes, and neither worm, minnow, or fly will tempt them to feed. Of course, in this variable climate of ours one is as much likely to be wrong as right in the way of weather prophecy, and there is no telling what may happen between now and next week, but certain it is, as I write, prospects for Easter sport are much better than they were a few days ago, and at the time of sending this despatch they may be described as very fair indeed. All the well-known angling inns through which the above favourite trout streams run have booked rooms for anglers, and, fine or otherwise, we are sure to find plenty of rods at work at the end of this and during next week. The anglers I have met during the past day or two have done fairly well in the Yore. I have had a few hours daily in the Cover, that beautiful tributary of the Yore, respecting which Charles Kingsley wrote to his wife (Charles Kingsley, His Letters, &c.), on May 22, 1845: "What a delight it would be to take you up Coverdale, just half a mile off at the back of the town. You know those lovely river scenes of Creswick's. They are exact likenesses of Little Cover, in his deep-wooded glen, with his yellow rocks and bright white stones, and brown water clearer than crystal. As for fishing, I am a clod—never use finer than our finest. Squire Topham considers my tackle as only fit to hold carthorses." Both Charles Kingsley and the squire have long ago joined the ever increasing majority, but all our local hands still use single hair if they can get it; if not, the finest possible gut casts. I had very fair sport yesterday and to-day, but the weather is very wild and wet this evening, and a lot of fresh water is coming down all our streams. Some fine, settled weather is all that is required now for Easter.—J. E. MILLER, Northern Anglers' Depot, 19, New Station-street, Leeds.

BY TELEGRAPH.—I hear from Hawes that several members of the association were out yesterday, and by swimming the worm caught from eight to ten fish. I got a score in one of the tributaries. The Yore, Swale, Nidd, Wharfe, &c., are bankfull to-day, and a fierce westerly gale has prevailed for fifteen hours. As soon as the storm is over and the waters subside there will be some good angling. Prospects for Easter good. Light and Dark Woodcock, Dark Snipe and Purple, Needle Brown, Spring Black, Waterhen Bloa, and March Brown are best flies for Easter.—J. E. MILLER, Northern Anglers' Depot, 19, New Station-street, Leeds.

SCOTCH REPORTS.

Border Esk and Liddle.—The recent hard frosts have been much against rod fishing, and very little has been doing in these rivers. Few spring salmon have been seen as yet in Longtown water and the lower reaches. The prospects for the Easter holidays are exceedingly unpromising at present, and it will take a good fall of rain to put the rivers in trim for salmon. Trout are not rising, and the waters are very low and clear. Yellow trout are slowly getting into condition, and a few have been got in the upper and middle reaches. In the Metal Bridge water two salmon have been landed, one by Mr. Chambers, of Longtown, weighing 13lb., and one by Mr. Mason, of Rockliffe, weighing 15lb.—a nice new run fish. Salmon fry are now coming down the rivers. Mr. Budd, Mr. Reid, and others have had runs with kelts. The severe wintry weather in the Solway district has been much against the migration of salmon in the fifth during the past week. There was practically no salmon all the week, and not a single salmon was taken at some of the fisheries. Tacksman have had a good deal to grumble about this spring, as the takes in the nets have not so far paid the wages of the fishermen. At one of the fisheries an odd salmon was taken. The poke net fishers did nothing, and the state of the weather was against the drift netters, many of whom did not leave their moorings. Sea trout have not yet begun to run. On Saturday the fishermen in the Solway were offered 3s. per lb., the Billingsgate prices being 3d. per lb. over that figure. No quotations for sea trout are to hand, but occasionally trout fetch as much as salmon. So far no sport has been had in the Liddle, which will require a flood to put it into angling form, as it is running exceptionally low. Throughout the whole of Liddesdale the weather is snell and keen, and little angling is anticipated until the second week in April.—GILNOCKIE.

Loch Tay (Killin).—March 22, Mrs. Maisey had two nice salmon, 19lb. and 15lb.; Mr. H. J. Knight, one, 21lb. March 23, Mr. Clephan, two, 15lb. and 19lb.; Mrs. Maisey, one, 21lb.; Mr. McIntyre, one, 20lb. March 24, Mr. Clephan, one, 24lb. March 25, Mr. Cameron, two, 23lb. and 17lb.; Mr. H. J. Knight, one, 19lb. Loch in good ply.—H. J. MAISEY.

North-East of Scotland.—Not for twenty-one years has there been such a storm of frost and snow so late in the angling season. Many lessees left early in the week, but others remained, hoping for fresh weather at every turn. The Duke of York, with the others, bravely stuck to the riverside, and faced the elements day after day on the Balmoral and Aberfeldie reaches, but with scant success. On March 26, however, a partial thaw set in, and on Tuesday the fresh was thorough. The rivers are teeming with snow broth, and it will be some days before they are in angling trim. The wind is now from the south-west, and fish are coming on the coast freely. Last week was the worst for salmon angling and netting since the season opened. The record price of 3s. 6½d. was reached on Thursday for salmon in the Aberdeen Market, when only two were exposed. Over sixty were on the slabs on Tuesday, and the number has been increasing steadily since the weather moderated. The brown trout season on the Don, Deveron, and Find-

horn, and other early reaches, which is usually very brisk towards the end of March and beginning of April, will be much later now on account of the protracted storm. A few baskets were made prior to the storm, when there was a slight advent of the March Brown; but a whole fortnight has at least been lost, and it will be some time yet before the water attains its normal temperature, on account of the snow accumulations on its banks and along its feeders. Trout are in wonderfully good condition on the earlier sections, where the feeding is abundant all the year round, and these parts are certain to be much in demand during the ensuing holiday week.—G. M.

South of Scotland.—The severe wintry weather prevailing over this district ended on Saturday morning with a fall of snow, and this was followed with a fall of rain towards night, which had the effect of clearing the snow off the higher hills. In the dale there was a lighter coating of snow on Monday. The rivers were not long in coming into spate. With the heavy fall on the higher hills, and the rain which fell at night, soon put the waters out of fishing order. The temperature has become milder, but the weather is very unsettled. There was a hatch of fly on the waters on Monday, and it was observed that trout were rising freely at the Iron Blue. Torrents of rain fell on Tuesday from morn till night. The rivers were in flood on Tuesday morning, and commenced to rise rapidly at dark. Should no more rain fall now the rivers will be in order by the end of the week for fly. The weather is, however, unsettled, and, judging by a falling barometer to-night (Tuesday), it looks as if the storm is not yet over. The spates are bringing down the kelt salmon, and I hear the nets in the Solway are getting some of these. Of course, the fishermen return all kelt fish to the water. There has been no sport in the Annan since last week. A few kelts have been landed and put back of late, but no new spring salmon have been seen in the river. In the Dumfries-Nith the sport has also been exceedingly quiet for some weeks, but the floods should make an improvement when the waters fall. From the Galloway district the notes that reach me show no angling during the past week, and the reports from the Ayrshire part of the country are something similar. The frost was too severe in these districts last week. In the Solway Derwent a few trout have been caught, and it is reported that a small salmon was taken below Cockermouth last week. Some doubts are entertained as to whether this was a real spring salmon or not. Trout in the Ehen, Calder, Mite, &c., are said to be in fair condition, and some moderate tacksman have been taken. The rivers in this part are in flood, and, given some mild weather, by the end of the week some sport is expected. Nothing seems to be doing in the Metal Bridge portion of the Esk.

SOLWAY.—The severe wintry weather in the Solway district during the past week acted against the migration of salmon in the fifth. There was practically no run of salmon all the week, and not a single fish of the salmon kind was taken at some of the fisheries. Tacksman have had a good deal to grumble about this spring, as the returns from the nets have so far only paid a tithe of the wages of the fishermen employed cleaning and fishing the nets. At one of the principal fisheries a salmon or two were taken of medium weights. The poke net fishermen did nothing all the week, and the state of the weather was against the drift netters, many of whom did not leave their moorings during the week. The temperature of the water is yet too cold for the haaf fishermen entering upon their calling. Sea trout have not begun to run, and it is feared that the snow on the hills, which must keep the temperature of the rivers low for some time, will cause a later appearance of sea trout this season. Snow fell on Friday night, and again on Saturday morning, but a thaw afterwards set in, followed by some rain. Generally sea trout do not commence to run to the border rivers of Dumfriesshire and Galloway before the first week in April, but in any ordinary mild spring they have been taken in March, in small numbers of course. With the scarcity of salmon all over Scotland prices have been high at Billingsgate during the past week for spring salmon. On Saturday the Solway fishermen were offered 3s. per pound, but the demand could not be met owing to the scarcity. Quotations for sea trout were not given, but trout at Easter time generally bring as much as salmon. The prospects for Easter anglers are more promising than they were a few days ago. The fall of rain is likely to bring a flood, which will put the rivers in better order.—HEATHERBELL.

IRISH REPORTS.

Boyle.—Since my last report the weather has changed considerably for the better, as far as fishing is concerned, and for the last three days there were some very good baskets made. Mr. Shera, fishing Lough Gara on March 26, got eight trout and seven pike, his largest trout was a beauty of 6½lb., and his smallest was 2lb. Mr. MacGrath, same day and on same lake, killed four good trout and several pike. Mr. Wills Rockingham, fishing Lough Key, killed four beautiful trout, which weighed 12lb., these were got in two evenings, fishing about two hours each evening. There are several local fishermen fishing Lough Arrow, and all having good sport. John Beirne, on the Boyle river, has been having splendid sport for the last few days; he got several trout ranging from 1lb. to 3lb. each. To-day, March 28, raining, which will still benefit anglers.—GEORGE TAYLOR.

Bann (Toomebridge).—Up-to-date trouting has been poor about here, though the river was in fair order for the time of year. Plenty of pike and perch, however, were killed. A lot of rain fell this week, which will raise the temperature. On the upper tributaries bait fishers this week did pretty well. We understand that the lease of the salmon angling held by the Bann Club expires this season, at the end of which it reverts to Mr. R. L. Moore, lessee of the Foyle and Bann Fisheries.—J. A. B.

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Cork Rivers.—There has been a decided improvement throughout the county on all the principal rivers open for angling. Sport, however, is still not up to the average as far as salmon are concerned, but in the trout department the records have been satisfactory enough, when the generally unfavourable weather and water conditions are taken into consideration. On a couple of nights rain fell pretty heavily, and as more is expected very shortly the prospects all round are far better. New fish are now coming up on the principal rivers in better numbers.—T. J. D.

Corrib (Galway).—Since last notes angling improved considerably as spring fish are showing up better, but so far angling has been chiefly confined to professionals. The rain this week discoloured the water. The 36-pounder which Lydon killed recently was the heaviest one taken since 1897, when one of 38lb. was killed. It gave over an hour's play, and took a shrimp. Trout on Lough Corrib was interrupted by the unfavourable weather. It is in contemplation to re-stock it with white trout fry.—J. A. B.

East Tyrone Rivers.—The rain of this week has been of immense benefit in taking away the cutting cold weather and raising the rivers. The Ballinderry and Blackwater up to date have done little beyond pike fishing. By Easter Monday both will be in good trim for the fly. A movement for the resuscitation of the Ballinderry Angling Club would find favour, it is said, but unfortunately, nearly all the old members, who were the backbone of it, have gone away, or have taken their departure to another world.—J. A. B.

Kerry Rivers.—Salmon angling has shown an improvement on the majority of the Kerry rivers open for angling, and brown trout anglers have had generally good sport on all. Since Friday spring salmon have been coming up in better numbers in the Caragh, Curran (Waterville), Blackwater, Feale, Gale, Smeragh, Cashen, and Fartha. Poachers have been quiet lately on all waters, and it is to be hoped that they will continue so, as it is the poaching fraternity that have nearly ruined the chances of sport amongst legitimate anglers in many of the Kerry waters.—T. J. D.

Killarney.—Sport is improving as far as salmon are concerned, and the prospects for the coming week are very materially improved in consequence of some heavy rain which fell on a couple of nights, the fresh causing many new fish to come up into the lakes. Brown trout angling continues to give average sport, and with the advent of more favourable weather sport in this department is likely to be really first class on the lakes.—T. J. D.

Lough Currane (Waterville, co. Kerry).—Sport is still very backward on Lough Currane, the principal free water in the district. Only two salmon have been had since last report by visitors, both being had by Mr. Barry, out from the Bay View Hotel. The professional fishermen have been out only a few times on their own account, and only one salmon was got between them. The brown trout fishing is now giving pretty good sport, and the prospects for salmon angling are very much improved at time of writing, some rain having fallen at a good time.—THOS. J. DENNEY.

Lough Melvin (Lower Reaches, Kinlough End).—Notwithstanding the adverse climatic conditions, good evidence was had during the past week of an abundance of clean run fish in this lake. Several clean run fish were landed, weighing from 9lb. to 14lb., and a number of nice brown trout were also had trolling, from 2lb. to 5lb. Fly angling was not a success. A weighty downfall of rain came off on 25th ult., which improved matters. Quite a number of rodsters have notified the coming to Kinlough and Bundoran for their Easter holidays. All conditions seem combined for a favourable reception.—P. GALLAGHER.

Lough Neagh.—The pollen fisheries are improving a little. Trout netting is also fair, some magnificent fish having been taken lately. Very little trouting is reported from the tributaries.—J. A. B.

Mountain Lakes (Waterville, co. Kerry).—Sport continues to improve according as the season advances. Baskets of three dozen brown trout were common last week on all the above waters, and on Cummeravanig on Saturday Mr. J. J. O'Connor creeled four dozen and two in a comparatively short time. All the above lakes are now in nice order for angling, and the weather being now overcast gives better chances. On Coomavoher last week Mr. Grady caught a brown trout of 3lb.—the heaviest fish had on the mountain lakes for a very long time past.—T. J. D.

Mourne (Newtonstewart, co. Tyrone).—The Mourne opens for angling on Saturday, April 1. At present it is rising from the heavy rains, and should be in fair order for the opening day. Some English anglers are due for Easter week. The Derg, Finn, and Glen are in fair order.—J. A. B.

SEA FISHING.

Deal (The Pier).—The recent unsettled weather has disturbed the water to such an extent that it still remains very thick near the shore. In consequence, no one has attempted fishing of any kind during the past week. The weather is now somewhat more settled, with a steady breeze from the south-west, and should these conditions obtain for a few days a little sport among the dabs may reasonably be anticipated during the forthcoming holidays.—J. RICHARDSON.

Deal.—The prospects of sea fishing here are very poor at present. I may mention that I have taken a house by the name of Fair Light Lawn, about one minute from the "North Star," and I intend keeping both houses for the convenience of anglers. The house will be found to be very comfortable. The sanitary arrangements are perfect. Hot or cold baths, &c.—EDWARD HANGER (Agent B.S.A.S.).

Exmouth.—Sport with bass has been fairly brisk, and several good takes are being made. One line on Friday landed 20lb.—B.

Plymouth.—Mackerel are becoming more plentiful, but on account of the Lenten season they are fetching very high prices. They are a long way off shore. They are supposed to be in best condition during this month. The best market for them used to be London. They were packed in ice and sent away as soon as they were landed, but within the last few years the French seem to have developed a taste for them, and the French markets take great quantities, and they pay better prices. As these fish continue in season until October, some idea may be formed of the number that must be caught. In July and August they generally enter the harbours, when they are caught whiffing with the usual gear, and they hover about the coast more or less until September or October, when they go to the ground and are caught on the ordinary bottom lines. Conger are in their prime just now, and continue for some months.—WILLIAM HEARDER (B.S.A.S.).

Southend and Leigh.—March 28, 7 p.m.—Owing to a change of the wind to the west a great improvement has taken place in the weather. It has been blowing freshly from the W. and S.W. to-day, with a little cockle on the sea, and fishing prospects for the holidays are greatly improved. I hear of a few nice fish having been taken on trots—evidence that they are returning—so that those who elect to try sea fishing in this neighbourhood during the holidays are likely to have some sport with the flounders. Barometer 29.98 steady; wind W. to S.W., fresh; weather clear; sea rather rough.—CHARLES HUSSEY (B.S.A.S.).

Angling Fixtures.

April 2. Easter Sunday.
April 3. Easter Monday.
April 8. Gresham: Chesham dinner.

April 11.—Hoxton Brothers: Bohemian concert.
" 11.—Seymour Brothers: Annual smoking concert.
" 11.—Wimbledon Piscatorials: Annual dinner.
" 12.—British Sea Anglers: Annual dinner.
" 12.—St. John's: Annual supper.
" 13.—Prince Albert: A.B.S. concert.
" 18.—Bermondsey Brothers: Lantern lecture by Mr. W. J. Wade (secretary of the Central Association).
" 19.—Anchor (Kingston): Annual dinner.
" 25.—Drayton Park Piscatorials: Annual dinner.
" 25.—Gresham: Annual dinner.
" 25.—Original Alexandra: Distribution.

Reports from Clubs

We beg to remind Secretaries that their Reports must reach us not later than **SIX o'clock on Thursday Evening.** Address "Editor, FISHING GAZETTE, St. Dunstan's House, Fetter-Lane, London," marked "CLUB REPORT" outside envelope.

Anglers' Association.—There will be no meeting of the Renting and Preservation Committee on Monday evening next, in consequence of the holidays.—R. GHURNEY.

Anglers' Benevolent Society.—Since my last report I beg to acknowledge with thanks the receipt of £1 10s. 6d. from the St. Alban's; £5, Edmonton and Tottenham; and £1 6s., White Hart Angling Societies' donation boxes. At the last meeting one application was entertained, which received £6. I hope secretaries who had concert tickets for the Holborn Town Hall will send in returns so I can draw it to a close.—R. GHURNEY.

Anglers' Association.—A most successful visit was paid to the Harcourt A.S. on 27th ult. Ten clubs present. £3 8s. 6d. in their A.B. boxes. Plenty of talent. T. Twyman, of Cobden A.S., chairman. Plenty of roach pole fame present, including Teddy Baxter, the western champion. Everyone was thanked. Next visit goes to the Bomore A.S. Secretary Dagworthy will get some good talent. Date later.—BEN.

Allason United Brothers' Angling Society, Duke of Sussex, Uxbridge-street, Notting Hill Gate, W.—The auditors gave their report on March 29, which was accepted. We have a special meeting on April 5 as announced in the *Fishing Gazette* of March 25, when all members must attend. We must also arrange the date of our ninth annual dinner and distribution of past season's prizes, also other business of an important nature. Rules 23 and 25 must not be lost sight of.—BEN ABRAHAMS.

Bomore Angling Society, The Britannia, Clarendon-road, Notting Hill, W.—On March 28 members turned up in great force, when a lot of business was got through. A PATHETIC INCIDENT occurred in the London streets the other night. It was late, and a poor little girl was trying in vain to sell her violets. Suddenly a boy, a typical London arab, who had just sold his last evening paper, and was rattling his paper in his pocket, stopped before her. Taking the situation in a glance, he said kindly, "I'll buy yer 'violetts.' Come on, we'll sell 'em together." The boy evidently was a good salesman, for we passed barely an hour later, and the children were running about together, with only two or three bunches left. We can all help one another if we like. The sick and suffering we can save, if we only point out to them the healing virtues of Holloway's Pills and Ointment.

We beg to remind Mr. Abrahams that it is impossible for our club to take the next return visit, owing to another change of proprietorship this week and the concert room wanted for some time to come. Trusting he will kindly inform club next on the list, and oblige. I wish to ask members and donors of prizes to kindly send them in as soon as possible for distribution. Will members please favour us with their presence next Tuesday night on important business?—H. DAGWORTHY.

Burlington Piscatorials, Burlington Hotel, Burlington-road, W.—A meeting will take place on Wednesday, April 5, at nine o'clock, to arrange a date for the annual dinner. All members (including honorary) are requested to attend. Members in arrears kindly clear the books.—P. LAVINGTON.

Cobden Angling Society, Kensal-road, W.—On April 4 a special general meeting will be held, when very important business will be brought forward. I hope members will attend on this occasion.—T. TWYMAN.

Drayton Park Piscatorials, Stanley Arms, Landseer-road, Holloway-road, N.—Arrangements for concert, &c., to be discussed on April 3. Early attendance requested.—GREG.

South London United Anglers' Visiting List.—There was a fairly representative gathering of anglers at the visit to the St. Alban's A.S. on Monday evening last. Mr. McPhail occupied the chair, supported by several good artists. The A.B.S. collecting box was opened, and found to contain £1 10s. 6d. On the roll call, thirteen clubs were found to be in attendance. Mr. H. Allan, the respected secretary, returned thanks to the visitors. Next visit will go to the Waggoners' A.S., held at the White Lion, Albert Emhankment, Lambeth. Date later.—ALF. PAINTER.

Doffings by the Way.

WE anglers owe much to the enterprise of the Great Eastern Railway Company for the conveniences they have placed at our disposal in the pursuance of our favourite sport. For the first time this (Wednesday) morning I travelled from Southend by the company's Southend Express. It is a train which is entirely worthy of the line, than which no higher praise can be given. To have breakfast in Southend sea breezes and then to be in London in very little more time than it takes to travel from Brixton or Clapham is a distinct boon, and the train runs all the year round. Stopping only at Wickford to pick up wayside passengers, it runs straight on to Liverpool-street, which was reached in schedule time to the tick. To have Southend made practically a suburb of London, and to give jaded brain workers and business men the benefit of sleeping in sea air is a grand idea, and those who will soon be thinking of "where shall we send the children this year," could do much worse than send them to Southend, and take advantage themselves of the conveniences the G.E.R. offers of running backwards and forwards to business. One great advantage of travelling by the Great Eastern Railway is that from their London terminus there is an unequalled service of omnibuses to every part, a point of no little importance when time is valuable.

I HAVE just received a note from Mr. Howes, of the Bull Hotel, Barton Mills, near Mildenhall. He says they are likely to have a busy time at Easter, especially if the weather continues as at present. It may not be generally known, but fishing for pike is allowed on the Lark all the year round—

They evidently want them out,
For pike do gobble up the trout.

Talking of trout, Mr. Howes saw one of at least 7lb. this (Wednesday) morning; but, as he says, they "want" catching. Although he says they want catching, perhaps they NEED it more than want it.

MR. CHARLES HUSSEY writes me: "Dear 'Drag,'—I have this (Wednesday) morning heard with the deepest regret of the death of our old friend, Dr. Brunton. He was a many-sided man—a kind and skilful physician, a splendid fly fisher, and, to put it in a word, 'one of the best' in this neighbourhood. We only knew him as a sea fisherman, but we who have fished with him are sorry indeed to hear of his decease, and to think that we shall never again be with him in the boat he loved so well. His relatives have our entire and heartfelt sympathy, and although of late years we have not had the pleasure of seeing him often, he will be sorely missed here by his friends who loved and respected him."

As the century grows older, and it is getting very old now, the benefits of science become of more and more practical use to us. The latest published application of research, it has been many years in hand, and been thoroughly tested, is Bovo Gravy, which is now coming before the public in the shape of a limited company. I am a mark on gravy and soup, and if the company's product is up to the sample I tasted, and a glance at the list of directors assures me it will be, I shall always keep Bovo Gravy "on tap" at Drag, Mansion.

BOTH at the Yachting Exhibition and the Fisheries Exhibition at the Aquarium, which last all should see without fail, my young friend, Mr. Angier, of Leigh, has shown some of his admirable sails. When I was at Southend I took advantage of the opportunity to make a call at Mr. Angier's sail loft at Leigh, where his sails are made. It was a most interesting visit, and all his men seemed very busy, which is good hearing. I used to think any-

body could make a sail, but I do not think so now. It wants a bit of doing, and I am indeed pleased to see that friend Angier's talent is being recognised, and he is quietly making, if, indeed, he has not already made, his way to the very first rank of sail makers.

I ALWAYS look with some degree of suspicion on the tales of schoolboys' "bowlers"; but a correspondent whom I know perfectly well sends me an example of what Mrs. Malaprop calls "a nice derangement of epitaphs," which I think is worth printing. Please bear in mind he is responsible for the veracity of the tale, not I. At a school, in a district which shall be nameless, the boys were asked to write a short essay on one of three given subjects, which were:

Oliver Cromwell;
The American and Spanish War; or
Fish and their Habits.

The hero of the tale, which, if *non vero*, is certainly Benjamin travato, chose the last, and this is what he said:

"FISH swims in worter. They are of three kinds, wales, spratts, and larfin ieners. Wales, my teacher tells me, is the cuckoo of the oshun, becoss it never laze its oan eggs. Spratts is of too kines, the silver spratt, wich is ketchid with pickle cabbage in netts, and the smoaked spratt, wich is ketchid in bundils, tide with tard string. Boath is good to ete. They are also used as dog biskits and chickin mele. I have forgot wot I was tort about larfin ieners. This is orl I no about fish."

THIS yarn reminds me of the old schoolboy essay on the "elefant," which was described as "the most largest anymle in the world; itt has a legg at eche corner and a tale at boath ends." I hardly think the writer of the essay on fish is likely to shine as a leading light in biological science; but if he perseveres he may in time make a decent "fish liar," able to amuse and interest us with some fresh piscatorial wheezes. I cannot but regret my young friend should have been so careless as to have "forgot wot he was tort" about that most interesting fish the "larfin iener;" but for that lapse of memory we might all have learnt something at once novel and instructive.

I HEAR that yet another new book on the sport is to be published shortly, "The A.B.C. of Angling." I hope none of us will be D.E.F. to its teachings.

THE "Anglers' Record" for March is to hand, and is well up to its old form. The *pièce de résistance* is an article (illustrated) by R. Fortune, F.Z.S., on sea fishing at Filey. The price of this monthly journal is 1s. per year, post free, and application should be made to the editor, Mr. F. A. Redding, Wellington-road, Leeds.

MR. JOHN LANE is bringing out a new edition of the delightful Natural History of Selborne, demy 4to, and uniform with his "Walton's Compleat Angler." It is too early to criticise the work, as only the first number has appeared; but the editor, Mr. Grant Allen, may be trusted for the accuracy of the explanatory notes.

GILNOCKIE sends me the following eel story. Gil's great on eels. "In the Damfoot pool, nigh Esk and Liddle's trysting place, he hooked the monster. All at once the great brute—black-red, sometimes as ugly as sin, while shining like silver—leapt out of the water, and fought fiercely to be rid of the bit of crooked wire, but all in vain. Then the big 'reptile,' lunging and pulling like mad, rushed through the Willow pool into the surging Cauldron stream. After him goes the agile angler, letting out oceans of rope, through the Thistle pool at the head of the Netherby water, under the railway bridge, and past Kirkandrews auld kirk, at times hanging by the tree rods, and slipping and slipping over the rocks, labs of skin peeling off his shins, tearing his breeks among the bushes, careering over huge boulders, scratching his face and hands among stubborn briars and obstinate prickly thorns, until the tired monster begins to give way, and is brought to the bank a little above Longtown—length, 12ft.; weight, unknown. '12ft.' echoed a bystander. 'Yes, 12ft. long, my boy, a fine fresh-water eel.' Well, I had a nice job with him, for he coiled himself round the body of a passing horse so tightly that I had to take the animal home, and still that eel refused to leave go, then we sawed his head off, and skinned the eel; all to no purpose—we could not separate him from that unfortunate steed, and were compelled to shut them both up in a stable all night. Next morning, neither horse nor eel could be found, but we followed the trail of the monster's blood, and tracked the footprints of the horse, over a potato field and two peat mosses, to the edge of a big scaur overlooking the Border Esk, and then we lost all trace of both; and now the owner of the horse wants me to shell out the price of that nag. Mean! isn't it?"

NON-RESIDENTS in the Royal County who intend to try for trout in the Thames, from Windsor upwards, might not, perhaps, all know that the Berks County Council recently agreed to apply to the Home Secretary for an order, under the Act of '94, prohibiting during the whole year the taking or killing of the bittorn, kite, kingfisher, merlin, owl, harrier, hobby, honey buzzard, &c. This, in such a favourite residential and sporting county (observes a "W. F."), must be a source of great satisfaction to naturalists, and if here and there a leveret, a young

pheasant, or a partridge or two be killed, or trout water lose a few fish, let it be remembered that this is happily a time of preservation and re-stocking of fish, if not also, more or less, of feathered game. Moreover, anglers will doubtless share in the pleasure of noting the gradual re-appearance of the birds of prey, and especially of that large and rare bird, the bittorn, and the sadly diminished kingfishers. Perhaps some gamekeepers might have to be instructed about some of the lesser birds named in the "protected" list, as well as some water bailiffs. But as the Guildford Natural History Society are about to preserve Woolmer Forest and its ponds, and if equally sporting Hampshire should follow the lead of Berks and some other southern counties, rare birds might become comparatively common in a few years time.

THE Royal Aquarium will offer a most liberal shillings-worth to its Easter holiday patrons. From the early hour of 10 a.m. (the doors open at 9 a.m.) until 11.45 p.m. there will be a continuous succession of entertainments of a most diversified, pleasing, sensational, and amusing character. Anglers will have the additional attraction of the Fisheries Exhibition, which will only remain open until Wednesday night, and which is by general consent one of the very best "Fishes" seen at the famous Westminster palace of amusement.

THE Hastings Anglers had a very enjoyable night on the occasion of their second annual dinner on March 22. A large and influential list of members was recorded in the Hastings *Argus*. The president, Councillor Travers, occupied the chair, faced by Mr. F. S. Foster. The function was in every respect a great success. The club numbers 180 members, is in a flourishing condition, and deserves the support it receives, for no better body of sportsmen exists than the Hastings Anglers.

OUR F. G. ALBUM OF ANGLERS.

No. 37 (New Series).



DOCTOR MACNAMARA

Is one of the most popular and vigorous members of the London School Board (writes a correspondent). He is always worth listening to, and his gestures appeal to the eye as his witty words appeal to the ear. I was watching him the other day when he was making a speech, full of fire and enthusiasm, on a subject very dear to his heart, and every now and then, as he made a point or sought to catch at a fact of a most telling character, he threw out his arms as though making a "cast," and I said to myself, "As sure as fate 'Mac' is a fisherman." Soon after I took a plant ten minutes, and, catching the Doctor in the lobby, I accused him of being an angler. He not only admitted the soft impeachment, but waxed immensely enthusiastic over angling and anglers. Dr. J. T. Macnamara, M.L.S.B., was born in Montreal in 1861. He is the son of a "Clare" man, whose zeal for Home Rule was only equalled by the vigour with which he fought England's enemies in the Crimea and elsewhere. Dr. Macnamara inherits his keenness for fishing from his gallant soldier father, who has, alas! just answered the roll-call of the "great majority," and no longer can make flies for his distinguished son, or help him to trim things up at the end of a day's trout fishing in Devon. "Almost the first thing I can remember," said Dr. Macnamara to his interviewer, "is the big rough spoon bait in the Canadian lakes. I fancy the fish are better educated now, and not gulled so easily. As a boy I fished the lower reaches of the Exe (we used to get good dace and roach there in the early seventies), and the Exeter Canal down near 'Turf,' where there used to be a big carp pond, some big perch, and some formidable jack. More than once I have been immersed in both the canal and the river, my father using pious expletives from the bank meanwhile, for I was a pretty frisky young fish myself then. My father was a terrific walker, and took immense strides. As became a soldier's son, I felt from the very outset that I could do not less than 'Kape stip.' How I used to strain my juvenile legs in those early days, doing the seven miles' tramp along the canal

banks to 'Turf'! The result is that everybody who walks with me now complains that I step too long. The talks we had! We were real 'chums.' One of our pet discussions, I remember, was whether eels left the water at night." "You are a bony man, Dr. Macnamara," said his interviewer; "that everybody knows. Do you still manage to find time for a little angling?" "Yes," was the reply; "every year I try to get a little fly fishing in Devonshire, and I run down for occasional week-ends to the Norfolk Broads, my companion invariably being Mr. Organ, of the London County Council, who I persuaded to become an angler some years ago. Fishing is my only pastime. I am a hard worker, as you say, and to get away with rod and bag, even for a few hours, is an immense boon. What can be so refreshing and invigorating as the contact with nature, the fresh air, and the obvious concomitants? But there is something else, not quite so obvious. A real angler is completely pre-occupied. Everything else—even politics—is automatically excluded from the mind directly the cast touches the water. This is the important thing to me, and to those who, like myself, give their days and nights to exhaustive dealing with statistics and abstruse questions. This pre-occupation is the only one I know of which is really invigorating and exhilarating in itself. Do you understand me? If you do not you are no fisherman!" Dr. Macnamara was perfectly understood, and, what is more, he was lured on to talk a little more of his fishing experiences. The Doctor, as is well known, is frequently called upon to address meetings in various parts of the country—mainly on the education question—most week-ends of the year. His good friends in distant localities know his weakness, and three out of four of the invitation letters from the organisers of these meetings wind up with instructions as to where a little fishing can be done while he is in the district. "Yes," said Dr. Macnamara, with his cheery smile; "I have been privileged to learn a thing or two more than can be found in the ordinary fishing 'Guide,' or even in the omniscient *Gazette*. I have come across some rare anglers among the teaching profession, one of the most noted, I think, being Mr. Harrison, of Brathay, a gentleman who regularly boils his egg in his coffee at 2 a.m. every Saturday morning on Windermere when the char are biting. I nearly had a *fiasco* owing to my fishing proclivities not so very long ago. I was fishing at Ormesby, and was due to speak at the Town Hall, Yarmouth, in the evening. Having good sport, I gloriously missed the last train, and I had to drive helter skelter, put my fish in the Mayor's parlour, and get to work on the platform in my rough jacket. I don't think my remarks lost any of their force on that account, for the Yarmouth folk dearly love a fisherman." Dr. Macnamara, it may be remarked, often uses angling illustration to colour his speeches. Not long ago he was talking at the School Board on the irregular attendance of school children in a certain district, when one of his colleagues cried out, "You shouldn't run that district down, there's some fine fishing there." This raised a laugh, but the doctor put the laugh on the right side by his quick retort, "Evidently; and even the children are permitted to take their hook!" Dr. Macnamara has represented the division of West Lambeth on the London School Board for nearly two years. He is the editor of the *Schoolmaster*—a paper which has been singularly strengthened and improved since it came under his charge—and an advocate of the interests of the teaching profession, of which he was for some time an honoured member at Bristol; and he is particularly interested in the welfare of school children. He is a vigorous debater, and is competent to give a bad quarter of an hour to his opponents when occasion requires.

HERE is a true tale from the "Queen's Navee." The first lieutenant of one of Her Majesty's ships, let us say H.M.S. *Magniloquent*, when proceeding to the Mediterranean station, was asked by a lady friend to be kind enough to convey to another friend in Malta a small package. Anxious, like every naval officer is and should be, to oblige a lady, he readily consented, and took charge of the package for delivery. After being at sea two days or so there was an unpleasant smell—a sort of gentle purr was audible in the lieutenant's cabin. By the time the ship reached the Mediterranean the purr had increased to a loud bark, and the gallant officer thought it was time to investigate matters. The trouble was traced to the package in question; it was opened and promptly thrown overboard.

ON returning to London he called upon his fair friend to apologise for the non-delivery of the parcel. "I had to throw it overboard, you know," he pleaded. "Oh! Mr. Blank, it really doesn't matter," replied the lady; "but my friend, Mrs. B., in Malta, is so fond of a piece of fresh salmon. I thought I would ask you to be kind enough to take her a nice fish my husband caught in Scotland." The good dame evidently thought Malta was somewhere in the mouth of the Thames.

HERE is a riddle for some of you. What is the difference between the new woman riding a bicycle and the little dog running beside her? Give it up, of course. The one wears bloomers and the other pants.

"WHERE is Robinson? I don't see him here to-day. Is he here?" asked the man who occasionally dropped in. "No." "He is out, attending a funeral, I suppose?" "Yes?" "Well, he's always attending a funeral. I suppose that two out of three times, when I come in to see him, he is off attending a funeral. Queer fad of Robinson's, isn't it?" "Yes, but he won't attend any more." "No?" "No; he's out, attending his own funeral to-day." DRAGNET.

FISHING COMPETITION AT WYRESDALE.

A LANCASTRIAN sends the following:

"DEAR 'DRAGNET,'—I went down on Friday, at the kind invitation of Capt. Ormrod, to view the novel fishing competition to be held at Wyresdale on Friday and Saturday, the 24th and 25th. I say 'novel' fishing competition because, unlike most other fishing competitions, the competitors were to fish in a reservoir, and the prizes were not cups and shields, but live fish for stocking the waters of the successful clubs. The prizes were as follows:

"1st Prize.—The choice of 1000 best rainbow yearlings, or 500 rather late batched rainbow two-year-olds.

"2nd Prize.—Either of the above which are rejected for the 1st prize.

"3rd Prize.—500 best rainbow yearlings.

"4th and 5th Prizes.—Left to Capt. Ormrod's discretion, but will be fish that are a credit to the Wyresdale Fishery, and probably will be mixed lots, but the fisherman himself will have some choice in the matter.

"Capt. Ormrod had undertaken to bear the expense of bed and breakfast for one night.

"The day was beautiful fine. 'Old Sol' was shining forth in all his glory, and a few clouds were chasing each other across the azure sky.

"About a dozen of us arrived by the 10.15 a.m. train from Lancaster, and we were met by Capt. Ormrod, mounted on a pony, and by Mr. Henry, the energetic secretary of the fishery.

"It was arranged that we should await the arrival of the majority of the competitors by the 10.38 train from Preston way, and when these arrived we started on our way towards the Cleveley Fishery. I may mention that a cart was waiting at the station to carry the rods and baskets up to Nickey Nook, and a great number were glad to avail themselves of Capt. Ormrod's generosity, as it appeared that we were going to have a warm day of it. About twenty minutes' walk up the river bank brought us to the Cleveley Fishery, which is an extension of the Wyresdale Fishery.

"It only seems a short time ago since Capt. Ormrod acquired the Lunedale Hatchery; but within about three years the Wyresdale Fishery has grown so rapidly that he had to be looking for a means of extending it, and I think he could not have hit on a more desirable spot than where Cleveley Mill once stood, or rather, worked, for the mill itself still stands, but it is gradually losing the looks of a corn mill.

"First of all we were taken through this large building, and the different things were pointed out by the captain. On the ground floor there were two large tanks, used as starving boxes; they are for starving the fish in before they are despatched on a railway journey.

"They have to go through this treatment, as they are not able to stand the journey. There are only two of these boxes at Cleveley, but at Wyresdale there are a good number, as Cleveley is not so much a place from which fish will be despatched, but mostly for stocking large fish for breeding purposes.

"On the same floor there is a machine for chopping the food for the fish. The next floor above is used for loading fish on to the carts, &c., and to facilitate this there is a large crane. The upper storeys of the building are used for storing carriers, &c.

"Two very large ponds, which were used for storing the water to supply the mill—the mill was, of course, worked by water power—have been made into ponds for two-year-old fish. There are many thousands of fish of this age in at present, and they are being kept for stock fish; that is, they will be used for breeding when they get old enough. These ponds are connected by screens, which are Capt. Ormrod's own invention.

"The great difficulty with screens used for this purpose is to stop them getting choked up with leaves and other rubbish, but Capt. Ormrod claims that these screens will keep themselves clear of such matter.

"The next ponds contained yearlings, but owing to a little frost during the previous night they were frozen over, and we had to be satisfied with seeing the ponds and taking the Captain's word for it that there were fish in them. The next you see on going up the fishery is a series of ponds, in course of construction. These are being made for fry. The fish in this fishery lead a natural river life, as the river Wyre has been divided into two streams, and one of them flows through the fishery. This manner of supplying the ponds with water tends to strengthen the fish, and in consequence makes better fish than those that are kept in ponds with only a limited water supply.

"About a quarter of a mile further up—and this fishery is a very long one—we came to the spawning house. The house is a study in itself. The floor of the building is divided into sections, in which are placed 'rainbow males,' 'rainbow females,' 'Fontinalis males,' 'Fontinalis females,' 'tripe fish,' &c.

"When the building is closed a canvas screen covers up the different divisions to stop the fish from jumping out of one place into another.

"On the side of this building there are shallow boxes and spawning dishes, and many other appliances for spawning fish, and Capt. Ormrod showed us how a 'rainbow' is artificially spawned.

"These fish are of immense size, some of them quite 10lb. in weight, and it is a boast of the Wyresdale Fishery Co.'s that they never spawn two and three-year-old fish, as is done at a great many other fisheries in the kingdom; indeed, as regards the rainbow trout, they hold the only mature parent fish in this country.

"The roof of this building is covered with some patent stuff which is not glass, yet it allows light to pass through. It is composed of a light wire gauze covered with a solution.

"After we had gone as far as the top of the fishery, where the water enters from the river, we wended our way backwards to the building I mentioned above, where we partook of some refreshments. Here Capt. Ormrod made a neat little speech, in which he said that the water we were going to fish in was owned by the Fylde Waterworks. They had objected to the match being held in their water, and had threatened to lower the water down to 10ft., which he hoped they would not do. He had consulted his solicitors on the matter, and found that, as he had the sporting rights over this water, they could not object to the match being held there; but, to make the matter doubly sure, he had made out a number of permits, signed by him, and these would be given to each competitor before taking his place to fish. He trusted they would be as careful as possible, and not move any stones, &c., so that the waterworks people could not come on him for damage. (Applause) About 12.15 we started towards Nickey Nook, and, after crossing the river and the hills, we arrived at the reservoir a little before two o'clock.

"Here the roll was called, and after every competitor had got his permit, he went to the place he had selected. Each competitor was allowed to select his own station the first day, but was not allowed to go within 12yds. of the competitor on his right or left, and for the purpose of making matters simpler a number of pegs were driven in the ground, 12yds. apart, and on each peg a number was tacked.

"Punctually at the hour stated (2.30) a revolver was fired as a signal to commence fishing. On the first day competitors were allowed to change their places after an hour's fishing, if they got the consent of the referees, but without consent they were not on any consideration to leave their positions originally chosen. There was a gentle breeze blowing, which made a slight ripple on the water. The prizes were for the largest catch of both days added together. The largest weight caught the first day was 7lb. 7oz., caught by the representative of the Freehold Angling Club, Leeds, and the second was 6lb. 3oz., by the representative of the Keighley Angling Club. These two were far ahead of the others, the next weight being only 3½lb. The fish caught were rainbows, Loch Leven, and brown trout, Alpine char, and Fontinalis. At five o'clock the revolver was again fired as a signal to stop fishing, and after the catches had been weighed-in, a start was made in the direction of the Old Holly. Capt. Ormrod had provided a cart to carry those who were too tired—or lazy—to walk back. The others, including myself, of course, walked back over the hills. It was not very clear, but from the top of the hills we had a magnificent view; in fact, it was worth going to Nickey Nook to get this beautiful view from the hill top.

"We reached our rendezvous about half-past six, and waited a short time until dinner was served. After dinner a smoking concert was held in the spacious room belonging to the hotel. Thus ended the first day of the match.

"But, oh! what a difference in the morning—Friday, a fine day and everything that could be desired; Saturday, a cold, damp, miserable day. The ground was covered with snow, and it looked as if we were in for a proper day of it. Everybody appeared to be as jolly as possible, in spite of the damp state of the weather. Breakfast was served at 8.30, and about 9.15 we commenced the second day's tramping. Like the first day, a cart was ready to carry those who preferred riding to walking. Nothing worthy of notice happened before we reached the Wyresdale Fishery. Capt. Ormrod was here to greet us, and so were the referees (Mr. J. W. Blakey, of the Angler, and Capt. Edgar Warner, of Redditch). Columns could be written describing this most interesting establishment, but space will not permit me to do so.

"We were conducted round the place in two lots, Capt. Ormrod taking one, and the head keeper, Chas. Brooks, taking the other. [Bravo, Brooks! when are you going to send me my two-year-olds?] We viewed the hatching-houses and all the many other buildings and ponds, and one pond in particular was well noticed. It contained some gigantic fish. Every time one came near the top you could hear a lot of 'oh's!' 'eh's!' 'ah's!' It was a magnificent sight.

"We were shown some samples of the fish which were for the prizes, and these fish were indeed a credit to the Wyresdale Fishery. When we had had some refreshment it was time to start for the reservoir to finish the match. We arrived here without mishap just after twelve o'clock. All those fishing this day had to draw lots for their respective stations. The same signal was given to start fishing as was given the first day. By now it was snowing hard, and a keen wind was blowing, which made fishing a very difficult task.

"Very soon, first one and then another gave it up, and we adjourned to a boathouse. To enliven things up a little we had some singing. Mr. Fielding, of Bolton, giving 'Scots wae,' 'Annie Laurie,' and 'Old Lang Syne,' and a few other well-known songs in which we all joined in the chorus.

"Cheers were given for Capt. and Mrs. Ormrod and Mr. Henry. Meanwhile, what was going on outside. The referees and about twenty competitors stuck manfully to their posts in spite of the weather. It could be seen that the Leeds representative was not going to have matters all his own way. The Levenshulme representative was pulling fish out 'like steam.'

"In three hours he caught seventy-two fish, and some of the others were catching a good number.

"At 3.30, the revolver was again fired, and there the match ended.

"On weighing-in, it was found that the first prize had been won by Mr. C. H. Robinson, of the Levenshulme Angling Society, near Manchester, with a total weight of 11lb. 5½oz., his catch being 11lb. the first day, and 10lb. 5½oz. the second.

"The second prize was won by Mr. Haddock, who represented the Freehold Angling Club, of Leeds, his weight being 7lb. 7oz., he having caught all the fish the first day, and never got a hit the second.

"The third prize was won by Mr. S. Fox, of the Sheffield Anglers, his weight being 7lb. 1oz.

"The fourth and fifth prizes were won by Mr. Pickers-gill, of Keighley, with 6lb. 12½oz., and Mr. J. Atherton, of Preston, with 5lb. 13oz., respectively.

"Most of us went back home by the five o'clock train, and all acknowledged they had spent two of the jolliest and most interesting days of their lives."

LYCHNOBITE ANNUAL CONCERT.

ON Saturday evening, the 25th ult., the Lychnobite Angling Society gave their fifth grand smoking concert, in aid of Printers' Charities, at the Champion Hotel, Aldersgate-street, E.C. St. George's Hall was crowded by seven o'clock, a large attendance of ladies being one of the features of the evening. The programme was an excellent one, the whole being under the able direction of Mr. Albert Walter, a guarantee of success in himself. Proceedings commenced with a selection from the "Belle of New York," by the Royal White Band, followed by an overture, "König und Bettlerin," after which the rapidly-arriving artists were trotted out in such quick succession that when eleven o'clock arrived Mr. Albert Walter sang the final song and made the fortieth turn of the evening. It is difficult to single out any one artist deserving of more praise than another, as all were so very pleasing. The grand singing and beautiful mandoline obligatos of Miss Amy Brook, R.A.M., delighted everyone, and brought forth a beautiful bouquet from the chairman. Equally good were the excellent songs of Madame Stephanie Olive, Miss Geraldine Hewgill, and Madame A. L. Povey, the latter receiving quite an ovation. Then came Miss Ada Rowella, a clever young lady, whose songs were from the pen of the Lychnobite secretary, and who sang extremely well, followed by Miss Kate McGeeney, who also received a beautiful bouquet from the chairman. The sweet singing of this lady evoked general approbation, and it was deeply regretted that time did not allow a further hearing. Mr. Bertram Gill, Mr. Alf Smart, Mr. Fred Davies, Mr. Tom Mulroy, Mr. Fred Rome, Mr. Joe Levett (an old favourite), and Mr. W. Skinner (extremely funny) all rendered excellent songs and were vociferously applauded. Mr. Cecil Graeme gave a clever performance, entitled "Twenty Faces Under One Hat," while the Alexandra Trio, who appeared by kind permission of Mr. Dundas Slater, of the Alhambra Theatre, met with a well-deserved reception; as did also Mr. Charley Osborne, an ever popular author, who sings as well as he writes, which is saying a great deal. A feature of the evening was the presenters of the bouquets in the persons of Miss Daisy Richardson, Miss Daisy Walter, Miss Lilly West, and Miss Daisy "Drag," all under the care of Mrs. Albert Walter. Much disappointment was felt at the non-appearance of Miss Marie Lloyd (present last year), who was seized with sudden illness earlier in the day, and was compelled to give up all her engagements, including the Tivoli. "Dragnet," of the *Fishing Gazette*, filled the post of chairman, ably assisted by Mr. L. Chaplais, from the "Olde Ben Jonson," the headquarters of the society. Master Albert Walter was suffering from a severe cold, and advisedly stayed away. Mr. Harry Anderson arrived late, Miss Vesta Victoria and Mr. Charles Coborn both apologised on account of business, yet still there were enough artists and to spare. At the piano, Mrs. Newman Harrison and Mr. Jas. Jefferson contributed splendidly to the harmony of the evening, while the excellent arrangements of the hall and the comfort of all concerned were the especial units of Mr. H. G. Atkins, the genial and courteous manager of the Champion Hotel, who was all kindness and attention. On the whole, the concert was a great success, notwithstanding the number of peculiar difficulties with which the committee have been confronted and the mysterious opposition that kept asserting itself in the most unexpected quarters. Had not the committee been made of the right stuff a different result might have been expected. As it is, the thanks of all are due to Mr. Gus Cannell, Mr. L. Swalby, Mr. W. Povey, Mr. G. H. Skinner, Mr. C. Townsend, and to Mr. Tom Pedley, the hard-working assistant-secretary of the Lychnobites, and to those many other friends who so kindly assisted in carrying to a successful issue the fifth annual concert of the Lychnobite Angling Society.

A balance-sheet will be issued shortly, but at present is being withheld, awaiting further expected donations.

H. G. H.

DERWENT FISHERY BOARD AND ANGLERS.

THE angling season being now open, the Derwent Fishery Board at their last meeting decided to discontinue the "Black List" system. In future all who care to apply for permits can have them on the usual terms, irrespective of the suspicions of watchers or the police records. A good many people felt that the boycott of certain individuals adopted by the fishery board was unfair and un-English, but whether this feeling has anything to do with the changed attitude of the conservators, or whether the new policy is dictated by consideration of the board's finances, it is impossible to say. It should, however, be a satisfaction to anglers to know that, for this season at any rate, none of them need tremble lest their permit be refused. It is a case of "Let 'em all come."

GIL.

Notes from the North.

ANGLERS were fairly snowed and frosted off the water all last week. A cast now and again was got in the lulls of the storm, but little or nothing accomplished.

A "dirty" fresh set in on Sunday, and the Dee came down at mid-day "mountains high," carrying everything before it. The wind was easterly till Monday, when it veered round to S.W., and then the snow accumulations got the proper scare. Still, the traces of the late storm will take some time to obliterate.

Such a spell of frost and snow has not been experienced in the north for twenty-one years back at this advanced period of the year. Then the lapwings perished by the thousand, and their dead bodies were picked up by the shore at the riverside. The storm then lasted fully three weeks.

The Duke of York has been most unfortunate as yet in his spring visit to the Dee. He has been on the river almost daily; but, of course, what sport could be expected under such conditions, and the little he has had has been dearly bought. He has nearly a week yet at his disposal, and as fish are plentiful below, the present floods will be all the better for his waters.

A friend has called my attention to some remarks anent angling being suspended on some tidal reaches during the smolt migration in May. Any suspension which takes place is purely local. There is no suspension on the Ugie, and as far as the Ythan, Dee, Don, &c., are concerned, anglers can respect the regulation, or otherwise, as much or as little as they think fit.

No sportsmen kill smolts; and such suspension of angling rights is a bit of bluff on the part of certain local bailiffs, and other interested parties, to scare tidal anglers off the water where the smolts are thickest, and so save watching. Smolts are always protected, and so need no special close time, yet regular notices are issued year after year, warning anglers off the water during the first three weeks in May.

A good few finnock (whitling) are now being got in the tidal waters of the Dee and Don. Better baskets have been made on the latter river since the season opened than has been the case for the past dozen years or more.

The record price for salmon for the season was reached on Thursday last, in the Aberdeen Market, when only two fish were on the slabs, and were taken out at the high figure of 3s. 6d. per lb. On Saturday, the prices fell to 3s. and 3s. 2d.

"Dr. Jim" and Sir John Willoughby have gone north to the Helmsdale for a month's spring salmon angling. Dr. Taylor, London, is coming north to the Ugie on the 5th inst.; and Mr. George Bankart and party, from Leicester, follow him on the 15th inst. for a few weeks among the early yellow trout and finnock.

The Invercauld Arms Hotel, Ballater, so long the resort of salmon anglers to the upper waters of the Dee when in the hands of the McGregors, has been let to Mr. Proctor, of the Gordon Arms, Fochabers. The new lessee will

have nothing to do with the fishings, which are now let separately, at the handsome rental of £1500, to a syndicate of sportsmen, who take possession in May.

Mr. and Mrs. Alexander McGregor, who are leaving the Invercauld Arms in May, were entertained to dinner in the Grand Hotel, Aberdeen, by a number of city and county gentlemen and sportsmen, in recognition of the many kindnesses received at their hands in the past. The guests were the recipients of handsome and appropriate presents on the occasion. The function throughout was superb, and even surpassed Mr. Mann's best.

Capt. C. F. Penny, writing of a week he had on the Ythan whittling fishing, says: "I enjoyed the fishing very much, and Mr. Ritchie was very attentive and obliging." Much depends on the weather, of course; but sport is very brisk just now. SPECIAL SCOTCH.

Provincial Notes

FROM BIRMINGHAM AND DISTRICT.

A committee meeting of the Provincial Angling Association was held on Saturday evening last at the Sportsman Inn, Wood-street, Kidderminster. Mr. T. Coles, of Birmingham, presided; and Mr. R. Wingfield, of Worcester, occupied the vice-chair. All members were present. After the roll call, the minutes of the previous meeting, held at Bristol, were read and confirmed. The secretary read a letter from the Shropshire Union Canal Co., which went to show that he had through the association been instrumental in getting the company to adopt a close season from March 15 to June 15. The letter also went to show that the company had put another 2000 perch in the canal, and that no perch under 7in. were in future to be taken. The letter and the action of the secretary was approved of, and a resolution was passed restricting members from taking the fish mentioned under the limit named. Eight new clubs who had applied for affiliation, which had been visited and found properly constituted, were admitted into the association. The secretary informed the meeting that he had arranged for the Nene Association, Northampton, to be visited, as they were anxious to join the association. The maximum grant of two guineas was sanctioned to be handed over to the Pearson Testimonial Fund. The minutes of the sub-committee meetings, held on Feb. 20 and 22, were read. These went to show that the committee had decided to engage counsel to hold a watching brief at the Court of Queen's Bench when the case of Humphreys *re* the Shropshire Angling Association came on for hearing. Mr. Cook, of Wolverhampton, brought before the notice of the committee the constant pollution of the lower reaches of the river Pent, in which two clubs in Wolverhampton and one in Tipton were interested. This matter was left in the hands of the secretary. Mr. L. Green, of Reading, reported that a great destruction of fish had taken place on the Thames, at Reading, through the construction of the electric light works. This matter was also left in the hands of the secretary. The committee approved of the action of the Warrington Association in expelling three members for bad conduct on the 18th ult. last. This concluded the business of the meeting, when the committee adjourned for dinner, which was provided by the Kidderminster Association. The delegates from the latter association were also present. After the dinner

had been disposed of, Mr. R. Wingfield presented Mr. T. Coles, the president of the P.A.A., with a valuable diamond ring and a cheque for £45, for services rendered to the association during his term of office, which dated back to the formation of the association. Mr. C. White, the general secretary, also presented Mr. Coles with a gold and silver badge of office; and the Reading Association presented him with a special cake, made by Messrs. Huntley and Palmer. The presentation having been acknowledged, the remainder of the evening was devoted to harmony. The following is a complete list of the prize winners in the Bingley Hall fish competition: Pike—first, H. Morland; second, H. James. Perch—first, Mr. Blackwell; second, A. Juggins. Chub—first, A. Perks; second, C. Cottrell. Roach—first, Small Heath Club; second, W. Welsh. Dace—first, J. Jukes; second, J. Webb. Bream—first, J. Attwood; second, W. E. Morris. Two extra prizes were also awarded to Messrs. A. Padgett and E. Griffiths. Trout—first, Deritend Society; second, H. Barton. Barbel—first, A. Juggins; no second fish exhibited. Tench—first, W. Woodful; second, H. James. The following are the winners of the rare fish specimens: Burbot—Mr. Clapshaw. Ruffe—J. Attwood. Gudgeon—Travellers' Rest Club. Golden trout—W. Thornton. Bream-Roach—W. Crosbee. Notice will be given as to the distribution of prizes. The St. Paul's Society intend holding concerts every Tuesday evening during the close season.

FROM THE FEN DISTRICT (LINCOLNSHIRE).

Now that the coarse fishing season is over anglers are beginning to turn their attention to the trout streams, but up to the present the conditions have not been at all favourable for the prosecution of this class of sport. The severe spell of cold weather recently experienced has quite upset the calculations of fly fishermen. Scarcely a fly has been seen upon the waters, which, moreover, are so low, consequent upon the continued dry weather, that even under favourable circumstances satisfactory sport would almost be an impossibility. Happily, the weather has now taken a turn. A warmer atmosphere prevails, but until there is a good fall of rain it is doubtful whether much good can be done. The prospects for the Easter holidays are, therefore, not encouraging. On some private waters pike fishermen continue to obtain good sport.

FROM HULL AND DISTRICT.

A most agreeable change of the weather has taken place in this district, for after being snowed up for about a week we are again having very mild, warm weather, with an occasional copious shower of rain, which will no doubt greatly cleanse our waters, and bring them more in condition for angling during the Easter holidays; in fact, it has gladdened the hearts of our local anglers, who had been thrown into gloom over the extreme wintery weather of the past week, and there is every prospect of fair sport should the weather continue anything like it is at present. A few small trout have been taken in the top stretches of the river Hull, running about 1lb. each, and no doubt a few good fish will be met with at the back-ends during the week. The present state of the weather will also have the tendency to bring the flounders and eels on the run again in the havens and drains, and also in the lower portion of the river. The Brunswick A.S. fished a match on the river at Weelferry, but the weather was so inclement on the day in question that only seven of the competitors managed to catch a fish, the prizes being taken in the order given: Messrs. R. Nicholls, W. Arnold, J. Carter, W. Sellers, W. Dodsworth, W. Thompson, and J. Barnett. This

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society have a special meeting to arrange matters for their next, on April 10. The Stoneferry Angling Society have a sweepstakes on April 8; and on the 15th the new society, the Trinity A.S., will fish their first match on the river on Minto Flatts. This society held a most successful smoking concert at the Malt Shovel Hotel the other evening, and several other clubs have held their annual smoking concerts during the past week or so, which greatly helped to soothe the minds of our local anglers during the bad weather. The St. George's Angling Society, of Newton, held a very successful one at their headquarters, over 100 anglers attending, and the vocal and instrumental music was of first class order, Messrs. W. Richardson, T. Chester, J. Foster, Spurr, Rumley, O'Grady, and McLean greatly contributing to the evening's enjoyment. The Victoria Angling Society also held a smoking concert at the White Horse Hotel, in Carr-lane, for the benefit of Mr. Robert Weir, a much afflicted member of the society; but unfortunately, owing to the wintry weather, the muster of anglers was not near so large as had been anticipated; nevertheless, a nice little sum was realised. The North Myton Angling Society will hold a special meeting at the Golden Cup Hotel, on the 5th, to arrange place and date for their first match. This club now numbers about forty members, and is in a very flourishing condition, having some valuable prizes to be fished for during the season. The next council meeting of the Hull Amalgamated Anglers' Association will be held at the Queen's Hotel, on Wednesday evening, April 5th; chair to be taken at eight o'clock. A large gathering of anglers and their lady friends assembled at the Central Hall, on Monday evening, to celebrate the thirteenth annual *soirée* and ball of the East Riding Angling Society, which was a most interesting and enthusiastic affair. This society will open their match fishing season on the river Hull, at Weelferry, on April 22. On May 13, Blundell, Spence, and Co.'s Angling Club have arranged to hold an open angling match on the river Hull, at Dunswell.

FROM THE LAKE DISTRICT.

Although at the time of writing (Tuesday night) it is blowing a gale of wind, accompanied by heavy rain, prospects are certainly better than they were last week. The ten days of wintry weather came to an end on Saturday last, in a blizzard of wind, snow, and rain. Sunday and Monday were moderately fine days, and the rain now falling will have the effect of lifting rivers a bit. There is plenty of time for the weather to "take up" before these lines are printed, and we are hopeful that circumstances may be such that there will be sport in store during the holidays. So far as the season has gone, there has not been a large turn-out of anglers. Many observe Good Friday as their opening day, following this up with a day or two in Easter week, but "we never fish on Sunday" in this district. Visitors should remember that they will be allowed to fish in Windermere from April 1 (Saturday), and should the day be favourable no doubt the privilege will be taken advantage of to the full.

FROM LANCASHIRE.

One of the latest associations to be formed in this county is the Chorley Angling Society, and, from reports to hand, are progressing satisfactorily with the venture. They will open the season on Good Friday with a match for a good lot of prizes. For the future, intending members must be on the nomination list for four weeks before the ballot decides their fate. This is a reasonable and necessary precaution. Lancashire emerges from the great contest on the 24th and 25th ult., at Wyre, with credit by securing easily the premier prize by a surplus of 4lb. in weight and several in count, in addition to which the fifth prize also comes to Lancashire, and the second, third, and fourth to Yorkshire. The St. Helen's anglers, on March 23, publicly acknowledged the services of that veteran angler, Mr. R. Ball, by presenting him with an enlarged photo of himself. The occasion was characterised by a lot of honest enthusiasm. The first annual concert of the Perleton Angling Society was a most pronounced success, the programme being very attractive. The *artistes* were the Ecclesbrook Orchestral Society, the Prince's Theatre Glee Party, Misses Marley and Peplow, Mr. Challoner (humorist), and Messrs. Kaye, Henderson, Gresty, Morris, Hulme, MacKay, Speed, Rowe, and Reynolds, with Mr. Walley as accompanist. A programme of twenty-one items is sadly too much for one concert, if we remember the inevitable encores, and no doubt the second venture will be somewhat shortened and improved. Just at present the anglers of Liverpool are deeply interested with hatchery operations of a kind a trifle out of the ordinary, for nothing but tame fish, *i.e.*, fish artificially reared, have been dealt with, and the success of the experiment is being anxiously awaited. To all appearances the ova is effectually fertilised, and time will show the amount of return the promoters of this enterprise will obtain for all their time and trouble. The Lune and its tributaries, with the uncertain weather and low water, are not fishing well, and all agree that the prevailing pollution is simply abominable.

FROM MANCHESTER.

The annual meeting of the board of management of the Worsley Canal Fishery was held in this city on March 24, Mr. R. Burr, the president of the fishery, presiding. After the usual preliminary and routine business, Mr. W. Prescott, treasurer, presented and read the seventh annual balance-sheet, which, for the third year in succession, proved highly satisfactory. The board has now surmounted all its difficulties, and the fishery having obtained a firm hold on the canal fishing fraternity, the future is calmly anticipated, and success assured. The officers and committee were re-elected, the programme for the ensuing year discussed, and several suggestions made which were calculated to add to the attractions and usefulness of the enterprise. During the past year about £20 have been spent in stocking, and should the income of the coming season

show any improvement, of course, more in this department may be accomplished. Any suggestion as to improving the fishery will be very welcome if sent in to the secretary. The Snn Angling Society, Hulme, at their last meeting got through a lot of business. Several new members were elected, and more nominated. The list of specimen fish reported weighed in since the last meeting included roach of 15oz. and 9oz. by Mr. W. Dyson, jun., and a roach of 9oz. by Mr. Dyke, all caught on March 12, and considered very good from the water fished. They have some desirable waters in view, and are sanguine of soon having control of the same, in addition to those already acquired. Mr. C. H. Robinson's victory in the two days' contest on the 24th and 25th was a very popular one in this city. In the two days, with a total of five hours, he took 11lb. 5oz. of trout, the second man getting 7lb. 7oz. The Moss Side Socials at their last meeting elected four new members, and received four nominations for two vacancies, which will complete the full muster of seventy. At the next meeting the question of substitutes in the championship matches will be discussed, and as this question is important, a good attendance is requested for April 10. The sale of fish out of season still goes on, and there is apparently no hope of getting officialdom to move. A party of our city fishermen are bound for Llanymynech at Easter, amongst whom will be found such well-known names as Messrs. S. Hall, T. Ashworth, Hy. Hyde, and J. Lund, and probably T. Driver and others, the visit being looked upon as an annual one.

FROM NOTTINGHAM.

Weather permitting, rod fishers will be after the salmon known to inhabit the favourite runs at Shardlow and King's Mills during the holidays. The Trent rose a few inches on Monday, and the rise must have again set the fish on the move upwards. At the Greet mouth on the day named a member of the Nottingham Shoulder of Mutton Association caught, with the worm, a handsome brace of trout of 43lb. The fish were in very good condition, and they had evidently come out of the Greet for change of water in the main river. Members of the association held their annual dinner at headquarters on the night of March 23, under the presidency of Mr. H. Fryer, the vice-chair being occupied by Mr. C. W. Rayson. The chairman proposed the chief toast of the evening in highly felicitous terms, saying the society had a big balance (£35 3s. 7d.) in hand; and in response, Mr. D. S. Garner, the enterprising secretary, read a letter from the clerk (Mr. C. K. Eddowes) to the Trent Fishery Board, in which the latter gentleman said: "I am greatly obliged by the receipt from your society of a cheque for £5, granted to the funds of this board. I am sure that the board will look with much pleasure upon the spontaneous action of your club. Were other clubs animated with a like spirit, and showed it in a practical manner, the operations of the board might be considerably extended. Kindly convey my personal thanks to your members." Just before the season closed a fine pike of 16lb. 2oz. was caught in the Grantham Canal, near Denton Bridge, by Mr. A. Menzies of that town. It was sent to Messrs. Cooper and Sons, of London, for preservation. A very good fish was also taken in Denton Reservoir by Mr. R. G. Briggs, of Leicester.

FROM SHEFFIELD.

Up to the present anglers have not been able to congratulate themselves on the sport they have obtained amongst trout, for although the weather was very much better for the closing days of the coarse fishing season, yet since then it has been very cold and wet, with the result that anglers have not ventured forth in very great numbers. The Sheaf, which provided good sport near at home last season, is said to contain very few fish, and in order to improve matters the Sheffield Trout Anglers' Society proposes to dam up the stream in certain places, and re-stock with fish not less than 8in. in length. A week ago the reports from the Loxley, Udon, and Rivelin were to the effect that rain was badly needed, and it is hoped that the downfalls of last week-end will bring about the much desired improvement in the waters. The Sheffield Association has again rented the Wingfield Mill Pool, which provided them with capital sport last year, and it is anticipated that this year the result will be equally gratifying. Some first-class sport was forthcoming in the early days of the season, and in free reaches in the Amber, in the same district, several decent catches have been made. The cold weather put an end to fishing in the Derwent and Wye districts, but anglers are hoping to make amends for this during the Easter holidays, when the Wye will probably be the better stream of the two.

FROM SHROPSHIRE.

March has not, previous to this week, fulfilled its traditions as being a boisterous month, although cold and inclement in the extreme. Mild, rainy, and windy weather ruled when these notes were written, and prospects for the Easter holidays are as yet not over promising. Nevertheless, it is satisfactory that the wind is in a warmer quarter, and that the water will probably be in good order for spinning and bottom fishing. If favourable conditions prevail a good many anglers will doubtless be out with the spinning tackle during the holidays, and the capture of a few good trout should be recorded. Trout fishing, up to the present, has been absolutely unproductive, and this is not a matter for regret, inasmuch as the few fish yet taken have by no means been in good condition. The fact that the local water bailiffs are well on the *qui vive* for illegal netters should be taken as a warning to the Shrewsbury followers of that risky occupation. The bailiffs are now taking to use boats in the execution of their duty, and they made a *coup* recently which, although not entirely successful, was still not fruitless. They found two men illegally netting the Severn at the Isle, a few miles above Shrewsbury, and went for them in smart style. The men managed, in the darkness of the night, to evade

capture, but they left behind them two coracles (from which they had been using their net), the net itself, and about 70lb. of pike, chub, perch, and three ill-conditioned trout. The Rev. J. B. Meredith, of Kinnerley Rectory, near Oswestry, has raised a question of considerable interest to anglers on the Severn and Vyrnwy—namely, whether or not sea trout were at one time fairly numerous in these rivers. In the correspondence columns of the *Fishing Gazette* of last week the reverend gentleman's testimony on the subject was published, and certainly seems well nigh incontrovertible. What may be taken as corroborative evidence is given by Mr. H. H. Hughes, of Shrewsbury, a member of the Severn Board of Conservators, who states that when a youth he used to watch his father angle for and take sea trout in that borough. In opposition, however, we have the opinion of Mr. Alfred George, of Tan-y-fon, Meifod, Welshpool, who in the course of some interesting notes which he has compiled on the question, says he thinks it may be taken for granted that a genuine sea trout has never been captured in the Verniew. He says, however, on second-hand information, that there have been trout caught in the neighbourhood of Shrewsbury quite bright, and very much resembling sea trout, and he believes he has at one time taken one or two of these fish at Meifod. He pronounces them non-migratory trout, which may be mistaken by strangers to the river for sea trout. Mr. George proceeds to say that there is a trout very much resembling a sea trout in appearance and colour caught every year, but not in any numbers, in the Severn at the navigation weirs, from Diglis (Worcester) to Lincomb, the highest of the navigation weirs. These he speaks of as being apparently migratory, and adds that they are always large fish; small ones never being caught. He remembers one of 10lb. 4oz. being taken. It is curious that Mr. George refers to these fish as not being caught in the Severn until the navigation weirs were built. He thinks them to be genuine sea trout. These notes from one who has had so lengthy an experience of the Severn fisheries as had Mr. George, are most interesting, but, inasmuch as the testimony of the reverend gentleman is not actually refuted thereby, it would be well if something more definite could be ascertained. For many years past the Shrewsbury Severn Angling Association has turned trout into the river at Shrewsbury, and it is just possible that the fish referred to by the Rev. J. B. Meredith were imported species of *fario* so very much like sea trout that they were mistaken for such even by experienced anglers. Whether sewin and sea trout were or were not at one time to be taken in the upper Severn is a question which must be decided by old and experienced anglers and ichthyologists, but there certainly seems nothing against the theory that before the time of navigation weirs, over netting, and pollution, these migratory fish were to be found high up the Severn and Vyrnwy, with the shad, twaite, flounders, and lampreys that were once caught pretty commonly at Shrewsbury, and which are referred to in an old Act of George III. in connection with both rivers.

ANSWERS TO CORRESPONDENTS.

BEGINNER.—We can supply the numbers you want, post free, for 2d. per copy.

SUBSCRIBER.—It is a very small place; but, as there is a continual flow of water, you might try a few yearling rainbow trout. You would have to feed them.

Correspondence

[We do not hold ourselves responsible for the opinions expressed by our Correspondents.]

TROUT FISHING IN NORTH FRANCE—EXTRAORDINARY CLOSE TIME.

DEAR MARSTON.—Pity the sorrows of an exiled trout fisher. The local authorities of the three northern departments, the Pas-de-Calais, the Nord, and the Somme, have in their high sapience decreed that trout and salmon angling this year, while opening as usual on All Fools' Day, shall be closed from April 17 to June 17 inclusive, to assimilate it to the coarse fishing close season, the reason alleged being the difficulty of maintaining efficient supervision if certain fishes are to be excepted, taking no account of the fact that trout and salmon fishing has been closed by law since Sept. 30, while general fishing has been open through summer, autumn, and winter.

And there is some rather pretty trout fishing in the said departments, and a lovely rise of May Fly as a rule, lasting, for those who have access to various waters, approximately from May 20 to June 15.

Dear brothers of the angle and deft casters of the fly, fancy being debarred from using it from mid-April to mid-June, and fancy the goodly trout fattening on the elegant Ephemeræ with impunity till, as a great author and fly fisher once said, "Their tummies grow as yellow and shiny as buttercups!"

It seems like an "orrid dream," and he sure that we are protesting and fighting against so abnormal and ridiculous a regulation. But I hear from an official source that it is rather late, almost on the eve of its coming into force, to seek for a revision. But if we should win, and trout fishing be allowed in this year of grace to pursue "the even tenour of its way," as heretofore, I will promptly advise you, for the benefit of any of your readers who may be contemplating spring trouting trips to this side of the channel.—Yours very faithfully, CHAS. A. PAYTON.

Calais, March 23, 1899.

[We are much obliged to Mr. Payton for this useful warning.—Ed.]

FISHING IN ANGLESEY.

DEAR SIR,—As several English anglers annually visit this county over Easter tide, it may not be amiss to try to forecast the prospects of sport during the vernal festival, and having a quarter of a century's experience on the different waters, I may claim to write with some degree of authority. As most of the anglers centre round Lake Coron, Bodorgan, I may begin with this famous free lake. Hitherto this spring, owing to exceptional adverse climatic influences, sport has been much below par, and there is evidently no falling off in the number of its trout. After the total disappearance of ice and snow, and should the floods cease, and the equinoctial gales exhaust themselves, the prospect of good baskets would be more certain than ever. Next comes Maelog Lake, Tycores, a larger lake than Coron, and equally free, and at its best from Easter to Whitsuntide, and contains the most gamey and best eating trout in Wales, and has the further advantage of a change on the adjoining Crygyl river. A few miles of real good fishing, mostly white trout, which disappear at the end of April. With favourable weather, one may go much further and fare worse. Traffill Lake, near Valley (ticket from Mr. Pierce, the Hotel), contains Loch Leven trout and no end of perch; and in the same vicinity flows the Alaw, the most prolific river in the island, but the trout are small. Two miles above Llangefni is Lake Frogwy, small, but for its size holding more trout than any lake I have come across. A licence is required, covering the Cefni river, which flows from it, and also the Brint, a good stream flowing through Dwyran, parallel to the Menai Straits. The Cefni, for two miles above and below Llangefni, is too much fished to afford good sport, and the remaining portion is subject to the tide, and must be well curbed by a south wind to afford real good sport. The best flies that can be used for the coming fortnight are March Brown, Alder, Red Palmer, Coch-y-bonddu, and Wickham's Fancy. May wind and water be favourable over these long expected holidays is the fervent wish of—Yours faithfully, W. H.

March 28, 1899.

MR. E. M. TOD'S LATEST ROD.

MY DEAR MARSTON,—I send you, for your inspection, my latest "Forrest" Rod (Forrest and Sons, of Kelso and of London fame)—one butt, two mid joints, and three tops. I ordered it from the parent establishment (Kelso) of my old rod maker. I possess no other rods for salmon or trout fishing. Upon receiving my order the kind old head of the firm did for me what he would do for no other two-legged creature—made me a rod with his own skilled hands.

Of course, he has long since ceased to work at rod making, but he supervises every first-class rod from start to finish, and invariably puts the final touches with his own hands to every such rod, including the varnish.

The rod is of whole wood, and makes up into what are equivalent to two rods. No. 1 rod—"The Tod Rod"—is made thus, as usual: Butt and mid joints of hickory, and tops lancewood. No. 2 rod is a fine Tweed rod, all greenheart save the hickory butt, which is common to both rods.

The rods are different in character; each possesses its own charm. Length, 10ft. 10in.

I have arranged that the rod remain for a time on view at the establishment of the son, Mr. John Forrest, of 24, Thomas-street, Oxford-street, London, W., so that anyone can see it, and I am sure that it will bear inspection.

As "good wine needs no bush," so a good rod needs no "bosh" written about it. After forty years of faithful adherence to the firm, I can truthfully say that Messrs. Forrest's rods are not only fine weapons, but stand the test of time and hard wear in a wonderful manner.—Yours truly, EWAN M. TOD.

WHEN AND HOW TO USE GENTLES.

SIR,—Mr. Fishburn is to be complimented on having "found out a way last year how to preserve from hatching until required the ova of the bluebottle fly." It is desirable under some circumstances that a thing should be kept a due season that it may the better fulfil the purpose for which it is intended, but in the matter of gentles the most approved form of preservation is not to be compared with the fresh article. To those, therefore, who buy their gentles in the winter season, Mr. Fishburn (who I see advertises his gentles in the *Fishing Gazette*) is to be heartily recommended. I trust that he makes a point of giving a good large gentle to his customers under all circumstances, and sends them a reasonable quantity for their money.

Of course, Mr. Fishburn recognises the market value of his discovery, and unless he chooses to disclose his method, or someone else arrives at the same result and makes it known, we amateurs will have to keep to our own methods, which have the merit of being simple, uncouth, and sufficient. Were we in the trade it would of course be our aim to arrive at more perfect results—no doubt we should undertake more elaborate methods the better to ensure an adequate return for our trouble.

As to the matter of artificial breeding, which Mr. Fishburn distinguishes from his discovery, I do not see that it is more than a question of temperature, and certainly no amateur would go to the extent of keeping up the temperature of a room, or equivalent, during the cold weather, merely to have a supply of freshly-bred gentles, which he could obtain of Mr. Fishburn at less cost.

In conclusion, I must once more claim that excellent results can be obtained by my method—the usual method in principle adopted by the trade, I believe—and I have even now distinct recollections of the comparison I once was able to make between my own preserved gentles and some obtained through the trade. A certain dealer, who at the time advertised prominently in the *Fishing*

Gazette, succeeded in extracting an order from me, as, owing to an unexpected number of opportunities in the autumn and winter to go a fishing, I was running my preserved stock rather low. I opened the box of gentles, and proceeded to follow certain directions therein contained for reviving them after their journey. It didn't answer, and I pitched the lot into my swim, preferring to economise my remaining gentles, which were beyond comparison above those I received through the post, rather than use the rubbish that had been sent me.—Yours respectfully, FOSSDYKE.

FISHING IN MAY.

DEAR SIR,—Will you allow me to express my thanks through your columns to the three gentlemen who wrote such interesting replies to my enquiry. One or other of the places I certainly mean to visit, and I will avail myself of the offers so kindly made of further information. I should like also to thank you, sir, for your own private note, and the anonymous correspondent who wrote to me from Ireland recommending the Ballinahinch Fishery.—Yours faithfully, J. G. G.

ARE FINNOCK YOUNG SEA TROUT?

DEAR SIR,—A case which is causing a good deal of attention among Aberdeen anglers was tried in Aberdeen Sheriff Court on Thursday, 23rd inst.

The bone of contention was, "Are finnock the young of sea trout?"

One of my local customers who has fished Dee and Don for the past thirty years sends me the following explanation from his own observation to the above question.

"My opinion is that the yellow fin is the young of the sea trout, and goes down to the sea in the months of May, June, and July. They remain in the sea until the months of September and October, and then start to ascend the rivers as finnock. They remain in the rivers till the spring of the following year, and return to the sea again as kelt finnock.

"The finnock that are killed in the months of March, April, and May are, in my opinion, no other than mended kelts. These mended kelts return once more to the sea, and come up again as sea trout in their third year.—J. W. L."

Any other information is requested through your columns.—Yours faithfully, W. BROWN.

[Finnock, or phinnock, is a local name for the young sea trout, but it does not follow that all fish so called are actually young sea trout.—Ed.]

NEW ARRANGEMENTS FOR THE UGIE.

DEAR SIR,—I was interested in the description in *Fishing Gazette* of March 4 by your frequent correspondent, "G. M.," of the new arrangements for fishing on the Ugie, and as I hope to visit the neighbourhood in May next, I should feel much obliged if he would answer the following questions:

1. Is the Ugie good for brown trout as well as sea trout and finnock?

2. Will it be too late, from May 15 to June 7, for sea trout and finnock fly fishing?

3. The name and address of the new association secretary, and that of the hotel at Longside?—Yours truly, LUX.

[Our correspondent, "G. M.," sends the following further particulars: 1. The Ugie affords excellent brown (yellow, as we call it in the north) trout angling all over the whole river. Average about 1lb., but lots run up to 1lb.; and Mr. Andrew Murray, Aberdeen, killed one last spring, 4lb., to the fly. They rise freely. 2. It is not too late to look for finnock in May, but the smolt migration comes on about then, and angling on the tidal waters is suspended by regulation. After May 24, however, angling commences again. There is no suspension above the tidal waters at all. 3. Mr. Andrew Murray, Advocate, 214, Union-street, Aberdeen, acts as managing director, and will give all information. The Proprietor, the Hotel, Longside, will be quite sufficient. Railway facilities from Peterhead are abundant. Good hotels there.]

SKATING AND ROACH FISHING ON GOOD FRIDAY.

DEAR SIR,—I have just read with interest Mr. Jardine's "Reminiscence," in your issue of 25th ult., of skating and roach fishing on a Good Friday, fifty-six or fifty-seven years ago, but I think he refers to the Good Friday of 1845, fifty-four years ago.

My recollection is clear as to all the unusual or great frosts occurring during the last sixty years, and I recollect no skating in or near London on a Good Friday before or since the year 1845. I was skating on that Good Friday from nine till six (on most perfect ice) on the Longwater, Kensington Gardens; and I have referred to my records of winters and great frosts, and amongst them to a letter appearing in the *Times* of Feb. 4, 1879, from Mr. Thomas Plant, of Birmingham (a well-known authority on such matters), in which he wrote as follows:

"The next great frost was in 1844-45. This was a protracted winter, throughout the whole of December, a remarkably cold February, and so severe was the frost in March, 1845, that on Good Friday (March 21) the ice in the canal was of such thickness that boats which had been bound by ice for many weeks were still locked as tight as before."

Obviously I did not, like Mr. Jardine, fish for roach on that day, but I was then a roach fisher (as I am still, notwithstanding the fascination of fly fishing, which I took up late in life), having been taught the mode of fishing for them with the long pole and tight hair line some two years previously by a well-known professor, a very genial old man of the name of Adams, whose occupation was that of a

furniture dealer in London. He was a very expert roach fisherman and troller with the dead gorge bait, and used to spend a deal of his spare time angling in the old Pike and Anchor fishery at Ponder's End. The Pike and Anchor was then one of the most comfortable fishing inns on the Lea, and was kept by a very worthy host (one Tom Kied, and some few that are left of the Lea fisherman of those days would well recollect him).

Thanks to the old man's lessons, I caught in these long gone days good bags of fish in the Pike and Anchor fishery, and in the old Horse and Groom fishery at Lea Bridge, then one of the prettiest and pleasantest fisheries on the Lea. In the parlour of that inn was a very well-preserved salmon of about 20lb. weight. The inscription on the case recorded the fact of its capture in that fishery in, I think, the year 1827. This was the last salmon, I believe, taken on the Lea of which there is, or was, any record. One of the successful anglers who then occasionally fished the Pike and Anchor Fishery was a young Chancery barrister, Thomas Southgate, who subsequently became a very successful Queen's Counsel, made a large fortune, and retired to Marlow.

These were happy times for fishermen—plenty of fish and few fishermen, with pleasant country close into London; alas! now all used up by the builders, and forming great local centres of business and population.

It is marvellous how the number of anglers has of late years increased. Where one man fished in the forties, 300 at least do now; and the pastime is followed by all sorts and conditions of men, from Royalty down to skilled artisans and labourers, and amongst the latter are some of the most expert and clever of anglers for roach and other coarse fish.—Yours truly, H. L. W. GODWIN.

WATERPROOF FISHING HAT.

DEAR SIR,—I should be much obliged if some reader of the *Fishing Gazette* would tell me where I could obtain a waterproof hat which would not allow rain to run down the neck, and which would neither stifle the wearer nor give him a headache? I have tried a "Son'-wester," but—never again!—Yours truly, D. H.

[The most comfortable waterproof but not airproof fishing hats we know are those made by Messrs. Burberry, of the Haymarket and Basingstoke. The best shape for protection from sun and rain is the Helmet. It has a peak running all round. It is made of gabardine lined with Jaeger's cloth, and can be made as light or as heavy as may be required. Gabardine throws off the rain in an extraordinary way.—Ed.]

RECORD OF TROUT CAUGHT IN THE JED AND TEVIOT.

DEAR SIR,—As a reader of your valuable journal I enclose a list of trout caught by me in the Jed and Teviot in the year 1889. If you think it would be of any interest to your many readers, I would feel greatly obliged by seeing its insertion in your columns.—Yours, &c., THOS. RENILSON.

Date.	River.	Lure.	Trout lb.
March 13	Jed	March Brown and Woodcock	17 3/4
April 6	Jed	Light March Brown	50 12
" 8	Jed	Light March Brown	61 13
" 9	Jed	Light March Brown	24 5
" 10	Jed	Dark Blae and March Brown	27 5
" 12	Jed	Partridge Tall Hare Lug	53 12 1/2
" 15	Jed	Woodcock and Partridge Tall	35 6 1/2
" 16	Jed	Cornraik Partridge Heckle	42 7
" 17	Jed	Cornraik Partridge Heckle	51 9 1/2
" 19	Jed	Woodcock Partridge Heckle	53 10
" 20	Jed	Woodcock Partridge Heckle	35 6
" 23	Jed	Woodcock Partridge Heckle	31 8
" 25	Jed	Light March Brown	80 15
" 26	Jed	Light March Brown	50 10
May 2	Jed	Woodcock Hare Lug	84 12
" 4	Jed	Woodcock Partridge Heckle	47 6
" 8	Jed	Dark Blae	54 8
" 13	Jed	Woodcock Hare Lug	30 4
" 17	Burns	Worm	57 10
" 20	Jed	Worm	41 6 1/2
" 22	Jed	May Fly	56 12
" 25	Jed	May Fly	53 12
" 29	Jed	May Fly	55 9 1/2
" 31	Jed	Worm and Woodcock	21 3
June 3	Jed	Worm	49 7
" 5	Jed	Worm	24 4 1/2
" 14	Jed	Woodcarrier	19 5 1/2
NIGHT FISHING.			
" 18	Teviot	Light March Brown	19 5
" 21	Teviot	Light March Brown	23 6
" 24	Teviot	Light March Brown	27 8
" 26	Teviot	Light March Brown	17 5
" 29	Teviot	Light March Brown	15 4
July 2	Teviot	Woodcock Hare Lug	17 5
" 26	Jed	Crow Wing (Day Fishing)	49 8

Total number of trout 1366 203 1/2

KESWICK ANGLING.

The trout fishing season is now in full swing, and the prospects, according to present reports, are of a favourable nature. The lake is in good condition, and many anglers have been attracted. A fresh is much needed in the river. The catches reported are as follows: Mr. Joseph Lowther, twenty-three trout; Mr. Hill, a good basket of trout; Mr. H. Beadle, six trout; Mr. Wilkinson, seventeen trout; Mr. Denwood, sixteen trout, and several pike, one weighing 9 1/2 lb.; Mr. Telford, four trout; Mr. Jameson, ten trout; Mr. Henderson, 2lb. trout; and Mr. J. Rigg, 3lb. small trout. GIL.

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THE FISHING GAZETTE is published every Saturday, and can be obtained at Messrs. W. H. Smith and Son's Railway Bookstalls and of the principal Newsagents and Fishing Tackle Dealers in London and the Provinces.

Communications relating to the Literary Department, Fishing Tackle for Notice, Books for Review, &c., should be addressed to R. B. MARSTON, Editor of the FISHING GAZETTE, St. Dunstan's House, Fetter-lane, London.

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The

Fishing Gazette

WITH WHICH IS INCORPORATED

ANGLING AND CLUB GOSSIP.

SATURDAY, APRIL 8TH, 1899.

ARTIFICIALLY CONSTRUCTED SALMON SPAWNING BEDS.

THE demand for salmon has become no doubt greater than the supply, consequently the price which is now asked is beyond the means of the greater number of the population. This deficiency has been produced by many circumstances. Among them are—First, the effect occasioned by the extensive draining which has been carried out on agricultural holdings, and necessarily has made the rise and fall of our rivers, particularly the rise, much less than it was in former years, thus preventing the salmon from ascending to those places most adapted for the production of their species. Secondly, pollutions caused by the never failing walk of commerce, that is, by the erection and working of factories which have utterly ruined many prolific rivers. Thirdly, by the "deaf ear" continued to be lent by the Government to the numerous appeals made to it to bring the laws affecting our fisheries into such form that they may be applicable to the subject with which they have now, under the altered circumstances of the case, to deal. Fourthly, by the discontinuance of the preparation of artificially constructed salmon spawning "beds." The first mentioned matter which has

depreciated the value of our rivers has been by the science, which has been called into use for making it even possible to make farming a profitable industry, owing to the fall in the price of corn. The second, namely, "pollutions," which are carried off by paper mills, wool factories, and the like. This matter is now under the reconsideration of the House of Commons by a Bill specially framed to meet the matter. But as a leading section in that institution carrying great weight is utterly opposed to any further move being made in the matter, it is to be feared that unless it is handled with the greatest skill and care, the "knocking out" of those points, by which it is endeavoured to make it more forcible than the Act of 1876, it will, even if passed, be of little service in the matter of staying or controlling the defilement already existing. The next subject mentioned in these notes is evidenced by the admission of the department of the Board of Trade, who deal with our fisheries, that the laws appertaining to them as they at present stand cannot be accommodated to the matter as it is at the moment placed, the whole circumstances being so entirely altered since their enactment. Lastly, we come to the matter in hand, that of artificially constructed spawning beds.

It may not be known to the public in general that before any Parliamentary laws were brought into force with reference to salmon, the riparian owners and their tenants year after year made "beds" ready for the salmon to occupy as soon as they entered the rivers, not alone that they might more easily deposit their spawn, but that they might be more readily captured, first for the market, then for their own table. These "beds" not only save the fish considerable labour, which must necessarily more or less depreciate the quality of the spawn, but by the position chosen for the situation the whole function is carried out with greater security from the dangers with which both the ova and fry are beset than when left to the haphazard chance of finding their own resting place. But when the Act of 1861 became law all this was stopped, or nearly so, and ever since that date our stock has been slowly yet nevertheless surely, decreasing. Under these circumstances it may be as well, for the information of those interested in the subject, to describe shortly how these "beds" were, or rather are, on some rivers constructed, and also the position in which they are best placed. On the other hand, however, it will be as well before going further, to say that unless those who would undertake this method of increasing their stock of salmon are in a monetary position to employ a sufficient staff of water bailiffs to continually keep watch and ward over them (that is the "beds"), they had better be left unmade, because, as it has been proved that salmon will occupy any such places at once, and if not guarded they will simply become the easy prey of that "oldest inhabitant" of our rivers and shootings, namely, the poacher.

The manner of their construction is as follows: A point of the river is found where the water by the curving of the further bank is thrown in rapid flow to that on the other side, which should rise perpendicularly from the water. This at normal height should not be less than from 1ft. to 18in. deep, having a gravelly bottom. The situation for fixing the "bed" is at the lower end of a pool just immediately above a stickle, from the top of which a bar running nearly parallel to the bank is made with stones measuring some 2ft. in diameter, placed close together and firmly fixed in the bottom of the river. These gradually open out as they proceed upstream at an angle of something less than 45 degrees for some 20yds. to 25yds., the space at the foot, or lower end, that is next the stickle, being about 7ft., expanding to some 12ft. at the higher extremity to which the stones extend. The ground now all lying between the river bank and this artificial break-water is hacked up to the depth of some 18in. with pickaxes, all the large stones being left during the operation on the top. Then this loose soil is all shaken over with four-pronged forks, and every stone that will not pass between the prongs is thrown out. After this has been thoroughly gone over, the "bed" is levelled with a large-toothed iron rake, and all gravel which may not look inviting, that is, any with sharp edges, being picked off.

Simple as this may appear at first sight, yet it

requires a great deal of judgment to hit upon the proper situations estimated to be the best for the purpose. The proper strength of the stream of water is one particular matter which will entice fish to occupy them. If too slow or too rapid they will have none of it. But when they are as they should be salmon have often been known to leave "beds" of their own finding and continue the process of spawning on those artificially made.

To show how easily salmon are induced to take up their quarters on any place where the bottom has been freshly disturbed, it may be said that some years ago it was the practice of inhabitants of a riverside, which river was much discoloured with china clay water, to yearly wash the deposits of that compound from the bottom, and soon they would have fish on these clear spots, which they immediately secured. The clay pollution is one of the matters which greatly damages some rivers. Though it does not destroy the matured fish, it necessarily covers all spawn that may be deposited. This has, of course, nothing to do with the subject of these notes, but as it has been entirely overlooked in the draft of the new Act now before Parliament, I take this opportunity of mentioning the fact.

There is one matter that has been found most useful on those rivers where spawning "beds" have been constructed, and that is that all brush-wood, or waterstane as it is properly called, lining the banks in their immediate vicinity should be cleared away, thus preventing any hiding for the poachers. The plan of construction described has been carried out on the river Camel, in Cornwall, within the last few years, under the superintendence of an experienced conservator; and it may be said, from evidence which is to hand, that in a year or two the increased stock of that river will fully repay the outlay by its Conservancy in this undertaking. It must be remembered that there is also another side of the question besides the supply for the public and of salmon netting as a commercial industry. By the improvement of a river the riparian owners, whose position through the agricultural depression has been so much altered of late years, will benefit by the stock of salmon being increased.

PHEASANT TAIL.

ANGLING VERACITY FROM A SCIENTIFIC STANDPOINT.*

GENTLEMEN,—With a laudable desire to unite information with amusement, our association intends to provide a series of scientific lectures on various subjects interesting to its members, and I feel largely honoured in occupying the premier position with a disquisition on angling veracity from a scientific standpoint.

Do not suppose, however, that I would compete with that ingenious author who wrote the celebrated chapter on "Snakes in Iceland," or with the late Sir Stafford Northcote's famous lecture on "Nothing." My ingenuity is not up to anything of the sort; I would only bring before your notice some of the more recent deductions of Science (with a big S) on this subject. A most wonderful thing is modern science—some of its recent achievements are truly remarkable—and I hope by the use of those graphic statistical methods, with which most of you are no doubt acquainted in the pages of certain magazines, to retain your interest whilst I explain the conditions regulating veracity, or the want of it, amongst our fraternity.

You all, no doubt, know the dictum of that seeker after truth who parodied the Psalmist by declaring that "a' men are leears, but a' fishers are domned leears," a sweeping indictment which you may at times have wished either to deny or explain away. But, gentlemen, I am here to-night to show by the aid of modern science that far from being a blemish, that embellishment of the truth so habitually practised by us anglers is really the outcome of our extreme goodness. Since that eminent scientist, Max Adler, proved that the excessive wickedness of babies was due to the amount of original sin in each infantile criminal, showing that, the amount of that dreadful heirloom being the same in the smallest babe and

* A lecture delivered at a smoking concert of the Scottish Trout Anglers' Association by T. Spence.

the biggest adult, the pressure on the square inch of the child must be infinitely greater than on the adult, the scientific mind has naturally been greatly exercised to follow out this luminous idea to its legitimate conclusions.

Of those investigators whose labours have shed such light on this branch of science, and to whose researches I shall refer during this lecture, perhaps the most celebrated are Professor Dumkopf, of Keimplatz; Professors Damphul and Blutiger Narr, of Eselburg; and Herr Dunderpate, of Alt-Ranchenstadt; though we have, even in our own good town, scientists whose methods and results may compare with theirs. Nor must I forget those eminent scientists, the late Baron Munchausen, Dr. A. S. Smythe, F.Z.S., Mr. L. De Rougemont, Mr. Hook E. Walker, and the celebrated explorer Sinbad, commonly called "the Sailor," whose adventures and tales for the marines are classics. Nor, last, but not least, can I omit that celebrated Russian, Knoall Jawishedoff, whose recent researches into the life history of the shark, whereby he proved, to the eminent satisfaction of himself and friends, that from the conformation of its mouth and stomach, and from the absence of the tubercle bacillus in its intestine, that much maligned creature could not eat human beings, *must* subsist entirely on submarine butterflies, and that the second-hand watches, old boots, and tobacco pipes said to have been found in its digestive tract either only existed in the imagination of mere untrained observers, such as fishermen, newspaper reporters, and sailor men, or, if really present, must have been accidentally swallowed whilst the shark was grubbing out its natural prey from the sub-marine ooze it inhabits (an idea strongly corroborated by the fact that sub-marine butterflies have not as yet been found anywhere outside of marine ooze, and not there either), attracted such favourable attention when he read his paper on the subject before the Kaiserliche und Koenigliche Verein of Alt Rauchenstadt on the first of April last. I fear my admiration for this gentleman's wondrous methods of research has led me into an unpardonable digression, for they cannot by the wildest effort of imagination be supposed to have any connection with veracity, angling or otherwise. Firstly, the learned Dumkopf, using that ingenious instrument the pseudometer, whose invention is claimed both by Herr Dunderpate and Professor Muddle, proved that the pressure of original sin on the square inch of an average individual of the male sex in good condition is almost equal to that of the atmosphere; whereas in the adult female it exceeds that amount in the proportion of three milligrammes (0.003gr.) on the square decimetre, which the learned but impolite scientist suggests may be the cause of the acknowledged inferiority of the fair sex. I am sure that you all, as gentlemen and anglers, will join in repudiating his rude inferences, as has already been done by that eminent lady investigator, the Fraülein Doctorin Neugebaüde, also of Alt Ranchenstadt.

It is to Professor Damphul, of Eselburg, that we are indebted for the next step in this difficult research. Using Professor B. Narr's modification of the pseudometer (the mythometer), he discovered that the pressure of original sin per decimetre (pardon my using the metric system; no self-respecting scientific gent would nowadays condescend to make himself intelligible by using the common everyday weights and measures of commerce) in the average adult Teutonic angler was somewhat less than that of the atmosphere. This remarkable result was confirmed in France by I. Diot, of Maison des Fous; in America by the Rev. A. W. Fulass; and in this country by the celebrated Napeer Loonie, of Morningside. Then Knoall Jawishedoff, of the University of Krakurjawsoff, showed that differences of disposition in various characters were due to pressure of original sin on diverse organs. It would be out of place here to detail his results, but he proved, *inter alia*, that in the common or garden liar this pressure was largely directed on the tongue, a certain quantity, however, being diverted elsewhere. In the angling variety, however, he discovered that owing to the excess (I use his own words) of goodness in every other direction, the entire pressure of our awful heirloom was exercised on what Solomon long before him characterised as an unruly member. He also found that other moral qualities had considerable influence in

determining the lines along which this pressure acts.

By the aid of Professor Damphul's psychothometer, he discovered that amongst all persons, whose avocations led to their dealing largely with water, such as temperance lecturers, master mariners, and fishermen of all sorts, the imagination was largely developed, and the renowned Dr. Boobie, of Kenna-whaur, showed by the parallelogram of forces that the deviation from truth, caused by these two forces combined, amounted to 130° of latitude (moral, of course).

You will understand this better by referring to this diagram, copied without permission from his monograph on "Immoral Forces." The short line V V pointing downwards, represents the downright truth. The line O S is not a fishing rod, but represents the force and direction of original sin. The line I E represents the force of imagination, and the line L I E is the appropriate resultant of these various forces.

I have personally worked this out, and find that by it the combined forces of original sin and imagination suffice to raise a 1oz. trout to 3lb. 14oz. fisherman's weight, equal to 3lb. 4oz. avoirdupois. I show you two fish to demonstrate this: A. is the real, B. the imaginary fish, both in scale; you can't deny that they are in scale, they are covered with 'em. I now wish in accordance with the new method of diagrammatic statistics, to present to you in a visible and tangible demonstration, the amount of truth, and—imagination to be found in different sorts of angling stories. These cubes and boxes, which you will at once see have been made to scale, show the respective amounts of truth and fal-imagination I mean, in typical varieties of angling stories. This solid cube A* represents the solid truth, and gives the real size of the biggest fish you caught during your holiday last year at Back-o-Beyont; B hollow, merely for convenience of carriage, of course, its size, as told to your friends. As you will see, the disproportion here is slight, only about 1 to 10, which it would be harsh to characterise as a falsehood. Perhaps we might term it a small labefaction from truth (no reference to the member for Northampton is intended).

Block C and box D give the real size and the reported dimensions of the big fellow you lost at Altnagealagach some years ago. For this marked disproportion, however, the experiment which I am about to show you will prove that the physical properties of water are largely to blame. You see this small fish; well, I put it into this globe of pure water. What happens? It at once becomes greatly magnified. Now you all know that our earth is a globe, and its curve being so much bigger than that of my poor little globe, its magnifying power must, of course, be increased in proportion. Professor Durstig, of Ertrunken, has also shown that if the globe be filled with alcohol its magnifying powers are greatly increased, but as no angler ever by any chance sees a fish through such a medium we may dismiss this as a mere curiosity of observation.

As to my third type, I regret that I am not in a position to illustrate it physically, for reasons which you will appreciate when you have heard the story it refers to. My dear friend, Mr. Hook E. Walker, told it me concerning a remarkable capture he effected by means of scientific angling during a holiday jaunt in Hyperborea. *Once on a time*, in a small river of that favoured realm, there lived a great trout, which had been frequently hooked, but always broke away. On him my friend and his companion, Dr. A. S. Smythe, F.Z.S., &c., exercised all their noted skill and finesse with no result, save adding to that fish's collection of artificial flies and minnows. Our anglers were in despair, till to the luminous intellect of Mr. Hook E. Walker, or the equally brilliant mind of Dr. A. S. Smythe, F.Z.S., it occurred that by employing electricity, to use the classic expression of the Chicken concerning Mr. Dombey, it "was within the resources of science to double him up." At considerable trouble and expense two gigantic electro-magnets were procured and placed in position, the current was turned on, and our scientific anglers awaited events with the confidence born of knowledge. But to their surprise,

instead of turning up dead as they expected, that egregious fish calmly swam up to the nearest electrode and apparently smelt it. Disgusted at their non-success, our anglers removed the electrodes, when, to their surprise, the fish came with them. It was firmly held by the attraction of the numerous hooks fastened in its jaws. Desirous of not straining my friend's a—veracity too much, I did not ask that fish's weight, but he insisted on giving it. He said it weighed just 37lb. 12oz, five split shot, and a bit of leather shoe lace.

Now you will appreciate the reason why I cannot bring the larger cube into so small a building as this. Perhaps, however, when the Usher Hall is built I may be able to exhibit it publicly. The smaller cube I have with me, but unluckily the only microscope powerful enough to show it has not yet been made. This suggests the old maxim that "de non apparentibus et non existentibus eadem est ratio," which, being translated into vulgar tongue, means things not visible and not existing are much of a muchness.

In conclusion, I hope none of you imagine that I would speak disrespectfully of original sin; still less I hope will any here feel offended by my assuming, even in joke, the untruthfulness of anglers; for I have noted as a curious fact that those who do protest most strongly against this charge are usually —. But there, I have "havered" long enough in all conscience.

CRUISES ON THE COAST OF NORWAY.

(Continued from page 225.)

On a subsequent occasion, and from the same headquarters on the coast of Nordland, we made another expedition in order to inspect two outlying streams, to which, report had it, sea trout had access. The distance to be traversed by water being considerable, and there being, it appeared, no inhabitants in the glen down which one, at any rate, of the said streams flowed, we took a small tent in the boat with us, and a week's provisions to guard against possibilities. Our course lay for many miles through a labyrinthian series of islands; but at last we entered a long and narrow fjord with huge walls of rock, many hundreds of feet high, rising almost perpendicularly from the water's edge on either side. Though grand, the prospect was a gloomy one, and glad we were of the occasional diversion afforded by the capture on the spoon, which trailed out astern, of a happening coalfish, pollack, or rock cod. In the great precipices there seemed to be no break as far as the eye could reach. Suddenly, however, on rounding a point, we came upon a tiny bay till then invisible, into which a considerable stream of fresh water descended in the shape of a fall direct into the fjord. The fall, however, being broken in character, and of no great height, was evidently negotiable by fish, and on landing, amid seaweed-covered and very slippery rocks, we observed sundry grise and sea trout making frantic and not altogether unsuccessful efforts to ascend. Above the fall there were the remains of a wooden dam and a tiny saw mill, both of which, however, had long been in disuse; above these a stretch of some 200yds. of rough water, perfectly useless for angling; and then, to our disgust, the river ended in (or, rather, emerged from) a lake! But Ole, who again accompanied us, inspired hope by saying that the lake was only a small one, that there were good pools in the stream that flowed into it, and that the man who used to live there, and who, with his family, had emigrated to America, used to net a good many barrels of fish in them during autumn. Apparently he had been a pal of Ole's, and had communicated this information to him as a kind of "tip" at parting. After a severe struggle up the loch side, amid rocks and birchin thickets, we came upon the remains of the deserted homestead, picturesquely situated close to the point where the stream entered. The only living thing visible was a hare which quickly made itself scarce, and the place looked forsaken and lonely to the last degree.

Although neither roof nor walls were exactly weather-proof, we were glad to take up our abode for the night within the old building, to which Ole and Johan brought the provisions, &c., from the boat, and a great fire having been lit on the

* The cubes referred to consist of: A, a cake of soap; B, a small cigar box; C, a die (for gambling); D, a large cigar box.

long cold hearth, we made ourselves very much at home and extremely comfortable. A tale of a somewhat unpleasant kind attached to the place; but whether it were owing to fatigue, or the benign influence of hot whisky and water, we neither saw nor heard anything of the unquiet spirit of the deceased Norskman, which, Ole said, used to make itself unpleasant. Perhaps it, too, had migrated to the States!

The weather being brilliantly fine, and the days hopelessly bright for successful angling, we had a tub—and a precious cold one it was—in the loch at an abnormal hour, and after a jorum of most excellent coffee, prepared by Johan, we started off to fish just as the sun began to tint with rosy light the tops of the near hills. There was not much time wasted in mere pedestrian exercise, for, within five minutes, a pretty rocky pool exactly such as one sees so many of on the Sutherlandshire Shin and similar streams, which extended from the foot of some rapids to the loch, was reached. While the rod was being put together, several sea trout showed themselves in the lower part; but as the place looked as if it might hold something bigger than trout, we put up a moderate sized salmon fly on a single gut cast. Fortunately, before commencing business, we gave the gear a good soaking, for at the second cast a salmon rolled up in the rapid water, near the top, and was fast. On feeling the steel he shook his head violently, executed an elaborate somersault close to the rocks on the opposite side, and at once shot off down to the lake—the very best thing he could have done. In his haste to get there, however, he missed the way, and instead of following the channel hit off a sandbank, over which—it being barely covered—he splashed his way in most nerve-trying fashion, but finally reaching deep water again with the fly still in his mouth. At one time he got out a rather dangerous lot of line, but was ultimately induced to come alongside a rock, on which sat the watchful Johan, gaff in hand, and transferred by that youth with a shout of delight into the midst of a juniper bush. He had been two or three weeks in fresh water, but was as fat as a pig, and weighed just under 12lb. Another try in the same spot failed to obtain a response, so, adding a dropper to the cast in the shape of a tiny “Stevenson,” we fished on down the pool. The sea trout were certainly there, and although we lost a number owing apparently to their over eagerness, seven good fish and several smaller ones were landed; a second salmon, too, disturbed no doubt at the antics of the trout, made a very sulky offer just above the sandbank. After pausing for a brief pipe, we followed our attendant up the little river, and shortly came upon that individual extended on his stomach gazing intently down into the water. As a rule, Norwegians do not apparently credit fish with the possession of eyesight, or, at any rate, with fear of man, for they have a most aggravating habit, unless stopped in time, of walking straight up to a pool about to be fished, and showing themselves conspicuously to every inhabitant thereof. Johan, however, was a pleasing exception to this rule, having been taught better ways by his father (who was no fool). He stalked every likely bit of water with the greatest care. On this occasion he had noticed a large black tail show itself in an eddy in mid-stream (not unlike the “Arrow Pool” on the Kirkaig), and was watching for its reappearance with considerable interest. It was no easy job to get the fly to hang over the spot (the fish lying, it must be remembered, with head pointing down the stream proper), a strong rapid, flowing, of course, the reverse way, intervening; but at last we succeeded. Up he came, and almost before the prostrate Johan could regain his legs, was off and away down the rapids in full cry apparently for the loch. Ere reaching that sanctuary, however, he gave a chance, and in a very short time after he had been first spotted was reposing alongside his predecessor and the sea trout.

It would be tedious to inflict further details upon the reader of the sport we had on this little river. Altogether there were eight nice pools, and although with the odds and ends of places where sea trout were to be caught, these yielded some pretty fishing, there were not many “rising” salmon left at the end of our three days’ stay. During that time we got eleven fish (the largest an 18-pounder), six grilse, and a heavy bag of sea

trout, so that for a chance expedition it did not pan out so badly. Bidding farewell to the half-ruined little shanty, within whose walls we had had such a pleasant time, we conveyed our paraphernalia back to the boat one morning, got out the inevitable spoon bait, and made our way to the upper end of the fjord, where the second stream was supposed to enter. This did not turn out a success. It had a solitary house at the mouth, whose sole occupants were an extremely dirty old lady (the wife of the proprietor, who was at sea fishing) and her daughter, a female of unprepossessing aspect. The burn itself was dead low, a few rocky holes, connected one with the other by a thread of crystal clear water, being the only places where there was a chance. In these, on the evening of our arrival, we picked up a few sea trout and a salmon of 7lb., but the next day, being of opinion that the house contained too many inhabitants and the water too few, we returned to headquarters.

RUGDE.

MAY FLY FISHING IN THE WESTMEATH LAKES.

THE proverbial oldest inhabitant cannot give one any idea as to the period when the fascinating sport of May Fly fishing, or, as it is commonly called, “dapping with the green drake” was first practised upon these far-famed and charming sheets of water; and for all the information which can be gleaned upon the subject it may have been enjoyed in the long ago by the owners of our historic cranoges or lake dwellings, and the possessors of the antique old crafts which I have occasionally discovered on the bottom filled with sand when engaged eel spearing, and which I have also more than once seen lifted from their centuries of rest on the lake bed—quaint-looking, lengthy, narrow vessels, principally hollowed out of the trunks of trees, and whenever apparently enlarged or improved it was indeed a sight worth seeing to observe the curious old nails, with immense flat, saucer-like heads, evidently intended to be much more for ornament than use, in the construction of these primitive canoes.

Dapping on the Westmeath lakes at the present day is looked upon as something in the nature of a fishing carnival. The county town of Mullingar, which is equidistant exactly two statute miles from Loughs Owel and Ennel, and situated four from Derravaragh, usually looks its very gayest in the May Fly season. The hotels are invariably filled to their utmost capacity, the jarvey-men do a lively trade, and it is a very interesting sight to see the procession of Irish jaunting cars and other vehicles wending their way morning after morning to the lake shore. Along the public road the car loads of anglers—ladies and gentlemen—for the ladies can now wield a sixteen-foot trout rod with considerable skill—are met by relays of barefoot gossoons, who for a consideration are prepared to supply small boxes of the *ephemeride*, thus enabling the expectant angler to commence operations without delay, a fresh supply being easily procurable at luncheon time. On a suitable day, with westerly or south-westerly breezes, the trout are rising here, there, and everywhere, and hopes of success run high. A well-tapered fourteen to sixteen-foot rod is quickly put together, the top joints being firmly spliced and secured by well-waxed tying material, which gives a more graceful bend than ferrules all through. A good reel or winch, with from fifty to sixty yards of silk line, to which is whipped about fifteen additional yards of soft white silk, called a blow line; then three and a half feet of strong, fine drawn gut is attached to the blow line, with a small-sized Limerick or other approved hook, and with the addition of your landing net, luncheon basket, pipe, fly box, &c., your rig-out is complete. The boat is turned broadside to the breeze, and, having deftly and neatly impaled a brace of the greenest winged occupants of the fly box, you simply raise your hand, let out line, and your “dap” goes dancing merrily over the waves. After lunch you collect some of the newly risen flies, and if on Belvidere, if sport be slack you can inspect the configuration of one or more of the numerous islands which dot the lake, and either rest under the sylvan shade of Great Island, or visit that on which the ancient monarch, King Malachy, is supposed to be buried, and where, by sundry excavations made in the

rathlike mound in former times, one would be led to conjecture that strenuous efforts had been made to recover the famous “collar of gold” which the simple peasantry believed had been interred with him; or if you turn your steps towards Lough Owel you could spend an hour in moralising on the ivy-clad ecclesiastical ruins of Church Island, near where the famous Turgesius met his tragic fate, and over the ashes of a departed generation.

We are now on the eve of the dapping season of 1899, and expectation runs high as to the likelihood of good sport. The last two or three years proved very disappointing, the opening time being most unfortunately ushered in by keen easterly breezes, which literally spoiled the prospects of good angling. All the Westmeath lakes—Derravaragh, Ennel, and Owel—have been strictly preserved during the past twelve years, and trout are most abundant. The lakes are free to all legitimate anglers, boats in plenty, and can be hired at reasonable cost. Boatmen are extremely civil and accommodating, and know their work. They are full of anecdote, and always ready to while away the time with thrilling encounters with escaped ten, fifteen, and even twenty-pounders, which usually “made four even halves of the rod,” and brought away the tackle.

I will wind up by adding that it may be safely taken for granted, in the event of being favoured with suitable angling weather, the “contemplative man” would have some difficulty in finding a more enjoyable holiday than a season’s, or even a fortnight’s, dapping on the Westmeath lakes.

T. J. W.

TROUT FISHING ANNUAL CLOSE TIME (SCOTLAND).

THIS session a Bill, entitled “An Act to provide an annual Close Time for Trout Fishing in Scotland,” awaits the consideration of Parliament. The Bill was introduced by Lord Balfour into the House of Lords on Tuesday, March 7, when it was read a first time, and ordered to be printed; it now awaits second reading on Tuesday, April 18.

The object of the Bill is to provide an annual close time for trout in Scotland, between the 15th day of October in any year, and the 28th day of February in the year following, both inclusive, during which time it shall not be lawful for any person to—

- (a) Fish for or take common trout (*Salmo fario*) in any river, water, or loch in Scotland, by net, rod, line, or otherwise;
- (b) Have possession of such trout;
- (c) Expose such trout for sale;

The penalty for every such offence being the payment of a sum not exceeding £5. Of course, this clause does not apply to the owners or lessees of stews and artificial hatcheries, or their servants, and there is a proviso to the clause making exception in favour of such persons.

This Act is to be read along with the Trout (Scotland) Act, 1845, which was an Act to prevent fishing for trout or other fresh-water fish, by nets, in the rivers and waters in Scotland; and the Trout (Scotland) Act, 1860, which was an Act to extend the Act of the eighth and ninth years of Victoria, Chapter Twenty-six, for preventing fishing for trout or other fresh-water fish, by nets, in the rivers and waters in Scotland; and these Acts are to be hereby amended so far as is consistent with it, and this Act and those Acts may be cited together as the Trout (Scotland) Acts, 1845 to 1899, and this Act may be cited separately as the Trout (Scotland) Act, 1899.

The necessity for the Trout (Scotland) Act, 1860, arose, as the preamble of that Act states, from the fact that there were various other ways by which trout and other fresh-water fish might be destroyed, which up to that time had not been declared illegal; such as double rod fishing, or cross-line fishing, or set lines, or otter fishing, or burning the water, or by striking the fish with any instrument, or by pointing, or by putting into the water lime or any other substance destructive to fish, with intent to destroy them, and it was with a view to render all such diabolical devices of the poacher illegal that the Act was passed. Up to the present time the only legislation dealing with the question of a close time

for trout in Scotland is contained in clauses 64 of the Salmon Fishery Act (1861) Amendment Act, 28 & 29 Vict. c. 121, which states that in any river situate in a fishery district subject to a board of conservators appointed under the Act, no person shall fish for, catch, or attempt to catch, or kill any trout between the 2nd day of November and the 1st day of February following, both inclusive.

A. H.

JOHN BRUNTON, M.A., M.D.

In Memoriam.

WITH startling swiftness, yet amidst surrounding that in all probability involved less physical suffering than falls to the lot of most men, Dr. John Brunton has been called to his everlasting rest in the sixty-third year of his age.

To hundreds of readers of the *Fishing Gazette* he was known as an all-round angler. So he was,

commendable thrift, he contrived, out of the none too copious earnings incidental to gerund-grinding, to save sufficient money to enable him, concurrently with his literary work, to study medicine and pay the fees demanded by his alma mater.

Thus it was that the young Master of Arts became, in 1860, a Doctor of Medicine, and for a period of nearly forty years he has been continuously in practice, his conscientious professional work having been diversified only by occasional angling excursions of short duration.

For many years he was professionally associated with two of our great railway companies, and it can safely be said that from King's Cross to Peterborough, or from St. Pancras to Bakewell, there is hardly a porter, guard, or stationmaster who did not know and respect the kindly doctor. Many of them, indeed, had good cause to regard him with a feeling of gratitude; more still, perhaps, looked upon him with affection as well as gratitude; all will cherish his memory as that

the "genial doctor," as he began to be called of late years—and although, like some of his countrymen who have made a name in history, at times he "joked w/ defficulty," his kindly nature and instinctive sense of propriety always caused his wit to be tempered to the susceptibility of the object of his merriment.

Most rivers within easy access of London have engaged the attention of Dr. Brunton, and it may be said that, piscatorially, he was vanquished them all; but, instead of lamenting (after the manner of Alexander the Great) that there was nothing more to conquer, he quietly moved his forces to the south coast in order to attack the English Channel; and there is no doubt that, as a salt-water angler, he would soon have run neck and neck with his old friend Mr. T. R. Sachs, the revered president of the Piscatorial Society.

But it was unquestionably by the waters of the Upper Lea that the Doctor felt most at home, and he was fond of relating anecdotes bearing upon his visits of exploration nearly a quarter of a century ago. One sweltering day, in August, 1874, the Doctor and a brother angler had wandered they knew not whither. The mountain dew gave out, a holy thirst came upon the pair but it was deemed injudicious to slake it with the water of Isaac Walton's idyllic stream. Moreover, it was beer that their souls longed for, and beer they felt they must have, but not a human habitation was in sight, nor a human being of whom to make inquiry. Shading his eyes, the doctor scanned the horizon long and earnestly, but the result was unsatisfactory. Presently he mounted a slight eminence, and, like Archimedes of old, shouted "Eureka!" at the top of his voice. Rushing down in a state of considerable excitement, he continued, "I have spied a weathercock peeping over the top of yonder clump of trees in the far distance, let us make for it at once and get our beer." The connection between a weathercock and a barrel of ale was not immediately apparent, but the Doctor worked out the problem deductively, thus: A weathercock pre-supposes a steeple, a steeple implies a church, and a church is a sure sign of a public-house being at hand, inasmuch as

Wherever God erects a house of prayer
The devil's sure to build a chapel near.

Half an hour's walk brought them to a hamlet nestled behind a small plantation, and sure enough there was the church and the tavern, as had been foretold. Mugs were quickly filled, and still more quickly emptied, the Doctor insisting upon standing treat, being in high good humour at this instance of the successful application, as he termed it, of scientific principles to the ordinary affairs of life.

Versatility was, indeed, the good old doctor's predominant characteristic. As before remarked, he was an all-round man, yet possessing an individuality which at once attracted attention, and graced by a charm of manner which was best appreciated by those who felt it to be an outward manifestation of the spirit of goodwill towards his fellow creatures, which was the root of his popularity.

Such men are none too plentiful, and their departure from their fields of labour or spheres of influence demands more than a passing notice.

THE SEASON'S OUTLOOK.

WITH the advent of April the second and better half of the spring salmon angling season commences. There is often a change of rods and leesses, and the brown trout angler comes boldly on the scene. April is really the most prolific sporting month in the calendar, and when anything like fair conditions of wind, weather, and water are present the angler's bag is then the heaviest. Salmon have usually got into the higher reaches, and rise more readily to the smaller lures now in vogue. The temperature of the water has run up from freezing point to a more acceptable degree of heat, and the Arctic rigours of the earlier months no longer prevail to numb the limbs and pinch the features of the votary in search of sport. The trout are on the rise, and feeding greedily on the increasing myriads of flies, and bountiful Nature begins once more to smile on the barren past.

The season's outlook at this time has often been brighter. It would be very gratifying indeed to



but he was much more than this—he was an all-round man, essaying few things in which he did not excel.

As a young man he came to London, bringing with him from his native Caledonia but little beyond an accurate knowledge of the science of medicine, an extensive acquaintance with classical literature, a facile pen, a warm heart, and the instinct of a gentleman. But these sufficed, as well they might, not only to carry him along the road to eminence in the profession of his choice, but to enable him to retain as friends many of those whom he came across, whether in the exercise of his calling as a physician or in the ordinary course of life.

It was the intention of John Brunton, upon taking his degree of Master of Arts of the University of Glasgow, which he did in 1856 (having barely attained his majority), to follow in his father's steps by adopting a scholastic, or, at any rate, a literary career, and for a short time he did so; but, with characteristic energy and most

of a sympathetic friend who was ever ready to advise in matters affecting their well being as well as their health, for he was the recipient of many confidences.

Endowed with a rare faculty for observation, which had been systematically cultivated in the course of his professional training, the subject of this short memoir possessed also a power of rapid induction; and although, as has been truthfully remarked, "the man who never made a mistake never made anything," it may with confidence be asserted that the doctor's conclusions were in most cases correct, whether as regards the diagnosis of disease or the best methods of catching fish. Proceeding, as he habitually did, mainly by logical methods, he was yet by no means destitute of imagination, and both the medical profession and the less important confraternity of anglers have benefited by the exercise of his gift of mechanical invention.

A keen sense of humour added much to the attractiveness of the good doctor's personality—

report otherwise, but facts must be faced, and however disagreeable the topic may be of always reiterating blanks and failure and adverse conditions, there is nothing for it but to revert to the plaint once more, and ring the changes with another doleful tale.

Anglers have not been so hard hit as netsmen; for the former have had occasionally fair sport during the past two months, but the latter have met with no successes at all. There is nothing to actually find fault with but the abnormal spell of really "beastly weather." Every variety but the right one has prevailed for days and weeks on end. If for a single round of the clock the wind, weather, and water fell into line the netting results improved, but the combination has always been so short lived that the improvement was nothing more than a flash in the pan. The advent of April, however, brings a fresh run of fish on the coast. Those that went down with the early floods in December and January to the sea are now again in condition, and will be making for the inland streams all through April and well on to the middle of May; and with the pleasant and favouring turn in the weather which has ushered in the lambing month, a much brighter aspect is on the face of matters now than was the case a week ago.

Succeeding the snowstorm, which has been so unpropitious to prince and peasant alike, the weather is now of the most favourable character for bringing salmon inshore, and encouraging them to take to the rivers. On Wednesday last the Aberdeen Harbour Commissioners had seventy fish—a catch almost as good as any they have had this season as yet; and although returns all over are not quite up to that high water mark, yet most of the lessees on the east coast have experienced an improvement on the previous few weeks' returns. There was, and is, yet plenty of room for improvement. Not for thirty years has there been such a dearth of salmon; but then the weather has not been so bad at this advanced period of the season since the year 1859, when the "lion's tail of March" was continued into the better half of April, and, according to local accounts, the corn "braided" under the snow. Yet there never were harvested such crops, and although we have no account of the fishings, yet we can easily imagine that such conditions so highly favourable to the farmer were not altogether inimical to the angler.

The returns from Billingsgate for the month of March show that there has been a drop from 1073 to 642 on last year's number of boxes of Scotch salmon, and it must be borne in mind that last year was a very poor season indeed; 2000 boxes might be nearer the average return for March, so that all over only about a third of the salmon have been got this season compared with a fairly good one, and, accordingly, the first half of the present salmon season must be marked down as an egregious failure. Such cannot be said, however, of the prices that are obtained for what fish have been got. The average for March has been fully 3s. per pound, and the top price 3s. 6d., which was reached the other day, is, we hope, the first and only time salmon will again touch it, this year at least.

When fish are not on the coast they cannot by any stretch of imagination be in the rivers. In fact, although the anglers on the middle waters have not fared quite so badly as those on the lower beats for lack of fresh fish, and have had occasionally bright flashes of sport when a favouring breeze was sandwiched in between the generally bad conditions that have prevailed since the middle of February, they will now be out of it for a time until the pools again get stocked with fresh run fish from the lower waters. On the upper waters, again, the prospects have been very considerably enhanced by the recent floods, and a late spring and good summer season is now well assured.

Finnock or whittling angling should now be at its best, but the late storm and succeeding floods have prevented more than a mere commencement being made. There is now a good show of finnock on the tidal waters of the North and South Esk, the Tyhan, the Ugie especially, and the Findhorn. These are undoubtedly the best spots to seek this most exciting of sports, where good baskets are a certainty with every glimpse of sunshine and every favouring breeze all through April and well into May. These fish run from 1lb. to 1lb., and

are got with the ordinary trout flies, with perhaps a small tube or Devon by way of a change. These tidal waters are now being eagerly sought after, and are usually let on easy terms at so much per day, week, or month, ranging from 1s., which is the charge on the Cruden Burn, to 5s., but the normal charge seldom exceeds 2s. 6d. per day, or thereabout. Of course many of these reaches are attached to hotels, and may be fished free by guests staying in the house. The best finnock and sea trout waters are at Tongue and Durness, in the far north of Sutherland, and in a week or two the fish will be pouring into the kyles all round these localities in teeming myriads; and where in an hour or so of a tide, when fished at the proper moment, baskets, we are assured on the most reliable authority, are made which are simply incredible. It is a pity such a paradise is so far removed from civilisation. Yet those who once go there and get bitten with the sea trout craze never rest till they can return again.

The brown trout season in Scotland promises well as far as present appearances go. The winter was an open one till lately, and the temperature all that could be desired till within the past few weeks, when matters were simply knocked on the head, as far as progress was concerned. The brown trout get into condition with the rising temperature and the resulting consequence, a daily increasing dainty diet. When well treated *fario* does not hide it. He will not remain lean in a land of plenty, but generously responds when generously treated. Hitherto there has been but a scanty appearance of March Browns, and not till Saturday last could it be said that they were really on the water in anything like quantity at all.

On Saturday there was a good show up of the sober-coated gentlemen, and since then the appearance of the March Brown has been quite magnificent. Trout are rising freely, and although not in anything like condition or the condition they will exhibit in the course of a week or so, yet they are wonderfully plump and fairly well coloured. On the far inland reaches and tributary streams, where the temperature is lower and food not so abundant, they are not so well favoured, nor much angled for till the middle of May and June, when they then rise freely to the fly, while the earlier trout again are not then so free with their offers as they are at present.

The late stormy weather has made the brown trout season fully a fortnight later than usual, and angling will not be general on the early trout waters of the Don, Deveron, Findhorn, and Beaulieu till the middle of the month. The practice even in an exceptionally mild season is to refrain from angling before the advent of April, and the Duke of Richmond and Gordon has fixed April 1 in his estate regulations and on his free waters as the commencement of the brown trout season, which is taken as a criterion for the north of Scotland generally, few, if any, waters being now fished much before that date.

It is somewhat unfortunate that his Royal Highness the Duke of York should have so timed his second early spring visit to the Dee so as to be met in the very teeth, as it were, with the very worst samples of weather for angling purposes possible to conceive, and that, too, on both occasions. It was plucky of the royal angler to face the rigours of an Arctic winter almost, if not altogether, day after day whenever it was possible to get out a line, and stick to his fishery till the end of his appointed time, while others, both far and near, took to warmer quarters in the south, and with express haste returned to town. The Duke deserves better sport than he got, but unfortunately the race is not always to the swift nor the battle to the strong, and we would reiterate with emphasis the Duke's own words when leaving Ballater, not only to him, but to all others similarly situated, "Better luck next time."

The angling outlook is, on the whole, much brighter than it has been any time since the middle of February, and if the prevailing westerly winds continue, and the pleasant, genial conditions of weather generally be vouchsafed for a few weeks at least, the spring salmon season may yet, in a measure, redeem itself from being a record failure, the finnock and early sea trout season an assured success, and the yellow or brown trout, if a little late, all the more acceptable from being

the more prolific. Everything depends on the whims of the weather clerk. Meantime, he smiles benignly. G. M.

THE THAMES AS A GAME-FISH RIVER.

BLACKWOOD'S MAGAZINE for April contains a brightly written article on "The Thames as a Game-Fish River," and we quite agree with the writer that, to make the Thames a really good trout river, fish of at least two years old should be put in at the rate of 100,000 a year for a few years. But we should never advocate this unless the limit in size of which they may be taken by anglers is very considerably reduced, as suggested by Mr. Wm. Senior.

BRITISH SEA ANGLERS' SOCIETY.

THE usual weekly meeting was held at the Cannon-street Hotel on Wednesday, April 5. Mr. H. W. Lane was the chair. Mr. Moore gave some interesting experiences concerning the sea fishing in the north of France during his recent trip at Easter. Mr. Crisfield reported fishing at Hasling, taking thirteen small dabs and one flounder. Mr. Wood reported fishing off Hyde Pier, and taking one and a half score of small codfish one day, and three score the next, and a few dabs, biting with ragworm obtained from Arnall, of Gosport. Mr. Cantou reported that but little sport was to be obtained at St. Leonard's, either from boat or pier. The chairman drew attention to the fact that Mr. Greener, one of our members, with his wife, were in the *Strida* disaster, but were both saved. Mr. Clarke reported that Mr. Sexton, fishing off Deal Pier for pollack, had no success. Some interesting models of large pulley wheels were shown by Messrs. Bates and Canton. Mr. Clarke reported that he had seen Hanger's house at Deal, and thought it would be useful for summer use by members wishing to take their families to the seaside, and would be a great convenience during the winter fishing season. The hon. sec. announced that Mr. J. C. Willocks would read his paper on Wednesday, April 19, on "Sea Fishing at Shoreham," and that members were reminded that the annual dinner would be held on Wednesday next, April 12. Mr. Justice Bucknill in the chair, when it was hoped that all members would endeavour to attend and support our esteemed member. A new programme of lectures is being arranged for the summer season. The usual vote of thanks to the chair closed the meeting.

CHARLES S. PATTERSON, Hon. Sec.

FISHING TACKLE TRADES' DINNER.

LAST Thursday evening, at the Holborn Restaurant, was held the first annual dinner in connection with the fishing tackle trade, and the proceedings were of a most enjoyable and successful character. In the chair was Mr. A. Carter, with Mr. A. Meyer as his *vice-vice*, and among the company were Messrs. S. Alcock, J. Jeffreys, R. Heaton, sen., R. Heaton, jun., J. Gillett, J. Richardson, J. R. Richardson (Kingston), F. J. Ogden Smith (Twickenham), W. Martin, M. Enright, E. Perry, W. Perry, W. Clay, P. London, George Smith, F. J. Ogden Smith, W. Ogden Smith, H. Ogden Smith, H. H. Read, A. Ormonde, W. A. Hunter, W. Preddie, J. Souly, G. Hoyle, Otho B. Travers, Chas. Edwards, T. Ford, J. Revett, E. Kent, Fred Holden, Brandon Phillips, Frank Goodwin, Lawrence Barclay, J. Allen, and G. Rens.

After the usual loyal toast had been honoured, the CHAIRMAN, in a brief speech, gave the toast of the evening, "Success to the Fishing Tackle Trade," remarking that the manufacture of fishing tackle had now become a very flourishing British industry, and so far they had defied all competition from Continental houses, and were not troubled with the "made in Germany" nuisance. (Hear, hear, and applause.) America had made considerable headway in the manufacture of tackle, and introduced many novelties, but when their goods were compared with those turned out by the best fishing houses in this country the reputation of the latter was well maintained. (Applause.) He hoped the fishing tackle manufacturers over here would uphold that reputation for many years to come. (Hear, hear.) Unfortunately, as regarded the sale of their goods, the chairman continued, they were dependent in a great measure on the clerk of the weather, but he must say he had not been very lucky in that lately. The vagaries of the weather were well known. They had been kept very dry, for instance, which was neither good for fishing or fishermen. (Laughter.) With references to the dinner, now it had been inaugurated, he trusted that each year would see it grow in importance. (Applause.) In conclusion, he asked them to drink success to the fishing tackle trade, coupled with the name of Mr. S. Alcock.

The toast was most cordially received, and, in reply, Mr. S. ALCOCK expressed the pleasure it gave him to be there that evening and to respond to the toast proposed by Mr. Carter. When Mr. Alcock received an intimation of that meeting he at once thought it was a step in the right direction. (Hear, hear.) It was, he thought, the first gathering of its kind in connection with the trade, although the latter had progressed very rapidly and more so than any other trade in the country, and he hoped it would be continued annually, as he felt sure it would tend

to bring those engaged in the manufacture and sale of fishing tackle closer together, and cause a better understanding to prevail all round. (Hear, hear.) Mr. Allcock proceeded to refer to the many well-known fishing tackle dealers who had been established in London, and said that of those engaged in the trade when he first came to the metropolis over fifty years ago not one was now living. Fifty years ago the fishing tackle trade was in its infancy; to-day they saw it one of the staple trades of the country, and no trade had made greater progress. (Applause.) There had been great changes in that time. America had taught them how to prepare lines, but to-day they in this country could turn out lines of far superior quality. Split-cane rods were also introduced from across the herring pond, but to-day in England they made more and better quality rods than the Americans. In reels the improvements, finish, and workmanship had been very marvellous. As showing how the trade had developed, he might mention that his firm now employed 650 hands. Other firms were also growing up. The progress of the fishing tackle trade was largely due to the change in the habits of the people and to the angling clubs which had sprung up. Whereas fifty years ago there was scarcely an angling club to be found, to-day those clubs were very numerous. (Hear, hear.) Fishing was also good for the health of the people, and it was not only one of the healthiest, but the most innocent, sports we had. He (Mr. Allcock) would strongly recommend parents, if they wanted their sons—and their daughters, too—to grow up in health, to present them with a fishing rod. The literature on the subject of their sport had also encouraged the fishing tackle trade. (Hear, hear.) Boys read the angling papers now, and it induced them to go fishing. As regarded the angling Press, they were well represented by the *Field*, *Fishing Gazette*, and *Angler*. Mr. Allcock quoted as authors such well known writers as the late Francis Francis, and Mr. Halford, Mr. W. Senior, "John Bickerdyke," Mr. R. B. Mareton, Mr. Martin (the "Trent Otter"), and Mr. D. Foster, the author of the "Scientific Angler." Mr. Foster, he said, first taught them how to braze hooks with the blow pipe, and was also the first to introduce the drawing of gut through plates. He should think there were 100,000 strands of gut drawn each week now. In conclusion, Mr. Allcock said they did not live to be always making money—(hear, hear)—there was something in sociability, and he trusted that the pleasant gathering would be repeated, as it brought them together, and was beneficial to the trade. (Applause.)

The VICE-CHAIRMAN, in proposing "The Visitors," on behalf of the trade warmly welcomed them to the festive board. They were delighted to see them. Next year he hoped ladies would be invited. (Applause.) He asked his friends to drink a bumper to the visitors.

Mr. J. SCULLY acknowledged the toast, and suggested that the tackle trade should form a protection association of their own. They would find it very useful in more ways than one.

The next toast, that of "The Chairman and Vice-chairman," was submitted by Mr. R. HEATON, who, in referring to Mr. Carter, said he had been the means, in selling fishing tackle, of making thousands of Londoners happy. He was very delighted to meet him that night, also Mr. Meyer, who, he said, was a most genial and straightforward representative of the fishing tackle trade. In the course of his remarks Mr. Heaton also made some amusing allusions to his early experiences both in business and angling.

Messrs. CARTER and MEYER responded, and the latter concluded by proposing the health of Mr. Frank Clay, the hon. secretary to the dinner committee, and said he could not speak too highly of Mr. Clay's services. (Applause.) He had worked hard to secure them success, and, on behalf of the company, heartily thanked him. He also thanked the committee—Messrs. D. Slater, M. Enright, and H. H. Read—and regretted that Mr. Slater could not be with them, owing to illness.

Mr. F. CLAY said it was true he had had some work to do in arranging that dinner, but that work had been made easy from several causes. He had had a splendid committee, and Mr. Enright had worked heart and soul for the musical programme. As a result they had had a musical treat. (Applause.) From the trade he had received nothing but consideration and courtesy, and said the greatest thanks were due to Messrs. M. Carswell and Co., W. Bartlett and Sons, W. Currie and Co., H. Dodge and Son, and others for the generous support they had given to the function. He felt very honoured at being the hon. secretary of the first annual Fishing Tackle Trades' Dinner, and hoped at the next gathering they would have the ladies with them. (Applause.)

Other toasts were the "Artistes" and "The Press." Messrs. Holden and Enright responding for the former, and Messrs. G. H. Howard and A. R. Matthews for the latter toast, which was given by Mr. J. R. Richardson.

During the evening several members of the trade present suggested the formation of a protection society, and were in favour of a meeting being called on the subject. Mr. J. Richardson (Euston-road) spoke on the matter, and said he would propose that there be formed a Fishing Tackle Trades' Association. Mr. O. Smith (Hyde Park Corner), after also offering some remarks on the subject, said he should be pleased to second Mr. Joseph Richardson. Mr. O. Smith pointed out that the society would in several ways benefit the trade.

There was an excellent programme of music associated with the proceedings, thanks to the efforts of Messrs. M. Enright and F. Clay (the musical directors), the *artistes* including Messrs. Brandon Phillips, J. Allen, Mick Enright, W. James Clay, Lawrence Barclay, George Renn, Fred Holden, Charles Conyers, and Mr. G. Hedges, who proved an able accompanist. The pleasant proceedings eventually concluded with "God Save the Queen" and "Auld Lang Syne."

REPORTS FROM RIVERS, LOCHS, &c.

ENGLISH AND WELSH REPORTS.

Lower Thames.—GENERAL REMARKS.—When the Easter holidays happen to fall in the early part of April, as it does this year, it practically starts two important periods in the Thames. First of all, anglers will recognise that of the opening of the trout fishing season; and the second, that of bringing out the pleasure boat traffic and the objectionable steam launches, which have driven some well-known anglers from the river. When I lived at Richmond the great attraction was that of the rowing boats, and it was a sight to witness the life there was then on the river and at the locks, the keepers being well employed in directing and controlling the boats that wanted to pass through. The opening of another trout season recalls to my mind many happy reminiscences of the past, and just now carries me back to the year 1870, when perhaps more large fish were taken than in other seasons since, and included the champion trout of 14lb. 9oz. taken by the late Mr. James Forbes, of Chertsey. There were also taken, one of 12lb.; two of 11lb. each; two of 10lb.; one of 9½lb.; one of 9¼lb.; two of 9lb.; and three of 8½lb.; and all were captured by members of the Thames Angling Preservation Society. The most fortunate anglers besides Mr. Forbes were Mr. Robert King, who secured the first fish of the season; Mr. F. M. Hyam, with George Rosewell as his fisherman, who creeled nine trout, weighing 6½lb. 14oz.; Mr. Edward Jenkyn, and Mr. T. R. Dyer. According to the official list fifty-five trout were taken in 1870, the gross weight being 306½lb. and the average weight 5½lb. 9½oz. It also appears none of the trout were taken below Hampton Court. The greatest number of trout taken in the season in my experience by any one fisherman was that of George Rosewell, in 1835, with Mr. George Palmer as his client, who creeled twenty-nine trout, weighing 127lb. 6oz.; and the same angler, two years afterwards, made a total of twenty-two trout, weighing 93lb. 10oz. After sending my general remarks last week I received a communication from the Thames Conservancy informing me the conservators had received representations from the Thames Angling Preservation Society as to the desirability of further restricting the use of the cast net in the river, and suggesting only those holders of deputations who are professional fishermen should have the power to use the net in future. And concurring in this view, they proposed that from and after April 1 only such holders of deputations as are fishermen registered under the Thames fishery bye-laws shall be allowed to use the cast net, and, relying on a ready acquiescence in the above, they will feel obliged if those who are not so registered will not, after the date named, use a cast net in the river. I am not desirous of expressing any opinion upon this, and only to say I shall willingly bow to the decision of the Thames Conservators, who have always been ready to do anything for the benefit and in the interests of the Thames fishery. There is no proof needed as to the river being well supplied with fish; but the action of those old and faithful workers in the interests of Thames preservation, I mean Messrs. T. and A. Stroud, as referred to in the Sunbury paragraph, is to be commended and admired, and is an additional testimony to the stock of good fish in the river. In my long experience as secretary of the T.A.P.S., I have frequently had to thank them for assistance so freely and willingly rendered in matters connected with the Thames fishery, and I am sure my successor will feel equally grateful to them for the work they have now done. Up to this morning (Wednesday) the only success that has been made in trout fishing has been at Staines, where Mr. T. W. Gomm, with that well-known fisherman Otter Hone, has captured three trout. One of my correspondents, writing on Monday, says: "Up to last evening I can hear nothing as regards the trout at Shepperton, Chertsey, Bell, or Boveney Weirs, except at Staines, all of which I visited yesterday. I heard of a very large trout having been landed at Marlow, a fish of 11lb. 2oz., but it requires confirmation."—B.

—(Datchet).—The trout fishing is not very promising at present. I never saw so little of them up to date, and I have been on the river more than usual. I was out with Mr. G. C. Tryon on April 1; caught a very pretty fish just over 2lb. He was returned. Had another run. On the 2nd I was out with a gentleman. Only saw one fish rise; missed him. On the 3rd, not a move to be seen anywhere; saw the first swallow.—G. LUMSDEN.

—(Eton).—The weather was most unfavourable for the opening of the trout season, and until the wind changes to a warmer quarter the fish will not rise. A number of anglers have been out in this district, but I have only heard of one fish, of 2½lb., being taken by one of Lumsden's patrons.—CECIL HOWLETT.

—(Hampton Court).—William Milbourne, writing on Tuesday, says: "There has been several good fish showing themselves the last few days, and scarcely anyone has been out to try for them except a few private boats, the anglers fishing by themselves. The water at the present time is in good order."

—(Kingston).—Head river keeper W. Douglas writes: "I have not heard of any trout being taken, and they are not feeding freely on account of the cold winds. The perch have not begun spawning yet."—B.

—(Staines).—Charles Hone reports that Mr. T. W. Gomm was out with him on the first day of the season, and caught two trout, one weighing 4½lb., and the other 2½lb.; and again on Monday, when he landed another of 4lb., the latter having been sent as a present to myself, and is a very handsome fish. I have received more trout from anglers since my retirement than during the forty years I was in office, and I am grateful to them for what I

have so far received. Charles Hone on Tuesday night landed a beautiful trout of 5½lb., making his fourth fish this season.—B.

—(Sunbury).—Messrs. T. and A. Stroud write: "Having seen the dace going up the ditches to spawn, we took one cast net up to the Watersplash ditch and caught about six bushels of the finest dace we have seen for a long time. We took our van and some large tubs, and brought them all back alive, and turned them into the river opposite our ferry."—B.

—(Weybridge).—Herbert Curr reports: "Just a line to say nothing has been done in our district with the trout. I was out on the first day, and again on Monday, and never saw a fish; and another day, with Mr. Ivan Caryll, with the same result."—B.

Ancholme District.—Trout fishing has now commenced, and all the local brooke were well occupied during the Easter holidays. Monday was an ideal spring day, and baskets of six and nine fish were about the average takes. The fish are in good condition. We had the first catch of the season on Sunday morning for breakfast.—THOMAS FORD (Caistor).

Dareath, &c. (Farningham).—Weather and water in very good order, and fish feeding a little. The dry fly was only moderately successful, a brace of fish a day being about the usual score. With a continuance of the present weather report is likely to improve, and if more heavy rain falls prospects will be still better, though the river may be out of order for a few hours. No serious floods are likely. March Brown is probably still the best fly, and is likely to be more effective at present wet than dry.—J. P. T.

Dart (Totnes and District).—The river has run somewhat low again, this being against the salmon fishing. Mr. Eddbrook, staying at Furzeleigh Mill, Ashburton, has killed a few, the weights of those landed by him recently being 5lb., 9lb., and 14lb. respectively, the bait chiefly used being the prawn. A number of salmon are in the river near Staverton, and several rods are constantly trying the spots where the fish are known to be located. Good flies are the Silver Doctor and Jock Scott. Trout are in better condition in the lower reaches than on the moor, and although sport during the Easter was not brilliant, takes were fair, running up to a couple of dozen. Last week creels of a few brace were made by Messrs. H. T. Distin, H. Full, M. Revell, and others; whilst Mr. E. Ackrell basketed a dozen, which included a trull of nearly 1½lb.—DEVONIAN.

Darwent (Malton, Yorks.).—The water has been very thick lately—snow water—but it is now fining down, and should be in good fishing order by the end of this week if the weather keeps fine.—H.

Devonshire Streams.—The Easter fishing did not afford such good sport as was anticipated, the streams being for the most part very low. Still, some fair takes of trout have been made, the Carey and other streams in the Ashwater district showing better results than many rivers. Two rods creeled nearly five dozen from the Tamar with the March Brown, Light Red Palmer, and Half Stone, whilst takes of ten and a half and nineteen and a half brace fell to the lot of two other anglers last week. Baskets on the southern border streams have averaged about six or nine brace, the Maxwell and Blue and Silver also proving good killing flies. Trout are plentiful in the Otter, but rain is needed. Some nice trout have been taken from the Avon, but sport on the Teign has been very bad, especially in the lower portions.—DEVONIAN.

Dove and Tributaries.—Sport has not been very good thus far. Trout are still not in first rate condition. A 5lb. trout was taken from a mill dam on the Ashbourne Association water on Friday last.—D. AND W. H. FOSTER (Ashbourne).

Eden (Carlisle).—There are more salmon showing in the pools now than there have been before this season. They seem to have slipped past the nets during the late heavy waters. Sport, however, has been anything but good, probably owing to the unsettled state of the river. An odd fish here and there is all that one hears of. Mr. Fraser Sandeman has had two, 20lb. and 16lb.; Mr. C. Liddell, of Warwick Hall, one; Mr. Slater, one, 16lb.; and Lord Brackley, one, 17lb., in the Crown Hotel water. Trout are now rising freely, and some good baskets have been made, chiefly with the Dark Bloa. There is still a great scarcity of fish in the Solway, but a few sea trout are being got.—SILVER GREY.

Esk (Whithy).—Since the advent of the holidays this river has been running in magnificent angling condition, and, consequent upon this, numerous enthusiasts have been out daily, and in almost every case numerous catches are recorded. On the higher reaches and up the small streams trout are to be seen in large numbers, whilst in the tideway and on the lower portion of the river there is also large quantities. The catches to hand up to writing are: Mr. L. Jefferson, five and a half brace; Mr. E. Lerg, four brace; Mr. J. Moor, nine brace; Mr. R. Linton, fifteen brace; Mr. John Godden, four brace; Mr. Saddler, five brace; Mr. J. C. Walker, eight brace; Miss D. Walker, seven brace; Mr. T. Mead, three brace. The worm was mainly effectual in landing the above trout, though in a few isolated cases March Brown has been instrumental.—J. J.

Exe and Canal (Exeter).—The weather has been every way enjoyable from a holiday point of view, but by no means conducive to sport. With a low water and bright sunshine, trout have proved difficult of approach, and although all the river sections were well patronised this Easter, the aggregate weight of trout taken was far below the spring average. War is being waged among the pike in the upper reaches of the Exe, several big fish having fallen victims to the net during past few days. The conservators have determined to as far as possible rid the rivers of these trout devourers, a decision which will be cordially endorsed by all trout anglers.—RED PALMER.

Fen District (South Lincs. and Cambs.).—The Easter holiday turned out better than expected. We had a good downfall on the last days of March, and Bank Holiday was almost ideal. Several of our noted anglers sought their sport at a distance, and I fancy they had even better luck than anticipated. Early flies will now be hatching out fast.—LIMPET.

Idle District (North Notts.).—Most of our best trout anglers, and those who can afford it, betook themselves to Derbyshire and other places for their Easter holidays. A little exciting piscatorial incident happened at the mouth of the Idle the other day. A young whale was noticed disporting itself on the shallows, and managed to get itself into a tight place. It was attacked by the natives, who, after a time, managed to haul it ashore. The captors were led by Mr. W. T. Gent, of the chemical works, Stockwith. The fish measured over 14ft. After being photographed, the visitor has been pickled for exhibition. It is not often that whales get so high in the Trent. One weighing over two tons was captured a few years back at Owston Ferry. A shark, however, was once caught at Gainsboro'.—L.

Lake Vyrnwy (North Wales).—The weather for the past week has been very cold and boisterous, and the surface of the lake has been rough, and the water muddy. Still, very fair sport has been had, and anglers seem to be satisfied. The best basket of the week was made by Dr. Fenton and Mr. Foster, who creelred thirty-one fish on the 3rd, weighing 18lb. 14oz. On March 30, Dr. Fenton killed six (3lb. 8oz.); Mr. O'Hanlon, three (2lb. 2oz.); Mr. Oulton, four (3lb. 3oz.); and Mr. Gibson, eight (4lb. 12oz.). On March 31, Mr. Gibson took seven (4lb. 8oz.); Dr. Fenton, four (3lb. 10z.); and Mr. O'Hanlon, two (1lb. 8oz.). On April 1, Mr. O'Hanlon killed eight (4lb. 11lb.); Mr. Gibson, five (2lb. 9oz.); Dr. Fenton and Mr. Foster, five (3lb. 5oz.); and Mr. Oulton, two (1lb. 6oz.). On April 3, Mr. O'Hanlon killed eleven (5lb. 5oz.); Dr. Fenton and Mr. Foster, thirty-one (18lb. 14oz.); Mr. Beazley, three (1lb. 13oz.); and Mr. Gibson, three (1lb. 14oz.). On the 4th, Dr. Fenton and Mr. Foster killed eleven (6lb. 12oz.); Mr. Malpass, one fish (13oz.). To-day (April 5) the wind has moderated a good deal, and the baskets are sure to be heavier.—LONG DRIFT.

Lark (Lackford and Icklingham).—Only a few small trout have been taken up to the time of writing. The weather on the opening day was very mild. Messrs. Skinner Brothers, trout, 14oz., and a few pike. A quantity of small pike still continue to be killed, especially with trout baits. Mr. R. Major and Mr. G. A. Harvey, fishing on April 3, took five pike. I was out on April 1, and killed eight small pike and missed a good trout. Mr. A. Kemp and son, out on Monday, killed three pike on trout tackle, best fish 6lb. I have seen a few good trout, but they are not on the feed. We want another good rain to colour the water, which is very clear at present.—A. E. KEMP.

Lea.—Another coarse fishing season has been brought to a close on this river, Friday in last week being the final day for retaining roach, chub, &c. Sport appears to have been very quiet at the finish, and the season generally has been a most indifferent one. Not that fish are scarce in the river—far from it—but the extraordinary weather and want of water doubtless in a great measure accounted for the extremely poor sport so often met with. The river has this past season, however, yielded two large pike, as already recorded in the *Fishing Gazette*, one scaling 20lb. and the other 19lb. 8oz. These are not half bad pike for the Lea. A report reached me some time ago that a number of golden orfe had been taken at Waltham, but, from inquiries I made, I was unable to substantiate the same. One of the fish was said to have scaled 3lb. I hope anglers will have a better time of it among the roach next season. Anglers are now beginning to turn their thoughts to the trout, the season for which opens on May 1 next.—IZAIAK WALTON.

Lugg and Arrow (Leominster).—These celebrated trout and grayling streams are continuing to run in good order for fishing, being clear and at a nice level. The weather has been in every way suitable for angling during the holidays, and there have been more anglers out, and the fish have been more on the rise, there having been a good number of live flies out, and some very nice lots of fine trout have been landed. The flies used are the March Brown, Blue Dun, Cowdung, February Red, Red Spinner, and Palmer. Minnow fishing has been quiet as yet. The Pinsley is running clear, and in good order for fishing.—GWYNNE.

Lugg, Arrow, and Pinsley (Kingsland).—Rivers are in good order and a nice level. Yet still the weather continues variable; consequently sport during the holidays has been very indifferent. This (Wednesday) evening rain has just commenced, with every indication of continuing—glass falling—if so it will improve the chances of success in the near future. Very few flies to be seen. The March Brown has shown up, but in no great quantity. February Red, Blue Dun, and Red Palmer have accounted for the majority of trout taken. These, with March Brown, Brown Spinner, and Cowdung, should be best. A few Stone Fly out; not yet taking.—R. T. WILLIAMS.

Nene (Peterborough).—A few weeks since it was announced that a movement was on foot to procure fishing rights in some portions of the river Nene, and also in Lincolnshire waters, for the large number of Sheffielders who pay a visit to the district during the fishing season; but now the idea does not seem to be very favourably entertained in Lincolnshire, for the Deeping Fen trustees have declined to put their waters in competition. There was no organised opposition to the numerously signed petition, but it is stated that if the request had been granted a counter-petition would have been got up.—E. A. S.

North Staffordshire Rivers.—Rain fell all day on Good Friday, and coloured the stream, but by Monday they had sufficiently cleared to allow fly fishing. On the Blythe several rods obtained sport, including Messrs. Alfred Johnson, H. G. Cowleshaw, P. Hitchings, and self. The Tean Brook was also visited and successfully fished, though fish are coming very shy considering it is spring-time. Best flies: April Dun, Francis, Cockwing, and Coachman.—F. W. DALE.

Otter (Budleigh Salterton, Devon).—The fishing continues to be very poor as compared with past seasons, but it has slightly improved since last report. Yesterday (April 4) there were slight showers and a fresh up-stream wind, and some trout were taken. One rod on the Bicton water took seven pretty fish. To-day (April 5) there was a good rise of fly (chiefly Olive Duns) about 1 p.m., and the fish stirred for them. The river is very clear and low, and a good freshet would be welcome. At sea some capital pollack fishing has been done; one gentleman, using a rod, killed nine fish the other day weighing 35lb.—HERON.

Plowden Waters and Onny.—The opening day of the Plowden Fishing Club took place on Saturday last. Five rods were on the water. The sport was poor. Mr. Salt had thirteen; another gentleman, ten; Mr. Green, five; Mr. T. Howells, four; Dr. George, six. The killing flies were the March Brown and the Orl in the order named. The day was unfavourable, a north-east wind blowing. Water low and clear. Rain is wanted. Nothing much has been done on the hotel water at Craven Arms, this part of the water being, as a rule, three weeks later than the Longmynd portion. Two brace were caught during the week. Good sport is anticipated here the last week in April, and the whole of May and June.—TRUTH.

Plymouth.—Some of our rivers are in fair condition, more particularly the Dart, and some nice baskets have been taken by those who have been out. I heard of a nice basket taken on Bank Holiday on the Avon. They all averaged a fair size, and one over 14lb. There were several rods on the Tavy and Walkham, but they did not do much—from half a dozen to one and a half dozen each. The Fowey is in very good condition, but the keeper says that the lower reaches are swarming with salmon fry, which have driven the trout to the higher waters on the moor. This is the first I have heard of salmon fry driving trout. I can well imagine peal or salmon doing this.—WILLIAM HEARDER.

Severn, Vyrnwy, Tanat, and Cain (Llanymynech).—Owing to the very fine weather experienced here during the Easter holidays the snow on the Welsh hills melted, and was very much in evidence in all these rivers during the time the visitors here were anxious to catch fish. The most successful angler was a lady, Mrs. Macnab, of Liverpool, who captured a pike of 7½lb. weight. Many smaller pike were also captured, and a few trout in splendid condition, both in the Tanat, Cain, and Vyrnwy, but no good sport can be had until the snow water is cleared off.—VYRNWY.

Sussex Rivers and Chichester Canal.—Rivers are in good order, and the weather during the holidays, although fine, was a shade cold for roaching. From the Ouse, on Friday and Saturday, a few fish were secured, Messrs. Ash and Doughty taking roach up to 1½lb. Other anglers also had a few fish. Mr. Durrant, while spinning, caught a sea trout of 2lb. 10z., and a fine chub of 4lb. 6oz. was taken with lob worm. The cold winds on the 2nd and 3rd put roach quite off feed. Numbers of good trout are to be seen in the river, some few fish computed at 3lb. From the Ouse tributaries several brace, averaging 6oz., have been taken with worm or minnow, the narrow and wooded streams scarcely allowing the use of fly. Six brace were recently taken by stirring up the water in the top pool and fishing with worm in the clouded water below. A few small trout have been caught from tributaries of the Adur from private land, but nothing exceeding 8oz. The streams in the vicinity of Chichester hold a few trout, and running a maiden lob through the culverts under the roadways has secured fish up to 3lb. A few smelt are in the harbours. A few have been taken at the Apuldrum sluice, Chichester Harbour, with rag worm; but warmer weather is needed to bring them up in quantities.—GEORGE F. SALTER.

Taw (North Devon).—The rain at Easter, although not very much, brought fishermen out, with the result that a few nice fish were taken. On Saturday (the opening of the salmon fishing) the scarcity of water prevented salmon from running up, and only one kelt was hooked. I am told that a novice, fishing in the Taw, was deprived of his tackle by the bailiff, who found some fingerlings in his creel. The gentleman thought they were trout. Flies are the killing baits. On my way to the country, on Saturday, I saw an angler land a 1lb. fish over a high bank, and broke his rod. Others were catching sizeable fish, about ½lb. to 1lb. All our rivers are not yet open, the owner being abroad. No one to give permit until he takes possession of his newly inherited property.—RUSTY GAME.

Teme (Ludlow).—The Teme in this part is still running clear and a nice height, and in good order for fishing. The weather has been beautiful and fine during the holidays, and a good number of anglers have availed themselves of the chance of wetting a line. There has been a good few flies on the water, and the fish have been rising better at them. The best killing flies are the Blue Dun, March Brown, Cowdung, February Red, Palmers, and Red Spinner. Bottom fishing has been tried with the worm, and several large fish have been landed. Rain has threatened, and a good shower or two would do much to refresh the river and improve sport. On Good Friday there were a good number of anglers out, and several very nice dishes of trout were taken with the fly. In the public water on Saturday some nice trout were landed by Mr. R. Smith with fly. Fishing on Monday, an angler landed

eight good trout with the March Brown and Blue Dun. With the worm, on Monday afternoon, three trout (½lb. each) were landed.—S. LUDLOW.

Teme (Tenbury).—This part has been favoured with most beautiful weather for the holidays, and the river could not have been in better order for angling, being clear and a nice height, and there has been a fair number of anglers out. The fish have been moving better, and more live flies have been on, and improved the prospects of sport a great deal. There has been a little rain, but more would do good, and would refresh the river. The flies used are the February Red, Blue Dun, March Brown, Palmers, and Cowdung Fly, and some very nice sized fish have been landed, and there is every prospect of some good dishes of fish being landed as the season advances. The Rca, Kyre, and Ledwyche are all clear.—WORCESTER.

Wey and Tributaries (Liphook).—Water a little coloured on Monday; will be in fair order for some time with moderate weather. Plenty of small fish showing, chiefly in refusing the fly. Rising short continued nearly all the while I was fishing; and it was quite the exception to hook a fish for the first two hours. Then a change came, and for ten minutes every fish that rose was landed. In this interval I had four, and during the rest of day only five. My companion hooked a 1lb. fish, but none of mine reached half that size, the conditions being more like Devon than Hants. The Silver Sedge and March Brown were best; and most of the fish took (or didn't take) under water. Fishing here can be had at small cost by applying to Mr. H. Warren, Liphook, Hants.—J. P. T.

Witham, &c. (Mid-Lincolnshire).—The change that has come over the weather within the last fortnight has been very welcome to the fish gone for spawning purposes into the smaller drains. Time was when the poacher ran riot amongst them. Thanks to the vigilance of those interested in angling this has come to an end, or nearly so. There is not much netting now in the visitors absence. Bank Holiday was very favourable for those who went out for a turn at trout fishing. Rain on Friday put colour in the water, and the warmth of Sunday and Monday stimulated aquatic life. Some visitors were abroad in the Wolds district, whilst the upper Witham had a few patrons.—LUCE.

Wye and Derwent (Derbyshire).—Up to the end of last week the above rivers were too high and discoloured for fly fishing, therefore only a few anglers were out. There has been a fair number of Easter holiday fishermen, but they have met with poor success, especially fly fishermen. On that portion of the Derwent where bottom fishing is allowed several nice trout have been landed. Members of the Chatsworth fishery have, I believe, the privilege of using ground bait, which is an advantage in the early part of the season. Several members of the Matlock and Cromford Angling Association have been out, but I only heard of one gentleman from Nottingham taking one trout over 2lb. from the Lover's Walk side of the river, Matlock Bath. These rivers are in order, and as we are having genial weather the prospect for angling is fairly good, when the following flies will be found useful: Cooper's Fancy, Cockwinged Dun, Olive Dun, Grannom or Green Tail, and Claret Bumble, to be used as a wet fly.—DOTTEREL.

Yore, Swale, Wharfe, Nidd, &c. (Yorkshire).—All our rivers were in splendid fettle, and a week ago prospects for Easter looked bright, but Good Friday unfortunately was as wretched as it well could be, and but few of the numerous anglers that had arrived at the different angling inns ventured out until the day was well advanced, and the pluvial downpour had somewhat abated. Their takes, as might be expected, were moderate, and the few trout caught were basketed by the aid of the "up-stream worm," as fishing with a well scoured brandling or dew worm well up stream, with fine tackle, is called in Yorkshire. The weather on Saturday improved, and on Easter Monday it was favourable enough for angling except a rather boisterous wind, but there was an almost total absence of fly to be seen on the water. Beyond an odd Needle Brown and a few spiders I found no winged insect life, and my trout were all caught with the worm, fished as above described. This is the experience of all the anglers I came across up the Yore, several of whom turned their attention to ridding the trout waters of pike, and with fair success, one angler getting half a dozen fish, and he said he could have killed as many more, for they were "dead on the feed," but as he was then some distance from his hotel he did not care to take any more. Mr. Middlemost, of Huddersfield, had good sport amongst the trout in West Burton Beck on Saturday. He tried the Yore on Monday and Tuesday, but with moderate success, being unable to keep his flies on the water. Winds, I might say, have been the *bête noire* of the angler both yesterday and to-day, and angling almost out of the question, consequently fishing in the Cover has not been good. This is also the case lower down, at Masham and Tanfield. Talking of Tanfield, I hear T. Sturdy, jun., of Masham, has been appointed bailiff to the Tanfield Club. From what I know of him, I think the club have secured a good man. He is well bred for the job, his father being one of the best fishermen in the district. My Swaledale correspondent writes in a similar strain to the above notes, viz., plenty of anglers, any amount of high winds and light baskets; and, to sum up, the reports received from the Wharfe, Nidd, &c., up to closing of this letter, describe the Easter angling so far as disappointing, owing to the boisterous weather and a lack of flies on the water. As soon as conditions are more favourable the Little Brown (Dark Woodcock and Orange), Spanish Needle, March Brown, Snipe and Purple, Snipe and Yellow, Spring Black, and Waterhen Bloat, will all kill in any of our Yorkshire trout streams.—J. E.

MILLER, Northern Anglers' Depot, 19, New Station-street, Leeds.

By TELEGRAPH.—All the Yorkshire rivers have two or three feet of fresh water in from the gales and rain storms of yesterday. There is a great improvement in the weather, and every prospect for sport with the worm, minnow, and flies. The very best cast to use is Winter Brown, Dark Snipe and Purple, Waterhen Bloa, and Spanish Needle. The Hawes and High Abbotside Angling Association turned into their waters 2000 yearling brown trout yesterday. The fish were very fine, not one being lost on the journey in spite of the rough weather. Some good sport has been had in this water, the takes averaging from four to ten brace. Two gentlemen from Keighley had heavy baskets yesterday, caught with worm and natural minnow. Prospects for next week good.—J. E. MILLER, Northern Anglers' Depot, 19, New Station-street, Leeds.

SCOTCH REPORTS.

Border Esk and Liddle.—Both rivers are running high, consequent upon the thaw and the heavy rains of last week. It is hoped the flood will have cleared away almost all, if not the whole, of the spawned salmon to the salt water, thereby encouraging the run of spring fish from the Solway. The number of spring fish is unprecedentedly small; but as the nets near the mouth of the Esk have been doing almost nothing, it is apparent that there are few fish forward yet to enter the rivers and furnish sport for rod fishers. Both in the lower and mid reaches scarcely anything is being done, but an improvement is now looked for. In the Langholm water some fairly sized yellow trout have been got by a few persevering anglers. Mr. Mason, of Rockliffe, has had little sport since last week; indeed, nothing worth recording has been done either in the Longtown or the Metal Bridge water. The depth of rain that fell at Langholm during March amounted to 5.16in., as compared with 2.52in. during the corresponding month of last year. This is 1.08in. above the average for the previous twelve years. Rain or snow fell on fifteen days, greatest fall on the 28th—1.65in. There will be more wet weather in the near future, consequently it may safely be prognosticated that the sport will revive in the course of a week or ten days.—GILNCKIE.

Carron (Easter Ross, Ardgay, N.B.).—About the middle of last month the weather was so stormy that all anglers from the south left the district, as prior to that from the opening only two salmon were landed. These were beauties of 26lb. and 18lb. Last week a change came, and rain fell incessantly for some days, followed by other days of bright sunshine. On Tuesday this week the storm broke out afresh, with abnormal severity for this time of year. The only sport to record is as follows: On Saturday, Mr. George Ross, Braeangwell, fishing for Mr. F. Gervers, of Amat, landed a nice salmon on the Braeangwell water. On Monday this week he caught two salmon; and Mr. R. T. Coupland, of Grunards, one on Grunards water. On Tuesday, Mr. George Ross landed two. Mr. Coupland and Mr. Gervers hail from South Kensington. The six fish caught during these three days ranged from 7lb. to 10lb.—B.

Culag Hotel Waters (Lochinver, N.B.).—A 9lb. salmon was taken off Lower Inver on April 4, caught by "MacNab."—JOHN MACKENZIE.

Deveron (Banffshire).—This river has been in very bad condition both for angling and net fishing for some time back. In fact the water was so big last week by the rainfall and the melting of snow on the hills that it was very difficult for the net fishermen to handle the nets. The water was so discoloured by the debris that the sea for a long distance out was of a different hue. The spate brought down a number of kelts. In the beginning of this week, when the water was falling, there was a slight improvement in the net fishings, and the number of salmon caught up to the middle of the week was larger than that for several weeks past. On the coast the fishing at the various stations also showed an improvement. On Monday a large box weighing over 2cwt. was consigned to the market, and on Tuesday another of smaller size. The salmon are of fair size, averaging 9lb., and of good quality. It will be some time before the water is in proper condition for anglers. The section of water belonging to Huntly Lodge opened on Saturday last. A fair number of salmon are continuing to be got in the nets on the coast of Gardentown near this.—H. W.

Loch Katrine (Stronachlachar Hotel).—Out from Stronachlachar Hotel, Loch Katrine, on April 3, Messrs. Cunningham and Fergus McLellan, fishing on Loch Chon, caught twenty-four splendid trout, weighing 14lb.—DONALD FERGUSON.

Lochleven (Kinross).—First blood was drawn this season on Lochleven on Monday, when eight members of the Uddington Waltonian Club competed. The weather was very mild, with a favourable breeze, but the water was in very bad order and dirty from flooding, and fish were not taking. There were six baskets, which contained eleven trout (7lb. 6oz.). The first prize was carried off by Mr. J. Cranston, who had four trout, all caught with fly; their weight was 1lb. 10oz. Second, Mr. J. Shaw, two trout, 1lb. 7oz. Third, Mr. R. Craig, one trout, 1lb. 4oz. Fourth, Mr. G. A. Shanks, one trout, 14oz. Heaviest trout, Mr. R. Craig, 1lb. 4oz.—ROBERT LAING.

Loch Tay (Kenmore, Perthshire, N.B.).—On the Reserve water, March 25, Macdiarmid, keeper, killed salmon, 18lb. March 28, on the Hotel water, Mrs. Knight killed salmon, 19lb. April 3, on the Hotel water, Mr. James Lord killed two salmon, 21lb. and 20lb.; Mr. Knight, one of 16lb. April 4th, on the Hotel water, Mr. James Lord killed salmon, 17lb.—W. KNIGHT.

Loch Tay (Killin, N.B.).—On March 25, Mr. A. Cameron had two salmon, 24lb. and 17lb. On March 29, Capt. Cuthbert had one, 17lb. On April 1, Capt. Cuth-

bert had one, 14lb. On April 3, Mr. Whem had one, 20lb. On April 4, Capt. Cuthbert had one, 19lb. Stormy weather has been much against fishing.—H. J. MAISEY.

Lyon (Fortingall Hotel, Perthshire).—Gentlemen fishing from the hotel: Mr. Stewart landed a beautiful salmon, on March 28, of 16lb.; Mr. Joanindis, of Liverpool, landed a beautiful salmon on the 30th of 23lb.; and Mr. Stewart, one of 16lb. Also Mr. Stewart, on April 1, landed one of 17lb. River in ply.—PAUL MACPHAIL.

Naver (Bettyhill, via Thurso, N.B.).—For a time since last reported both Naver and Borgie rivers were frozen over, while shooting lodges occupied by anglers were snowed up, and roads were blocked. Under such conditions sport could not be expected. Last week, however, ushered in a change for the better, although the weather is still very unsettled. The Naver overflowed its banks; in fact, it was not in such high flood since 1891. The sport has been as follows: On March 29, Mr. Marston, Skelpick Lodge, one salmon on beat No. 6. On 30th, Gen. Home, Syre Lodge, had one on same beat; Mr. Marston, one on No. 1; and Mr. Earle Drax, one on No. 2. On 31st, Mr. Marston, one salmon on No. 2; Col. Fryer, Dalvina Lodge, one on No. 4; Col. Willson, Syre Lodge, one on No. 6. Gen. Home lost a salmon on No. 1 when almost ready for the gaff. On April 1, Col. Willson, Syre Lodge, caught a salmon on No. 1. Hills deeply coated with snow, and river still in flood.—B.

North-East of Scotland.—Weather conditions have been much more favourable, and every day since Friday last the improvement has increased. Sport has been fairly rife on the upper pools, and a few fresh fish are being met with on the lower waters. Fish are coming on the coast more freely, and the prospects for April are, on the whole, wonderfully bright. On the Invercauld Dee private water, Mr. L. H. Crake, after being stormed off for some weeks, has again made a fresh start by landing an 8lb. fish. The Duke of York brought his spring season to a close on the Balmoral reaches on Monday evening, and returned to town, accompanied by his querry, Sir Chas. Cust, Bart., on Tuesday. The Duke's heaviest fish was 16½lb. He had also two of 9lb., and one of 7lb., and another of 8lb. On the Aboyne Hotel waters, on Tuesday, Mr. Scott had one of 16lb.; Mr. Cobbold, one of 16lb.; and Mr. Crawshaw, a small fish of 5lb. On the Ballater reaches, Mr. Bristowe and Mr. Miller are getting fair sport since the river began to fall. On the Kincardine water, Major Davidson's keeper had one of 8lb. and one of 7lb. On the Ballagie section, Mr. Eustace Drummond creeled a fine fish of 16½lb.; and the Hon. E. T. Brooks had one of 6lb. on the Lodge water; while Dr. Hood creeled one of 6lb. On the Ballagie section, Mr. Edward Drummond caught one of 8lb.; and Mr. Walter Davidson one of 8½lb. on Lower Dess. Most of these were got on Friday after the river began to subside. The Duke of York left on Wednesday morning instead of Tuesday, as at first arranged. He had very good sport on Monday and Tuesday, winding up his spring salmon season with two beauties, of 7lb. and 10lb., on Tuesday. He had also two the previous day. Sir Charles Cust has had no clean fish. On the Glentana waters, on Saturday, Col. Brinckman had three fine fish, scaling 20lb., 10lb., and 8lb., and two on Tuesday of similar weights; while Mr. H. Barclay had two on Monday, of 6lb. and 7lb. Both are staying at Profert's Dinnet. The season on the Deveron opened on Saturday, when several anglers from Edinburgh had baskets of trout ranging up to 10lb. On the Ythan the smolt suspension is now in force in the tidal waters, but the Ellon and upper waters are free. On the Ugie good finnock fishing was enjoyed on Monday, and several up to 1lb. were got by Mr. Ingram and others.—G. M.

South of Scotland.—The rivers in this district have again been disturbed with many floods since last week's report. To-day (Wednesday) more rain is falling, and the rivers were in flood this morning. On Easter Monday the waters were in good order for fly, and some fair sport was had by visitors and local anglers among trout. The spring salmon fishing, however, has been much of a failure, and the catches disappointingly small on all the rivers in the South of Scotland. For some reason or other spring fish have not been running in the Solway nets, and at some of the principal fisheries the catches have been greatly smaller as compared with the corresponding date last year. A few have been taken this week in the stake nets. Sea trout are just beginning to show now, as they generally do with the commencement of April, but only two or three per tide are being caught. With a spell of more genial weather they would be sure to come on. Sea trout like mild weather for migrating, and the warmer the weather the more trout.

THE ANNAN.—In this river not much has been done, as the waters have been generally out of condition for fly in all the middle and lower reaches. In the Black Pool the other day, Mr. McEwan, of Marple, near Manchester, hooked a fine salmon. After playing his fish for nearly an hour, the lad in lifting the fish out of the water broke the cast, and the salmon fell into the pool, and lay belly upmost for several minutes before recovering, when it swam slowly away. Mr. McEwan had no gaff, and the fish was in deep water at the side of a very steep bank. The same angler hooked and lost a salmon on Monday with minnow. He also hooked and lost a good pike on the same lure. Several anglers had some fair sport among yellow trout in the tributary streams during the Easter holidays, and a number were out in the higher waters below Moffat, where some sport was had. The yellow trout are not quite in the pink of condition yet, and would be all the better for another fortnight to fatten on the March Brown Fly. This week the March Brown has been on the water in considerable numbers, and trout have been rising freely at that fly. **THE NITH.**—Sport has been rather poor on this river. The main stream is not yet giving much sport at all, and yellow trout are not

in the shallow waters yet, the best catches being at the sides of deep pools. Some anglers have had fair sport on the tributaries, the Cairn and Cluden affording the best catches, and the fly being preferred to worm bait. **THE GALLOWAY RIVERS.**—The reports from the waters of this district show little sport over the Easter holidays, owing to the waters being in spate. **AYRSHIRE.**—Anglers are now preparing their tackle, to begin fishing the lochs. Not many have been out, so far, but a few small catches have been made of yellow trout. As soon as the weather settles some pretty fair baskets are expected on Loch Doon, of Dalmellington, where the angling is free to all who like to fish this loch. Loch Finlas is also good. In May some fine baskets are taken on both of the above lochs with fly. Boats can be hired from the Eglinton Hotel, as also the Black Bull, both hotels being in Dalmellington. Anglers, however, can fish from the shore if they prefer to do so. **THE CUMBERLAND DERWENT AND COCKER.**—Both weather and waters has been against sport, and a good deal of melted snow has been in the rivers. Some nice baskets of trout, however, have been caught since last week. Mr. D. Pollock, of Cockermouth, had a very nice basket of yellow trout on the Cocker, his best fish weighing 1½lb. Mr. Thos. Ritson landed seventeen in the same river with fly, on Saturday afternoon, at Southwaite Rake Pool.

Tweed, Teviot, and other Border Rivers.—The weather in the Border district since my last notes appeared, a fortnight ago, has been most variable. Fly fishers ten days ago had not the best of the time, the bait fishers having had a good innings. However, everything comes to an end, and as the flood subsided and the waters cleared, we, the fly anglers, have had no reason to complain so far as regards takes are concerned, but the fish are really not yet in anything like fit condition, notwithstanding the openness of the past winter season. To-day (Wednesday) we have yet another flood of 2ft. in the Tweed, the main river, caused by rain and wind in the west, but, strange to say, the Teviot has not as yet (4 p.m.) been touched with any increase of flood water. As to salmon angling—well, there has been little. The only take sent to me was one salmon, killed on the Tweed by Capt. French, on the Tillmouth Park water, and the fish turned the scale at 13½lb. There have, besides, been a good many kelts landed during the past ten days in the Tweed, but on the Teviot not a fish of any kind has either been killed or landed. Of those who have been most fortunate amongst the trout we mention Mr. Thomas Pringle, Westwood Cottage, Kelso, who on one occasion had a dozen and a half of nice fish, one of which weighed fully 1½lb., while he lost a much heavier trout just while netting it. The lure for this take was minnow. During the recedence of the floods in the rivers a week ago bait fishers were "on the job," and a right good time they had of it. Most of the baskets were said to have been killed with worm or some other bait. Mr. Wm. Mercer, Kelso, had 6lb., and on the following day, on the Eden, he had 10lb. Some of these trout, however, were got at the mouth of the Eden, on the Tweed. Mr. Archibald Steel, jun., Kelso, on Tweed, 7lb.; Mr. Richard Newton, Kelso, 5lb., on Teviot; Mr. David Maxwell, 4lb. and 6lb.; Mr. James Anderson, 5lb., on Teviot; and Mr. A. Cockburn, ten trout, with minnow, on Monday, weighing 4lb., on the Tweed and Teviot. Strange to say that on the tributary streams, such as the Kale, Bowmont, Colledge, Ale, and Rule, trout are very scarce, and scarcely any baskets can at present be made. This looks crooked a bit, as on these streams in the spring nice dishes of trout used formerly to be got. During the present week, on the Tweed and Teviot, fly fishers, taking advantage of the weather and state of the water, have had a fair good innings. On Monday, on the Tweed, Mr. J. Turner, London, had 7lb. (Bamff Mill cast); and on other two occasions he had 4lb. and 6lb. Mr. David Maxwell and friend, on Tweed and Teviot, have had baskets of 6lb., 7lb., and 8lb. Mr. Duncan Hill, Queen's Head Hotel, Kelso, on Teviot, fishing from the bank, had 7½lb. of fine trout. On Monday, Mr. Robert Robertson, on the same stream, had 5lb. On the Tweed, Mr. James McCutcheon, Alnwick, had a fine dish of 10lb., including one clean run sea trout of 2lb. Mr. A. McCutcheon, jun., Alnwick, on two or three occasions had baskets of from 5lb., 7lb., up to 10lb., on Tweed and Teviot. On Monday, on the Tweed, Mr. James Wilson had 10lb. On the same water, on Saturday and Monday, Mr. William Shiell, Kelso, had two baskets, weighing in the aggregate 21lb. Mr. William Hardy, commission agent, Kelso, had 12lb., on Tweed, on Monday. During the past ten days Mr. James Hogg, gardener, has killed on the Tweed, Teviot, and Eden baskets of trout weighing from 4lb. up to 7lb. and 10lb.; Mr. E. G. Bond, on the Tweed, has had dishes of 4lb., 5lb., 7lb., and 8lb.; and Mr. Charles Farquharson, on the Tweed, has had takes ranging from 4lb. up to 10lb. and 12lb. of trout. Trout competitions are now just again starting for the season. The Kelso Angling Association have fixed their spring one for Monday next, and the Good Friday competition of the Canties Club (Berwickshire) came off on that day under unfavourable circumstances, the river being full of snow water. A good number turned out, however, and fair sport was had.—MAXWHEEL.

IRISH REPORTS.

Ballinderry (Coagh, co. Tyrone).—This stream was in fair order this week. Up to date trouting has just been middling, as the weather was very cold, which kept the trout from rising. During the Easter holidays a good many anglers were out with medium success. Trouting has fallen off 50 per cent. in the past five years; causes, pike and pollution.—J. A. B.

Bann.—This river is very low for so early in the season, and trout are beginning to rise to the early Blue Dun on the shallows at Kilrea. On 1st inst. John Dramond, boatman, took the first two trout of the season on the fly, 1½lb. and 2½lb. each. The kelts will all soon

have gone to the sea and spring fish taken their places. On 3rd inst. two newly run salmon were taken in the Culls, Colea'ne. It is expected there will be good sport on all the reaches during the coming summer, which is certain to be a cold one.—DANIEL O'FEE. [How does Mr. Daniel O'Fee know it is "certain" to be a cold summer?—ED.]

Blackwater (co. Cork).—Weather and water have been all that could be desired for past week, and some good fish have been killed on different portions of the river. On the Ballydniff Fishery, on 3rd inst., Mr. S. Haynes had a fine fish, 20lb. Fish are reported to be numerous on the upper Blackwater above Mallow.—W. HAYNES AND SON.

Blackwater (Monaghan).—The river here is too high for anything but bait fishing, and as the trout are glutted with bottom feeding by a succession of freshets they will hardly look at anything. Last week, when the river was down a bit, lots of pike up to 6lb. and 7lb. were killed.—J. A. B.

Boyne (Navan Section).—The rain last week raised the river a few inches, but as this was bog water from the Blackwater watershed it did harm, and although the river is now well stocked with fish they have been very sulky for some days. Since my last report I can only hear of twelve fish, average about 14lb., being taken on Upper Blackcastle; one of 24lb. on Lower Blackcastle; four or five, including one of 28lb., on Ardmulchan. The water is still too low for sport.—CLARET FLY.

Cork Rivers.—Sport has not been up to anticipation on any of the Cork rivers open for angling, though matters continue to show some improvement. The numbers of salmon taken by anglers on the principal rivers have been rather few and far between since last report; but trout fishers, on the other hand, had generally fair sport.—T. J. D.

Corrib (Galway).—Despite the adverse climatic conditions of the past two weeks, angling has improved considerably on this river, famed for its salmon fishing. Since the last freshet the stock of salmon has largely increased, so that the river is well tenanted at present. Amongst those recently out were Gen. Dashwood, Lieut. Dundas, R.N., Capt. Keshbrooke, Mr. W. Townsend, and the brother professionals, the Lydons. Shrimping accounts for the majority of the fish killed up to date. Trout on the tributaries was pretty good.—J. A. B.

Cummeragh and Inny.—Salmon are now pretty numerous in the deep pools on the Cummeragh, but no salmon anglers have been out on this water. Brown trout are giving good sport on this river and on the Inny.—T. J. D.

Erne (Ballyshannon and Belleek).—Mr. Wise, Mr. Cleary, and Mr. Moohan took several fine trout, weighing from 1½lb. to 3½lb., on the 28th, 29th, and 30th ult.—M. ROGAN AND SONS.

Kerry Rivers.—Sport has shown some improvement all round, though it is still far from being good on any of the Kerry rivers. Spring salmon are now arriving in good numbers on all the rivers flowing into the sea between Dingle and Kenmare.—T. J. D.

Lee (co. Cork).—The weather has been very favourable for salmon fishing for the past week, and numbers of fish are showing in all parts of the river. On Lee Mount, Mr. W. T. Crawshaw, one, 6lb. On Fargus, Capt. Douglas Pennant, five, averaging 9lb. On Ballineadig, Mr. B. C. R. Lanner, one, 12lb. On Innislinga, Capt. Gubbins, R.A., one, 18½lb. On Cronody, Capt. de Montmorency, Hants. Regiment, 14½lb. On Ashton, O. L. Evans, 14lb.—W. HAYNES AND SON.

Lough Currane Waterville, co. Kerry.—Salmon angling is now improving, though it is still far from being good. Four salmon were had last week, viz., two by Surgeon-Col. Barry, Bayview Hotel; two by Edmund Dennehy; and one by Johnny Brennan. The fish averaged 10½lb. At time of writing spring salmon are coming up in far better numbers, as is plainly evidenced by the takes had last week at the weir on the river. Last week fine sport was got on the channels between the rocky islands and the shore at brown trout.—T. J. D.

Lough Melvin.—The following salmon were taken on this lake during the past week: Mr. A. J. Troup landed three salmon on the 1st inst. of 11½lb., 9½lb., and 8lb., Mr. J. R. Fisher took one salmon of 9½lb. on same day, Mr. Bryce-Smith landed one salmon weighing 10lb. on 1st inst.; also Mr. F. Broadbent and Mr. E. Hayman took two salmon on the 1st inst., one of 9lb. and one of 10lb. Trout was fairly good on some days since last report, and a number of baskets of gillaroo and brown trout weighing from 8½lb. to 13lb. each were taken by anglers out from Ballyshannon, Bandon, &c.—M. ROGAN AND SONS.

Lough Melvin (Lower Reaches, Kinlough End).—Good sport was had amongst the trout by fly anglers during the greater part of the past week. Catches too numerous for separate mention. Amongst the most successful rodsters Mr. O. Dowd and party (England), Mr. Wood (Lisburn), and Mr. Johnston had baskets on many days to average from one and a half to three dozen daily. Several nice trout were had trolling, from 1lb. to 4lb. Salmon anglers had also fair success. Weather conditions are still favourable.—P. GALLAGHER.

Lough Neagh.—This week the weather was rather boisterous, but on the whole favourable to the fishermen. For years I have not seen so many fine lake trout taken, huge fellows up to 12lb., which would give great sport on a line. Trout fishing on the tributaries shows an improvement. Pollan fishing is also pretty good, the takes being pretty large on the Tyrone shores. On the "flats" or sand shoals in the Lough the trout will rise to the fly, but very few try this sport. Cross-lining, though illegal, is much indulged in off the Armagh shores.—J. A. B.

Mountain Lakes (Waterville, co. Kerry).—Sport continues good on all the above waters. The best baskets

were had after 3 p.m. each day, and the following were the best baskets had last week on the different waters: On Drenane, one of three dozen brown trout, 13lb.; on Cummeravan, one of thirty, 9lb.; on Coomcateam, one of twenty-nine, 8½lb.; and on Coomavohor, one of four dozen, 10½lb.—THOS. J. DENNEHY.

Mourne (Newtonstewart, co. Tyrone).—The season opened on Saturday, the 1st inst., with the river in excellent order and very favourable, despite the cold weather. Messrs. McIlwaine and Kennedy, on the opening day, killed 7lb. and 8lb. of brown trout respectively. Amongst the anglers stopping in the Abercorn Arms are Capt. Costobadie, Capt. Ansley, Mr. Costobadie, Mr. Welsh, and Mr. Warren, all of whom have had fair sport.—J. A. B.

Moy Hotel Private Waters (Ballina).—During the last week the river has been in flood, just fishable now; some clean fish showing on the pools. Mr. W. C. Wilson, on Monday, rose one fish and hooked two others. Mr. J. Schrop had some nice trout on the lake last week. Mr. J. Timlin hooked a fish on April 2. Prospects of fishing fair on the river.—JOHN DEVER.

Moy, Loughs Conn and Cullen (Ballina, co. Mayo).—Weather very much against angling; river high and much discoloured for the past week. Several kelts have been landed on the Shallows by Dr. Smart, and new fish 13lb. Parts of the Lough have been discoloured also; few anglers are getting few trout on occasional days.—PAT HEARNES.

Shannon and Lough Derg (Killaloe).—As I thought so it has turned out. Up to the present, owing, no doubt, to the very cold weather we have been experiencing for some weeks, the spring salmon have not ascended in any considerable numbers from the Atlantic, so that rod fishers have not fared well at all. But quite a favourable change has taken place in the weather, as the frosts and north winds have disappeared, and genial sunshiny days succeed each other day after day. The largest spring salmon taken last week weighed 27lb., Bill Malone being the fortunate captor. Head Constable Coulan, R.I.C., Killaloe Station, killed above the bridge a very handsome golden river trout weighing 5lb. Tom and Jack Gimes, fishing my water, basketed several fine trout during the week. Mr. Anthony Parker, Ballyvalley House, fishing Major Mott's water on Monday, bagged in two hours twenty-one lovely river trout. Yesterday my fishermen, the Brothers Grimes, landed on my water a freshly run salmon of 22lb. Same day one of the local fishermen killed a very beautiful springer of 33lb. Both at Limerick and Castleconnell several heavy fish have been captured, and now we are beginning to get a share of the spoil at Killaloe. Major Traherne told me just now that he saw a good few salmon rise on his water yesterday (Tuesday). For some days past an enormous salmon has been seen performing *pas seals* on the Major's water, but up to to-day (Wednesday) he has declined to look at any of the dainty flies that have been offered to him. I do hope that he may fall to the Major's rod. Since my last report the following angling visitors have arrived here: Major John P. Traherne, from London; and Mr. R. H. Wilson, Mrs., and Miss Wilson, from London. Several other English visitors are expected this week.—S. J. HURLEY.

Shannon (Castleconnell).—On Doonass, Mr. G. C. Williams killed one salmon, 22½lb., on April 3. On Hermitage, Mrs. W. C. Jones killed one salmon, 14lb., on March 31. On Woodlands, Mr. A. Talbot killed one salmon, 38lb., on March 30. On the same water, Mr. W. Milburn killed one salmon, 27lb., on March 31. On the Castle Fishery, Mr. E. J. Brook killed one salmon, 31½lb., on March 31. On the same water, Mr. E. T. Ingham killed one salmon, 33½lb., on April 1.—J. ENRIGHT AND SON.

SEA FISHING.

Deal (The Pier).—Though numbers of visiting anglers fished upon the pier during the Easter vacation, scarcely a sizeable fish was taken, the only exception being a codling of 1lb. 4oz. taken by Mr. Morrell. Mr. Burgess and Mr. C. Filmer tried boat fishing, and in three hours and three-quarters took nineteen small flat-fish. Mr. Fleming and his boatman (Larkins) tempted sport on three successive days, but caught nothing worth recording. Mr. Filmer held sole possession of the pier to-day (Wednesday), but his day's catch only amounted to four very small dabs.—J. RICHARDSON.

Deal.—A great many angling gentlemen and others visited the town during the holidays, and owing to prospects being so poor for fishing a very few put out, and those that did go out returned with poor baskets.—EDWD. HANGER (Agent B.S.A.S.).

Margate.—April 5.—A few fish are now coming in after the gales we have had. One angler caught on Saturday, twelve; on Sunday, seventeen; on Monday, twenty-six, codling and pouting. Another, out on Monday, caught twenty-three codling and some pouting.—T. JEPHCOAT.

Plymouth.—We are now having a spell of fine weather, and through the holidays several have been out fishing. Mackerel are taking the spinner; a friend of mine, sailing around from the eastward to Plymouth, took seventy-four, and they were in very good condition. These fish seem to be coming on earlier this year than they did last, and from all appearances we shall have a good season with them. This will be welcomed by the boats that get their living by them, as last season was an entire frost, many of the boats scarcely paying for the expense of fitting out. School bass from 1lb. to 2lb. are being taken up the Cattewater with rod and line; and some nice pollack have found their way in the Sound again. It is curious how these fish go away to the deep water directly we get much rain, which sends fresh water into the bay. They evidently do not like their natural element in a diluted form. The list of

edible fish for this month includes trout, peal, salmon, scad, mackerel, conger eel, atherine (smelt), thornback, pouting, hake, brill, turbot, dab, and all shell fish.—W. HEARDER (B.S.A.S.).

Southend and Leigh.—April 6.—During the holidays a large number of anglers tried their luck, but with indifferent success, as fish were scarce and small; and, speaking generally, sea fishing is off for the present. A few small codling were taken, unusually late in the season for them to be noted, the remainder of the catches being mostly plaice. Flounders are now out of condition, having just spawned. The fishmongers in the town have been selling grey mullet in large quantities, many of them of considerable size. These, I learn, were taken in the Burnham river; but they are by no means common on this coast.—CHARLES HUSSEY (B.S.A.S.).

TELEGRAM (April 7).—Barometer fallen; south-wester blowing hard. Boat fishing impossible.—HUSSEY.

Angling Fixtures.

April 9. Collingwood: Outing to Southend.

April 10. Central Association: Delegate meeting. Dibdin: Visit.

April 11. Hoxton Brothers: Bohemian concert. Seymour Brothers: Annual smoking concert. Wimbeldon Piscatorial: Annual dinner.

April 12. British Sea Anglers: Annual dinner. St. John's: Annual supper. Seymour Brothers: Smoking concert.

April 13. Hatcham Brothers: Annual snapper and concert. Prince Albert: A.B.S. concert.

April 17.—Anglers' Association: Delegate meeting.

" 18.—Bermondsey Brothers: Lantern lecture by Mr. W. J. Wade (secretary of the Central Association).

" 18.—North London: Visit.
" 19.—Anchor (Kingston): Annual dinner.
" 20.—Anchor and Hope: Annual dinner.
" 25.—Gresham: Annual dinner.
" 25.—Original Alexandra: Distribution.
" 25.—Royal George: Visit.
" 25.—Waggoners: Visit.

Reports from Clubs

We beg to remind Secretaries that their Reports must reach us not later than **SIX o'clock on Thursday Evening.** Address "Editor, FISHING GAZETTE, St. Dunstan's House, Fetter-Lane, London," marked "CLUB REPORT" outside envelope.

Anglers' Association.—The monthly finance committee will meet on Monday evening next, April 10, at 7.30; renting and preservation at 8.30; and the general at nine o'clock.—R. GHURNEY.

Anglers' Benevolent Society.—Since my last report I beg to acknowledge with thanks the receipt of 6s. 6d. Peckham Brothers, 17s. 10d. Brunswick Brothers Angling Societies' donation boxes. The committee will meet on Friday next, April 14, at 8.30.—R. GHURNEY.

Allason United Brothers' Angling Society, Dnke of Sussex, Uxbridge-street, Notting Hill Gate.—We had a big meeting of members on April 5, when a lot of business was transacted. Our ninth annual dinner and distribution of prizes will take place on May 10. All members must have paid up all arrears on the 3rd, or rule 26 will be strictly enforced. Will donors of prizes kindly let me have same, so that I can arrange the lists, &c.—BEN ABRAHAM.

Alma Angling Society. Coach and Horses, Port-mouth-place, Lincoln's Inn Fields.—On April 16 a meeting will take place to arrange the annual snapper and other important business, when I hope to see a muster of members present.—J. CHAMBERS.

Anchor and Hope Angling Society, Duke of Kent, Old Kent-road, S.E.—Our quarterly meeting was held this evening, when the following gentlemen were elected on the committee for ensuing season: Messrs. H. Mallett, sen., J. Grant, J. Jones, W. Fowler, R. Chadd, W. Eggby, G. Clarke, and C. Cannar. Mr. C. Cannar was elected chairman for next quarter; Mr. Darling was elected an honorary member; Messrs. Mallett, sen., and Eggby volunteered as auditors; and Messrs. Cannar and Hamilton as stewards for annual dinner on April 20. Gentlemen requiring tickets for annual dinner can have same on application to—F. W. MARTIN.

Battersea Friendly Angling Society, Queen's Hotel, Queen's-road, Battersea, S.W.—At the half-yearly meeting, on April 4, the following officers were elected: Messrs. R. Dring, chairman; A. Ansty, vice; W. Hersant, treasurer; G. Martin, weigher-in; A. Jenkins, secretary; G. Smeed, check secretary. Committee: Messrs. G. Hemens, S. Aplin, A. Dejonge, F. Ireland, G. Mead, J. Stevens, G. Austin, F. Aplin, G. Miller. Delegates: Messrs. Hemens, Ansty, Mead, and F. Ireland. The balance-sheet for the last half year was presented and passed as highly satisfactory, the same showing a substantial amount in hand, and the society to be in a flourishing condition. A special meeting is fixed for April 18, for the revision of rules, if necessary, and other important business.—A. JENKINS.

Battersea Piscatorials, Winstanley Arms, Winstanley-road, Clapham Junction, S.W.—Will members kindly turn up in force next week to clear the books, as it is quarterly night, also to elect officers? Donors of prizes will oblige by sending in their prizes as soon as possible, so that secretary can get out prize list. We had much pleasure in nominating Mr. Hart a member of the above.—T. TRINGHAM.

Bermondsey Brothers' Angling Society, Woolpack, Bermondsey-street, S.E.—On April 18 Mr. W. J. Wade will give a lantern lecture at this society, entitled "A Fishing Trip on the S.E.R.," followed by a smoking concert, in aid of the Anglers' Benevolent Society. Mr. A. E. Clarke (host of the Peckham Brothers) has kindly consented to occupy the chair. The company of brother anglers and friends on this occasion will be esteemed a favour.—ALF. CONN.

Bloomsbury Brothers' Angling Society, Rose and Crown, Broad-street, Bloomsbury.—A large number of our members were out on March 26, but were unsuccessful, Mr. J. Young only weighing in, thus securing Mr. J. Taylor's prize. On April 5 Mr. F. W. Ims was elected a working member. April 12 will be quarterly night, when all members are requested to attend.—T. PATERNOSTER.

Bostonian Angling Society, Dalby Tavern, Dalby-street, Prince of Wales-road, Kentish Town.—On March 22 Messrs. Ward and Jones, members of the society, gave an entertainment, entitled "Facts and Fancies," illustrated by the lantern, which was in every way a success. The room was crowded, and a very hearty vote of thanks was passed to the entertainers; £4 10s. was collected in the room towards the Anglers' Benevolent Society. On March 29 our A.B.S. box was opened, and found to contain £1 5s., making a total of £5 15s., which has been forwarded on. Shall be pleased if members will attend next meeting night, April 12.—J. H.

Central Association of London Angling Clubs.—The usual monthly delegate meeting will be held at the Bedford Head Hotel, Maiden-lane, Covent Garden, W.C., on Monday evening next, 10th inst., at 8.30.

Clapham Strollers' Angling Society, Alexandra Hotel, Clapham Common, S.W.—At a special general meeting last Tuesday, our annual election of officers for the ensuing season took place, and I am pleased to say that each member who acted last year was again returned. We are now going very strong, and arrangements are being completed for our annual supper and concert. Shall be glad if prize donors will kindly forward prizes, so as to complete the list.—S. VIOLET.

Clerkenwell and District United Visiting List.—The next return visit on the above will be to the Dikken A.S., held at the St. Martin's Tavern, Pratt-street, Camden Town, on Monday next, April 10. A good entertainment and a welcome for any brother angler who will give them a look-in. The quarterly delegate meeting will be on Thursday next, April 13, to take into consideration the proposed concert for the benefit of the prize fund, also to fix time and place for the next competition; to meet at the Middlesex Arms, Clerkenwell Green, at 9.15 p.m.—F. CASTELL.

Cobden Angling Society, Kensal-road, W.—On April 4 we had a very successful meeting, when all officers for the next year were elected. A Preservation Fund was started, and we have £1 7s. already in hand, which will be divided amongst the Upper Thames associations at the end of the next season, as the West-end waters never get any re-stocking done to them from the Anglers' Associations' Re-stocking Fund. I am sorry to say that Mr. A. Tucker, one of our oldest members, and one of the oldest members of the Anglers' Benevolent Society, has passed away after a long illness. Will Ben state who Baxter beat for the championship, or when he won it?—T. TWYMAN.

Collingwood Angling Society, The Lord Nelson, Nelson-square, Blackfriars-road, S.E.—Since my last report we had a nice show of fish from the Lea by Mr. Boyd. Our leading prize winners of the past season are Messrs. Downs, W. Beames, Ball, Jarrett, Ford, F. Beames, Turner, and others. Our sea outing takes place at Southend on April 9. Leave Fenchurch-street station at nine o'clock; return by the seven o'clock train from Southend. Our new bye-rule comes in force in this outing, in which dabs cannot be weighed in under six inches. Will club secretaries please note, to avoid clashing, that our third annual supper and prize distribution takes place on Tuesday, May 2?—W. H. STAFFORD.

Dibdin Angling Society, St. Martin's Tavern, Pratt-street, N.W.—Wednesday's meeting very quiet. General meeting called for Wednesday next to settle prizes and date of annual dinner. Our A.B.S. return visit takes place on Monday next, April 10.—JOHNNY EDWARDS.

Drayton Park Piscatorials, Stanley Arms, Landseer-road, Holloway-road, N.—Several tried, but no specimen trout yet. Dinner postponed, otherwise all satisfactory.—GREG.

Elgin Angling Society, Blenheim Arms, Blenheim, Crescent, Notting-hill, W.—Our fish list for the past season was duly audited by Messrs. Huggett and Carroll, and found correct, with the following result: Mr. Barnfather, gross weight; Mr. Beazley, two specimens, pike and roach. Messrs. Cushing, Wilson, Ryell, and King are among those who take private prizes. There are a number of prizes not taken; they will go on to the next outing.—G. KING.

Grange Angling Society, The Earl of Derby, Grange-road, S.E.—On Tuesday evening Messrs. W. J. Wade and P. Lee kindly gave a lantern lecture on fishing in Norfolk, Suffolk, &c., several of the views having been lent by the Great Eastern Railway Company. At the close of the lecture a collection was made on behalf of the Thames Angling Preservation Society, which, with the sum in the collecting box, amounted to £1 3s. 9d. A very

hearty vote of thanks was accorded to Messrs. Wade and Lee for the able manner in which they had entertained the company; also to Mr. J. C. Chalkley for presiding.—W. K.

Hatcham Brothers' Angling Society, Queen Victoria, Pomeroy-street, New Cross.—The annual supper and concert of the above society will take place on Thursday, April 13, at 8.30.—W. TARRY.

Highbury Angling Society, Globe Hotel, Upper Tollington-road, N.—Several trout have been taken from the club water already, largest 2lb. 2oz. by Mr. G. West. Members are reminded of the special meeting next Wednesday, when some important business will be brought forward.—E. W.

Holloway Angling Society, Holloway Station Hotel, 295, Holloway-road, N.—A well-attended meeting was held on April 5, at which some important business was disposed of. Arrangements were made for our annual dinner, to take place on May 9, when the prizes won during the past season will be distributed.—A. CLAYTON.

Hoxton Brothers' Angling Society, Spread Eagle, Kingsland-road, Shoreditch.—On Tuesday evening next, April 11, a grand Bohemian concert in aid of the A.B.S. funds will take place at the above. Mr. G. B. Shipton, of the Sturt Arms, New North-road, has kindly consented to take the chair, faced by Mr. E. Brockett (secretary Original Alexandra) in the vice. The best available talent has promised to attend, so an enjoyable evening can be assured to those who would favour us with their company. Ladies cordially invited.—JOHNNY.

Islington Brothers' Angling Society, Myddleton Arms, Canonbury-road.—We met on Tuesday last, Mr. Heckford in the chair, when it was decided to call a special general meeting for Tuesday next (11th) for the auditor's report and to settle about our annual outing. I hope all members will endeavour to attend on that night at nine o'clock, as the time is short.—J. H. HERBERT.

Izaak Walton Angling Society, Old King John's Head, Mansfield-street, Kingsland-road.—There is some special interesting business to be placed before the meeting on Wednesday evening next, 12th inst., so shall esteem it a favour if the members will muster well on this occasion.—H. B.

Liverpool Angling Association, Bee Hotel, Queen-square.—The members, for the first time for many years, have not had a club outing this Easter, as the crush and inconvenience of getting home in the past, with their impedimenta of rods, baskets, and fish, has been very great, and competitions on Bank Holidays have been abandoned in consequence. Then, too, on accessible waters rods have been so abundant that an angler could never know whether the water had been gone through that morning or not. Reports of what has been done during the holidays vary a great deal, and one can hardly tell whether sport has been better on the whole this year than in 1898. Some decent trout have been had from Penny-Cae and Ruabon, but matters have been somewhat tame. A few have been had from the Dee, Corwen way, and from the Vyrnwy, Cain, and Tanat, Llanymynech. Of course, Easter is very early this year. Since sending my report this (Wednesday) morning, I learn that Mr. Jeffreys has done well with the trout at Llanymynech; also that Mr. Rotherham caught five pike (largest 6½lb.) within an hour, near the aqueduct, and lost three others; and Mrs. Macnab (wife of our chairman, Capt. Macnab, R.N.) landed a nice pike of 7½lb. on a small trout rod—a fine feat for the lady to accomplish. Taken altogether the sport in the Vyrnwy and Tanat was very satisfactory.—RD. WOOLFALL.

North London Angling Society, Tap House, Holloway-road.—The next return visit on the No. 2 Eastern District takes place at the above on Tuesday, April 18, when I hope to see a good muster of the clubs on the list. P.C. will be sent round in due course. Another gentleman was proposed for membership by Mr. T. Harris, who will be elected next meeting.—H. STRETCH.

Original Alexandra Angling Society, The Lamb, Three Colts-lane, opposite Bethnal Green Junction.—On Tuesday next, April 11, there will be no meeting at the clubhouse. We meet on that evening at the Hoxton Brothers' Bohemian concert in aid of the Anglers' Benevolent Fund. April 18 will be our annual general meeting, and as business of great importance will be brought forward, I trust that every member will be in attendance. April 25 will be our distribution night. Members and friends who have promised prizes please note the date.—E. BROCKETT.

Queen's Piscatorials, Queen's Arms, 1A, Chapel-street, Edgware-road, N.W.—On the 4th inst. the annual general meeting was held, when the balance-sheet was read, and found to be very satisfactory, showing the society to be in a sound financial condition. Officers were then elected for the year. C. Shepherd, treasurer; C. Brett, clerk of the scales; and Geo. Keene, secretary. Officers for the first quarter were: A. Peverall, elected (unanimously) chairman; W. Payne, sub-secretary; and Geo. Keene and C. Brett, delegates. Several other matters were discussed, which will now become rules for the season 1899 and 1900. One new working member was made.—GEO. KEENE.

Royal George Angling Society, Queen's Arms, Bateman-street.—Last meeting night we were fairly attended, and got through a deal of business. It has been decided to take our visit on the Central Association on April 20, when we hope to receive a bumper, not having missed one visit on the list. Members please note that a general meeting is arranged for April 12, and I hope to see a crowded attendance on that occasion, so as to arrange about our annual supper.—G. GIBBONS.

St. Alban's Angling Society, Rising Sun, Prince's-road, Kennington.—Our visit on the South London List was a very poor one, only twelve clubs responding to the

call; no officers were in attendance. Many thanks to Mr. Wade, who turned up in time to call the roll and open the Anglers' Benevolent box, which contained the sum of 30s. 6d., which was duly handed over. Wednesday, April 12, all members must show up, and be clear on that night. Mr. J. Leighton has been elected as the club's new secretary for the coming season.—H. ALLAN.

Seymour Brothers' Angling Society, King and Queen, 1, Foley-street, Fitzroy-square, W.—Last Tuesday, being quarterly night, it was decided to hold our annual smoking concert on April 12, when Bro. E. Burden will be in the chair, and Bro. Arrigoni the vice-chair; pianist, Mr. Bert Wood, when I should like to see all brothers and friends. Our annual supper and distribution of prizes is arranged to take place on May 9. Particulars next report.—W. ALDIS.

Stockwell Angling Society, Old Queen's Head, Stockwell-road, S.W.—Thursday next being quarterly night members are requested to be present, as important business will be transacted. The first payment under the new rules will be due.—THOS. LUCAS.

Sundial Angling Society, Plough and Harrow, King-street, Hammersmith.—On March 28, at our annual general meeting, the following officers were elected for the next year: Mr. Harwood, chairman; Mr. Holt, vice-chairman; Mr. Lock, secretary; Mr. Sherman, assistant-secretary; Messrs. Harwood and Stevens, delegates; Messrs. Parker and Holt, auditors. Members are requested to attend on our next meeting night, which is a special meeting, to receive report from committee meeting, April 5, with regard to rules and other recommendations.—G. E. LOCK.

Waggoners' Angling Society, White Lion, Albert Embankment.—We had a good meeting on the 4th, Mr. H. Walton in the chair. Some very important business was got through. I must again remind members to settle up at their earliest convenience. We take a visit on the S.L.U.V.L. on April 25, when I hope we shall have a good muster.—H. C.

Walham Green and Chelsea Angling Society, Black Bull, Fulham-road, S.W.—On March 29 a committee was formed to negotiate all business concerning the annual dinner. I regret to report that a letter was received from Mr. A. Alder on the 29th ult., resigning his position as treasurer, which was accepted. At our meeting on the 5th inst., this being quarterly night, the new officers for the coming year were elected, viz, chairman, Mr. Dungate; secretary *pro tem.*, Mr. Glass; treasurer, Mr. Price; assistant secretary, Mr. Carter.—W. H. BATCH.

Walthamstow Brothers' Angling Society, Essex Arms, Forest-road, Walthamstow.—The A.B.S. box of this society was opened on April 5 by the visiting officer, Mr. T. R. C. La Monde, and contained the sum of £6 14s.

Walworth Waltonians Angling Society, St. Paul's Tavern, Westmoreland-road, Walworth, S.E.—A general meeting is called for Wednesday next, April 12, to arrange about the annual dinner. I hope every member will try and be present. I shall also be pleased to receive the prizes from those donors who have not yet sent in.—W. WRAY.

White Hart Angling Society, The White Hart, Tottenham Hale, N.—Our annual supper and distribution of prizes will take place on Wednesday, May 10, at 8 p.m. sharp; also donors of prizes will oblige by forwarding them on to me at their earliest convenience before that date.—W. E. BEAUMONT.

Doffings by the Way.

THE monthly meeting of the Central Association of London Anglers will be held on Monday evening next, April 10, at the Bedford Head, Maiden-lane, Covent-garden, at 8.30.

THE annual dinner of the Society of Caxtonian Anglers will take place at the clubhouse on Thursday, the 13th inst., at 7 o'clock punctually. Tickets for the dinner will be 5s., as usual, application for which should be made as soon as possible. The presentation of prizes will take place after the dinner. If prize winners would kindly purchase prizes to the amount won, and send them to the clubhouse, not later than Wednesday evening, April 12, a cheque for the amount will be handed to them.

THE CRYSTAL PALACE COMPANY have decided to institute experiments in fish culture, the ultimate object being the founding of an English School of Pisciculture. A capital start has been made, and Mr. Edgar S. Shrubsole, the curator, has succeeded in hatching some 50,000 trout eggs. The alevis are a fine healthy-looking lot. The large aquariums are being overhauled and thoroughly cleaned and repaired, preparatory to stocking them with various species of *Salmonidae*. The extensive lakes, reservoirs, fountain basins, &c., in the grounds, will also be utilised in connection with the scheme.

MR. JOHN BICKERDYKE's new romance of the sea, "The Passing of Prince Rozan," the publication of which has been delayed in consequence of the American edition, will be issued by Mr. Thomas Burleigh, on the 15th of this month.

FETTER-LANE INDEPENDENT CHAPEL is to be pulled down. It is a case of the Pulpit giving way to the Press, the *Christian Commonwealth* remarks, for the demolition will make way for improvements in connection with a printing firm. The history of this old dissenting place of

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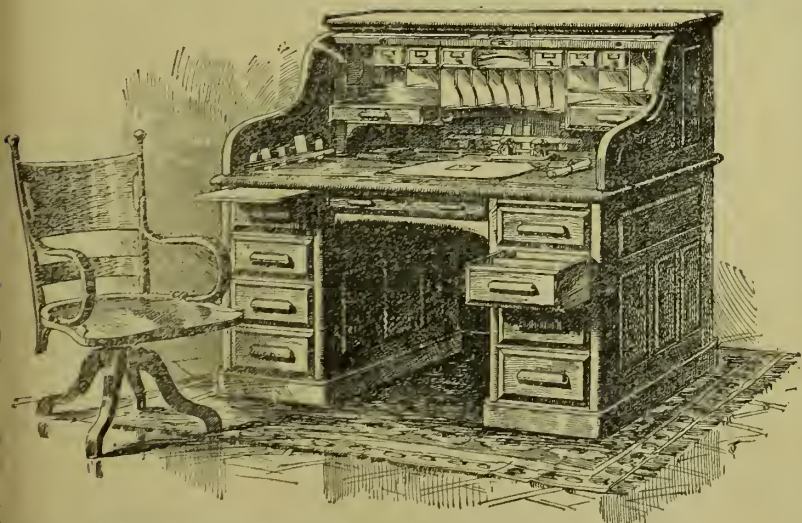
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worship is full of exciting interest. In 1666, the meeting-house then in existence was taken forcible possession of by the Episcopal party at the time of the great fire of London. In 1710, the populace broke into and destroyed the building, and in 1732 the present building was erected. The first public proclamation of the accession of George I. was made from the pulpit of Fetter-lane Chapel, by the Rev. Thomas Bradbury, one of the foremost ministers of the day.

It was not often that poor old Dr. Brunton came off second best in a chaffing match, but on one occasion my friend Norman, the hon. librarian of the Gresham, scored off him in a manner which is worth relating. One evening, at a meeting of the Gresham, the doctor, with one of those quiet smiles which heralded the advent of a good thing, announced to a small but select circle of his fellow Greshamites that after their last meeting his friend — (who also belonged to the Gresham) had accompanied him home, and had stayed discussing salmon flies and whiskey until three o'clock in the morning. "When I went to bed," continued the doctor, "my wife said, 'John, you've had a visitor.' 'Yes, my dear, it was Mr. —,' 'Oh, was it, and could you get a word in edgeways?' " This was Norman's opportunity. "What were you doing, did you say, doctor—discussing salmon flies and whiskey." "Yes," replied the doctor. "Ah," observed Norman, "if that was the case, you can tell Mrs. Brunton that she may make an affidavit that — would not have an earthly chance of getting a word in."

In the matter of entertainment, Eastertide visitors to Southend were well catered for. René Bull's lecture on the Soudan War, illustrated by the optical lantern, on Thursday; on Good Friday, "The Messiah," on Sunday, two high-class sacred concerts in the Pier Pavilion. Mr. Marlow's contribution to the gaiety of the town, and a thoroughly good contribution, too, was "The Skirt Dancer," at the Empire Theatre. The piece is one of those laughter provoking musical comedies which, while they drive dull care away, that is if you have any, at the same time delight the ear with sweet music—in this case, music written by Mr. Trotère, the composer of "In Old Madrid," and many other charming melodies. The dancing was exceptionally good, and once more Mr. Marlow has another success to his credit. Next week the play will be "The Three Musketeers."

"FROM early morn to dewy eve," Mr. Stevens' town band was delighting visitors on the front. It is strongly leavened by old guardsmen—Grenadiers, Scots, and Coldstreamers, and, with the new addition of strings, is one of the best seaside bands to be found. Mr. Stevens and his merry men thoroughly deserve all the success they have achieved, but, like many others, I found myself asking the question, "Why does not the corporation subsidise such a splendid attraction to the town as this band undoubtedly is?" It is left to the residents to support by subscription, the only other source of income being what the Brigadier, or whatever the gold lace covered gentleman's rank may be, can collect in his box. To put such a band on the same footing as an itinerant nigger troupe is unworthy of the town, and unfair to the residents who subscribe to the band's funds. Many do not who ought to, by the bye.

THEN, again, an agitation is afoot to abolish the imposition of a twopenny entrance fee to the pier after six o'clock. During the day, when trippers throng the town, the admission is only a penny, but as soon as the trippers leave, and the residents returning from town want "a breather" on their own property (the pier belongs to the town), the price is raised to twopenny. Why is this? If the corporation think a "penny wise and twopenny foolish" policy is likely to succeed, I venture to differ, and wish all success to the efforts of Mr. Burford Delannoy, of the *Southend Echo*, is making to have such a wrong righted. Stick to it "Burfie!" You will be sure to receive the cordial co-operation of your fellow townsmen, and you may rely on the sympathy of anglers in the struggle.

THE terrible wreck of the *Stella*, with its accompanying loss of precious human lives, is one of those tragedies for which we are becoming accustomed to look at holiday times. This is not the place, nor am I the man, to discuss who is to blame for the awful calamity; but above all the gloom it has caused, one thing shines out bright and clear—the splendid heroism of captain, officers, crew, and, it must be added, passengers. To read of the captain's coolness; of the mate saying good-bye to his wife, to go to certain death in fulfilment of his duty; of stewards handing round life-belts "as calmly as if they were sandwiches"; of gentlemen taking off their life-belts, their only chance of safety, to hand to ladies; and, above all, of the patient bravery with which these delicately-nurtured ladies bore the horrors of that dreadful night, or met their deaths, makes us feel proud of our race. What an object-lesson to those pessimistic croakers who say that old England and her children are deteriorating, that the age of chivalry is past, and such like rubbish. Surely they are worthy successors to the brave men who went down in the *Birkenhead* with drums beating, colours flying, and cheers for their Queen on their lips, or of the heroes and heroines of the Indian Mutiny, and the thousand and one other heart-stirring incidents of our national history. We may, and we all do, mourn their deaths, but at the same time glory in the way in which they have shown the world how Englishmen and Englishwomen can meet danger and death. To speak in terms of commendation of such conduct seems almost an impertinence, but the bereaved relatives may know that the whole nation shares their loss, and weeps with them.

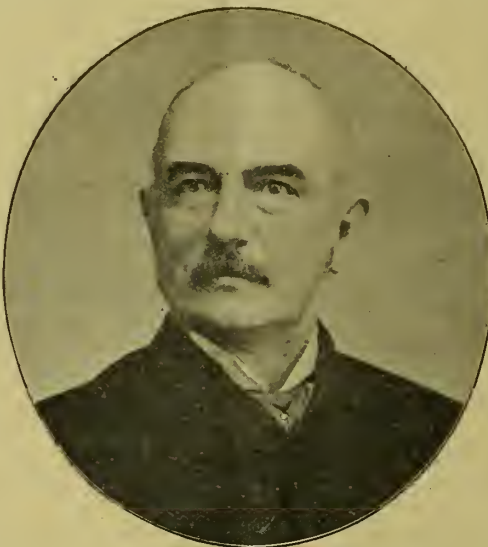
THE Editor, see "Correspondence" (not alone in his impressions), has never heard of a man "taking his float." Why, I remember a very good singer at an angling concert sing, "I'm a float, I'm a float." There you are. He was a float, therefore had no occasion to swallow another.

"THE killing of that otter the other day on the Thames, and close to London," says the *Evening News*, "was a monstrous act and a monstrous error. The otter lives on other food besides fish, and the destruction of an animal now so rarely seen on the Lower Thames is little short of a scandal. That famous old sportsman, the Rev. 'Jack' Russell, of Devonshire, has left it on record that he once travelled 3000 miles to have the pleasure of seeing an otter."

LOVERS of salmon have to thank the recent frosts and heavy snowstorms for its present high price, which has risen from 2s. to 4s. 6d. a pound. Large supplies are usually being received at this time from the Tweed, the Spey, and most of the Scotch rivers, but the salmon have recently been prevented by the weather from entering them, and hence the supply is cut off. A fishmonger in a large way of business in Jermyn-street has informed a *Daily Mail* representative that fishmongers were obliged to fall back on the Irish salmon, though it was hoped the mild weather would soon restore the balance. A Bow-street trader also complained of the short supply, and combated the idea that the high price had anything to do with the extra demand for fish in Holy Week. "As soon as the snow melts and the rivers are in 'spate' fish will," he said, "leave the sea and enter the rivers, and then is the time that the net and rod fishers obtain their sport. I am confident," he added, "that the price of salmon will fall very shortly." [Sooner the better!]

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No. 38 (New Series).



MR. PEREGRINE BALL,

St. Helen's, Fellow of the Institute of Architects, is one of those grand old anglers of whom Lancashire is proud of having them resident in the county. Born near Spilsby, Lincolnshire, he, like many others, has been "ever an angler," and to-day the fever is strong upon him. Always a busy and hardworking man, he, nevertheless, has found time to serve his Queen and country, having first joined in defence, not defiance, in 1862, when he was recruited for the 7th Lincolnshire, then followed service in the 21st North York, 15th Durham, 40th Lancashire, and 47th Lancashire, in which he still serves, but must shortly retire at age limit. But it is as an angler that he is most respected, for never was his time, influence, or purse spared if asked for. As a chairman, the St. Helen's men will always remember him as punctual, with a good grasp of the business, concise in summing up, and decisive when required in a ruling, in fact, a Bayard *sans peur sans reproche*. To-day the finances of the local association speak of his abilities. An adverse balance has been converted into a substantial balance in hand, despite a liberal stocking programme and no stint in other departments. Only a few days ago, on his birthday by the bye, his club suitably acknowledged his many good qualities, and it is the desire of his numerous friends that he may long be spared to do good for the sport we all love.

WITH the commencement of the yachting season a new publication is announced, to be known as "The Skipper." The sub-title, "A Weekly Log of Nautical Matters," sufficiently indicates the scope of the periodical, which will deal with the sport of yachting, and naval matters generally. The paper will be fully illustrated, and sold at the price of 6d. Mr. Julius Gabe, who for some years has been before the public as a yachting journalist, will occupy the editorial chair, and the business management will be in the hands of Capt. Lucius A. Kingston (late 33rd Duke of Wellington's Regiment).

THE great holiday programme has met with immense success at the Royal Aquarium during this week, and is to be continued in its entirety during next week. There are

no less than ninety-one distinct "turns" in the entertainments, which run without cessation throughout the day and night, from 10 a.m. until 11.45 p.m. It is a wonderful show for variety, quantity, and quality. Have you seen the petrified man from Patagonia?

A NEW and cheaper edition of Mr. Frederick M. Halford's well-known book, "Dry Fly Fishing in Theory and Practice," will be issued early in April, by Messrs. Vinton and Co., Ltd. The entire work has been thoroughly revised by the author, all modern improvements in rods and tackle have been treated, and the whole has been brought up to date in every detail. The plate illustrations include a number showing the various styles of "Casting," an illustrative plan "Where to Cast," and some beautiful steel engraved plates, coloured by hand, of the Life History of the May Fly from egg to perfect insect, and of the nymphæ of the smaller Ephemeridæ, Caddis and Shrimp. The edition is described as "In Memoriam George Selwyn Marryat," the original work having been dedicated to that gentleman.

FISHING on the Tamar (Devon), a gentleman caught a trout, about 1½ lb. in weight, which, whilst being taken off the hook, disgorged another fish, quite 4 in. long.

MR. F. KOBELT, of the Blackfriars A.S., has lost both father and mother within the week. I am sure that Dick (a younger son), in New Zealand—and a good all-round sportsman—will be grieved when he hears of the sad bereavement.

THE Gresham water at Cbesham is in capital order. On the opening day fourteen trout were taken. All under 12 in. are returned. Mr. Eldred, on April 5, had very decent sport, capturing three, but retaining only one of 13 in. March Brown was the fly. The "Outing" dinner on Saturday, to Cbesham, will be a pleasant affair.

"BEN" writes to say that he has had a bit of sea fishing at Newhaven, and complains of the scarcity of lug worms. If Ben is a member of the B.S.A.S. he should have called on our agent, H. A. Coates, Sheffield Arms Hotel. However, he captured a few "flat uns," and a nice pollack. Messrs. Burkitt, Neal, and others had a few fish, but as Ben says: "They was off very much."

MR. A. G. SMITH, secretary of the South Bermondsey Club Piscatorialists, has, after five years' faithful service, resigned. He will be greatly missed; for wherever and whenever there was work to be done in the cause of charity, or for our sport, he was sure to be found. He is succeeded by Mr. J. H. Davis (another good man), to whom all communications should be addressed at 63, Credon-road, Rotherbithe New-road, S.E.

THE first annual dinner of tackle manufacturers, held on Thursday night last at the Holborn Restaurant, was a great success, and reflected great credit on Mr. Frank Clay, and others who assisted him in the work connected with such a function. A full account appears on page 241. The "trade" was well represented. By the bye, I think I was present at the dinner which was given to the Tackle Manufacturers about four years ago at the Victoria Mansions Restaurant. That must have been one before the first. On that occasion Mr. R. B. Marston presided. An effort will be made to invite ladies to the next dinner. Why not?

THIS is a tip for those who object to have their names put on the toast list to "reply" or to "propose." If you are hard up for words, say you were told to "stand up; speak up; and shut up!"

THE eighth annual fisheries exhibition at the Royal Aquarium came to a close on Thursday (April 5). I called Mr. Ritchie's attention to a board at Carter's stall, on which was inscribed "Carter's steel rods." Mr. Wilkinson was deputed to warn all other exhibitors of this firm's kleptomantic penchant. Mr. Malcom (of King Malcom), the well-known waterproofers, do not swear by steel, but their leather coats, light, soft, and waterproof, are worth a visit to Leicester-square. Mr. J. J. Hardy, in describing his new reel, said "you press the trigger, the line runs free; your lead goes down to the bottom of the sea. See? oui." Mr. David Slater (who unfortunately is very indispensed) is making me a special "Duke of York" reel, and has invited me to come down to Newark and help myself to some of the big roach and trout, which he will pilot me to. I am going to Newark soon as pos. Some splendid gut was on view at the Aquarium by many of the exhibitors—some of it so fine that you could "read between the lines."

"D'ye no ken," said the minister on his way to the kirk on Sunday, to the naughty little boy, "It's most awfu' wrang to fush on the Sawbath?" "It disna matter, I've no caught a fush," was the reply.

"THE harvest of the sea" consists of many things, and lots of others besides, but one of the most curious finds I have heard of was the packet of old wills and other papers dredged from the sea bottom by the trawler *Bournemouth*, of Milford Haven. You never know your luck, so if any of my trawling friends should by any chance find in their nets papers to prove that I am the long lost heir to vast estates, or a dukedom, I shall be much obliged if they will send them on with as little delay as possible to

DRAUGHT.

SCOTTISH TROUT ANGLERS' ASSOCIATION.

A LARGE and representative gathering of anglers in Edinburgh and district met recently in the West End Café, Princes-street, Edinburgh, under the auspices of the Scottish Trout Anglers' Association. Dr. Spence, one of the presidents of the association, occupied the chair. The first business under consideration was the formation of Edinburgh into a district association. The chairman having called upon the secretary to make a statement thereanent, Mr. Andrew Smith said, that as they knew from the rules of the S.T.A.A. one of the principles embodied was the division of the association into districts, each affiliated to the central association. In this manner each district was able better to look after its own interests. At Glasgow, Elgin, Cupar, Kelsae, and other places, district associations had been and were now being formed. They had not in Edinburgh, it was true, any streams to look after. (Laughter.) If any gentleman was willing to take up the cause of purifying the Almond, it would, of course, be exceedingly gratifying, and he had no doubt such a project would receive the hearty support of the association. (Laughter.) There were, however, a thousand and one matters connected with angling which required attention, and that attention could only be bestowed by a district association. He moved that such an association should be formed. Mr. Peter Boa, of the Midlothian Angling Club, seconded, and the motion was carried unanimously. Mr. Archibald Menzies was elected president of the district, and the following gentlemen were appointed as a committee: Messrs. D. Fisher (Cockburn A.C.), A. Brown, Murray Marr (Saturday A.C.), Donald Stewart (Breadalbane A.C.), Peter Boa (Midlothian A.C.), Robt. Walker (Northern Merchants' A.C.), G. H. Douglas (Amateur A.C.), Dean Smith and Dr. Spence (Amateur A.C.). Powers were given to add to the number if necessary, and the appointment of secretary was left to the committee. The next business before the meeting was the consideration of the advisability of forming a social club for anglers in Edinburgh and the district, somewhat on the lines of the Flyfishers' Club, London. A sub-committee was appointed some time ago to inquire into the matter, and the chairman called upon Mr. Duncan Fraser to open the conference on the subject. Mr. Fraser said it was a matter of deep regret to him that Professor Stanfield was not able to be there that night. He had had the matter in hand from the first. The Scottish Trout Anglers' Association had got a name, and now was seeking for a habitation. It had been found that although there were several angling clubs in Edinburgh, there was no central club which could form a common resort for anglers. From many points of view a central club would be a great boon to Edinburgh anglers. It would enable fishers to meet together, to have social intercourse one with another, to discuss points of interest to themselves, and to exchange information. (A voice: "Swop lies," and laughter.) Different opinions were held as to the housing of the club. Some thought a humble room would be sufficient to start with, others that they might have a suite of rooms with a caretaker, and these were of opinion that they would get a sufficient membership to cover all expenses. These points might be left for future discussion. The thing he wanted to impress upon them was this, that, however it was to be done, it was in the highest degree desirable to have a central club. There might be reading and recreation rooms in connection with this club; also a museum to which the 4-pounders anglers were wont to catch—(laughter)—could be relegated, to be duly admired by the generations to come. In Edinburgh they had no such museum even in connection with their individual associations. In London, and in many other towns in England, such clubs existed, and it had been found they did much to foster the spirit of camaraderie amongst anglers. When the fishing clubs had their competitions they could weigh-in at the club instead of having to go to some place in a back street. Sometimes, of course, it was a good thing that the weighing-in took place in a back street—often there was not much to weigh. (Laughter.) The literary department of such a club would not be the least of its benefits to anglers. He did not know why they had not had an institution of this kind long ago. A man had to come from Perth (Mr. A. Smith) to waken them up in Edinburgh. (Cheers.) Mr. Peter Boa then gave in the report on the financial aspects of the scheme. He thought the club would be a great success, provided they started on a small scale. It was a mistake to start on a large scale and then have to come down. The desirability of the club was not what had given the committee most concern, but the question of ways and means. They did not in the least know the support the proposal was likely to receive. They could have little idea, therefore, of the scale on which they might begin operations. It seemed to him that in the first instance they might begin with two or three rooms. Probably a moderate sized house, that they could get for £30 or £40 a year, would suit, and the remainder of the house could be occupied by someone who, for the privilege of occupancy, would be quite willing to take care of the rooms that were reserved for the use of the club. That was one view of the matter. Of course, there were other views held by members of the committee, some thinking that they might start on a larger, others on a smaller scale. Professor Stanfield, who had drawn up the report, had indicated 200 members as a likely number, but, naturally, that was only an approximate estimate. As to having a museum in the proposed club, he thought it a very good idea. A library for reference, &c., would be extremely useful. He had often noticed in moving about among anglers how ignorant many of them were of the literature of their craft. Of course in all matters of this

kind there was always some anxiety in regard to ways and means. He thought he had indicated the main points that would require consideration in the formation of a club. At present the committee were not in a position to state the actual expenses, but it had been calculated that a membership of seventy-five would carry on a club of the sort mentioned, and leave a sum of £10 or £15 after providing for rent, fires, &c. The proposal to form a club was then put to the meeting by the chairman, and carried *nem. con.* Some discussion arose on the question of subscription. One gentleman present was of opinion that fixing it at a guinea practically meant the exclusion of working men anglers from the club. With this the majority present seemed heartily to concur. Mr. Boa saying they would rather have 150 at half a guinea than seventy-five at a guinea. Another member spoke of 5s. as a still more attractive subscription from a working man's point of view. Ultimately it was agreed to leave the amount of subscription over until it was seen what proportions the membership of the club was likely to assume, and slips were sent round for signatures. A large number of the latter were obtained. A smoking concert was afterwards given, to the great enjoyment of those present. The programme was nicely varied with instrumental and vocal selections; but possibly its chief feature was an address on "The Veracity of Anglers"—from a scientific point of view, see page 237—by the chairman, whose deductions set the risible faculties of his hearers on edge. There is, it may be said, every prospect of the club's taking root and becoming a great social boon to the anglers of Edinburgh; and the subscription is, we understand, not at all likely to prove an exorbitant one, in view of the number of gentlemen who have intimated their desire to join.

AN EVENING WITH SUSSEX ANGLERS.

VISITORS with a previous experience of the proverbially merry feasts of the Sussex Piscatorial Society might have felt, at the ninth annual dinner on Wednesday, that there was a certain chastened element in the mirth of these doughty anglers. Bright and comfortable as was the room at Booth's Restaurant, Brighton, it was pervaded for a time by a perceptible air of gravity. Members ate their dinner with a certain look of consciousness, as though they were oppressed by the sense of the approach of something important. The fact was that something very serious had happened; the honorary secretary, Mr. W. F. Booth, had sent in his resignation. Jovial fellows as these anglers all are, they have found Mr. Booth the life and soul of their festive gatherings, while, as a worker, he has been simply invaluable. As secretary to the society since its beginning, and labouring incessantly as he has done, he has practically been the main factor in keeping it together, and bringing it up to its present success. So it was not altogether surprising to find the toast list devoid of the *jeu d'esprit* that have characterised it, and to feel the consciousness of a check on the hilarity that has at other times reigned supreme. Besides, the members had a secret, and naturally they were not altogether at ease until that secret was out. At the same time, even with all these portents in the air, the Piscatorial Society could not manage to be as solemn as other people. The philosopher of the angle, who will sit uncomplainingly for hours holding on to his rod, came to their rescue, and everybody succeeded in passing a very jolly evening.

What the secret was did not come out at once. Those who were not "in the know" had to wait for it like they have to wait for a bite. Mr. Booth led off by announcing numerous apologies for absence, several members, unfortunately, being too ill to attend. Then Alderman Hawkes proposed the toast of "The Sussex Piscatorial Society." His worship observed that the society was one of the best in the country. Members glanced at him with a pained expression. The mayor saw his mistake. "Oh," he went on urbanely, "of course I should say it is the best society in the country." "Hear, hear," assented the meeting. His worship expressed his conviction that the society was a very good thing for Brighton, and did good work by supplying the Aquarium with fish.

Next the mayor was moved to a confession, and the confession, as he went on, grew more and more startling. "I am no fisherman," he admitted contritely, "except," and then his tone brightened, "I have caught a few roach." (Hear, hear.) The next sentences made the gathering shout. "I don't suppose you call it sport, but I have assisted in netting, and—I have also assisted in wiring fish!" "Shame," cried the meeting cheerily; while the secretary ejaculated, "Oh, I say!" in a tone of comic horror. With his next words the alderman saved himself. "But I can assure you I have not done it since I have come to Sussex." "You wouldn't do that here," he pursued, "you are real fishermen; you angle with a worm at one end and a—a—well, something else at the other." This was too much, and the gathering roared.

A little later the "secret" came out. Mr. W. Wilson Tickle rose and said that he would disclose it, though he complimented members on the discreet way that they had kept it. The society, he said, could not pass over the occasion without some small presentation to Mr. Booth. (Applause.) Small as it was, it represented the "fishing affection" they had for him. (Applause.) It consisted of a "Hardy" split cane steel-centred salmon rod, a "Hardy" trout rod with accessories, and an illuminated address, with a diamond bracelet for Mrs. Booth. They could not but see that Mrs. Booth had sacrificed herself in giving up her husband to attend so many meetings of the society. In appreciative terms Mr. Tickle eulogised the services Mr. Booth had rendered to the society, of which

he was one of the founders. He praised Mr. Booth's untiring energy and attention, and spoke of the fishing waters, by river, lake, and pond, that had been obtained for the society by his instrumentality, by his peculiar tact and courtesy in approaching owners, and getting from them valuable concessions. Mr. Booth had been responsible for the stocking of many waters with fish, and, by example and precept, had instilled into the club those traditions for sportsmanship and gentlemanliness that gave it such a high reputation. (Applause.) His management of finances had also been admirable. The only consolation the club had in losing him as honorary secretary was they retained him on the committee. (Hear, hear.)

Mr. Booth's health was then drunk with the heartiest of cheers, and the singing of "For he's a jolly good fellow."

An ingenious gentleman seized the reel attached to the presentation rods, and wound it vigorously. The familiar rasping was accepted by the meeting as a just and proper accompaniment to anglers' "musical honours." The rods were handed round, and anglers fingered them lovingly; they were such perfect things of their kind. Some irrepressible spirits joined them, and angled for things at the far end of the room. Much as they admired the bracelet, they liked the rods better.

The address was signed by sixty members.

A huge burst of applause greeted Mr. Booth when he rose to respond. His speech was an admirable one, quiet and modest, duly recognising the compliment paid to him and to his wife, and unaffectedly acknowledging that he had worked very hard indeed for the Society. He knew that a man at the wheel was necessary, but, at the same time, there must be good officers and a good crew. The society had had excellent officers and an excellent crew. (Applause.) Carrying on the naval metaphor, Mr. Booth said that at one time there was a little attempt at mutiny, but that had clapped the mutineers in irons, put them under hatches, and on reaching shore got rid of them. Now, with a fair wind and an even keel, the good ship seemed well forward on a prosperous voyage. He did not think he had made many enemies, but he had kept old friends and he had made many new ones.

Regarding the society itself, Mr. Booth said that its position was financially quite sound. At Horsted Keynes they had a remarkably fine piece of water for trout fishing, while, he must also tell them, all the waters fished by the society that contained coarse fish were fully stocked. Very few societies could say that.

The various sentiments produced by these ceremonies having subsided, the evening pursued its normal course. Mr. F. J. Bevis submitted "The Committee and Officers," confessing himself unable to do justice to Mr. Booth, and making special mention of Mr. Tickle, Mr. Goodwin, Mr. Gilling, Mr. Maskell, and the honorary auditors, Mr. J. S. Lee and Mr. J. Hobbs.

In response, Mr. E. W. Mellor told a story that sounded suspiciously like a traditional "angling yarn." He informed the meeting that, to acquire the eloquence necessary for his speech, he had emulated Demosthenes, putting pebbles in his mouth and declaiming on the seashore, trying to outvoice the roaring waves. "But the result, he added plaintively, "was not commensurate with the trouble." His hearers tried to look as though they believed him.

"The Visitors" produced an interchange of compliments between Mr. A. V. Treacher and Capt. Bridgen.

The health of "The Riparian Owners" was honoured at the initiative of Mr. H. Reason, who did full justice to these very necessary and obliging gentlemen. Mr. Reason mentioned that there were no less than seven gentlemen in Sussex who were generous enough to let the society fish in their waters. Incidentally, he referred to the diplomacy displayed by Mr. Booth in getting the society these favours—favours all had availed themselves of as became genuine sportsmen.

Mr. Booth interposed that Sir Raymond Burrell was so generous that he had just provided a new punt, practically solely for the convenience of members of the society. (Applause.)

In response to the toast of "The Chairman," happily proposed by Mr. J. S. Lee, Alderman Hawkes let the meeting into a few secrets as to how it feels to be a mayor. It was very pleasant to get in touch with all classes of society, and especially to find himself in such agreeable company as he did now. The position, of course, was one of great honour. But it was one of very hard work and trying responsibility. The calls upon the mayor got more and more onerous every year. Coming back to his fishing experiences, the mayor observed that he had employed himself in netting the fish in a pond at Knepp Castle. "I don't suppose you call that fishing," he remarked. "No, no," came back the laughing answer. But the mayor got even with them. "It was better than fishing," he averred.

The evening was not allowed to pass without a compliment to the gentlemen who had worked in getting up the testimonial to Mr. Booth. They were: Messrs. C. W. Mellor, P. E. Tickle, W. F. Goodwin, and W. C. F. Gilling, the last acting as hon. secretary and treasurer.

It was not in the speeches that the meeting was made lively. There was plenty of music, and good music, too; what with Mr. Norman Richards at the piano, Mr. P. E. Tickle and Mr. Jenner at the banjo, and with songs by Mr. Longhurst, Mr. Treacher, and Mr. Booth. The jovial rendering by Mr. Booth of "The Accent On" was the hit of the evening. In this way everybody managed to enjoy themselves. The landing of the "biggest fish on record" could hardly have given them greater contentment.—*Brighton Herald*.

Notes from the North.

THE DUKE OF YORK finished his spring salmon angling season on the Dee on Monday evening, and returned to town on Tuesday. The weather has been again the bane of the royal angler's visit to the north, and, had as it was last year, it has been doubly so on the present occasion.

The Duke had two fine fish on Tuesday last of 7lb. and 9lb. from the Fir-park pot on the Abergeldie water, both to the fly. In fact, the Duke prefers the fly to all other lures. On Wednesday last he had one of 16lb., which may be considered a prize on the Dee as far as early springers are concerned, the average weight of which seldom exceeds 7lb. Details of his last two days on the water are not yet to hand.

What is a finnock? is the question in angling circles in the north just now. It is being eagerly discussed in the local prints, the main drift of the observations in general bearing out the generally accepted opinion that finnock or whiting are the grilse stage of the sea trout proper.

On Friday last, in the thick of a snow shower, six anglers on the Eilon Castle water made baskets ranging from fifteen to thirty-seven each, mostly finnock and sea trout, with a few brown trout thrown in. The whole of the sport was got in the space of three hours, and from four pools. The river was in flood.

The anglers at the Invercauld Arms, Ballater, when snowed off the water last week, took to the curling pond, and assisted the local knights of the broom to keep the "roaring game" agoing. It is a unique experience at the tail end of March.

The historic estate of Dunaine, which is situated in one of Perthshire's favoured angling spots, was sold last week for £70,000. The new proprietor is Mr. Bernard, brewer, Leith.

Mr. L. H. Craik, who is fishing the Invercauld private water, Braemar, after being stormed and flooded off the river for fully three weeks, is now getting some brisk sport again. Some bright angling records have been made on this far inland reach in the past, mostly during April.

Sheriff Robertson, Aberdeen, spoke the bare truth on Monday, when he said that trout poaching was the most objectionable form of poaching which went on in the Don, and the most difficult to get at. He sentenced one poacher to a fine of £2, with £1 17s. 6d. of expenses, for netting four trout, and regretted he was not able to mulct his companions in like sums, as there was a slight break in the evidence connecting them with the fish.

A most exhaustive report has been published by the sanitary inspector, Banffshire, as to the damage distillery effluent has wrought on the angling interests of the county. The Fiddich, the Livet, Ruthie, Bogindue, Lyne of Carron, and Forgie are dealt with. These were once prime angling streams, now they are choked with fungus, and in such a foul state it is quite impossible for fish to live in them.

On the Cairnton Dee water during one of the opening days Mr. Wm. Milne, tackle maker, Trinity-street, Aberdeen, hooked and ran fourteen fish to his own rod. There were seven clean and seven kelts. The heaviest clean fish turned the scale at 17lb. Twelve of the fourteen were got on the "Kelsall," a lure well known as a favourite killer on the Tay. Mr. Milne's modesty prevented him giving us the details of his hitherto unreported take sooner.

A few fish were got last week, but the water was too big for much being done. However, Mr. Eustace Drummond had a fine 16½-pounder on Ballogie, and the Hon. E. T. Brooks one of the same weight on the Lodge water. Sport is now much brisker.

Sport has been poor all over the Highland streams, first with the storm, then with the floods. On the Helmsdale, Miss Radcliffe had two fish of 9lb. each one day in the thick of a snowstorm. On two other occasions, lately, she had two, of 8lb. and 9lb. respectively.

Trout anglers on the early reaches of the Don, Deveron, Ythan, and Ugie have been in great glee during past week. Genial weather, fine breeze, fish in splendid rising form, flies abundant, and creels heavy. Heavenly conditions for once.

SPECIAL SCOTCH.

Provincial Notes

FROM BIRMINGHAM AND DISTRICT.

We have at last formed a small fly fishing club in Birmingham, and it will remain to be seen what success the club will attain. It has been started by a small number of members, twenty names only being down on the books. The club, I believe, do not want a large number of members until they can get sufficient waters to accommodate them. The subscription is fixed at one guinea per annum. The water that they have taken may be made into a good trout stream providing it is properly stocked, but they will find that this will be rather expensive, and I question if the subscription will meet the expenses of the club. There are at present a few trout in the portion of the water taken, and these have made their way from the higher portion of the Blythe, which is rented by the Birmingham Piscatorial Society; and I question very much, if the club stock their water, if the fish will remain in the part they rent. I am informed by gentlemen who have fished the water that they do not think they will, but still it will be worth a trial to re-stock it. The Vine Unity rented this water last year, and the members had some decent fish from it, but owing to the action of the party who owns the water the club decided to break their contract with him. This club was about to take over the water again, and so far came to terms with the owner that a legal agreement was made out and forwarded to him for his approval, but it was immediately returned with a letter stating that he had let the water to another club. This has been very disappointing to the latter club, and they will, no doubt, place the matter before the association at an early date, as it is a rule not to allow one club to take the water out of the hands of another club by offering to pay a larger rent. The Vine Unity were the first to agree to take the water, and sent three deputations over to Hamstall Ridware to make the necessary arrangements for taking the water and a portion of the Trent. The new club, I am sure, do not know anything of these circumstances or they would have made some inquiries into the matter, and I hope that no friction will occur through them taking the water, and that the new club will turn out a thorough success. The Hearts of Oak Society held what they term their re-stocking contest on Monday last at Acton. The contest is carried out on the following lines: The members are allowed a roving commission to fish the canal which they rent; each one has a bait can, which are collected by the referee during the contest, and all live fish, with the exception of the ruffe and the gudgeon, are placed to the credit of the member taking them. At the close of the contest the fish are counted up, when the member taking the largest number receives the first prize, and so on until the prizes are exhausted. By this means a number of prizes left over from past contests are got rid of. Upon the present occasion a good number of fish were taken, and safely transferred to the river Penk, which is rented by the club, and which runs adjacent to the canal. The chief takers of fish are in the order named: Mr. Clem Wainwright, E. Jackson, A. Turner, T. Bates, H. Greaves, A. Jackson, &c. The prizes won by the members of the Birmingham and District Angling Association at the Trades Exhibition at Bingley Hall will be distributed on Friday evening next, April 14, in the lecture-room, Bingley Hall, at 8.30, by Mr. T. Coles. The show of fish is a great attraction, and as a large number of special trains are running into Birmingham during the run of the show, which extends to May 20, those interested in fish should not fail to visit the exhibition. A large number of our members have been out trout fishing, but very little sport so far has been had. The rivers Severn and Teme have been visited, and some small fish have been taken, but as they have been out of condition they have been returned to the water. One of our members, a week ago, was spinning with a minnow for trout on the Severn, above Hampton Lodge, when he hooked and landed a salmon which weighed 18lb.

FROM DERBYSHIRE.

Characteristic April weather has prevailed in Derbyshire during the week, but owing to frequent strong breezes it has not been very favourable for fly angling. Showers have fallen at intervals on most days, and the waters have in places been at times somewhat discoloured. The rain has, however, freshened and cleansed the streams, and they are now (Wednesday) in excellent angling condition. So far, not much has been done with the fly, but trollers and bottom fishers have in many places done tolerably well. Fishing upstream with baits of worms has proved very successful, and some decent lots of trout have been captured by that method. As a rule the fish are not at present in first-rate condition; but, considering the early stage of the season, there is not much to complain of. The Lochlevens are in better

condition than the brown trout, as is frequently the case in the early part of the spring. On the Upper Derwent there has not been much successful fly fishing, the catches having been few and small, and the weather has kept many anglers from the streams. There are now three Bills before Parliament affecting the Derwent, respectively promoted by the Corporations of Derby, Sheffield, and Leicester, to utilise the upper waters between Ashopton and the source of the river as a water supply for those towns. One of them may be successful, but it is to be hoped that the Dukes of Devonshire and Norfolk, the principal riparian owners, will see that angling and other rights are properly protected. Several anglers have been out on the favourite Hathersage lengths, but very few good baskets have been made, and similar remarks apply to the Calver waters. There has been a fairly good number of anglers on the Chatsworth and Baslow lengths, where fish are plentiful; but the sport generally has been but of a moderate description, and few large creels have been made on any part of these waters. The Darleydale and Matlock reaches, as also those of Holmesford, Watstanwell, and Ambergate, have had a fair share of bottom anglers, with a few fly men, some of whom have taken nice lots of fish. Artificial fly fishers have on some parts of the Wye done tolerably well, but nothing worthy of special mention. On the Dove there has been a fair number of fly anglers, some of whom have met with respectable success; but, on the whole, sport has not, even on that stream, been quite up to the mark. Trout are numerous on most parts of the river, and in the neighbourhood of Milldale and Load Mill the waters receive careful attention. Lord Hindlip, who owns a good stretch of the Dove there, has erected substantial lodges for his keepers, to whom the care of the river is committed, and fresh stock is added as often as occasion requires. The fishing thereabouts is excellent, and the stream generally is benefited by the attention bestowed on these parts of it. What is wanted now is more settled weather and less wind, and until it arrives fly fishing will be pursued under somewhat unfavourable conditions, and consequently with but moderate success. The following flies will be found useful on all the Derbyshire streams: Furnace, Red Fly, Claret Bumble, Cock-wing Dun, and Blue Dnn.

FROM THE FEN DISTRICT (LINCOLNSHIRE).

From a trout angler's point of view the Easter holidays have practically been devoid of sport. The great desideratum—rain—has not fallen in sufficient volume to improve the condition of the streams, which in some places are so low that the water has almost ceased to flow. The fish, consequently, have generally accumulated in the deeper holes, and those who have operated here have generally been successful in landing a brace or two. To some extent the high winds which have prevailed during the week have militated against sport. Flies are generally showing on the water, and the fish have shown some activity in the evenings, when the best sport has been obtained.

FROM HULL AND DISTRICT.

The weather still continues mild, with occasional showers, in this district, and the river Hull and its tributary hecks and streams are all more or less in first class condition for either fly or minnow fishing; but no trout of any size worth recording have as yet been taken, although several large fish have been on the rise in various parts of the river. A few small ones were taken during the Easter holidays, going from about ½lb. to ¾lb. each, even as low down the river as Wavne and Dunswell; but even in this district the water is very clear for this season of the year, which has been greatly against the success of our match fishers. Nevertheless, the tides during the present week are making, which will no doubt have the desired effect of slightly discolouring the waters, and bringing them into better condition for successful operations with the worm. The flounders and eels are fairly on the run again in the lower waters, and odd large trout have been on the rise near to Gibraltar and Burton Hall, showing that the salmon trout are making up the river from the Humber. Salmon are reported to be making up the river Humber for the Trent and Ouse, and their enemy, the "porpoise," has put in an appearance rather earlier than usual. The Easter holiday matches have been more or less a miserable failure so far as pleasure and sport was concerned, especially those arranged for Good Friday on the river Hull, for in this district it rained almost incessantly all throughout the day, making matters very unpleasant for the competitors, and in many instances they abandoned the match to seek pleasure and comfort elsewhere; and some of the clubs did not stake out, but adjourned their match *sine die*; and in others, who made an attempt and weathered it, not a single fish was caught; and in the Ramblers' Angling Association match, which took place on Minto Flatts, only one competitor (Mr. Alfred Rooms) secured a fish. But at Hull Bridge the members of the Derringham Angling

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Club fared a little better, for they just managed to dispose of the prizes, rendering an adjournment unnecessary, the fortunate competitors being Messrs. John Thackray, John Thorpe, J. Deyes, J. Carter, George Cheeseman, T. H. Wardell, and Geo. Chew, in the order given. But those clubs that fished their matches on the Holderness drains, so far as sport was concerned, certainly fared much better, for these drains, having a direct communication with the brackish waters of the river Humber, are more prolific amongst flounders and eels than the river, although at times it abounds with them in the lower portion, especially in May and June. The Royal Albion Angling Society fished their first match of the season on the river at Weel Ferry on the 9th inst.; and on Saturday next the Hoon's Angling and Recreation Society open their season at the same place; and on the 16th the Osborne A.S. will fish their first match in Lincolnshire at Tetney lock, on the river Ludd.

FROM THE LAKE DISTRICT.

Although the weather on Good Friday and subsequent days was not of a type to please the ordinary holiday maker, anglers had least cause of any class to complain. Mild, dull days, with an almost continual drizzle of rain, following a heavier downfall last week, had the effect of increasing the volume of water, and bringing fish on the feed. There was a fairly good turn out of fishermen, and sport was satisfactory in most quarters, the worm proving most effective on rivers. Present indications point to a successful season, providing the elements prove propitious. Trout are plentiful, and are in better condition than a fortnight ago. The Rev. J. McConnell and Mr. Crump have had baskets of trout from the Winster that seem to indicate an improvement in this river. Good takes are reported from the Lne, the Kent, and its tributaries, Mr. A. Sanl having thirty trout from the Sprint on Monday, but at the time of writing reliable details were difficult to obtain. On the opening day on Windermere (Saturday), Mr. John Watson, Kendal, had a dozen trout. Wednesday was stormy, with a heavy rainfall, and there are indications of a greater rise in rivers, and consequent "worm waters."

FROM LANCASHIRE.

The Warrington Anglers' Association announce a further acquisition of desirable fishing waters for their members and friends. The water in question is another length of the river Bollin, at Heatley. Some few good baskets are reported from the Ribble, but the weather has not been at all favourable; during Easter, especially on Monday, it was exceedingly wet. The tickets for the Worley Canal Fishery are now ready for issue. Several alterations have been made in the rules and regulations, especially as regards the challenge shield competition, the conditions of which should now fall in with the oft expressed wish of many supporters. The East End Angling Association, Liverpool, at their last meeting, considered the value of the prizes to be offered in the coming season. They also had two papers on topics connected with fishing, from the pens of Messrs. W. Jones and S. F. Chantler. Several members of the Nelson Angling Society have been busy catching fish and transferring them to their own waters.

FROM MANCHESTER.

The Wellington Angling Society, Moston, have gone into stocking with a spirit that speaks well for the future of their recently acquired waters. Mr. Will Chambers has secured them 2000 roach, which the members report as being very fine indeed, and should do well in their new home. This club is said to be a lot of "stay at homes"—well, at any rate, they believe in looking well after home. Good luck to your home. Mr. C. H. Robinson, the hero of the Wyresdale competition, and Mr. Smith have been away for Easter. Friday was flood water, Saturday was somewhat better, but Monday afforded the best sport; in all the total of sizeable trout taken was thirty-four brace; this is considered by these gentlemen as moderate, but by many would be a red-letter record. Several of our men have paid their usual Easter visit to Llanymynech, but report sport as only poor, small jack were a trifle troublesome, a few trout were taken in poor condition, and several grayling in good condition, but, of course, were returned to the water for another day. The record of our townsman, Mr. Selkie, for pike taken from Hornea Mere from October to February was 1883lb. weight. At some future date we hope for more details. Bala has been visited by one local, who, on March 31 and April 1 and 3, killed two and a half brace, two and a half brace, and five and a half brace of good trout in a few hours' fishing each day about noon. One city angler passing the Dane on his bicycle interviewed one or two fishing, and ascertained they had found each a few decent trout. Next time he intends to vary his recreation by taking his rod, and trying for a few trout himself. Mr. C. Walmesley and friends, out in Cheshire, have found a few good dishes of trout, and Mr. S. McCrerrick, near Chorley, also got a brace of very fine fish, each one a good meal. Some good reports are to hand from club waters, those from the Buckland and Moss Side Angling Societies are particularly pleasing. Others no less pleasing are the Levenshulme, Kingfisher, and other societies preserving waters.

FROM NOTTINGHAM.

The recent holidays attracted salmon anglers to Shardlow and King's Mills, but no fish were landed. The fact is, the Trent, at both places, was running in too big a volume. Trout fishers were out on Easter Monday and Tuesday on various parts of the Dover Beck, and sundry brace of fish were creel'd by the aid of bottom bait. News from the lower Trent is of a startling character. It reads as follows: "Considerable sensation has been aroused in Stockwith and the adjoining Trentside villages by the capture of a young whale in the Trent at the mouth of the Idle. A young man named Farr saw the strange animal disporting itself in a rather tight spot at the entrance

to the Idle, and after several endeavours succeeded in hooking it (with what?). With the assistance of a number of other persons, the budding leviathan was hauled ashore, and on being measured it was found to exceed 14ft. in length. The species of the whale is not announced. It is on record that a large shark was, many years ago, captured at Gainsborough, but, so far as is known, this is the first time that a whale has got so far out of its course as Stockwith. It is, however, asserted that a few years back a whale, weighing over two tons, was caught near Owston Ferry, which is four miles lower down the river than Stockwith." The Kendal otter hounds met on the Greet on Thursday, and next week I hope to be in a position to record their doings. Sir Henry Bromley, of Stoke Hall, had very kindly sent me an invitation to attend the ousting of otters known to inhabit the noted trout tributary of the Trent.

FROM SHEFFIELD.

The Easter holidays have again demonstrated to the fullest extent the glorious uncertainty of the English weather. Good Friday was a most wretched day, and those anglers who had looked forward to commencing sport on that day had to postpone their outing. Since then the weather has been on the whole very favourable for fishing, and as the trout season may now be considered to be in full swing, most of the waters have been well patronised. The river Amber, which is within easy reach of Sheffield, has fished fairly well, the free portions of the river providing some decent sized trout; whilst the members of the Sheffield Trout Anglers' Society, who rent a stretch of water near Amber Mill, have done very well, the water being in fine condition, and the trout taking the worms to the utmost satisfaction of the fishermen. Between Millhouses and Beauchief the river Sheaf has provided very unsatisfactory sport, the fact being that building operations are extending too rapidly in that district to give fish much of a chance. The river Loxley has been well looked after, with the result that several nice takes of capital trout have been made. The Damflask reservoir, belonging to the Sheffield Corporation, always contains some big fish, but the number of tickets issued this year will be strictly limited, and will not be available before May 1. The rivers Wye and Derwent may now be said to have fully recovered from the intensely cold weather of a fortnight ago, and are now in capital order for fishing. In the private waters at Matlock Bridge and Matlock Bath anglers have had a good time, accounting for many brace of finely-conditioned fish. The higher reaches of both the Wye and the Derwent have been providing the best sport, and the conditions for fishing are improving every day.

FROM SHROPSHIRE.

Agreeable weather characterised the brief Eastertide holiday season, and the Severn and tributaries were visited by a fairly large number of anglers. Sport, however, seems to have been anything but good, and little worthy of record appears to have been done. Most of our Shropshire streams are yet cold in temperature, and very few rising fish are to be observed. Spinning will yield the best results until warmer weather comes, but if sport with the fly is sought in spite of unpropitious conditions the March Brown, Red Spinner, and one or other of the Duns will be found most likely to kill. A rather large March Brown, fished wet, is perhaps the most popular of all flies with Severn anglers, and if the dark patterns fail, a yellow-bodied one may often be substituted with advantage.

FROM WORCESTER AND DISTRICT.

The weather was all an angler could wish this Easter-tide, which induced many to seek the waterside; but sport among the trout was slow, and very few fish were brought home. Some of our clubs do not commence trout fishing until Good Friday. The Izaak Walton Club fished their water, and took some quantity of fish, but they were under the 9in. standard, and were most of them returned to the water again. The Greenbacks Club fished their water, and had very good sport, but most of the trout were returned to the water, being under the limit, with one exception, and that was a grand fish over 2lb., which was caught by Mr. Leach, the treasurer of the club. There were some very fine roach taken in the same water, six of the fish weighed over 5lb. The Worcester City Club fished their water on Monday, but sport was very slow indeed; and other members fished the Teme in various localities, and although the weather was so fine, neither minnow, worm, maggot, or fly was of much use. Some whipped the water for hours, and tried all the likely flies, but sport was almost nil. The worm proved the best killing bait. The Pershore Avon Angling Club had an important meeting, and the taking of immature fish was discussed at some length and condemned. Mr. Jno. Taylor proposed a rule dealing with the matter as follows: "That no fish shall be taken from the river Avon, or any other stream, under 2oz on days of contest or any other occasion (unless for baits). Any member infringing this rule shall be brought before the committee and fined." Provisions are made to decide the size of fish on days of competition, and otherwise to remove any excuse for taking fish under size. Several members strongly supported the proposition, and it was put to the meeting and unanimously carried, and the president (G. Workman, Esq.) expressed

A JERRY-BUILT HOUSE, in quite an aristocratic part of London, the other day literally fell down about its occupier's ears. Outwardly there was nothing wrong almost to the very last, and when the catastrophe occurred it spread consternation throughout the neighbourhood. Many people suffering from ill-health keep up a brave appearance, and no one knows the truth until it is too late. They go about deceiving themselves as well as others. Why, oh why are they so foolish? Their blood is impure, their nerves are shattered, disease is eating away their life. Well-advised indeed are they if, even at the eleventh hour, they turn to Holloway's Pills and Ointment—remedies which give new life and vigour to all who avail themselves of them.

the great pleasure he felt at the action of the club, as the extensive depletion of fish in the Avon had become a very serious matter, and he hoped the great angling associations would also earnestly consider the matter, and use every effort to restore the river Avon to what it formerly was—one of the best coarse fish rivers in the world. The taking of small fish was most unsportsmanlike, and should be stopped. We trust every man deserving the name of angler will do his best to help the club in carrying this rule into effect.

FROM YORK AND DISTRICT.

The weather on Good Friday was cold and cheerless, with a tantalising rain falling most of the day. It seemed as if the conditions which earlier in the week rendered angling disappointing were returning; but a favourable change gradually advanced, and springlike weather has prevailed during the early days of the month. The higher temperature has been favourable to fly fishing, which has been pursued with success on most waters. The best streams are well stocked, and the fish, moreover, are carefully preserved. The Wharfe, Yore, Swale, Nidd, Rye, and Derwent are in a satisfactory condition, the recent showers, whilst freshening the landscapes and enhancing the natural beauty of the country through which the rivers flow, giving a little more life to the still waters; the gusty winds, too, which have not been too strong, having a beneficial effect. Some trout in prime condition have been hooked. The York Amalgamation of Anglers held a meeting a few days ago, and aired a few of their more prominent grievances. One of these was the question of the river Ouse, and the following resolution was unanimously passed: "That the Amalgamation waters on the Ouse be closed during the close season for fresh-water fish, and that the resolution come into force at once." It may be explained that the Melbourne Club had called the attention of the amalgamation to the desirability of memorialising the Yorkshire Fishery Board to close the Ouse during the period stated, and to prohibit the use of click nets. This suggestion was generally approved, but so as to give strength to the claim on the board, the above resolution was brought forward. The amalgamation, in order to participate in the advantage derived from the consignment of young trout by the fishery board, have had to look out for a more suitable stream to receive the fish than any of the waters at their disposal, and they have succeeded in acquiring several miles of excellent trout water. Many York anglers feel sore on account of an intimation that the fishery board has cancelled the order with the Wyresdale authorities, and an explanation of the situation is awaited with interest.

ANSWERS TO CORRESPONDENTS.

CHILDON.—At Eynsford the Plough Inn, or Red Lion at Farningham.

Correspondence

[We do not hold ourselves responsible for the opinions expressed by our Correspondents.]

A YANKEE LYCHNOBITE.

DEAR SIR,—A few weeks ago "Dragnet" noted that the Lychnobites were to have a grand "smoker," and that he had dropped in at a committee meeting, and found certain members, named, "under full pressure of steam." As I am a lychnobite of long standing, and an angler as well, I am eligible to membership in that club or society, provided they do not put the moral or mental standard too high. I was an angler first and a lychnobite afterward, but that might not lead to a number of black balls if the fact that I was in prison for eight and a half months could be overlooked. I might as well state that I was in prison once, and only once, as to have it come out after I had been proposed as a member, but then I live "across the creek," and couldn't attend meetings, so let that go.

The name of the society attracted me long ago, and I pondered on it, wondering if they worked in the dark of the moon, in private ponds, or only worked o' nights in the club-room. Byron was a lychnobite, and wrote:

"Most glorious night!
Thou wert not sent for slumber!"

The fact that "Mr. Tom Pedley, Mr. Gus Cannell, Messrs. L. A. Swalby, C. Townsend, W. J. Povey, and Tom Edwards" were "under full pressure of steam," while "Mr. West and Mr. L. Chaplais were working hard in a good cause," raised the questions why only two should be working, and upon what the other gentlemen got up steam. As a lychnobite who is past six score, and who has experimented somewhat with "steam," let me warn them against Pelusian wine, which in England is heavier than the German article, and hath a somnolent spirit in it, which is a foe to lychnobites; rather let them partake, in moderation, of something more warming and cheering, not the doleful Lachryma Christi from Vesuvius, nor Liebfraumilch from the Rhine, but rather the Usquebaugh from the hills which unfolds the ruge of the brain, and makes it active and fit for (k)nightly labour.

Somehow I like these "like-no-bite" duffers, for I've fished many a day with no result, and then stuck out my chin and said: "It is not all of fishing to fish, I was not out for fish, but took a rod to knock down a few cherries as I strolled along viewing the beauties of nature." Even a lychnobite must admit that a fellow must lie once in a while, because it is easier than to wear one's heart upon his sleeve for "jays" to peck at. Of course, the anglers of England know that there is no "daw" in all Yankee-land, and that their Transatlantic cousins miscall a yokel a "jay."

Again the question: Why do they like-no-bites? If

they are night fishers as well as what fat Jack called "minions of the moon," then let me recommend to them a most beautiful word picture on night fishing by a Mr. W. Shakes Beer. I quote from memory, please excuse mistakes and a bad pen.

"How sweet the moonlight sleeps upon this bank!
Here will we sit and get our tackle out,
While heavy throated frogs do stun our ears
With communistic croakings like the anarchist.
Come, sit thee down, and let the songs of skeeters
Creep in our ears; soft stillness and the night
Become the touches of sweet harmony.
Sit, Jess, my boy: Look how the surface of the pond
Is thick inlaid with frog-spittle of bright green;
There's ague in it; don't cast there
Because perchance you'll only hook 'blind eels,'
As urchins term the pond weed, or a snag.
Give me another grub; now cast yonder
Among the lily pads, and I'll bet you seven shillings
You'll hook a gudgeon before your line gets down.
Look! Jess, my boy: How those tadpoles swim!
There's not the smallest pollywog which thou beholdest,
But in his motion like an angel sings;
Still quiring to the young eyed sticklebacks:
Such harmony is in the wide-mouthed bullhead,
But while this muddy pickerel weed
Doth grossly close it in we cannot hear it."

The author of these lines, if I have quoted him correctly, was a lychenobite, but it is rumoured that he is dead, therefore he couldn't get into the society if he tried. Perhaps I couldn't, and I won't try, there's too much "agin" me, but I'd like to be with 'em, no matter if they do work their neighbour's chicken roosts at night. A chicken is a mighty good bird. He is an F.R.S., and don't you forget it, for he is good fried, roasted, or stewed, just like an oyster, and the oyster is often a fellow in royal society.—Yours truly, FRED MATHER.

Brooklyn, N.Y.
[Col. Fred Mather was an officer in the "Army of the Potomac," 1862-65, but was a prisoner of war from June 16, 1864, to March 1, 1865, and it is to this that he refers when he says he was "in prison." He entered the army as a private, and fought through the American Civil War, coming out as a captain, and when his country declared war with Spain last year he raised a regiment, and was appointed lieutenant-colonel. He thought there was one more campaign in him if it could be got out at once, and he was longing for one more.—Ed.]

A FISHING FLOAT INSIDE A MAN.

DEAR SIR,—The enclosed is from the *Leamington Courier* of April 1. As we hear complaints of the increasing number of anglers, the publication of it broadcast might deter some from practising such a dangerous sport. We all, or most of us, know of the man who carried worms in his mouth, but he drew the line at floats. Surely this is a record.—Yours faithfully, J. HOBSON.

"A REMARKABLE EXPERIENCE.—The Warneford Hospital contains a patient at the present time who has passed through a rather remarkable experience. His name is Alcock, and he belongs to Leamington, being the son of Mr. Alcock, shoeing smith, Windsor-street. Some few weeks ago he experienced great pain in one of his thighs, and as a result became an in-patient of the Warneford Hospital. Investigation and examination established beyond doubt the presence of some foreign substance in the thigh, and an operation was in due course performed. It was then found the foreign body consisted of a porcupine float used on a fishing line, which the young man is supposed to have accidentally swallowed, about a year ago. Assuming the float was swallowed—and it is difficult to account for its being where it was found had it not been—it must have worked its way through the stomach into the thigh, here setting up the irritation which led to its removal. Since the operation the patient has been making a speedy recovery. A singular feature of the case is that he has no recollection of ever having swallowed the float."

[It is not an uncommon thing for an angler to "take his hook," but this is the first we have heard of one taking his float.—Ed.]

DO SEVERN SALMON TAKE A FLY?

SIR,—Can you inform me whether the salmon in Severn take the fly as a rule, so as to make it worth while using that only?—Yours truly, FLY MAN.

[We have heard of salmon being taken occasionally with the fly in the upper part of the Severn, but not lately. It is waste of time to go to the Severn to fly-fish for salmon or angle for salmon in any way.—Ed.]

FISHING IN WALES.

DEAR SIR,—Can you or any of your readers tell me of any place in Wales where, for a moderate expenditure, I can get a week's board-lodging and trout fishing? Are Welsh trout better worth catching than the wretched little sprats they call trout in Devonshire?—Yours faithfully, MEDICUS.

FISHING IN SWITZERLAND.

DEAR SIR,—I shall be obliged if you or any of your subscribers can tell me whether there is any trout fishing to be had at this time of year in the neighbourhood of Zurich (Switzerland), either by payment or otherwise?—Yours truly, MARINA JONES.

GENTLES BRED IN WINTER.

SIR,—"Fossdyke," in his exhaustive and interesting article on the above subject, says that his gentles were far superior to those supplied by a certain dealer who advertised in the *Fishing Gazette*; but, from

what I have heard how gentles are bred in winter on a large scale, I am afraid "Fossdyke" would be out of pocket if he supplied the public throughout the winter with gentles bred as he suggests. He says: "True, they are not to be had freshly bred (i.e., in the winter)." But I say they are to be had freshly bred, and are kept in damp golden sand, and sold at several shops in London and elsewhere."

The finest gentles I ever saw were bred from the best rump steak and a sheep's head, being larger than gentles even bred from liver; but what dealer could stand this expense? None of these gentles bred in the winter, that I have used, were so large and vigorous as those bred in the summer, and I feel sure that they never will be whilst the present artificial method is followed. Mr. C. H. Wheeley, in his book "Coarse Fish," published by Lawrence and Bullen, says, of these gentles, "In winter fishing I keep a small supply from the gentle bag in a tin box, in a warm pocket, or warm the box in the hand; the warmth makes the gentles stir, and puts them in fine condition for the hook; they soon die in cold water, when I pull them all off, and entirely renew the bait."—I am, &c., JUST SO.

FISHING IN LOCH FYNE.

DEAR SIR,—Having by D. MacBrayne's steamers and a yacht been as far north as Oban some time since, I noticed, especially with regard to fishing, the appearance of Loch Gilp, which runs north to Lochgilphead.

The Glasgow steamers *Iona* or *Columbia* run to Ardrishaig, where is good yacht anchorage. A large part of Loch Gilp becomes dry at low water; and, passing in a machine, I noticed innumerable lug worm casts, which would supply unlimited bait for plaice. There is a range of rock allongshore, S.E. by E., for about two miles, depth from three to seven fathoms, and a mile beyond are forty-eight fathoms, and, no doubt, congers in plenty, as Scotchmen dislike congers and all kinds of eels as food. Ardrishaig is a great herring station, and often plenty can be had for bait. The side fins of plaice will catch skate, and with this bait my friend caught one of 60lb., and afterwards, on a long line, another of 100lb.

Loch Fyne, just off the point, is three and three-quarter miles wide, and elevations of bottom are continual for two miles south, and from five to depth of forty-two fathoms. The chart of Loch Fyne is on the table before me.—Yours truly, J. C. WILCOCKS.

HOW THE T.A.P.S. TREATS ITS FRIENDS.

The Thames honorary river keepers have received the following letter from Mr. Gough, the secretary of the Thames Conservancy:

"Victoria Embankment, E.C.

"DEAR SIR,—The conservators have received representations from the Thames Angling Preservation Society as to the desirability of further restricting the use of the cast net in the river, and the society suggest that only those holders of deputations who are professional fishermen should have the power to use the net in future.

"The conservators concur in this view, as they feel the proposal would, if carried into effect, be of advantage in the interests of the fishery, and they propose that from and after April 1 only such holders of deputations as are fishermen registered under the Thames Fishery Bye-laws shall be allowed to use the cast net.

"The conservators trust they may rely on your ready acquiescence in the above, and they will feel obliged if you will not, after the date named, use a cast net in the river.—I am, dear sir, yours faithfully, "JAMES H. GOUGH."

The T.A.P.S. has thus robbed its appointed honorary keepers of a privilege which a deputation carries, and it is possible that the society will lose many friends through their action. It may be well to explain briefly the situation. The T.A.P.S. has for some time recommended certain anglers to the Thames Conservancy to act as honorary river keepers. This has always carried with it the right of using the cast net. Few of the honorary keepers have ever taken advantage of this, but have always had the pleasure (if it is one) of knowing that if they wished to do so they might. Now the T.A.P.S. has robbed them of this. Surely if the T.A.P.S. cannot trust the people they recommend for a deputation to use a cast net the society cannot trust them with the powers of assistant river keepers.

In conversation with a member of the T.A.P.S. committee I learned that some discussion had arisen through the holder of a deputation being suspected of using a cast net and selling bait, and, therefore, the society recommended this method of stamping it out. Surely the T.A.P.S. might have withdrawn the deputation, and thus stopped any illegal transactions. Now they have insulted all their honorary keepers, because by their action they clearly prove that they cannot trust them.

It may be generally known that I hold a deputation, and it may be thought that this is a personal matter, so I just add that on no account would I accept a deputation from the T.A.P.S. I received mine from the Conservancy direct, and although I have had the power to use a cast net for some years I never have done so, and I have no cast net if I wished to do so. But what I strongly object to is this shabby treatment by the T.A.P.S. of its own honorary keepers. I hear, too, that not only does this affect those with deputations in the lower reaches, but honorary keepers in the higher parts of the river have been requested not to use the cast net, so that the up-river anglers who hold deputations have something to be thankful to the T.A.P.S. for.

So far as Kingston is concerned, the only person I have ever seen use the cast net is Johnson, the fisherman, for bait for his customers. I do not believe any fish are caught by these nets and sent away for bait, and if the T.A.P.S. knew of one of its own keepers doing this, why did they not withdraw the deputation? If the society want to stop dace being sent to the market there is the

proper way of doing it, for the fish that are sent away are caught by rod and line, and the T.A.P.S. officials know it and have often stated it. But, there, where are the paid river keepers to look after this? There are none, and the so-called preservation work is therefore disgusting and heart-breaking to those who really have an interest in the river.

F. H. AMPHLETT.

[We cannot suppose that it was ever intended that honorary river keepers should have the right to use a cast net to take bait in the Thames, as it would be to the prejudice of the professional fishermen.—Ed.]

SCOTCH SEA FISHERY QUERY.

DEAR SIR,—I would recommend Mr. G. de Maupas to take steamer to Oban and look up Mr. Munroe, who is well up in this class of information, and does a large business, besides being a yacht agent.

If Mr. Munroe approves, I would suggest Tobermory as the stopping place, which is a trifle more than a nautical mile from Rana Gal Lighthouse, at the north entrance of the Sound of Mull, the chart of which, including the N.W. coast of that island, lies spread on the table before me. The bay of Tobermory is a grand natural harbour, one and a quarter miles in length and six cables in width, and Calla Isle, a mile long, protects it from the east; but as the coast of Argyll is only a mile off, there is much shelter unless the winds blow from N. by W., or S. by E., the direction of Mull Sound. Close to Tobermory town is good anchorage in from six to twenty fathoms, mud bottom. H. water, full and C. Tobermory Bay, Vh. 36m. Spring tides rise 13ft; neap to 9½ft. Close to all rocky cliffs, in the West Highlands, where I have fished, I have caught pollack, and the more open the place the larger the fish. Less than six miles from Tobermory is the "fishing bank," a little more than a mile from the shore, where all kinds of fish frequenting the coast may be expected.

I should advise his taking at least a dozen of the india-rubber spinning sand eels, red, white, and black, at 4s. per dozen, and also half dozen largest size at 9s. per dozen; half dozen 3ft. collars of double and three of treble salmon gut, two strong brass swivels on each an inch long, from C. and R. Brooks, 62, Southside-street, Plymouth; and a similar lot from Mr. W. Hearder, 195, Union-street. You get off these coasts pollack of 15lb. or more at times, to say nothing of coal fish (stenlocks), possibly larger. Most people are not prepared with stout enough snooding on their hooks. An acquaintance showed me his hands scored with cuts (lately healed) caused by these huge fish, for which tarpon tackle would seem not too stout, with its appurtenances, to be seen at the Army and Navy Stall, at the Fisheries Exhibition, Aquarium, Westminster, or their warehouse.

I strongly advise him to purchase this chart, price 4s.—title, "Sound and North-West Coast of Mull"—of Mr. J. D. Potter, 31, Poultry, London. Get it sent on a roller to avoid breakage. It is a most useful and lovely work of art, reaching from Lismore to Staffa, thence to Ardnamurchan, on to Loch Snart, thence to Rana Gal Light and Tobermory. There are two views of Ardnamurchan Lighthouse and one of Rana Gal. If a yacht is wanted, ask Mr. Munroe if he has the Plymouth yacht in his hands, seventeen tons, owned some time since by Mr. L. If he takes with him a peck of mussels, he may possibly get plaice or dabs in the harbour, or a large pollack on a stray line, at or after dusk.—Yours truly, J. C. WILCOCKS.

FISHING AT COLNBROOK.

SIR,—Could you kindly inform me through the columns of the *Fishing Gazette* if the river Colne, from the Great Western Railway Bridge to Colnbrook, is public or private property? And if private, could you kindly publish the address with the name of the lessee?—Yours respectfully, J. HUNT.

[The Colne is private from the G.W.R. Bridge, and leave very rarely given. The gravel pits outside Colnbrook Station are the property of G.W.R., and leave must be obtained to fish. Some good fish at times are taken here; also at Colnbrook (river Colne). Mr. Galton, of Star and Garter Hotel, will let you fish from his garden, at the end of which runs the Colne. There is a big pond at Horton, off the Bath-road, Colnbrook, for tench, bream, pike, perch, &c. Mr. Dnnham, of the Five Bells, Horton, will direct you to the spot. It is free fishing. The Anglers' Association has a stretch of the Colne at Horton open to its members. Particulars also at the Five Bells.]

REPORTED NETTING OF THE TEME AT LUDLOW.

DEAR SIR,—While reading your fishing reports of last week I was surprised to see in the reports a portion which I beg leave to draw your attention to, in which it states that there are said to have been signs of netting in some of the private waters below Ludlow. I beg to contradict such a statement, and to state that I travel the said waters twice a week at the least, and I have not seen the least signs of any netting having taken place this season. I have even taken notice of all footmarks by the side of the fords, and I can account for all of them, as I know for certain the anglers that have been on both sides of the river since the trout season opened. It brings back to my memory the case of a man who once said that he saw some trout which were caught with the net, also he knew samlet from trout, but when brought face to face with the fish he knew nothing at all about it. If your correspondent should hear anything of the kind again, he should ask his authority to let him see it, or come to me to know if it is the truth, as I should only be too pleased to give him any information on the point, and then he would be able to state facts, not hearsay. I did not intend to trouble to contradict it, but I am requested to do so on behalf of myself and others interested.

ARTHUR FELTON (Water Bailiff).

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NOTICE.

THE FISHING GAZETTE is published every Saturday, and can be obtained at Messrs. W. H. Smith and Son's Railway Bookstalls and of the principal Newsagents and Fishing Tackle Dealers in London and the Provinces.

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The Fishing Gazette

WITH WHICH IS INCORPORATED

ANGLING AND CLUB GOSSIP.

SATURDAY, APRIL 15TH, 1899.

A PLEA FOR STEAM TRAWLING.*

AMONG the men whose lives have been devoted to the study of sea fish, a head and shoulders above all stands Professor W. C. McIntosh, of St. Andrew's. Whenever a skilled referee has been required on fishing matters, he has been and will be called in. His book, "The Familiar History of our Marine Food-Fishes," published in 1897, is a most admirable work, and, indeed, may be looked upon as the standard text-book on the subject.

It is with mingled feelings that his new work on "The Resources of the Sea" must be regarded. As concerns the early life history, both in its purely scientific and practical aspects, no one has a more perfect grip of the subject than Professor McIntosh, and were it wise ever to bow merely to the authority of a name in any instance whatever, then this is the name *par excellence* to whom all should submit. But scientific arguments, especially such as lead to important practical results, require to be carried on without respect of persons, and with a view only to the ultimate ends to be reached.

In most works a great deal may be drawn from the preface and the conclusion, and this book proves no exception. The preface prepares us for a critical survey of the work done by the Scottish Fishery Board during the last ten years, especially when certain areas—St. Andrew's Bay, the Firth of Forth, the Firth of Clyde, and the Murray Firth—were closed against trawling. The conclusion arrived at is practically that the supply of fish can never be materially affected by the

efforts of man. Professor McIntosh therefore disapproves of protection, and recommends trust in Divine Providence rather than restrictive legislation. The grounds on which he suggests faith, rather than works, are the results obtained by the *Garland*, the makeshift vessel of the Scotch Fishery Board, when trawling in the closed areas. On page 233 he states that the period of ten years, when the tables quoted were compiled, "affords certain important data, especially in conjunction with previous observations, *carefully made and free from any disturbing element.*" It might have been as well if, before coming to any definite conclusions either one way or the other, that the author should have noted carefully the results of fishing not only within the closed areas, but also outside in British waters. On page 241 he states that "The returns from the various centres all over the country have for the most part steadily increased since 1884, and though it is true that large quantities are captured on the Great Fisher Bank, Iceland, and other regions at a distance from British waters proper, yet *this is due to the more remunerative nature of the work, and not to the dearth of fishes in the seas at home.*" The italics are ours, and not the author's, and the reason they are inserted is that this statement, though made with all authority, has not one shadow of proof brought forward in support of it; and further, indeed, seems to be contradicted by the unanimous testimony of the delegates from the Eastern Counties given at the Sea Fisheries Conference last year, nineteen-twentieths of whom were trawlers and fish salesmen, who at least ought to know where they get fish, and at what price it can be sold.

The author describes the scientific biologist as "a close observer of nature; he weaves no theories, and is not incautious in deduction." Would that it were so. It is surely unwise to argue about the general effect of steam trawling in the deep sea from the statistics afforded by inshore trawling in certain closed areas during the daylight hours. Another deduction which seems hardly justified by the facts appears on page 228, where the author says: "Instead, however, of placing the onus of the scarcity on any method of fishing, such as trawling, it would be more reasonable to lay the blame on general over-fishing." This is interesting if compared with page 241, where "scarcity" is denied.

It is well-known to all persons interested in our Naval Reserve that the fisher class have been greatly reduced in numbers during the last twenty years, especially line and net fishermen, while the capturing capacity of the steam trawler has been greatly increased, especially by the use of the otter trawl. These figures are borne out by those of Professor McIntosh, who, on pages 78-95, proves that in five years the number of men and boys on line and net fishing boats propelled by sails was reduced from 45,629 to 38,126 (by his own figures), with an increase of 415 men on steam trawlers and liners—in plain English, a decrease in the number of the Scotch fisher class of over sixteen per cent. between 1892 and 1897.

Are there any corresponding benefits as regards our fish-food supply? Improved methods usually give cheaper articles, but, as regards fish, the present methods are associated with enhanced prices.

As this book purports to be an impartial review of the present condition and future prospects of our sea fisheries, one is surprised to find certain little paragraphs which are apt to mislead the superficial reader. Thus, on page 234 appears the following: "The capture of small fishes by either trawlers or liners is a misfortune for the country." This would imply that the destruction of small fish by liners is to be compared with that caused by trawlers, which is not so. Again, on page 228, it is stated that trawled fish "on an average command a higher price than line-caught fishes;" but it is not stated that these figures are taken at the *port of entry*, and not on the wholesale markets. Doubtless at the port of entry, especially where railway facilities do not exist, hook-caught fish will fetch a less price than trawled fish delivered by carriers in Aberdeen or London; but, given equal facilities, the hook fish keeps better and fetches the best price on the central fish markets, a fact for which any practical fish buyer can vouch. Again, the author asks why the dabs have not been thinned out as have the plaice, and goes

on to remark that the trawl "makes no discrimination as regards species." Surely here his knowledge as to the *habitat* of the adult dab ought to aid him. "Practical men," such as he speaks of disparagingly on pages 222, 223, know that the dab loves rough ground or little patches amongst rocks, where he is comparatively safe from the trawl; and that, so far, the trawl exercises some "discrimination as regards species."

One statement on page 76 is certainly apt to mislead persons who do not follow fishing statistics: "Undoubtedly the larger and more regular supply of fishes had a tendency to diminish value." Will it be believed that, in the face of this paragraph, the price of fish has increased considerably during the last ten years, especially that of prime fish.

These are facts which may be deduced by anyone who cares to see the figures for himself in their entirety as they appear in the annual reports of the Scottish Fishery Board. One interesting fact is to be learned on p. 95: "For fifteen years the trawl fishery has been prosecuted with vigour, and it is interesting now to see what areas the ships frequent, and with what results. To commence with the more northerly, viz., Aberdeen, at which trawling has made great progress since the former date (1884), it is found that whereas the chief supplies were brought from the adjoining sea by the older paddle boats, or from the Moray Firth by the more powerful vessels, much of the supply of the present day comes from the Great Fisher Bank or from Iceland." An interesting commentary on the results of steam trawling as regards "the adjoining sea."

The purely scientific deductions which are drawn from the work to which the author has devoted his life are summed up in the statement that do what man will he cannot injure the sea fisheries. It is unprofitable to discuss these theories more fully here, but they remind us of the anecdote of a certain man, who, having been lodged in the county jail for some misdemeanour, sent for his solicitor, and laid his case before him. "But," said the man of law, "they can't put you in jail for that." To which his client replied tersely, "D—n it, they have." Professor McIntosh says that man cannot seriously injure our sea fisheries, and this view was sturdily maintained at last year's conference by Mr. Baillie Pyper and the Lord Provost of Aberdeen. The Hull and Grimsby delegates replied at that meeting, not by argument, but by unanimously agreeing that the North Sea was getting fished out. Perhaps the most remarkable commentary on Professor McIntosh's statements is the notice given by Messrs. Hewitt that it is their intention to close down the short Blue Fleet, as they no longer find trawling profitable in the North Sea. It will require a good deal of scientific argument on the other side to explain away such a hard fact.

After careful study of the whole of this work, the preparation of which has no doubt taken many months, the conclusion must be arrived at perforce that it will most certainly add nothing to the reputation of its learned author. It is to be devoutly hoped that its teaching may not tend to postpone necessary fishery legislation till it is too late to repair the damage caused by the short-sighted policy of the large capitalists during the past few years.

SIR HERBERT MAXWELL'S "LIFE OF THE DUKE OF WELLINGTON."—When Sir Herbert Maxwell's book on the Duke of Wellington is published in the autumn by Messrs. Sampson Low, Marston and Co., it will be found to be something more than a biography in the ordinary sense of the word. It will record the re-birth, so to speak, of the British Army, and the reform of army administration. Sir Arthur Wellesley found the army in a condition as disgracefully neglected as that in which Nelson found the Navy. Without tents and without food, Wellington's troops in the Peninsula were for a considerable time in as sorry a plight as that of the Crimean men a generation later. Another side of the subject is presented by the splendid discipline and the efficiency—especially in marksmanship—to which Wellington's forces attained long before their work in the Peninsula was finished. All this, we understand, will be made clear in Sir Herbert Maxwell's volumes.

* THE RESOURCES OF THE SEA. By Professor W. C. McIntosh. C. J. Clay and Sons, London, 1899.

CHEMISTRY AND ANGLING.

AN instance of the connection between chemistry and angling, both in fresh and salt water, may possibly be of use to brother anglers who have not hitherto had their attention called to the subject. All anglers who pay attention to pike fishing when angling with live bait, are accustomed to place their bait-kettles in the pond or river, if the local conditions permit it. They should submerge the lid of the bait kettle, which is commonly the case, but for what reason? The answer is, "to keep the baits cool and admit as much fresh water as possible, so that the baits may remain vigorous until required for use," as the water may have become more or less stale whilst journeying to the pond or river they have chosen to fish. Now, what is stale water? It is water deprived of its life-preserving power. And what is that power? It is oxygen gas, and driven off by heat of the sun or the increase of the temperature through the effluvia given off by the bait fish in the confined space of the kettle, which causes them to become sickly.

The water being now contaminated will not for long continue to support fish life, for the fish are practically similarly situated to the unfortunate British soldiers imprisoned by Hyder Ali in the Black Hole at Calcutta, who died from the heat and the impure state of the atmosphere of their narrow prison, whilst many were trampled to death in frantic efforts to get to the grating which did duty for a window. When the kettle is placed in the pond or river the temperature of the water falls, and a supply of oxygen now enters the holes in the lid of the kettle with the fresh water, so that the vigour of the baits is restored.

Some years since, whilst residing at West Brighton, on a visit to the Aquarium, I observed some sand eels in one of the tanks, and I noticed they were in a position quite unnatural for fish to take, as they were nearly perpendicular in the water, and gasping for breath, with their noses just clear of the surface.

The sand eels are members of the *Esocidæ* or pike family, and I certainly never saw a pike take up a position identical with a man when bathing, treading water. It did not occur to me that they were struggling to obtain fresh air like the prisoners of the Black Hole of Calcutta, but I feel now convinced that this was the case. I have no doubt they shortly after expired, and that an inadequate supply of oxygen to fish of so delicate organisation was the cause of death. I observed no more sand eels on other visits.

On another occasion I happened to be travelling between Hull and Grimsby, on which line one often meets with men connected with the North Sea Fisheries; and a man connected therewith being a fellow passenger, we got into conversation on baits for cod, and especially on lamperns and the Teddington fishery for them.

He informed me he obtained his supply from the Yorkshire rivers, and that much care is requisite to keep them alive for bait.

These fish are placed in a cask of water, the cask being fitted with a plunger, and a man and boy travel with them to work this plunger up and down. The boy has to take his turn at this work, and if he gets remiss or sleepy the man gives him "what for" to keep him up to his duty. I am fond of fishing, and at times have used Devon and Cornish lamperns for pollack, but I do not see much romance in lampern plunging.

Regarding the bearing of the insufficient supply of oxygen on the sand eels intended for live bait fishing, I may mention the following occurrence in connection with fishing off Shoreham, at a spot known as the "Billy Boy," a very favourite ground, about four miles off the harbour, for good sized pout, codling, black bream at times, and pollack, the latter rarely taken in any quantity by the local professional fishermen unless they have received special instruction in the Channel Island method of preserving and using the living sand eel for bait.

An amateur, who is a good ground fisherman, took some sand eels to try for pollack at the "Billy Boy," in consequence of my writing on this living bait in the *Field*.

Having placed the sand eels (known as *wriggles* in Sussex) in a pail, he arrived at his ground, and, anchoring, commenced to fish with the sand

eel bait, but most of them were dying or dead, through the exhaustion of the oxygen in the water in the pail, the result being an entire failure.

On my first visit, however, having subsequently to the above attempt become a resident at Shoreham, I visited the same fishing ground with friends whom I desired to make acquainted with this method of fishing, and our take amounted to twenty-six pollack, although through a very light wind we could not reach the coveted spot as soon as we desired. On another occasion we took fifty-three, and on a third, sixty pollack. On the fifty-three day, we provided an excellent local fisherman with live sand eel bait, enabling him to take eight pollack, an unusual number for any local man.

If the local fisherman had been provided with properly fitted pollack lines or rod tackle he would certainly have made a larger bag, but drift-lining is not as a rule understood in Sussex or Kent, nor streaming, as it is followed in Devon and Cornwall, and Ireland; and as that valuable bait the pilchard is rarely met with east of Portland, and the local fishermen have not yet recognised in any numbers the value of the living sand eel in the absence of the pilchard, quantities of pollack arrive on the rocky ground and depart, with very small toll being taken from their shoals.

The experience of the last six years has shown that more than 1cwt. of pollack can be taken in a day, by aid of the living sand eel, on rocky grounds off the Sussex coast; many of the most important rocky shoals, however, yet remain to be tested by the angling rod and line and Channel Island gear, both armed with the living sand eel, described as this "wonderful" bait, by Mr. F. G. Aflalo in his work, "Sea Fish," p. 118, and in my own work, the "Sea Fisherman," pp. 190, 135, 191, 63, 64, 65, 66, 228. This bait has been used by myself from 1862 to 1869 in Guernsey, and from 1870 and after at Exmouth, Teignmouth, Torquay, Salcombe, Dartmouth, at the Eddystone on one occasion, and off Fowey, and up the harbour, and at and off Shoreham, and once at Newhaven.

For several summers I often used it for bass at Shoreham Harbour, and I look on it as the most powerful bait to test the presence or absence of bass at the entrance of all bar harbours, and also up deep water harbours, by those acquainted with the habits of the bass, and also of the presence or absence of the pollack on or near the rocky shoals in the open sea, such as the Royal Sovereign off Eastbourne, Beachy Head, &c., or where any wreck is known to exist in a depth of three fathoms and upwards. Even in less water than two fathoms they may sometimes be found with a few bass, as at the wrecked barge at Orcombe Point, Exmouth, S. Devon, or the trawler wreck off the east end of Teignmouth beach, supposing any portions of these wrecks are yet remaining. I always used my *courgée*, i.e., the sand eel basket, as a floating reservoir for the sand eels, towing it at the boat's stern when not on board a steam yacht, as shown at p. 66, Fig. 20, of my "Sea Fisherman." If visiting a distant pollack ground in a steam yacht, it is not wise to tow the *courgée* after the vessel, as they get punished by the pressure of the water when going fast, but a waterproof box with a hole should be provided, and should be large enough to contain the *courgée* afloat in it. The hole being partly closed by a stick or a plug, one of the hands should be told off to draw sea water from alongside, and empty the bucket slowly, holding the bucket waist high above the tank box, thereby maintaining the supply of oxygen in the water, much of which should escape by drawing the plug, which will allow the old water to run away. By this means my friend and self arrived one morning in June off the Eddystone, near Plymouth, with the sand eels full of vitality; good sport followed, our catch reaching 1½cwt. Much heavier takes are, however, often made.

On another occasion the same steam yacht visited the "Hand Deeps," a cluster of rocks three miles to north-westward of the Eddystone, a fishing boat being also there. The fishing boat caught nothing, having no sand eels, but the yacht took eighty-four large pollack. In the evening, near the Eddystone, however, the fishing boat took a fine lot with other bait, viz., the rubber eel, as the light faded out of the sky. The fisherman was my informant.

J. C. WILCOCKS.

AN OLD FARNINGHAM FLY FISHERMAN.

LAST week I paid a visit to the river Darenth, for, being born on its banks, I was curious to see if that once beautiful stream—spoken of by Michael Drayton, in his "Polyolbion," as

The silver Darenth, in whose streams
Unnumbered fishes play,

and in which, for twenty years (1836 to 1856) I continually fished, from Dartford up to Eynsford, and occasionally in Lullingstone Park—had much altered in its character; for, in the times I have referred to, the Darenth was without doubt one of the very best trout rivers in England.

I struck the stream at the little bridge in the lane, by Sutton Place, and followed it through Sutton, Sutton-at-Hone, up to Horton Kirby, returning by way of South Darenth to Darenth, and I regret to be obliged to say that the river has greatly deteriorated. Its width is sadly diminished by growths of sedge; here and there decayed alder trees and bushes cumber the banks; the gravel scours, once natural spawning beds for trout, are obliterated by foul deposits from paper mills, &c.; and the head-water above Morbey's Mill (as it was called fifty years ago) was simply filthy. Well do I remember the trout my brother and I used to catch in Morbey's mill-head, and up along the alders to South Darenth; also in the Sutton stream. Six brace, each from half a pound upwards, were frequent captures, with an occasional two-pounder; but I am writing of departed times and of former sport. On my last week's visit to this Kentish stream trout were "conspicuous" by their rarity, roach were plentiful, and small jack were not scarce. In fact, I was assured that a few pike had been killed ranging from 5lb. to 9lb., and anglers know how such fish can spoil a trout stream.

In those "old times" the opening day for trout fly fishing was always on a Good Friday—how-
ever early or late that date might be—and a few anglers used to meet regularly at The Lion, Farningham, then kept by Wm. Wells, who was succeeded by "Tom" Pawley, a noted fox-hunter in his day. Among other anglers I used to meet there were Charles Messenger and his son, Charles Huggett, Thomas Barton, and many more skilful fly fishers, who were always ready and willing to impart a "wrinkle" to young anglers like myself, or would generously spare a few of their flies if by chance we had not the kind trout were taking. Another "past master" of the gentle art I sometimes "happened on" was the veteran tragedian, Samuel Phelps, who, with all the other anglers mentioned, has joined the greater majority. I entertained a great veneration for Samuel Phelps, for he was such a clever fly fisherman, and because when (as a youth) I was "put to business" in the City, I used to attend Sadler's Wells pretty regularly, and witness his marvellous acting, during his six years management, and revivals of the Shakesperian drama. One morning, at Farningham, I watched Mr. Phelps for half an hour trying for a fine fish that had strayed from Collyer's mill-tail, to where the large tree by the bridge throws its boughs over the water. The trout kept rising and retreating under the foliage, which here and there dipped in the stream. After changing his fly many times, he at length hooked the trout, which, in less than a couple of minutes, broke away round a submerged branch.

"Oh!" I exclaimed, "I am so sorry, Mr. Phelps, you have lost that fine fish." He turned to me and said, "Well, young man, and how would ye like to get your lunch at the end of a blessed cable?"

Away from the exercise of the art to which he so earnestly devoted himself, Mr. Phelps was simply to be regarded as a quiet country gentleman, fond of rural pursuits and the use of his fishing rod, perhaps prouder of his skill with that than of the warmest plaudits of an enthusiastic audience. During the theatrical vacation he was to be found for many successive years at his favourite haunt, the Lion Hotel, Farningham, where he stayed for weeks together to enjoy the pleasure of trout fishing in the river Darenth, which flows in front of the lawn of the old hostelry.

The farmers in the neighbourhood never suspected that a visitor who conversed with them

so freely about their crops was at the same time busy in studying the best modes of rendering the next Shakesperian play to be produced at his theatre on the banks of the New River. And it is on record that a Kentish yeoman, bringing his family to town for the purpose of seeing "The Doge of Venice" at Sadler's Wells, and, recognising a familiar voice and manner in the prominent actor, astonished the audience in the midst of the play by involuntarily exclaiming: "Blest if the 'Dodge' isn't the old Farningham fisherman!"

ALFRED JARDINE.

TRAVEL AND TROUT ON EASTER MONDAY.

It is not without reason that "travel" is put before "trout." Of course, it usually has to come before it, and also, alas! after it; but in this case there was a great abundance of travel of the most satisfying description, and the bag of trout resulting—well, to put it mildly—was not quite in proportion.

Perhaps we were lucky to have any fish at all, many Easter Monday anglers tell us so.

Certainly it was a bold thing to put ourselves at the mercy of the South-Western Railway on such a day.

However, we did; and, by a double miracle, we both caught the 6.40 a.m., having, between us, only three minutes to spare. No fault could be found with the weather, the country was looking pretty enough, and we certainly had plenty of time to admire it in the two or three hours which this line takes to do about forty miles.

On arriving we breakfasted, and started to walk by a "short cut" of my invention to our stream. My companion tells me that we wandered over the greater part of the country during that "short cut," but I think he was prejudiced, as it was not *his* short cut. We did arrive at last, and began to whip the stream by 10.30, which, after all, is not so bad.

Fish rose at once, but nearly always refused, only one troutlet being taken (and returned) before we arrived at the mill pond, the scene of many a bit of lively sport in previous years. Here at last we did get a decent fish, though just short of 1 lb. Being the first, he had the honour of being lifted out by the miller himself with the landing net, though not without some scoffing on my companion's part.

Seeing what great care we took not to let our quarry, however small, escape, the fish, after this, with one consent, agreed to come short. For hours not one came to bank, though numbers rose, and some were hooked and played. My friend had two on in as many casts while I was watching, and afterwards he hooked a 1 lb. fish (very large for this water), which went the way of the rest.

After lunch there was a temporary change, and for about ten minutes every fish I rose was duly landed, and I thus increased our bag by four; but it was soon over, and for the rest of the afternoon the old game went on—rises rather frequent, and takes very rare. One fish rose to me five times, and never touched after all; but on the whole my friend had the more provoking time of it, getting twenty times as many rises as fish. I fancy this was partly accounted for by his preference for dry fly; most of the fish that fastened doing so under water, and preferring the end fly when two or three were being used. I had on a Silver Sedge (of all things) for end fly, and this was taken in most cases, though some fish fell to the March Brown. The largest hooked took a Soldier Palmer, which is always a good fly on coloured water.

After all, it was an enjoyable day while we were at Liphook, the fresh, spring weather being most delightful to us both, and, after the fishing, perhaps the best part of the day came round, as the hospitable miller made us come in for some tea, and the lively society indoors made us reluctant to hurry out again.

As a matter of fact, we did make a few casts before the trap was ready; but it was, as we expected, of little use, only a few half-hearted rises rewarding our efforts.

The scene was a beautiful contrast to the Babylon we had so lately left. Before us spread the large mill pond, lighted up by the evening sun and slightly ruffled by the breeze.

On its surface floated a pair of swans, and every now and then a trout would rise, or even jump high into the air. Primroses and kingcups were just coming on, and the elms were putting on their spring attire, and all nature seemed in tune, and even the pair of grumbling anglers ceased to fret, and packed up the few small trout that had fallen to their lot in comparative contentment.

Soon we had taken leave of the party assembled on the lawn, and were off again for dusty, dirty London; and alas, with small hope of getting there for some three hours or more.

We took something over that on the railway journey alone, but the end came even to me before midnight, and as I had to penetrate ever so far into Kent by the South-Eastern this was something to be thankful for; though whether a Briton ought to be contented to be conveyed about 100 miles by rail in seven or eight hours is another matter.

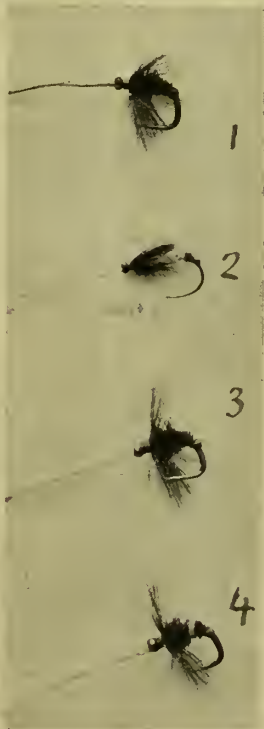
I may add that (contrary to usual custom) this fishing, though private, is available to any gentleman willing to contribute a little towards improving the stock in the water.

Anyone wishing to try the fishing (which, it must be remembered, is essentially different from most Hampshire fishing, and is more like that of Devon) should write first to H. Warren, Esq., Liphook, Hants, for particulars, means of access, &c. It is rather a long walk (two or three miles) from Liphook station, even if you do *not* take the "short cut."

J. PAUL TAYLOR.

JAPANESE FLIES.

THOSE of our fly fishing readers who have not seen artificial flies made in Japan will be interested in the accompanying illustrations of four



of them. The head of the fly is represented by a little gold knob. Some of the hooks are barbless, and not unlike the hooks made from needles, and used by some of the Swiss natives in making artificial flies.

EARLY STAGES OF THE YOUNG MARINE FOOD-FISHES.

IN my last article I dealt with the eggs and spawning of the principal food-fishes having floating ova.

Passing on, then, from the period when the egg, having swelled to its full size, is extruded and slowly risen to a certain level, is gently rocked in the cradle of the deep, we have to note briefly the phases through which it passes. The principal change is internal, namely, the growth and development of a small tadpole-like creature within the transparent envelope. After a period varying according to the temperature of the water

and the species of the fish, the envelope ruptures, and the larval creature emerges. When first hatched, it is floated by the watery yolk of low specific gravity retained in the yolk sac; this, as the little creature develops, is gradually absorbed into its body, and is at first the only source of nourishment. The sac, however, very speedily diminishes in size from the fact that a great deal of watery yolk is required to build up the growing organism in a very short time. As the yolk is absorbed, so the young fish is deprived of its float, and unless it is able to support itself by means of its fins, sinks gradually towards the bottom. It was found in the artificial hatching of the young fish that the critical period was when they had absorbed their yolk sacs to such an extent that they were no longer buoyed up by them, while they did not seem to have acquired sufficient energy to support themselves by means of their fins. Of course it is well known that great differences exist between the round and flat fishes having floating eggs, as to their power of flotation, and as to the rate and character of development in their fins; but even if these points be taken into account, artificial hatching at this particular stage seemed to be attended by a tremendous mortality. Mr. Harald Dannevig, who has so successfully, during the last few years, conducted the affairs of the Marine Fish Hatchery at Dunbar, determined to carefully investigate the reason of the mortality amongst the young fish.

He accordingly experimented with young plaice, the ova of which he placed in a special apparatus, constructed as follows:

A large carboy-shaped vessel, 20 in. in diameter, flattened on the bottom, 18 in. deep; diameter of the neck 9 in.; placed in the sand bath to the depth of between 3 in. and 4 in. The whole apparatus was lifted 2 ft. above the floor, placed in a corner with a window on each side, 4 ft. distant, one looking north, the other east. The back portions of the jar were more dimly lighted from the other laboratory windows, and was sufficient at any part of the day to permit of the fry being closely examined. The jar was filled to a depth of 10 in., and the water used was from the harbour, renewed once or twice daily if it became too heated. Constant circulation was kept up by the water next the glass sides (especially those next the light) becoming heated and rising, being replaced by cold water from below. This was specially seen if the sun were allowed to play on the tank.

The first successful experiment is here summarised. Plaice eggs were artificially spawned and hatched eleven to thirteen days later, most of the young fish having the yolk sacs absorbed in a further period of five days. They were then all placed in the jar above described and fed twice daily with minute forms collected in the harbour with a tow net. The tow net, as no doubt most of us are aware, is a single net formed of fine material, from butter muslin down to silk bolting cloth, which strains off even the most minute forms of life found in the sea.

The young fish separated themselves into three groups:

1. Swam steadily near the surface, and paid no attention to food. They were originally highly coloured, but gradually became pale, joining No. 2 group.

2. Were pale and weakly, remaining, as a rule, quiet near or on the bottom, resting on their heads; they "occasionally made an attempt to catch small crustaceans."

3. Were richly coloured and looked healthy; they were found at all levels, slowly moving, on the look out for food. They were much fewer than the other two groups.

The difference between this last group and the two others was the avidity with which they fed on the food supplied by the tow nets, consisting of diatoms, free-swimming larvæ of shell fish, and numerous forms of water flea. A tremendous mortality occurred in the first two divisions, so that by the forty-fifth day after hatching, when the experiment appears to have been concluded, the forms which remained were all belonging to this last group.

The most interesting matter to be investigated was the reason why in artificially bred larvæ these three divisions should occur. It struck Mr. Dannevig that the first and second divisions were in the condition known to persons who have had experience in Indian famines, that is to say, these fish had reached a condition which precluded

them from feeding on ordinary food. He says: "I am not quite certain, but there is reason to think that these two classes of larvæ in reality had been starving while in the hatching apparatus, where they were perhaps retained rather long." It struck him that perhaps the young fish did not wait for complete absorption of the yolk sac before commencing to feed. This idea was further confirmed by the fact that the absorption of the yolk, which at first proceeds very quickly, gradually becomes less and less, so that the last quarter of the whole amount is absorbed very slowly, so that, as Mr. Dannevig puts the matter, "it becomes evident that more nourishment is required, and possibly of a different nature than what is simply provided by nature directly and attached to the fish in the form of yolk."

Accordingly he took some newly hatched plaice, put them direct into his rearing jar, and added tow net food as in the previous experiment; in between three to four days the fry, with only partially absorbed yolk sacs (about half the yolk remaining), commenced to feed upon the small free-swimming forms, especially one form of infusorian, and occasionally diatoms.

The previous observations made on the feeding of post-larval (those with the yolk sac completely absorbed) fry seemed to show that their principal natural food was larval and microscopic crustaceans, which they took to after a modified dietary of infusorians and diatoms had been given up.

The reason of the previous tremendous mortality in rearing is clear. Those who are acquainted with the death rate amongst infants artificially fed, or rather starved, will notice the strong parallel which exists. We find that infants, systematically starved by improper bottle feeding, and put upon the same food as their parents, are unable to retain such food; and, even should they retain it, are not nourished thereby, but die of starvation. Of course, under even the most adverse circumstances, a certain small minority struggle through to maturity; otherwise the children of the labouring and lower middle classes would never reach maturity at all. The same may be said of the few post-larval fish that have hitherto been reared; but there is little doubt that this number can be quadrupled by early and appropriate feeding.

Here, then, are to be seen the advantages of scientific research; years of practical rule of thumb work would never have taught the importance of early feeding, whereas the facts proved by research, namely, the low specific gravity of the yolk and the usual food remains found in captured forms of larval fishes gave the required cues.

Would that we had the same scientific research going on regarding our fresh-water fisheries. Are our salmon fisheries of no value that their ruin should be looked upon unmoved? Do we await the day when salmon will be as scarce on the Severn as they are on the Thames? Why should England wait, and for what?

But having seen our young fish first nourished, let us see what forms their staple food while they are approaching land.

Up till quite recently but little was known on this point. However, in a recent blue book the contents of the stomachs of various young fish are described.

Of course, the toddlers do not entirely give up their nursery milk, and therefore still continue to wage hearty havoc amongst the water fleas, but add to this dietary the *zoæa* or infant free-swimming forms of the better known crab and lobster groups. A specially favourite food of the young codfish is the larval form of one of the sea anemones which conveniently attaches itself in great numbers to the edge of the disc of a little jelly fish. The young fish seek the neighbourhood of these jelly fishes, therefore, in search of food, and this has no doubt given rise to the idea first put forward by Sars, and since stated to be erroneous, that the young codfish sought out the jelly fish and found security beneath its umbrella, darting forth at intervals in pursuit of prey. Whatever the exact mutual relationship is, there is little doubt that the jelly fish can, and frequently does, shelter the young fish, and that the fish relieves the jelly fish of its parasitic sea anemone. When the young fish gets inshore its appetite has grown with its increase in bulk, and therefore the food required must be more easily and quickly collected. Larval mussels appear

now to be favourite forms, and in the autumn and early winter months the neighbourhood of mussel beds usually abounds with very immature fish. Also in these localities adults of various food-fishes are found, such as large plaice and codling, whose object appears to the unsympathetic scientist to be more personal than parental. Sad to say, the stomachs of such specimens when captured more frequently contain the *débris* of young food-fishes than the remains of either immature or mature mussels.

The young cod also, the first autumn and winter, have a habit of frequenting the ground covered with the *Flustra* or sea mat, a species of zoophyte. Of course this browsing does no permanent damage, as the zoophyte rather prefers an injury as a stimulus to its growth.

Having given a brief sketch of the various forms upon which the young fish feed, it will be as well to particularly describe one or two of the principal, so that the reader may have some personal idea of these important though but little known organisms.

As has been said, after the earliest stage amongst the first food the larval form of a small shell fish is most frequently found in the stomach of the little transparent creature. The little fish then starts feeding on the water fleas, the less strongly armed forms of which it polishes off most unceremoniously; those with spines or bristles it is unable to swallow, and rejects.

From the twentieth to the thirtieth day the young plaice is able to cope with *Evadne* and other large forms of water flea. *Calanus finmarchicus*, commonly called "whale's food," because it is devoured in great numbers by the right whale, is now occasionally swallowed.

From the thirtieth to the thirty-sixth day the little plaice added to the dietary various larva of larger crustacea and molluscs.

From the thirty-sixth to the forty-fifth day, when the record ceases, a few larger forms are added, such as *Temora longicornis*, so well known to all boatmen as universally distributed near the surface of the water in temperate seas.

Mr. Thomas Scott's researches on the nature of the "plankton," as the floating material collected by the tow net at the surface of the sea is called, shows us that about nine-tenths of this in the neighbourhood of the Farøe Icelandic Channel consists of the before enumerated small crustaceans, the commonest forms being *Calanus*, *Pseudo calanus* (a closely allied form), *Temora*, *Acartia* (a form not described as fish food), *Podon*, *Evadne*, and others.

It is to be noted that the larvæ of the better known crustacea are rare, and this is to be expected. For we find that the young fish are hatched out and rise to the surface at a great distance from land, and these require the *Copepoda* or water fleas as an early diet; but as they get older they sink deeper and get more inshore, where, of course, they can acquire different food, such as has been mentioned in this brief article. We see that the more we learn the more we have to learn, and that every bit of knowledge is of practical value.

The greatest collection of plankton is the favourite ground of young post larval fish; the crowd of young post larval fish is the situation of the predatory surface swimmers; and they, again, are preyed upon by the larger forms: so, at length, we begin to see daylight concerning the migrations of our adult food-fishes, which our forefathers were accustomed to attribute to spawning, and indeed fifty other causes equally without foundation. CHARLES S. PATTERSON.

THE DECLINE AND FALL OF SALMON FISHING.

UNLESS something is shortly done by the Legislature, salmon fishing in the rivers of Scotland and Ireland, and, for the matter of that, in the seas as well, will, within the next twenty years, become altogether a lost sport.

People, as a rule, overlook one very important matter, namely, the improvement in angling. Rods have been improved, new spinning reels have been made, minnows and prawns have been introduced, and where there used to be one fisher of salmon there are now fifty. And this within the last five-and-twenty years.

But the fish has got to get into the river, and here comes a far more important matter. He has

got to find the mouth of the river, and creep up it, and from the moment he starts to follow the decrees of Nature his troubles commence. Stake nets, bag nets, and fly nets are laid out along the coast, into anyone of which let him once poke his nose, and remote, indeed, are the chances of his ever again revelling on the spawning beds of his ancestors.

The rents paid for good stretches of water have become almost fabulously absurd, and surely the water owners who take advantage of the salmon fisher's love of sport ought to provide him with the best attainable. He does nothing of the sort; he simply tries to give as little as possible for the money.

Surely salmon fishing can be improved? The big landed, or rather watered, proprietors are greatly to blame for the terrific slaughter they allow at the mouths of the rivers. Two instances especially strike me—the Spey and the Blackwater, both in the possession of so-called sporting dukes. The Duke of Richmond gets £6000 a year for his six nets at the mouth of the Spey, and practically catches in nets all the spring fish that would enter the river! Again, the Duke of Devonshire traps, in a wicked Irish device, nearly every fish that would attempt to ascend the loveliest river in Ireland.

Is there anything to be done? Before suggesting a remedy, let me point out, as has been pointed out by Mr. Grimble, that there are five splendid rivers flowing into the North Sea where hardly ever a spring fish is caught by rod, but at the mouths of which hundreds and thousands of fish are yearly murdered in nets.

The rivers are the Erne, the Deveron, the Findhorn, the Don, and the North Esk, and we may rightly suppose that if some public company could buy those stake and other nets off, those rivers could be let to sportsmen at a great profit to the company.

Right among those rivers I have just named flows the glorious Dee, and see the difference! Some twenty odd years ago an energetic proprietor, Lord Huntly, successfully carried out a plan for buying off the river nets, which at that time plied as far as Banchory, fifteen miles up the river as the crow flies. In those days never a fish was caught in the spring months between Banchory and Aberdeen, and very few east of Aboyne, and now Mr. Fasby's water at Cairnton, by Banchory, is probably as valuable as any stretch on the river. Surely this speaks for itself?

But although the river nets spoil all spring fishing, it is to the stake nets along the shores that legislation must be turned, if the salmon is not to follow the dodo. These nets have increased five and tenfold, and any owner with a frontage, or whatever it is called, on the sea, can put any number of stake nets out. Feeling his way for the fresh water, if the salmon misses one he fouls another, and so on.

There is a law, I believe, which prohibits nets being placed within 400 yds. of the actual river's mouth, but this little matter is easily arranged by taking the river's mouth a trifle up stream!

On one river nets come off at six o'clock on Saturday evening and come on at six o'clock on Monday morning. That is the only chance a fish that has entered a netted river gets of jogging home.—*The Phoenix*.

SOME RECENT THAMES TROUTING.

ALTHOUGH the state of the water was better at the opening of the 1899 trout season on the Thames than that we have enjoyed for many years, no reliable report of the capture of a large fish reached me during the first ten days of April.

It is true I was told a fish of over eleven pounds had been landed at Marlow, but up to the present I have had no confirmation of this; on the other hand, many small fish have afforded sport and encouragement to those who made an early commencement, and were fortunate enough to "spot" a feeding fish, or have one found for them.

The Easter holidays came at a very acceptable time for many anglers, myself amongst the number, the 1st of April being the day after Good Friday, and doubtless many a busy man was glad to lay aside the pen and wield the rod once more. It is satisfactory to note the increased number of city firms who close their establishments for the

full four days at Easter, and it is perhaps not too much to say that ere long the half-day of the Saturday will be added to the calendar of St. Lubbock; if so, it will be health to men, and death to many a "fush."

The season opened with a cold, but fair morning, and on reaching Shepperton Weir about 8 a.m., I found, to my surprise, that I was apparently the first there to wet a line. I tried the Tumbling Bay over very carefully, and was soon joined by another local enthusiast, but we could not find a fish. On the arrival of the London train, we could see many "rods" hurrying to the weir, and a mighty adjustment of tackle was soon in full progress by the river-side, and ere long, it was amusing to see twelve or more anglers at work, some endeavouring to catch bleak, some spinning, others live baiting; it can be imagined the water was well "combed" for the time being!

Seeing the game was up, I left the platform, put on my waders, and spun over all the shallows thoroughly, but without success, not seeing a single trout move. The water at the edge of the fall was alive with dace, hundreds of these fish collecting at the corners of the weirs, and amongst so much bait the chances of running a fish were somewhat poor. I stopped fishing about 3 p.m., and determined to go further afield on the Monday.

On Easter Monday I "biked" to Bell Weir, taking my rod, bag, and landing net on my back, began fishing, and was soon joined by Rowles; together we gave every foot of the weir a thorough "doing," but without a touch, not even from a chub or jack. The old man was not at all sanguine of sport, and if he cannot get a trout at Bell Weir, it is only by mighty good luck that any one else gets one there, for he almost knows how many spots a fish has on him when he has been in the weir for a day or two. After lunch, nothing discouraged, I rode on to Boveney Weir, beyond Windsor, and I do not think I ever saw so many bicyclists on the road, Windsor being quite dangerous to ride through, especially over the huge cobble stones near the Castle. The lane leading to Boveney was terribly bumpy, and the going over the grass was worse, so I was not at all sorry to get off my "machine" at the lock, and put my tackle together once more. Two anglers were fishing from a punt in the far corner, but they had done nothing beyond catching a jack.

There was a very full stream running, and the likely spots were swarming with dace, roach, and minnows, but the excellent colour of the water gave good prospect of sport, notwithstanding a bitterly cold wind. After fishing for some twenty minutes I had a bait pulled clean off; the fish, whatever he was, missing the hooks and securing the gudgeon without being so much as pricked. It is an ever recurring puzzle to anglers how a fish can pluck a small bait, practically covered with hooks, clean away; doubtless it is chance, but it is a marvellous chance indeed. One would suppose that a small gudgeon, spun on a tackle comprising a lip hook and three triangles (the last one loose), apparently arming the bait entirely, would infallibly secure each fish that came at the bait, be it trout, chub, pike, perch, barbel or any other; but this is not the case, and arm your bait how you may, with fewer or more hooks, such a mischance will occasionally happen. Even that great fish, the salmon, will nip a piece out of a well triangled prawn as neatly as possible, so I suppose we must content ourselves to take our luck as it comes, good or bad, and when the hook holds, cry "Hold enough!"

I do not certify the particular fish in question was a trout, the pull was rather too "jiggery" on the rod for my liking, but, whatever it was, the effect was the same. I tried him again, but without result, and returned to Bell Weir.

Just on reaching the weir an excitement was provided for the multitude by the capsizing of a sailing boat in a heavy squall of wind; the heavy sails kept her down on the water, and her crew could not right her; she drifted down to within a few yards of the weir head, when a sculler came from the boathouse, and arrested her further progress by a line to the bank. As it was, it was touch and go for the weir, and I fancy that the occupants of the craft, after clinging so long to the gunwale, were not sorry to get safely ashore, though the real danger of a "capsize" is to be entangled under the sail.

When the crowd left the weir I fished it over once more; then Rowles returned, and we had another chat, and I left him to deal with the "trouts" without interruption. I rode home past Chertsey Weir, and Marsh informed me that nothing had been done, and I also found the sport at the Shepperton Weirs had been nil.

The next time I could wet a line was on that genial spring day, Saturday, April 8.

"First it rained, and then it blew,
Then it friz, and then it snow,
Then there came a shower of rain,
Then it friz and snow again."

—Shakespeare (or some other poet).

My word, what a day for a Thames trout, and no humbug either! It is on these awful days, after the baits have once been in the weirs, that one has a rattling good chance. Reason why, the baits all go, and the trout get the very dickens of an appetite. You put a bait over them and the thing is done, bar accidents.

Is it not on record that "J. P. W." killed a brace of big trout and lost one some 16lb. weight (more or less) at Molesey on one of the vilest days that the clerk of the weather ever concocted?

Therefore, when getting on my waders, I was not one bit surprised to see a trout, recently caught—a nice fish about 4lb. in weight—and I went on to the weir with a full confidence of getting another.

I tried the big weir, the snow falling heavily, and the wind coming in great gusts from about N.W. Not succeeding, I waded into the shallow water, and spun the tail end of the weir as far as I could throw, then crossed the weir and tried the other side. Tug, tug, all at once, and a heavy pull. Another fisherman came running with the net after a minute or two, but I was reluctantly obliged to tell him it was only a chub; and a beauty it was, at least 4lb. in weight, thick and heavy. The brute broke off a triangle while I was extracting the hooks. It is close season for "knocks on the head" as regards coarse fish. I pitched him in again, little the worse for wear, put up a fresh tackle, and went off to the Tumbling Bay.

The wind there was so terrible that it was quite dangerous to stand on the platform, and the line belied about so that fishing was almost impossible, so I left the weir for awhile; it was not good enough. Towards evening the storm died away, and I started to fish again in earnest. When the wind dropped, the water fell considerably in the weir; it was not driven in waves and spray over the weir-fall, and the lower water fished perfectly. I spun a small bait over the likely spots most carefully. Jig, jig, the bait went, and presently, in a very favourite spot, the rodtop was jerked violently down, and a trout was leaping and tearing down the big run as only a trout can; up and down and across the heavy water he went. At his first leap I saw it was only a small fish, but he was a rare plucked one! I played him till he turned on his side, walked down the steps, washed him round in the eddy, and popped the net under him.

This fish, though small (only 3½lb.), was well hooked indeed, and he would never have got away without breaking the tackle. To my surprise, the fish was evidently an old one, a male fish with a regular "kipper" under jaw—a silvery fish thickly covered with black spots on sides, tail, and gill covers.

It was fine sport to get a fish in such bad weather, but my experience is that if the water be right no weather is too bad to kill fish in.

One of the most genial anglers who ever caught a Thames trout was the late Doctor John Brunton. Success attended his efforts at the very outset, for he secured a very fine fish, as I understood from his remarks, on his first trial, and another on his second. If I remember rightly, his first fish was some 8lb. in weight, taken by spinning between Chertsey and Shepperton. Always anxious to give us the benefits of his varied angling experiences, we shall miss him sadly at the meetings of the Piscatorial Society; it was through his kindness I first heard of the killing powers of the Wagtail artificial bait.

Writing on the present subject reminded me of his conversation about Thames trout, and I close my remarks with a most respectful tribute to the memory of a thorough angler.

CHARLES H. WHEELLEY.

BRITISH SEA ANGLERS' SOCIETY.

THE ANNUAL DINNER.

THE sixth annual dinner of the British Sea Anglers' Society was held on Wednesday evening, at the Holborn Restaurant, under the presidency of the Hon. Mr. Justice Bucknill. The vice-chair was occupied by Major A. J. Travers (prime warden of the Fishmongers' Company), and there was an excellent attendance of members and visitors. The British Sea Anglers, as a club, met at the Holborn Restaurant for the first occasion on Wednesday, but for the future this will be their headquarters. They will hold their weekly gatherings there every Wednesday, Mr. J. C. Wilcocks, the veteran sea angler, delivering the inaugural lecture, as far as the society's new home is concerned, on Wednesday evening next. The dinner was one of the most successful held by this "go-ahead" society. Among those present were:

Messrs. F. C. Baker, J. N. Blyth, J. Butler, T. B. Bates, W. Bennett, T. Edwards, E. J. Holbrow, J. W. Smith, A. W. Taylor, C. T. Coombs, H. Codner, H. Tautz, Chas. Buswell, R. T. Buffery, R. Bradford, H. Weber Brown, G. Read Clarke, C. J. Crisfield, C. H. Cook ("John Bickerdyke"), W. C. Canton, G. H. Howard (*Fishing Gazette*), A. R. Matthews (*The Angler*), W. Craig, J. H. Dunkin, Julius Davis, H. Edwards, G. Fletcher, John Friers, J. J. A. Grumley, W. T. Green, Preston R. C. Gardner, Major G. Gordon, Messrs. W. Gowland, G. C. Horsman, J. N. Hearn, A. Hodson, Croft Handley, Chas. Handley, W. Ive, Michael Jacob, A. Krenkel, John Lees, H. W. Lane, E. T. Lacey, Arthur Mignot, H. T. Moore, C. O. Minchin, E. M. Mallett, S. T. Mimpriss, W. Marshall, E. McFee, W. Meyers, G. Nutter, H. Norton, L. A. Ormiston, G. F. Penney, S. J. Prior, W. S. Penney, W. H. Puckle, A. W. Parker, G. Reynolds, J. Robinson, J. Risien, Woollard, Beard, W. Marsden Smith, J. W. Simon, M. Smith, H. Simmons, E. Bessie, G. White, I. Jonas, F. Penney, H. C. Simmons, M. Schmidt, L. Saunt, J. G. Tolhurst, S. Tucker, J. A. Travers, R. J. Tomlin, J. Wrench Towse (secretary to the Fishmongers' Company), G. Vaughan, B. Warsop, F. W. Wohlgenuth, G. Wheeler, F. Ward, A. W. Watts, J. W. Zaehrsdorf, E. Bennett, Chas. Bramley, King Lovett, and E. Hanger.

The usual loyal toasts having been heartily honoured,

The HON. SECRETARY read telegrams and letters of regret at absence from, among others, Mr. C. A. Payton, British Consul at Calais (and a well-known writer on angling under the *nom de plume* of "Sarcelle" in the *Field*); Mr. R. B. Marston, Editor of the *Fishing Gazette*; Mr. R. Biddulph Martin, M.P., the society's honorary treasurer; and Mr. A. E. Litchfield, the latter, it was announced, away on his honeymoon. He wired: "Two British Sea Anglers wish success to the dinner." A telegram which was received with hearty cheers.

The CHAIRMAN next proposed "Success to the British Sea Anglers' Society." He said that that toast, after the toast of the "Queen," was the toast of the evening, because it was the toast of their noble selves—of a society on which the sun never would set, and of a society which, to paraphrase the words of the song they had just heard, "Will last to all Eternity," as it went on increasing in numbers, health, and strength. (Applause.) Perhaps some of them would say, "That is all very well; where do you get it from?" Well, from the programme; on its front page they would find a picture of the rising sun, then several anglers in a boat—they looked as if they were both trying to foul each other's lines—(laughter)—and there they could also see the fisherman for'ard. Later on they saw they had hooked two mermaids—(laughter)—and while one angler was trying to kiss a mermaid, the other mermaid was waiting for her chance to arrive. There was also depicted Father Neptune, who, all smiles, seemed to say, "I've done all that before." (Laughter.) So they would see that that picture indicated what a happy thing it was to be sea anglers when they could go fishing and catch fish. (Laughter.) But they were not fishing that night, and it was just possible that in that fact might lie the danger, because he was quite sure that all there that evening were determined to enjoy themselves—he himself was already well on the road in that direction—yet they were not sea anglers merely by name, hoping to come there for the purpose of convivial entertainment only, but were there to also talk about what had been done in the sea fishing world, and of the know-

ledge which had been acquired from brother anglers at the weekly meetings. Their primary object was to be upon the sea, and their secondary object was to be there this evening. To be upon the sea, he might say, however, was not at all times a pleasant thing, especially when they were ill. (Laughter.) He (the Chairman) upon one occasion went over from Folkestone to Deal to see Mr. Clarke catch fish, but he did not get a single specimen. (Laughter.) Nevertheless, determination and perseverance overcame most obstacles, and he believed Mr. Clarke had caught fish since then. At all events, he said so, and if that was the case it must be so. (Laughter.) The society was growing to such an extent that not only had it branches in England, Scotland, and Wales, but through the exertions of a gentleman in the room, Ireland had been brought within the fold. (Cheers.) He believed that Irishmen were both Tories and good sportsmen if they approached them properly; and, with regard to their sea coast, its richness for sea fishing, he believed, had not yet been found out. The West Coast of Ireland teemed with fish. (Hear, hear.) When they found that the anglers had caught all the fish which were to be taken off Deal, and when they went on increasing in their numbers—and that would soon happen—they would have to seek some other fishing ground. Well, let them make up a little party and go to the West Coast of Ireland, where they would, he thought, get fish. He would commend that as an idea to the hon. secretary. He (the Chairman) proceeded to refer to an angling experience of his own at Exmouth, where his father and he nearly filled the boat with mackerel. On the way to shore his father remarked: "Tom, we'll have an auction on the beach"—(laughter)—and this they did, he (the Chairman) having to unload the boat. His father in the meantime had perambulated the district, and, having gathered a crowd round, at once proceeded to constitute himself, in a most illegal manner, an auctioneer—(laughter)—selling the fish for the benefit of the local cottage hospital. (Cheers.) He could remember his sore hands as a result of handling the mackerel, but everything was very enjoyable. That to him showed that when they had hard work and good sport they never failed to look back to such pleasurable incidents as that to which he had referred. (Cheers.) He believed that if they wished to enjoy themselves as sea anglers they could not do better than stick to that association, and ask their friends to come in and join it as well. (Cheers.) So long as they had a secretary like their present secretary, and so long as they made enthusiasm their motto, he did not see what they had to fear. (Cheers.) Why, they even had a Bishop of Litchfield among them—(laughter)—and he had that evening sent them a message from some other place than Litchfield. (Laughter.) He (the "Bishop") was on his honeymoon, and, though he was called the Bishop of Litchfield, he may be said to have lived at Deal. (More laughter.) Under the circumstances, however, he had not forgotten the association, since he had found his wife amongst the members. (Laughter.) In conclusion, the Chairman remarked that at that moment nothing was nearer to his heart than the interests of that society, many members of which were present, and he wished it long life, prosperity, health, wealth, and an increasing membership. Might it go on as it had begun, and might it go on to all eternity. (Loud cheers.)

"The Visitors" was submitted by Mr. R. PRESTON-GARDNER, who expressed the pleasure, on behalf of the society, it gave them to welcome the guests at their banquet. The society was a rising one, and he hoped that many of the visitors with them that evening would be members next year. (Cheers.) In his opinion there was no better sport than that of sea fishing. A man who participated in it returned from his outing not only better in health but in better temperament. They had weekly meetings, where there were many things to learn, where good fellowship prevailed, and where there was the making of friendships. (Cheers.)

Mr. E. M. KILVERT suitably acknowledged the toast.

The toast of "The Press" was ably proposed by Mr. C. O. MINCHIN, and was acknowledged by Mr. C. H. Cook (editor of the *Bazaar Sportsman's Supplement*) and Mr. G. H. Howard (*Fishing Gazette*).

Mr. C. H. COOK, referring to the British Sea Anglers' Society, remarked that he had always done his best for it. (Cheers.) He had never lost an opportunity of advocating its claims, and advising sea anglers all over the kingdom to join it. It had done a good work. The professional fishermen, in his opinion, did not know as much as they did with regard to the capture of sea fish. In some cases they (the professionals) were now following their methods—they were using smaller hooks and were also fishing with gut. He (Mr. Cook) had, indeed, used the rod in certain districts without any remarks being passed on that style of sea fishing. That, he thought, indicated progress. (Hear, hear.) He hoped the society would never lose sight of its aims and objects. (Hear, hear.) In conclusion, he congratulated them upon its remarkable success. (Cheers.)

Mr. G. H. HOWARD also acknowledged the toast, and expressed the regret Mr. Marston felt at being unable to be with them. He, however, had sent him (Mr. Howard) to represent him, and he wished the society continued success. It was doing a good work, and the members were all excellent sportsmen.

The Chairman presented the prizes won by members last season, and took occasion to heartily congratulate the various winners, who were loudly cheered. The successful anglers and their prizes were as follows: The Deal Corporation Challenge Cup and the society's gold medal for the heaviest fish were taken by Mr. William Ives, with a cod weighing 13lb. 4oz.; and the silver medal by Mr. J. H. Dunkin, with a pollack weighing 12lb. In Class 2 the silver medal was taken by Mr. A. Krenkel, with four cod weighing 21lb. 8oz.; while in Class 3 the silver medal was taken by Mr. F. C. Baker, whose best twelve whiting weighed 10lb. 5oz.; and the bronze medal fell to Mr. T. Yates, whose best twelve weighed 10lb. The bronze medal in Class 4 was taken by Mr. J. C. Mason, with two plaice weighing 1lb. 12oz. In the Pier Competition, Class 5, Mr. T. Sexton again carried off the silver medal with a catch of nineteen pollack, weighing 21lb.

MR. G. READ CLARKE (whose rising was the signal for a chorus of cheers) proposed, in eulogistic terms, "The Health of the Chairman." He was sure they would all feel very gratified that his lordship had been elevated to the Bench. (Cheers.) He had conferred a great honour on them by presiding that night. Speaking personally—he had known the Hon. Mr. Justice Bucknill for many years, and had been engaged with him professionally—he would say this, that never had he met a man more hand in hand with anyone. (Cheers.) As a social friend he was—if he might be permitted to use the term—a good pal; he was a good companion to everyone. (Cheers.) In reference to the day their chairman came over to Deal to see him (Mr. Clarke) fish, the water was so thick—(A voice: "Excuse")—that there was no chance of pollack fishing. (Laughter.) He (Mr. Clarke) tried with the well-known parchment bait, but it was all in vain. (Laughter.) In conclusion, he asked them to drink long life, health, and happiness to the Chairman, might he long be an ornament to the Bench, and might he long do his duty to his Queen and country, as he had always done in the past. (Cheers.)

The toast was enthusiastically honoured, the company singing "For he's a jolly good fellow;" and in reply,

The CHAIRMAN suitably responded, thanking Mr. Clarke and the company for the kind way in which they had received him that evening. He also referred to the sports he followed, and related an amusing incident while sea fishing at the entrance to Weymouth Harbour, and, regretting that he was obliged to leave the meeting to catch a train, requested Major Graham Gordon to take his place in the chair.

The VICE-CHAIRMAN next gave the toast of "The Honorary Committee and Officers," remarking that the British Sea Anglers' Society was an extremely well managed one, and while it was in the hands of such an excellent committee and hon. secretary it would long continue to be. (Cheers.)

The toast was acknowledged by the HON. SECRETARY (Dr. Patterson), who remarked that during the past fifteen months they had held a weekly meeting, and he only wished that at those gatherings they might have such an attendance of gentlemen as he saw around him that evening.

(Hear, hear.) They had over 900 members, and he wished one-tenth of them would attend one quarter of the meetings he had referred to. As regarded the work of the society, he had been backed up by a capital committee—(cheers)—in proof of which they had had twenty-nine committee meetings during the past year. Theirs was the largest angling society in the country. (Cheers.) He had an announcement to make to them that evening—they had moved into a new home, to a more central position, viz., to the Holborn Restaurant. Their first meeting would be on Wednesday evening, when Mr. J. C. Wilcocks, the veteran sea angling author, would read them a paper. (Cheers.)

Major GRAHAM GORDON next asked the company to drink to the health of the vice-chairman, and dealt with several matters of interest to sea anglers, one being the three-mile limit. He also mentioned that their vice-chairman that evening was the Prime Warden of the Fishmongers' Company, and also an ordinary member of the society. He thought the combination of their chairman and Major Travers was a very happy one, and one which did honour to the society, and upon which the executive ought to be congratulated. (Cheers.)

Replying, Major TRAVERS said that the British Sea Anglers' Society and the Fishmongers' Company ought to work together. (Hear, hear.) He was sure the society would always find them lend welcome assistance when they could do so at the Hall. (Cheers.) They had there a society—a kindred society, he might say—which was friendly to the B.S.A.S., namely, the National Sea Fisheries Protection Society. It was part of the Fishmongers' Company's duty to help the fisheries, both in fresh and salt water—(cheers)—and the Court took very great interest in all fishing matters, and he looked forward to that interest increasing every year. There was, he thought, very much which members of the B.S.A.S. might do in assisting in the development of our fisheries. (Hear, hear.) They could also help the scientific researches of experts as regards the habits, &c., of sea fish. With reference to the three-mile limit, it was his opinion that if it was extended there would be even greater difficulty in maintaining the linesmen's rights than there was at present in their own waters. (Hear, hear.) Therefore he would urge the members, in their individual capacity, to oppose it, and jealously to guard their rights within that three-mile limit. (Cheers.)

There was an excellent musical programme during the evening, the *artistes* including Messrs. C. Bramley (who was the life and soul of the evening), E. T. Lacey, E. Bennett (another good boy), and Lovett King (at the piano).

GRESHAM ANGLERS' OPENING DINNER.

THE opening dinner of the Gresham Anglers took place at Chesham on Saturday last, April 8. Several members, including Dr. Patterson, Messrs. M. Davis, Chastaney, and F. E. Eldred, went down to Chesham by the 10.27 from Baker-street, and within a few minutes of their arrival were greeted with one sample of the weather in the shape of a blizzard. However, not to be daunted, Messrs. Patterson, Chastaney, and Eldred put their rods together and started fishing, with, for some time, no result, the surface of the water more resembling a miniature sea than a trout stream. It (the weather) hailed, and rained, and snowed, and blew, in fact, drove us to take shelter under the friendly lee of a shed. Then succeeded a short period of bright sunshine, and the rods were again at work, and both Dr. Patterson and Mr. Eldred were successful in luring the trout from their chilly element.

Again shelter had to be sought, as a storm, fiercer and colder than the preceding one, broke over the valley, darkening the sky, and making us think that we were back again in January, with an extra special blizzard in full blast. And so the day proceeded—intervals of winter and spring alternating. By this time more Greshamites arrived, and proceeded to try their luck, but the weather was too much, or too many, in the way of samples of snow, hail, rain, &c., to allow of any really successful fishing being done. However, Dr. Patterson and Messrs. Eldred and Chastaney all took fish—Dr. Patterson, three, all over the limit, only retaining one; Eldred, four; and Chastaney, one; all returned to give sport at some future occasion.

Then came one of the events of the day, viz., the turning in of some hundreds of two-year-old trout (*farlo*), which was successfully accomplished under the superintendence of Mr. J. B. Close, assisted by Messrs. Woodruff, Goodwin, and Formay, the latter kindly making all provision for the carriage of the cans from the station to the water. It was a sight to see the trout rising immediately upon their release. They apparently did not mind the inclement weather; in fact, seemed to be enjoying them-

selves immensely. Another storm, another period of enforced inactivity, and rods, &c., were put up.

And now came the event of the day, viz., dinner, well deserved by those who had given up their afternoon to placing the fish in their new home, and ardently deserved by all, as the keen air had given all sharp set appetites. The hostess of the Black Horse had prepared a capital repast, and by common consent Mr. Mark Davis was voted the place of honour. Ample justice was done to the many good things provided, and all showed that if the weather had spoilt the fishing, it had, if anything, improved the appetite.

The members present were Messrs. Davis, Close, Dr. Patterson, Marshall, Bridgman, Connellan, Eldred, Chastaney, Hicks, Reeves, Goodwin, West, Formay, Woodruff, and Ford (son of Ford, of Caistor fame), who was invited to see the fish turned out.

Altogether the day proved an enjoyable one, in spite of the adverse conditions of the weather. F. E.

REPORTS FROM RIVERS, LOCHS, &c.

ENGLISH AND WELSH REPORTS.

Lower Thames.—GENERAL REMARKS.—The weather has shown no improvement of any importance since the commencement of the trout season, to the great disappointment of those anglers whose expectations from the mild change were somewhat sanguine of securing some good fish. Mr. T. W. Gomm, one of the practical members of the committee of the T.A.P.S., is heartily to be congratulated on being the only successful angler in this portion of the Thames during the first seven days of the season, and in three days, with his skilful attendant, Charles Hone, landing four trout. One of these, weighing 4lb., was sent for my acceptance, and, on cleaning it, I was surprised to find it full of well-developed spawn and a dead minnow. I have just heard from Major Arthur Terry that on Saturday last he landed his first trout this season—one of 3lb. 10oz.—in the backwater at Weybridge, and adds that, having fished from the weirs at Shepperton, he had seen the sign of a trout, but they were swarming with large dace and roach, which gives further evidence of the river being well stocked with fish for the general body of anglers. Last Saturday was remarkable for some heavy falls of snow, and, in the opinion of some, the trout will not feed at such a time, but this was somewhat negated on that day, as both Major Terry and Mr. C. H. Wheeley creeled a trout each, the latter securing one of about 3½lb. In the opinion of one of my most accomplished correspondents, "the worse the weather, the better the chance," is his theory, "provided the water is in good condition, as no weather stops him from trying for a fish." I have received a letter from one of the honorary river keepers, who considers it a good thing not allowing them the use of a cast net, as some wanted to hold a deputation simply to be able to use it, and suggests the advisability of restricting the professional fishermen from using it after dark. The continuation of cold winds and frosty nights has kept the big fish down, and, with the exception of another small fish having been taken at Hampton Court, the reports this morning (Wednesday) are a complete blank. The official report as to the movements of the perch is they have not begun to spawn.—B.

(Eton).—The heart of the trout angler is becoming weary with waiting for a change in the wind to a warmer quarter. I was out this morning about six, but there was a sharp frost, and needless to say not a fish was to be seen on the move. Very few anglers have been out this week, and I have not heard of a fish being taken in this district.—CECIL HOWLETT.

(Hampton Court).—William Milbourne says: "Mr. Woods, of Molesey, on Monday evening took a nice little trout, weighing 3½lb., at the back weir. The water is in good order, but we want warmer weather."—B.

(Shepperton).—Major Arthur Terry caught a small trout of 3lb. 10oz. in the backwater at Weybridge; and Mr. C. H. Wheeley, on the same day (Saturday), landed one of 3½lb. out of the Tumbling Bay, and in addition a very large chub, which he returned. It is remarkable that the only three fish reported this week are of the same size.—B.

(Teddington).—Some of the trout fishers have been at work, but the only results have been the hooking of chub, barbel, and jack, which were all safely returned.—B.

Coln (Gloucestershire).—The season opened on April 1, and some good sport has been had both on hotel and private waters. Mr. Carbonell, on the Fairfield Park water, creeled his six brace; and Mr. Wykeham Martin, on the Bibury Court waters, four and a half brace. Amongst others who have been out on the Gloucestershire streams, are Messrs. John Morgan, C. Chard, K. Iles, Yeates, Hadley, Rogers, Russell, Livingstone, Jackson, Jenkins, &c. Best flies are March Brown, Pale Winged Olive Dnn, Whirling Blue, Brown Sberry Spinner, Blue Dun, Coch-y-bondhu, and Red Soldier Palmer on 10th days. Weather changeable. Snow on Monday. Trout in good condition, and rivers in fair order.—PAN.

Dart (Totnes and District).—The north-west wind and stormy weather has interfered with sport this week. Last week Mr. E. Distin had a basket of two dozen, and other takes of a few brace have been made by Totnes rods. Minnow fishing will be continued at Totnes weir until the end of this month, by order of the angling association. Mr. Edbrooke, of Furszeleigh Mills, killed another salmon a day or so since, in the association water at Bulkamore Quarry pool, with the prawn. The fish scaled 18lb. During the holidays Messrs. F. and J. Windeatt and Evans had some sport with trout at Holne Chase.—DEVONIAN.

Devonshire Streams.—The rains have put the streams in better condition, and the salmon rivers are now in trim. During the holidays a number of trout were killed in the upper Lyd district, where the prospects of a season's good sport are distinctly favourable, fish being numerous. The best takes have been from the Tavy, Clave district. Trout on the southern rivers has not provided anything approaching large creels, in spite of the increased volume. Most anglers have "drawn blanks" as regards salmon fishing, although Mr. Edbrooke has killed several fine fish this year in the Dart, near Buckfastleigh.—DEVONIAN.

East and West Cleddau (Pembrokeshire).—The rivers are in good order for fishing, and numerous good baskets of trout are being taken. The weather has been very cold for some days past, but the wind has now gone round to the west.—H.

Exe (Whitby).—The remunerative takes of last week have during the present week been superseded by indifferent results, and in only isolated cases are catches recorded. For this the prevalence of cold easterly winds is mainly responsible. Not a few local, as well as visiting, enthusiasts have been out, and only in the higher reaches have catches been effected at all, and these appear to be so scanty in number as to preclude the possibility of a record being obtained. At the time of writing the water is somewhat heavy, and prospects of sport for the ensuing week only moderate. Swarms of smelt are reported as being in the tideway.—J. JACKSON.

Exe and Canal (Exeter).—General conditions still dead against angling. Although a little rain has fallen, the river has received no benefit, and the cold winds day after day have effectually kept the trout down. Up to now this season takes very high rank in the record of bad years, the early spring fishing being an absolute failure.—RED PALMER.

Fen District (South Lincs. and Cambs.).—The streams of the district are stated to be very low for the time of the year. Cold is also against the hatching out of flies. As a consequence, little has yet been done. An odd brace are picked up now and again, but they are mostly taken with bottom baits or spinning. As soon as weather becomes favourable Sand Flies, February Reds, March Browns, and Bumbles might prove useful.—LIMPET.

Idle District (North Notts).—From the Idle district there is not much to be reported in the way of sport. The Ryton is noted in some parts for its fine dace. These are believed to have already spawned. Trout fishing, both on this stream and the Idle, has had little success, though, as the streams contain good fish, better things are expected. Salmon are said to be ascending the Trent, and these are followed as usual by a school of porpoises. As yet we have heard of no captures in the lengths between Gainsborough and Newark.—L.

Lark (Lackford and Icklingham).—Trout fishing in this river has improved somewhat. Mr. J. Hedges, out on April 6, killed two trout, 3lb. 6oz. and 15oz., also a pike, 3½lb. Mr. H. Mayhew, on the 10th, one trout, 1½lb., one pike, and a nice eel. The weather during the past week has been anything but pleasant by the riverside. The water is in very fair order to-day (Tuesday).—A. E. KEMP.

Lake Vyrnwy (North Wales).—The cold weather reported last week has held out, and, if anything, for the first few days of this week it has been worse than in the middle of winter. The wind occasionally has veered to the north, and this kept the fish down. Whenever the elements were favourable for a short spell the fish rose freely, the best basket of the week being Dr. Fenton's twenty-one fish, weighing 12lb. 8oz. On April 5, Dr. Fenton and Mr. Foster killed nine, 5lb. 10oz.; Mr. Malpass, three, 1lb. 10oz.; and Mr. Isaac, three, 1lb. 6oz. On the 6th the first two killed nineteen, 12lb. 10oz.; Mr. Isaac, six, 4lb. 10oz.; Mr. Malpass, four, 2lb. 11oz.; and Mr. Tarrell, two, 1lb. 10z. On the 7th the weather was too rough for any fishing to be attempted. On the 8th, Dr. Fenton creeled six, 2lb. 4oz.; Mr. Malpass, eight, 5lb. 2oz.; and Mr. Isaac, two, 1lb. 9oz. On the 10th, Dr. Fenton killed seven, 4lb. 11oz.; Mr. Isaac, six, 3lb. 8oz.; and Mr. Malpass, three, 1lb. 9oz. On the 11th, Dr. Fenton killed twenty-one, 12lb. 8oz.; and Mr. Malpass, twelve, 7lb. 12oz.—LONGDRIFT.

Lea.—Many anglers are now anxiously awaiting the opening of the Lea trout fishing season, which begins on the 1st prox. Enthusiasts have already paid the upper reaches a visit, on the look out for feeding fish. Several trout have, I hear, been seen on the move during the past week between St. Margaret's Lock and Rye House Bridge; and it is well known that trout have their haunt at Hertford, Ware, Hoddesdon, Broxbourne, &c. On the same day as trout fishing begins, eel fishing also opens in the Lea; and, as eels are very destructive to spawn, it is hoped a good many, when the season arrives, will be brought to bank.—ISAAC WALTON.

Lugg and Arrow (Leominster).—These trout streams are running in good condition, being clear and a nice level, and suitable for fly, bottom, or minnow fishing. The weather has been most changeable this week, and falls of rain, sleet, and hail, with strong winds, have swept over the district, and made it uncomfortable for anglers; but there has been a good few who have braved the weather, and have tried Stone Fly, Blue Dun, Cowdung, Red Palmer, March Brown, and Iron Blue, and have been rewarded with some very nice lots of trout, and, if the weather will only take up, there will be good sport had in this district. The Pinsley is running clear and in order.—GWYNNE.

Otter (Budleigh Salterton, Devon).—We have had a cold spell of weather for the last week with violent wind, chiefly from the north, which has been greatly against fly fishing. Last Saturday, however, although a most bitter day, accompanied by hail and rain storms, trout moved a little, one rod taking, near Tipton St.

John's, five brace of decent fish. These all took the sunk fly in the otherwise quiet water, lashed, as it was, into waves by the strong wind.—HERON.

Plowden Waters and Oany.—The weather here since last report has been cold, with rain and stormy hail showers. Little fishing has been done. At the suggestion of one of the members, Mr. Plowden has had a large number of fresh water shrimp turned into the club water, which it is hoped will improve the condition of the trout.—TRUTH.

Plj mouth.—We have had some nice showers locally, but on the moor, I hear, they have had plenty of rain, and the rivers are in better condition than when I last wrote. I have heard of some good baskets from the Tamar; a gentleman fishing last Saturday had five dozen trout, and on Monday, over three dozen; all fish under 4lb. were put back in the river. How about our Devonshire sprats after that? We have the fish here, and only want the fishermen to catch them. Several fish have been grased during the week over 1½lb. The Tavy and Walkham are in fairly good condition, but the weather is too unsettled for moor work.—WILLIAM HEARDER.

Severn (Caerswa to Llandinaw), Carne brook (Caerswa).—Monday to Saturday last nothing much done by anyone, weather cold, and latter part very rough. Heavy flood Thursday and Friday. Fly fishing only allowed now on the Severn over the Plus Dinam Estate. Minnow fishing has played "Old Harry" with the sport. Given "fairish" weather this week, some good baskets ought to be made.—J. E.

Severn, Vyrnwy, Tanat, and Cain (Llanymynech).—The wild and stormy weather recently experienced here has driven away most of the angling visitors, but at present the state of affairs is all that can be desired for angling, and in a few days both the Vyrnwy and Tanat will again be in good condition for the fly, if the present fine weather continues. The Severn is still flooded, and on Tuesday afternoon rose so very rapidly that the local postman between Llanymynech and Llandrinio, on his return journey to Llanymynech had to wade through 2ft. of water for a long distance. Little sport has been had here of late, but Mr. Durnville Lees, Woodhill, Oswestry, whilst angling on the Tanat, in the preserved waters of that river at Llanedwyn, captured several very fine trout and grayling, all in excellent condition. Permission to angle in this part of the Tanat can only be obtained from the Dowager Lady Williams Wynio, Llanedwyn Hall.—VYRNWY.

Sussex Rivers and Chichester Canal.—Rivers and streams are now in good order. From the Ouse a few roach have been taken during the week, and from the tributaries several trout. From one stream in the Fletching district seven brace of trout were taken in one day with worm and minnow, but double the quantity of perch were hooked and at once destroyed, as perch and trout are too agonistic in a stream. A few good trout have been taken from the tributaries of the Adur, and close to Shoreham a nice fish of 3lb. was taken from a culvert with worm. At Chichester Canal roach are spawning, and myriads of fish may be seen from the basin to the locks—several carp up to 14lb. in the basin and under the bridges. The harbour fishermen have had good sport with smelt. Mr. Fowler, fishing from a boat off Apuldram Sluice, recently captured twenty-two dozen; Mr. Moore, thirteen dozen. Those who would like a day's harbour fishing among smelt, bass, eels, or flat fish, should write to Mr. George Stoveld, Birdham Lock, who will provide bait and boat, and pilot his patrons to successful sport.—GEORGE F. SALTER.

Taff (Llandowror, Carmarthenshire).—The river is in very good order for fishing, and good baskets of trout have been caught during the past week, but not many salmon or sewin.—H.

Teifi (Lampeter, Cardiganshire).—Good sport is being had with trout, which are plentiful. The river is in first-rate order.—H.

Teme (Ludlow).—In this district the Teme continues to run clear and a nice level, and in capital condition for fishing. The weather during the past week has been most changeable, and what promised to be a successful spring for fishing has turned out just the opposite, and we are now having early March weather, with cold, strong winds and showers of rain, and hail and snowstorms. Fortunately, the storms have been of short duration, and have been followed by sunshine, and the trout have been rising well at the fly, and there has been a good few live flies on. There has been a good few anglers out, who have fished during hail storms and snow, and they have been successful in landing some nice trout. The best killing flies are the Blue Dun, February Red, Cowdung, Stone Fly, Iron Blue, and Red Palmers. Bottom fishing has been more successful of late, and some good trout have been taken. In the water below Ludlow some nice trout have been caught with fly. Near New Bridge some fair sized fish were landed on Monday. On Tuesday morning, in the Castle Pound, an angler, with the worm, landed a fine trout, 1½lb. weight. Trout have been on sale at the fishmongers at 1s. 4d. per lb. The Ony, Corve, Clun, and Ledwyche are all clear and in fishing order, and sport has been better in them this week.—S. LUDLOW.

Teme (Tenbury).—The Teme is continuing to run in good order in this part, and is at a nice height, and suitable for angling, but the weather has been anything but suitable for fishing, there having been rain and hail storms, followed by sunshine, which has made it uncomfortable for anglers. For all that, there has been a good number of flies on the water between the storms, and the fish have been well on the feed. A few anglers have been out and have used fly, and several very nice lots of fish have been taken. The flies used are the Blue Dun, Iron Blue, Cowdung, Red Palmer, March Brown, and Stone Fly. With warmer weather sport will improve.—WORCESTER.

Witham, &c. (Mid-Lincolnshire).—Trout fishing is very quiet in the Wold and upper waters. Weather is too changeable. Since the opening of the Great Central line to London, and the breaking of the working agreement between it and the Great Northern, doubts have been expressed as to changes in the running of excursion trains from Lancashire and Yorkshire. For some time there has been difficulty in getting off at intermediate stations beyond Lincoln with through tickets to Boston. We now hear this is settled, and people may leave the train at Bardney, Scuthrey, Stixwold, Kirkstead, &c., with a week-end cheap ticket over the whole distance.—**LUCI.**

Wye and Derwent (Derbyshire).—A few anglers were out Friday and Saturday last week, but had very poor sport. On Sunday a heavy downpour of rain, which brought a flood on the Derwent. No angling since. It will be Saturday before the Derwent will be fishable. Both rivers are too high for fly fishing, and will be until next week, when the following flies will be useful: February Red, Yellow Dun of April, Cooper's fancy, Blue Dun, Grannom, to be used as wet flies while the water is high.—**DOTTEREL.**

Yore, Swale, Wharfe, Nidd, &c. (Yorkshire).—In spite of the fearfully cold east and north-westerly wind, accompanied by storms of snow and hail, a good few anglers have been out on the banks of all our streams; but the hard night frosts keep insect life down, and vegetation is making very slow progress. The higher hills are frequently covered with snow, and scarcely a fly, beyond a few Midges in the middle of the day, is to be seen on the wing; consequently there is little inducement to fish fly, and, as a rule, up to now but meagre dishes have been made with it. Some customers, however, who have visited the Eden tell me sport on that river has been very fair indeed; and, strange to say, the fish there have taken the Orange Partridge and Bracken Clock well, along with the Snipe and Purple and Waterhen Bloa, the last two flies, with the March Brown, Sparish Needle, Woodcock and Orange, and Woodcock and Yellow, are unquestionably the best for any of the Yorkshire rivers; but as yet very few natural flies have made their appearance, and more fish have been caught with the natural minnow, fished on Ariel or Chapman tackle, than by any other method of angling, and in clearing waters following freshets some good baskets of trout have been made with it, in both the upper Yore and Swale particularly. Some of the members of the Black Ox Angling Club have had fair sport in the Codbeck, Wiske, and Bedale Beck; but up to the time of despatching this report nothing particular has come to hand from the Wharfe, Nidd, or other streams. Snow fell early this morning, followed by a lot of rain. The aneroid is very low, and we look like having a lot of wet again. This surely is the advent of warmer weather—that is all we require for good sport next week.—**J. E. MILLER, Northern Anglers' Depot, 19, New Station-street, Leeds.**

SCOTCH REPORTS.

Carron (Easter Ross, Ardgay, N.B.).—On 3rd inst., Mr. R. T. Coupland, of Gruinards, landed a 7lb. salmon on Havenrock Pool; and Mr. George Ross, Braelangwell, fishing for Mr. F. T. Gervers, of Amat, caught two, weighing 10lb. and 8lb. On 4th, Mr. Coupland grassed a 10-pounder on Gledfield Pool; and Mr. Geo. Ross, two, of 8½lb. and 7lb., on the Braelangwell water. On 5th, Mr. Coupland landed two, of 7lb. and 8½lb., on Gardener's Pool, besides one of 7½lb. on Bank Pool. On 8th, the same angler had one of 7½lb. on Poll Moral, and an 8-pounder on Rock Pool. On Monday, this week, Mr. Coupland was successful; and on Tuesday, Mr. Marquis, Balnagown Arms Hotel, landed a salmon of 11lb. A great number of anglers have now arrived, but the weather is very stormy. Heavy snow down to sea level.—**B.**

Deveron (Banffshire).—There is little or no improvement in the weather, which greatly affects the net and rod fishing in the river Deveron and adjacent coast. During Monday night and on Tuesday of this week a northerly gale prevailed, accompanied with a high sea and frequent showers of hail and snow. The river is running heavy and in bad condition. Notwithstanding, fair baskets of trout have been got on Corviehaugh and on several other sections. On the Bridge of Marnock water, Mr. H. B. Leatham had a salmon of 13½lb. The net fishermen on the river have had slightly improved takes of salmon and trout. The salmon weigh generally from 6lb. to 9lb., the heaviest fish got as yet scaling 30lb. On the coast the high sea running on Tuesday did not allow the cobles to get out of the harbour to the nets, and at some of the stations the nets received slight damage. In the end of last week a box of about 2cwt. was sent to the market, and on Monday of this week another of 2cwt. The flooded state of the river is bringing down kelts to the sea. Little is being done at the coast fishings at Gardentown; only a small box of ½cwt. was consigned to the markets on Tuesday.—**H. W.**

Lochleven (Kinross).—On Monday a rise in temperature brought large numbers of fish to the surface, but the absence of wind prevented good sport from being got by Mr. Schollet, Edinburgh, and Dr. Johnston, Corstorphine, who creeled four trout (3lb.). These were all captured on the March Brown fly off the old manse. On Saturday, two Edinburgh anglers also killed four trout with fly. The weather is now dry, but very cold, and the water has become decidedly clearer and in better order for the prosecution of angling. On Saturday 300,000 trout fry from the Lochleven hatchery were deposited in the principal streams which feed the loch.—**ROBERT LAING.**

Loch Tay (Killin, N.B.).—On April 6, Mr. Richards had two nice salmon, 21lb. and 17lb. On April 7, Mr. C. Wheen had one, 16lb.; Mr. S. Berger, one, 21lb. On April 8, Mr. S. Berger, one, 19lb.; Mr. C. Wheen, one,

20lb. On April 10, Master H. Berger, one, 23lb.; Mrs. Berger, one, 17lb. On April 11, Mr. C. Wheen, one, 24lb.; Mr. J. R. Sloan, one, 18lb.; Master H. Berger, one, 24lb.; Mr. Berger, one, 16lb.—**H. J. MAISEY.**

Naver (Bettyhill, via Thurso, N.B.).—Since last report the following sport has been got: On 3rd, Gen. Home, Syre Lodge, landed five salmon on beat No. 3, they averaged 9lb.; Mr. Marston, Skelpick Lodge, got one on No. 5; and Mr. Campbell, Dalvina Lodge, one on No. 1. On 4th, Gen. Home landed two, of 13½lb. and 8½lb., on beat No. 4; Mr. Marston, one on No. 5; and Mr. Campbell, one on No. 2. On 5th, Mr. Campbell creeled a salmon on No. 3. On 6th, Mr. Marston, Skelpick Lodge, caught two salmon on No. 2; and Col. Fryer, Dalvina Lodge, a 10-pounder on No. 3. On 7th, Gen. Home landed two salmon on No. 1. On 8th, Mr. Marston fished No. 3, and landed three fine salmon, one of them a beauty of 17½lb.; Col. Fryer had one on No. 1; and Mr. Campbell one on No. 2. Weather very stormy. Gen. Home and Col. Wilson have left Strathnaver for the south. Despite unfavourable conditions, the former landed twenty-three salmon during the month of March.—**B.**

North-East of Scotland.—The weather has been very changeable and cold, and water somewhat unsteady. Fresh snow showers are of daily occurrence, and altogether the conditions are not inviting for the advanced period of the year. On the Invercauld Braemar waters, Mr. F. J. Bisset had two fish, of 6½lb. and 8lb., and one of 7lb.; while Mr. Somerset creeled one of 6lb., and Mr. H. L. Craik, one of 8lb. On the Balmoral waters, the Duke of York finished his season on Tuesday week last with one of 10lb., on the Birrkall section. On the Ballater waters, Mr. Bristowe and party have had fair sport considering the adverse conditions. On the Glentana waters, Mr. Barclay (Profett's) had one of 7lb.; and Col. Brinckman, one of 16lb. On Saturday, Col. Brinckman had three, of 20lb., 10lb., and 8lb.; and Mr. Barclay, two, of 8lb. and 7lb. On the Huntly Arms water, during the week, Mr. Nelson had one of 6½lb.; Capt. Scott, three, of 8½lb., 6lb., and 9lb.; Mr. Bush, two, of 15lb. and 6½lb.; Mr. Crawshaw, three, of 13lb., 7lb., and 8lb.; Mr. Millburn, one of 6½lb.; and Mr. Clive, one of 6½lb. On the mid-reaches at Kincaidine O'Neil and Bancroby fairly good sport has been got, and the prospects are daily brightening. On the Dess water, Mr. Walter Davidson had one of 12lb., three, of 7lb., 8lb., and 9lb., and one of 8lb.; while the Hon. Walter Brooks had one of 6lb. on the Borrowstone; Lord Garrioch, two, of 6½lb. and 7½lb., and one of 12lb. On the Lodge water, Dr. Hood landed one of 7½lb.; and Mr. Whitley, one of 7lb. On Carlogie, Willie Dunn had two, of 7lb. and 9lb. On the Upper Blackhall water, Mr. Davies creeled seven fish for the week, ranging from 6lb. to 9lb. Sir John Gladstone, on Woodend and Commonty sections, had eleven fish during past ten days, all ranging from 6lb. to 12lb. On the Blackhall water, Capt. Mitchell had one of 7lb., one of 6½lb., one of 5lb., one of 5½lb., and two of 6lb.; while Mr. A. F. Hildyard creeled a fine fish of 16lb., and one of 7½lb.; Mr. R. B. Wilson, one of 6lb.; and Mr. E. Spencer Stanhope, two, of 6½lb. and 5lb. On Monday, Capt. Mitchell added two of 7lb. to his bag, while Mr. R. B. Wilson had a fine fish of 28lb.—the top weight for the season as yet on the Dee. On the Ythan, Capt. Mitchell had a fish of 8lb. on the Turnershall water. On the Ugie, Mr. George Mackay, jun., and Master William Mackay had some finnock of good weights. On the Deveron several salmon up to 13lb. have been got, and very good baskets of finnock.—**G. M.**

Shin (Inveran, N.B.).—The weather is still so unseasonable that good sport cannot be looked for. Between snowstorms and thunderstorms angling affairs are at a low ebb. On 1st inst., Mr. A. Farrer, Sutherland Arms Hotel, landed a salmon of 10lb. On the 5th the same angler had two, of 10lb. and 11lb.; and Mrs. Jackson, one of 8lb. On the Sch, Mr. A. Farrer caught a 10-pounder. On Wednesday snow fell heavily all day.—**B.**

South of Scotland.—Last week-end more rain fell over the south of Scotland, and the rivers were in flood on Friday morning. There was no option left to anglers but to fish with bait. Several preferred to spin the Devon minnow on the off-chance of getting the pull of a salmon, while others pinned their faith on the worm as a lure for trout. Spring salmon are very scarce in the Border rivers this season; only two have been caught in the Annan with rod and line, while none have been reported from the Nith, as also the Kirkcudbrightshire Dee, the Gatehouse Fleet, the Dalbeattie Urr of Galloway, and the Ayrshire rivers. In the nets of the Firth none have been running until within the past week, when a few odd ones were caught. At the time of writing the Cumberland fells have received another winter coating of snow, which is sure to retard trout fishing. This (Wednesday) morning there was a sharp snap of frost, and although we have much sunshine daily, the temperature is cold after the sun goes down. The most of the salmon kelts have been swept down to the sea with Friday's flood, but no doubt a number have been left behind, and will follow the salmon fry down to the sea. The annual migration of the smolts has begun now, and trout fishers will have no end of trouble taking off and returning these little fellows to the water. The fry gobble everything in the shape of a fly as soon as the cast is made. The best lure for yellow trout will be the real minnow, but the weather and water must be warmer before anglers can be successful. **THE ANNAN.**—This river was in flood on Friday. Fishing with the worm in the flood, Mr. Thomson, Carlyle-place, had several trout, one of which was a good yellow trout of about 1lb. Those anglers who were out in the higher waters had the best sport among brown trout, and several nice catches were made in the Wamphray district, as also below Moffat. One angler hooked a salmon with the minnow and lost it. **THE NITH AND TRIBUTARIES.**—Not much angling has been obtained on this river. Unsettled weather prevailed last week, and the river was

in flood. In the Thornhill portion a few rods have been more or less successful with fly. **THE DEE OF GALLOWAY, &c.**—No sport has fallen to the rods since last notes, and at the time of writing the weather is too cold for trout rising freely. Similar notes come from the other rivers of Galloway, including the Fleet at Gatehouse, the Cree, and the Urr of Dalbeattie. **AYRSHIRE LOCHS AND RIVERS.**—The waters in this part are in fairly good order for fly. On the lochs not many rods have been out, but a few nice baskets have been had on Loch Doon by fishing round the loch from the shore. The month of May is a capital time for Doon and Finlas of Dalmellington; and a good many Glasgow anglers frequent the former loch. On the rivers not much has been done. **THE SOLWAY DERWENT, &c.**—There has been very little doing in the Derwent at Cockermouth and in the Cocker, the weather being too cold for much sport. Not much sport is reported this week from the Ehen, Calder, Irt, and neighbouring waters. Mr. J. Gainford, sen., and Mr. J. Gainford, jun., killed eighteen yellow trout with worm bait on the Calder, all good fish; and on Friday the same anglers caught a dozen or so with fly on the same river.—**HEATHERBELL.**

Spey.—Since the opening little has been done by anglers, owing to the unsuitability of either the weather or water, and often both. At present the hills are covered to their base with snow, and the atmosphere as cold as in mid-winter. On Tuesday, on the Wester Elchies water, Mr. Cumming, The Downes, killed three salmon, scaling respectively 5½lb., 9lb., 14½lb.; on Wednesday, Col. Smith Grant, Anchorachan, one of 7lb.; and on Thursday, Mr. Duncan, fisherman, one of 11lb. From the Aberlour House water, on Tuesday, Mr. McDiarmid, gamekeeper, landed one of 7lb.—**J. M.**

Tay.—The river continues in good ply, but the weather is cold and unseasonable. On the Logierait Hotel water, on Monday, Mr. R. Butler caught a fish of 17lb. and a trout of 4lb. On Stobhall water, yesterday, Col. Phillips killed a fine fish of 33lb. On the free water here anglers are getting from four to eight daily, most of them being of good size.—**P. D. M.**

Tweed, Teviot, and other Border Rivers.—The weather in the Border district for fully a week past has been very cold, and the natural fly is yet scarce on the rivers. One or two bull trout have been got during the week with fly, these fish weighing from 3lb. to 4½lb. respectively. Many grayling have been killed during the week. This season of the year is, I believe, the close time for these fish in England, but in Scotland there is no close time for any fresh-water fish but the salmon. More the pity! Of those who have been most fortunate amongst the trout were: Mr. William Mercer, on the Eden, 13lb.; Mr. James Hogg, 6lb.; Mr. T. Watson, 4½lb.; and Mr. Jas. Thompson, 3½lb. On the Tweed, Mr. Chas. Farquarson has had baskets of from 3lb. up to 10lb.; Mr. R. Thompson, on Tweed and Teviot, takes of from 4lb. to 6½lb.; on the same stream, Mr. T. Mercer, teacher, Newport, had 5½lb. On the Teviot, Mr. Duncan Hill, on Monday, had 4½lb.; and on Tuesday, 5½lb. He also had a nice dish of eight brace, which were not weighed. Mr. Adam, Denholm and Mr. George Lees, last week, on the Tweed and Teviot, had 3lb. and 2½lb. respectively in two hours' fishing each. In the tributary streams little or nothing is being done owing to the coldness of the weather. Salmon angling is very quiet indeed. The only takes that have come to my knowledge during the week was one salmon killed by Lord Dunslass, on the Birgham of his father's (the Earl of Home), and one by Capt. French, which weighed 7lb., and this fish was killed on the Till. The crusade against the pike still continues, and occasionally one of these trout and salmon smolt destroyers are brought to bank. On the Teviot, during the past ten days, Mr. Jas. Affleck had two of 5lb. each, killed with parr tail bait; while Mr. R. E. Hogarth has also had a couple of 4lb. each, on the same stream, with spoon bait; and Mr. Frank Stephani, Kelso, on the Tweed, one of 6½lb., with spoon bait. The annual spring competition of the Edinburgh Spread Eagle Angling Club took place on the Tweed on Saturday. The Tweed net salmon fishings are still exceedingly bad; worse than they have been since the opening of the season in February.—**MAXWHEEL.**

IRISH REPORTS.

Bandon River (co. Cork).—Salmon anglers have not been doing over well for past week. Mr. Joseph Pike had a nice fish of 12lb. on the Carrigmore water. Trout anglers have been more fortunate, some very nice baskets have been made between Ballineen and Dunmanway; also on the tidal water at Innishannon.

Belfast.—A very poor week on the Dams owing to the uncertain weather; Mr. Caldwell, Mr. Hunter, Mr. Loughran, and some others, had a few trout on Woodburn. To-day (Wednesday) the weather is bright, but very cold.—**J. A. B.**

Boyne (Navan Section).—Stormy weather and low water the latter part of last week prevailed, but the high winds brought up a sprinkling of good fish. On Sunday rain fell heavily, but not sufficiently prolonged to do more than raise the river to its normal height for this season of the year, and on Monday it was too discoloured for sport. On Upper Blackcastle water, Mr. Francis Ley and party have had fair sport. On the 6th they had three, 22lb., 20lb., and 11lb. On the 7th, two, 24lb. and 12lb. On the 8th, two, of 25lb. and 15lb. On the 10th, one, 17½lb. On the 11th, five, of 28lb., 25lb., 24½lb., 11lb., and 10lb. I cannot hear of more than two or three fish being taken on the lower reaches. At time of writing this there is every prospect of more rain.—**CLARET FLY.**

Bundrows River (co. Donegal).—This river has been in high flood, and continues so at present, but the weather at time of writing seems fine and settled, and looks like remaining so for some time, and now that there

is a fine head of fish in this river, as soon as it gets into fishing ply, which will be in a couple of days, some good sport amongst the salmon will be had on it.—M. ROGAN AND SONS.

Carrigart (co. Donegal).—This week the climatic conditions were adverse to angling. The best trout up to date was a very nice 4lb. fish killed on Glen Lough by Mr. H. O'Brien.—J. A. B.

Corrib (Galway).—The fickle April weather was against sport in the past week, not only from the cold, sleety showers lowering the temperature, but from their disturbing influences on this most easily disturbed water. Since last notes about a dozen fish were killed by Major-General Dashwood, Mr. W. Townsend, Mr. Conyngham, and the Lydons.—J. A. B.

Erne (Ballyshannon and Belleek).—At time of writing the Erne is rather high for successful trouting, still, Capt. Leo Moore, Mr. Maxwell Moore and others had some good sport amongst the trout on it since last report. The river will be in splendid trouting order in a few days from now should this fine weather continue.—M. ROGAN AND SONS.

Lee (co. Cork).—The weather has been very snitable for salmon fishing since last report, and the river in very good order. The occasional showers have brought down small floods, which have drawn numbers of fish up from the tidal waters. Prospects for the coming week are good. The following were successful on Mashonoglass: Mr. M. F. Barry, 7½lb., 8lb., 14lb.; and others 60th Rifles, four, averaging 10lb. On Oak Grove, F. M. Leader, 10lb., 20lb.; G. M. Jevons, 10lb.; and H. E. Stanley, 10lb. On Lee Mount, Mr. W. T. Crawshaw, 6lb., 8lb., 8½lb.; Mrs. Crawshaw, 10½lb.; and Mr. H. M. Lewis, 7lb. On Ballineadig, Mr. S. Haynes, 10½lb., 8lb. On Cronody, Capt. Gubbins, R.A., 9lb.; Capt. Bowker, 9lb. At Castle Lynch, Mr. J. O'Brien, 9lb. Trout anglers have been doing well. The Upper Lee and Sullane river at Macroom are well stocked with salmon and trout, and is well worth a visit. The fishing is nearly all free by stopping at Dennehy's Hotel, where anglers are specially catered for at most reasonable charges.—W. HAYNES AND SON.

Lough Currane (Waterville, co. Kerry).—The weather has been on the whole very unfavourable since last report, and only two salmon have been had, viz., one of 8lb. by Mr. Thornton, and one of 10½lb. by Mr. Darley, Q.C. The brown trout fishing, on a few favourable days, was good, and sport has been pretty brisk during the last few days at "Pinks," at several points. Salmon continue to arrive in better numbers from the sea, and, given fair weather, sport should show much improvement during the remainder of April. Things are going on nicely at the hatchery here, but it is reported that a number of the fish put into the lake at Tarmons have died. Weather at time of writing improving, and fly fishing prospects better.

Lough Melvin.—The weather during the past week was so stormy that the best parts of the salmon waters at the Garrison end of the lake could not be approached, and in consequence little sport was had. Mr. F. Hughes took one salmon of 9lb. on April 6; Mr. K. W. landed another of 8½lb. on 7th; Mr. P. Munday took a trout (*Salmo ferax*) of 6lb. on 8th; and Mr. Gerald landed one salmon of 10lb. on 10th. Trout fishing on some days since last report was fair, but the continued storm was much against it, as well as against the salmon fishing. Mr. F. Broadbent, Mr. E. Hayman, the Rev. Wm. Verner, and Mr. Neely were amongst the most successful trout anglers. A number of anglers from England and elsewhere are to arrive at Scott's Hotel, Garrison, towards the end of this week.—M. ROGAN AND SONS.

Mountain Lakes (Waterville, co. Kerry).—Sport continues good on all the above waters, the best baskets being had on Saturday and Sunday. The following were the best baskets recorded on the different waters: On Drenane, one of twenty-nine; on Cummeravanig, one of three dozen; on Coomeateen, one of forty; on Coomavoher, one of forty; and on Filealougha, one of twenty-seven brown trout. July, August, and September are the best months for angling on those waters, and the beaver trout are had by worm fishing, which is very slow work on those waters. The trout usually had with fly average only about one-third of a lb. in weight, few reaching 1lb. Though comparatively small, they give good sport, being hard fighters.—T. J. D.

Moy Hotel Private Waters (Ballina).—Water coming in order after a flood. Nothing done on the river during the week, as there were no anglers fishing, on account of dirty water. Some clean fish taken in the weir. Cold, north-easterly winds against fishing. Weather just settling down. Some nice baskets of trout taken at Rungry Lodge during the week.—JOHN DEVERES.

Moy, Loughs Conn and Cullen (Ballina, co. Mayo).—River high and out of order here for the past week, and weather very unsettled. A splendid run of clean salmon just now in the river. If the weather would only become fine anglers would be sure of good sport. The lough is also in a high state, and trout not taking well.—PAT HEARNES.

Shannon and Lough Derg (Killaloe).—For six consecutive days a storm has swept over the Shannon and Lough Derg, so that angling of all kinds was out of the question. On Thursday, however, during a short lull in the storm, Major Traherne's fishermen, Patsy Ryan and W. Fogarty, went out on the Major's preserves, and within an hour they landed two spring salmon of 19lb. and 11lb. respectively.—S. J. HURLEY.

Shannon (Castleconnell).—The weather has been very changeable during the week—calms, storms, rain, and sunshine alternating. On the Doonass Fishery, Mr. G. C. Williams killed one salmon, 24½lb., on the 4th; and one salmon, 18lb., on 6th. On Prospect, Mr. D. Vickers killed one salmon, 26lb., on 5th. On the Castle Fishery, Mr. E. T. Ingham killed one salmon, 21lb., on 11th.—J. ENRIGHT AND SON.

Strule (Omagh, co. Tyrone).—The weather up to time of writing (Wednesday) has been cold and bright, with frequent showers of rain and sleet—very detrimental to sport. The best trout killed yet was one of 3½lb., killed on a bait, by Mr. J. Donohy, on the Camowen tributary.—J. A. B.

SEA FISHING.

Deal (The Pier).—Local fishing still remains extremely poor, the constantly changing winds not giving the water a chance to properly settle. Mr. Gray fished from the pier on 9th inst., and took half a score of small dabs and pouting. On Monday, Mr. Welch and Mr. G. Wood tried for three or four hours, the resultant catch being two pouting and three tiny dabs. Mr. Filner held undisputed possession of the pier on Tuesday but did not experience the sensation of a single bite. Nothing daunted, he essayed sport to-day (Wednesday), and hooked and landed four dabs, two of them of decent size.—J. RICHARDSON (B.S.A.S.).

Plymouth.—The weather has been rather unsettled during the week, but still some of the boats have made short trips, and done fairly well. The mackerel drift boats have had a hard time; they were caught at sea in the gale, and a lot of them lost their nets, having to cut them adrift and run for shelter. It is calculated that in Devon and Cornwall the damage and loss to boats and gear during the last ten days will amount to nearly £25,000, and as some of the men are stupid enough not to insure, their loss must be terrible, as it is in reality losing their entire means of earning their livelihood. The amateurs are busy fitting out their boats.—WILLIAM HEARDER.

Southend and Leigh.—Notwithstanding the variegated weather, fishing has distinctly improved, and shows prospects of being even better in the immediate future. I am pleased to hear that the members of the Collingwood A.S., who were here on April 9, took some nice fish. Good flounders and dabs can be found in the neighbourhood of the Crowstone, and many have been taken from the Leigh Creek. A good spot is about 500yds. from the Leigh Creek buoy, the buoy bearing directly S.E. The electric tramway on the pier is closed for repairs, so that it is necessary to walk to the extension. Barometer, 29.5 in., falling; wind, S., fresh; sea moderate; weather clear.—CHARLES HUSSEY (B.S.A.S.).

Angling Fixtures.

- April 17.
Anglers' Association: Delegate meeting.
Dibdin: Visit.
- April 18.
Bermudsey Brothers: Lantern lecture by Mr. W. J. Wade (secretary of the Central Association).
Gresham: Paper by Mr. A. W. Parker.
North London: Visit.
- April 19.
Anchor (Kingston): Annual dinner.
- April 20.
Anchor and Hope: Annual dinner.
Royal George: Visit.
- April 24.—Prince of Wales: Benefit concert.
" 25.—Gresham: Annual dinner.
" 25.—Original Alexandra: Distribution.
" 25.—Waggoners: Visit.
" 26.—Amicable Waltonians: Distribution.

Reports from Clubs

We beg to remind Secretaries that their Reports must reach us not later than **SIX o'clock on Thursday Evening.** Address "Editor, FISHING GAZETTE, St. Dunstan's House, Fetter-Lane, London," marked "CLUB REPORT" outside envelope.

Anglers' Association.—The annual delegate meeting will take place on Monday evening next, April 17, at 8.30.—R. GHURNEY.

Anglers' Benevolent Society.—Since my last report I beg to acknowledge with thanks the receipt of £6 14s. Walthamstow Brothers, £5 15s. Bostonian, and £1 15s. 3d. Hoxton Brothers Angling Societies, from their donation boxes.—R. GHURNEY.

Anglers' Association (No. 2 District) Visiting List.—My next return district visit takes place on April 18, at the North London A.S., Tap House, Holloway-road, near Highbury Station. Buses and trams pass door. I hope to see you all. Secretary Stretch does his best to provide a host of talented artists, and also his esteemed son, Bill Stretch.—BEN ABRAHAMS.

Allason United Brothers' Angling Society, Duke of Sussex, Uxbridge-street, Notting Hill Gate.—Our ninth annual dinner will take place on May 10.—BEN.

Alma Angling Society. Coach and Horses, Portsmouth-place, Lincoln's Inn Fields.—The meeting called for April 16 is postponed until April 23, when I hope to see every member.—J. CHAMBERS.

Amicable Waltonian Angling Society, The Fox and French Horn, Clerkenwell Green.—The annual distribution of prizes will take place on April 26. Will prize donors please note date. Our annual concert in aid of the Anglers' Benevolent Fund will take place on May 8, when I hope to have the support of brother anglers. Will members please show up at Bermudsey Brothers on Tuesday next.—G. MERRY.

Anchor and Hope Angling Society, Duke of Kent, Old Kent-road, S.E.—The usual weekly meeting

of this society was held on April 12, Mr. C. Cannar in the chair. Members are requested to send in as soon as possible how many tickets they will use for annual dinner, and forward prizes from last season.—F. W. MARTIN.

Battersea Friendly Angling Society, Queen's Hotel, Queen's-road, Battersea, S.W.—(Owing to the dinner and distribution coming early in May, I should deem it a favour if donors would forward promised prizes at their earliest convenience. All members are desired to attend special meeting on April 18. This is most important.—A. JENKINS.

Battersea Piscatorialists, Winstanley Arms, Winstanley-road, Clapham Junction, S.W.—Will members take note that next week is general meeting night, when there is some very important business to be transacted. Donors of prizes will greatly oblige by sending in their prizes by next week.—T. TRINGHAM.

Bermudsey Brothers' Angling Society, Woolpack, Bermudsey-street, S.E.—On April 18 Mr. W. J. Wade, secretary of the Central Association of London Anglers, will favour this society with a lantern lecture, "Rambles in Kent," followed by a smoking concert, in aid of the Anglers' Benevolent Society. The chair will be taken at 8.30 by the genial host of the Peckham Brothers', Mr. A. E. Clarke. The company of brother anglers and friends on this occasion will be esteemed a favour that the B.B.'s will not forget to repay on any future occasion.—ALF CONN.

Blackfriars Angling Society, The Imperial, Southwark-street, S.E.—I wish to remind members and friends we intend having supper and distribution of prizes at above on Tuesday, May 9. Should like all members to attend next Wednesday to clear and settle important business.—WHEELHOUSE.

Bloomsbury Brothers' Angling Society, Rose and Crown, Broad-street, Bloomsbury.—On April 12 Mr. J. Bell and Mr. C. Daniels were elected working members. Wednesday next, April 19, will be limit right, when all subscriptions must be paid without fail. Members are requested to note a special general meeting is called for April 26, for the revision of rules and other important business.—T. PATERNOSTER.

Brunswick Brothers' Angling Society, Cherry Tree, Brunswick-road, Bromley-by-Bow, E.—A special meeting will be held at the above club on Tuesday next, when officers, &c., will be elected for the coming season. Will members kindly turn up in full force on this occasion?—F. RANDALL.

Cambridge Heath Brothers' Angling Society, The Good Intent, Mowlem-street, Bishop's-road, Cambridge Heath.—On April 11 there was a very good attendance of members, and it was arranged to take our return visit, No. 1 Eastern District, on April 24, when all anglers and friends are invited. Will those members who fished for timepiece on March 26 please hand in their names? No trout to record yet. Expect the members are waiting for their annual dinner; date to be fixed next Tuesday.—P. E. LOFT.

Camden Angling Society, The Locomotive, Jamer-street, High-street, Camden Town, N.W.—We have a smoking concert, on behalf of the widow and children of the late T. Nicholls, on Monday, April 17. I hope to see a good muster of brother anglers; ladies invited.—E. BONALL.

Clapham Junction Angling Society, The Clarence, Winstanley-road, Clapham Junction, S.W.—A special meeting will take place on Wednesday, April 19, for revision of rules and other important business. I shall esteem it a favour if donors of prizes will kindly forward on same as soon as possible, as the end of our financial year is on April 26.—G. T. JAMESON.

Clapham Strollers' Angling Society, Alexandra Hotel, Clapham Common, S.W.—On Tuesday we made final arrangements to hold our annual dinner and concert (which promise this year to be a big success) on Wednesday, May 10. It has also been decided to hold a committee meeting next Tuesday evening, at 9.30 sharp, before the ordinary meeting. Will members please note?—S. VIOLET.

Clerkenwell and District United Visiting List.—The visit to the Dibden A.S. will be on Monday next, April 17, instead of the 10th.—F. CASTELL.

Clissold Angling Society, The Cricketers, Northwold-road, Stoke Newington, N.—On Tuesday, April 25, all members are requested to attend on urgent business, to elect officers, &c.—T. FAULKNER.

Dalston Angling Society, Brownlow Arms, Brownlow-street, Dalston.—On April 11 our annual general meeting was held. All the officers were re-elected with the exception of the committee, which was deferred until next week. The auditors, Messrs. T. Swain and R. Mack, gave their report and presented the balance-sheet, which was accepted, and a vote of thanks passed to them. The annual distribution of prizes will take place on May 16. It was also decided that the dinner should take place in the country. Members are requested to attend on Tuesday next to select a place. Members who are in arrears are requested to clear the books.—S. MALBY.

Dibdin Angling Society, St. Martin's Tavern, Pratt-street, N.W.—On Wednesday last a general meeting to settle prizes and date of annual supper. The following were the lucky ones for season prizes: H. Brock, five; A. Edwards, three; W. Elton, three; D. Ansell, three; J. Edwards, two; R. Bennett, one; M. Brothiers, medal. Date of supper Monday, May 8, at clubhouse. Our C.D.V.L. visit was postponed at the last minute, on account of the death of host's father, till Monday next, 17th. Will those clubs that turned up please accept my apology and come in force next Monday, when we hope to eradicate their disappointment of Monday last.—JOHNNY EDWARDS.

Forest Piscatorial Society, Rose and Crown, Hoar-street, Walthamstow.—On Thursday evening, April 6,

the prizes were distributed as follows: Mr. Davies, club prize for largest roach (1lb. 5oz.), club prize for dace (12½oz.), and special prize for largest number of dace over 8oz.; J. W. Marshall, club prize for largest jack during season, and special prize for largest jack; Mr. T. J. H. Marshall, special prize for largest perch. No prizes are granted to members for gross weight—only specimen fish.—HENRY TISLEY.

Golden Barbel Angling Society, Sir Isaac Newton, Union-street, Middlesex Hospital.—The annual supper is fixed to take place on May 9 next, at 8 p.m. Will members kindly clear the books next Tuesday, as I wish to get out the balance-sheet? Mr. King started the new season on Tuesday with a trout.—J. E. LAWFORD.

Great Northern Brothers Angling Society, Robin Hood, Southampton-street, Pentonville.—Members are requested to attend on Monday next, the annual meeting, when all arrears must be paid up. The election of officers for the ensuing year will take place, &c.—J. A. FITCH.

Hearts of Oak Angling Society, Ye Olde Crown, Brick-lane, Bethnal Green, E.—Next Wednesday being general meeting night, I hope all members will attend for special business. Our supper takes place on May 29; distribution of prizes the Monday following.—C. SMITH.

Highbury Angling Society, Globe Hotel, Upper TOLLINGTON-ROAD, N.—Mr. J. B. Close took the chair on Wednesday last at a well-attended general meeting, and a heavy evening's work was got through in good style. Mr. F. Berry's pike, 17lb. 5½oz., took the silver cup for best fish of season, Mr. Wymer being second with a dace 14½oz. Mr. W. D. Hall and Mr. Wymer tied, with 74 points each, in the challenge cup competition; but on a ballot being taken, the latter's were declared to be the best fish, thus entitling him to hold the cup for the year. Our standard for jack, barbel, chub, carp, and tench was raised 2in., now reading 24in., 18in., 14in., 14in., and 12in. respectively. Officers were elected for the forthcoming season, and May 17 fixed for annual dinner.—E. W.

Islington Brothers' Angling Society, Myddleton Arms, Canonbury-road.—On Tuesday last the auditors give in their report, when everything was pronounced satisfactory, with a good balance in hand. We have a brake outing as last year, to the same place—Pardon, in Essex—on May 14. The prize distribution night will follow on shortly after, so will members and friends who have promised prizes kindly forward them to the secretary?—J. H. HERBERT.

Jubilee Angling Society Prince Arthur, Golborne-road, North Kensington.—Will members kindly favour us with their attendance next meeting night, as we have some very important business?—G. BENICE.

Junior Piscatorial Society, Rosemary Branch, Lewisham High-road, S.E.—Several members were out at Easter, the most fortunate being Mr. Sutherland, who took a nice salmon of 22½lb., and two other good fish. Messrs. J. W. Freeman, Baker, and Bailey had some very fair trout. Our annual general meeting took place at the clubhouse on Thursday last, and a very satisfying balance sheet was placed before the members, showing the society to be in a flourishing condition. A hearty vote of thanks was accorded to our retiring secretary, Mr. J. R. Freeman (who is shortly leaving London), for the able manner in which he has attended to his duties.—C. R. W.

Lincoln Angling Society, Metropolitan, Winchester-street, Pentonville, N.—Our seventeenth annual dinner and distribution of prizes will take place on Wednesday, May 17. Prize donors will greatly oblige by sending on prizes by now and above date.—W. WATLING.

Liverpool Angling Association, Bee Hotel, Queen-square.—The Eastertide angling has been mostly very successful, and I have heard good reports from various waters. But I think our Mr. Whittington's take of thirty trout (heaviest 1lb. 5oz.), from the Pen-y-Cae reservoir, wants beating. The *Pontinalis* trout have done very well, indeed, being bold risers, handsome, and full of fight. It is a great pity success is so uncertain in this water, as the trout only seem to rise in fits and starts, and it is disheartening to go two or three times and find them off. But there is no water within many miles of Liverpool where the same quantity and quality of trout can be found for a subscription of only £1 per annum. Then, on Mondays and Saturdays you can have an excursion fare to Ruabon and back for 2s. 6d. And it is prettily situated, and the mountain air pure and bracing.—RD. WOOLFALL.

Lychnobite Angling Society, Ben Jonson, Shoe-lane, E.C.—At our meeting on Tuesday last, report re concert was read by hon. sec. Committee earnestly trust that ticket-holders will send in returns as early as possible. Lieut.-Colonel Fred Mather, the eminent American ichthyologist, was elected a member. Mr. Charles Hussey, the popular angling *littérateur*, Mr. Arthur Matthews, and Mr. Harry Malins will be proposed next week. Many thanks to Mr. G. H. Howard for excellent G.E.R. books. Members delighted, and could do with more!—SID RANSOM.

North London Angling Society, Tap House, Holloway-road.—The next return visit on the No. 2 Eastern takes place at the above on Tuesday, April 18, when I hope to see a good muster of the clubs on the list. On the 5th inst. Mr. Black and Mr. Hayes were elected auditors, to go through the accounts for the last six months.—H. STRETCH.

Peckham Brothers' Angling Society, Windsor Castle, Cator-street, Sumner-road, Peckham, S.E.—Since the holidays business has been very slack, nothing doing. A special meeting will be held on Friday, 14th inst.; important business. On the 18th our worthy host, Mr. Clarke, will take the chair at the Bermondsey Brothers' concert. I hope to see him well supported by members and friends.—GEO. ETHERINGTON.

Prince of Wales' Angling Society, Windsor Castle, Church-street, Edgware-road.—Members are

reminded that Monday next is our quarterly night, when important business will be brought forward, including the fixture of the date for the annual distribution of prizes; also to arrange our supper for that evening. The members have granted the use and support of our room on Monday, April 24, for the benefit concert on behalf of Mr. A. Fowler, of Golden Barbel, who, through fire, has been burnt out.—W. B.

Queen's Piscatorials, Queen's Arms, 1A, Chapel-street, Edgware-road, N.W.—I beg to remind members that contributions for the past season are now overdue, also private prizes. Should feel obliged to those gentlemen who kindly promised prizes if they would send them in at their earliest convenience. The annual dinner and distribution of prizes takes place on Tuesday, May 9 next.—GEO. KEENE.

Royal George Angling Society, Queen's Arms, Bateman-street.—At our last meeting it was decided to take our annual supper and distribution of prizes on May 24, and Messrs. E. and G. Bardot will act as stewards on that occasion. We take our visit on the Central Association list on April 20, and hope to receive a bumper on that occasion.—J. GIBBONS.

St. Alban's Angling Society, Rising Sun, Prince's-road, Kennington.—Our annual dinner will take place on May 11. All members must give in their names by Wednesday, May 3. Several new members have been proposed, and, will all members please note, prizes to be paid in by May 3.—H. ALLEN.

Seymour Brothers' Angling Society, King and Queen, 1, Foley-street, Fitzroy-square, W.—A special meeting of the above members is called for Tuesday next, to consider very important business. Will all members please attend. Our annual supper and distribution of prizes will take place on Tuesday, May 9.—W. ALDIS.

South Bermondsey Club Piscatorial Institute, Rotherhithe New-road.—The above society will hold their fifth annual dinner and distribution of prizes on Monday, May 8, in the hall at the above institute, when we hope to have a good muster and a jolly time of it.—J. H. DAVIES.

South London United Anglers' Visiting List.—The next visit on the above list will take place on Tuesday, April 25, at the Waggoners' A.S., White Lion, Albert Embankment, S.E.—ALF. PAINTER.

Sundial Angling Society, Plough and Harrow, King-street, Hammersmith.—At our special meeting on April 11 the annual supper night was fixed for May 4, and the recommendations from the committee to commence business at nine o'clock and close at 10.30, also the power to arrange the outings for the ensuing season, were accepted.—C. E. LOCK.

Walham Green and Chelsea Angling Society, Black Bull, Fulham-road, S.W.—Will members please be in their places on Wednesday, April 19, as we have very important business before the club. Our dinner will be held on May 3; any member not receiving dinner tickets please communicate with the secretary.—TIDLER.

Walworth Waltonians Angling Society, St. Paul's Tavern, Westmoreland-road, Walworth, S.E.—I shall be glad to see every member next Wednesday evening as early as possible, to arrange the annual dinner.—W. WRAY.

West Ham Brothers' Angling Society, Coach and Horses, The Grove, Stratford.—Our monthly meeting takes place on Wednesday next, April 19; hoping to have a good attendance to arrange for the annual supper.—R. LOWTHER.

Ye Olde Clapham Rovers' Angling Club, The Windmill, Clapham Park-road.—We are anxious that all our members will be at the clubhouse on Tuesday, April 18, to hear balance-sheet read and revise rules, as we want to get through all business in connection with the past year and start afresh; also we want to see all our members, to arrange for annual supper. By specially attending to this you will greatly oblige.—N. LINDEN.

Doings by the Way.

The monthly delegate meeting of the Anglers' Association will be held at the Foresters' Hall on Monday evening next, April 17, at 8.30.

"SCRIBNER'S MAGAZINE" for April is an extremely interesting number. Mr. Sydney Colvin continues to give us some of the charming letters of Robert Louis Stevenson, with dainty illustrations quite in harmony with the graceful text. The "Rough Riders" is also continued, and we have some stirring records of what the American Cavalry did at Santiago. "A Winter Journey to the Klondyke" is another article which will be read with great interest. Indeed, the whole number is crammed with good things, and, needless to say, the illustrations are up to the usual standard of excellence.

ANGLERS will be sorry to hear of the death of Mr. H. C. Cusping (late of the Piscatorial Society). He was well known and beloved at Twickenham; also in Norfolk, on the Yare.

MR. ERNEST SHAND has been giving some "Queer Experiences" when fishing for trout, in the columns of that most interesting paper, *The Umpire* (Manchester). The following is an extract:

"The spring, the spring, the beautiful spring.' So sings the poet; but I have come to the conclusion that he is too soon with his jubilant song; he should wait until the summer arrives and spring has passed, then he could make what remarks he chose—he could refer back, as it were. Anyway, spring always seems to get up and prove the

poet to be out of his reckoning, and this year it has won, hands down. Spring particularly appeals to the trout angler, as the trout then are supposed to be unsuspecting and hungry. They are supposed to take an artificial fly with an eagerness that they do not evince later on in the season, when they have a better judgment of real and artificial insect life. It was with a kind of suppressed joy that I waited the end of the pantomime season, and prevailed upon my worthy manager to give me two days' holiday from the present rehearsals. For weeks previous I was wallowing deep in the 'Angler's Diary,' trying to decide upon a suitable spot for those two days. I settled on half-a-dozen places, and learnt the trains to and from Manchester off by heart. My hair was going grey through studying Bradshaw, when a happy idea struck me. It was to write to a literary friend who lives among trout streams, and to ask him to put me on to some decent fishing for those two days. He suggested a visit to the Wharfe. I jumped at it—the suggestion, not the Wharfe,—and decided to take his advice. There were no trains from Manchester on Sunday to the town I made my headquarters, but I found that, by going half-way round the United Kingdom, I could reach my destination about midnight. The weather was then truly springlike, but directly I decided where to go to, it changed. When I bought my ticket, it grew bitterly cold. When the train started, it got worse. But even then I determined to go through with it; and then, when the weather became thoroughly aware of my fixed resolve, it snowed! And it snowed all the way! When I got up the next morning to prepare for my fishing expedition it was freezing hard, and snowing in a desultory manner, as much as to say, 'I'm here when you start fishing.' Nothing daunted, I put on my waders and sallied forth. There was only one of me, but I sallied. My literary friend had persuaded an expert fisherman to pilot me on my way. When I met him he was carrying something bushy in his hand. I asked him was it fur or feathers, but he informed me it was his beard that had frozen during his journey, and had accidentally broken off in an encounter with a lamp-post which he hadn't expected to meet. He said the weather was unpropitious. I said it was something else, but there's no need for me to repeat it. However, we wended our way to the river, dodging snowflakes, after calling at a house to look inside a bottle. Having prepared our tackle and got ready for the fray, we loaded our pipes, and again looked upwards at the sky through a bottle, then 'waded in.' There are golf links along that portion of the river, and a lunatic asylum at no great distance. A few individuals who were playing golf came to the riverside in open-mouthed astonishment at seeing Arctic explorers after fish; but, recollecting the asylum, they resumed their game. I met a man lower down the river, and who, when I asked him if he had got any fish, replied, 'Nine.' My spirits rose. 'Nine!' I exclaimed, in astonishment. 'Nine,' he reiterated, and shook his head. After a little conversation I discovered that he was a German, and spelt his reply 'nein.' I moved on." [Good job anglers are all benign.]

A YANKEE who recently invented a fishing rod which automatically registers the exact weight and number of the fish caught on it cannot understand why nobody will buy it.

THE prospectus of the eighteenth annual Sportsman's Exhibition, to be held at Olympia, Newcastle-on-Tyne, on May 3 to May 13 next, is to hand. Every imaginable sport, of course including fishing, will be represented, and a long and most influential list of patrons angers well for the success of the show. The business manager is Mr. J. W. Grieves, of Lower Edmonton, London, N.

A CYNICAL American once remarked that England had no climate, "it was all weather," and certainly the weather of last week-end justified the *mot*. At noon on Thursday, when the fishing reports came to hand, "All in the garden looked lovely," as Miss Marie Lloyd sings; then without warning, rhyme, or apparent reason, down plunged the barometer. The mercury fell from 30.0in. to 29.15in. in twenty-four hours, with a strong S.W. gale, which did much damage, especially to the fishing fleets. Our Southend correspondent warned readers of the *F. G.* by telegram of the change; but before the week-end holiday up jumped the glass again, the wind veered to N.N.W., and sea fishing prospects brightened considerably. Perhaps "Observer" and others who are inclined to blame the *F. G.* for not accurately forecasting on Thursday the weather likely to prevail from Saturday to Monday, will kindly bear this little meteorological vagary in mind before saying hard things of our correspondent's reports in future.

I PROMISED not to give the name away if I told the tale, but it is too good to be lost. A certain well-known member of the B.S.A.S. was returning from a fishing excursion, and while walking along the parade to his hotel was much amused to see a couple of visitors trying to make head or tail of the society's burgee, which he was wearing on his cap. "B. A. S. S.," said the lady, "I wonder what that means?" "Oh! I know," said her husband, "he must be Bass's agent in the town. Let us ask him to send us a small cask of bitter. The beer we get from the King's Arms is certainly not up to the mark." The moral of this little tale is "never let your eyes deceive your earsight," as Artemus Ward bath it.

The Government Marine Biologist at Cape Town has "struck ile," and no mistake. The correspondent of the *Daily Mail* in those parts wires that the G. M. B. has discovered a new fishing ground off Lagulhas Bank of

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"6000 square miles extent. The telegram adds, "It is fairly creeping with soles," which sounds touching. Unfortunately the waters which surround this little island are too thoroughly fished for an unexpected discovery of this kind to be made within reach of the London markets. Our brethren at the Cape are to be envied.

"FORTY thousand pounds for a trout." M'yes, it sounds all right, does it not, and likely? But that was the astounding line on the contents bill of the *Daily Telegraph* of Monday last. It appears that an American financier, Governor Roswell Flower, went on an angling excursion, during which he caught ten trout, and while he was away his rivals engineered one of those nice little moves at which Wall Streeters are such adepts, and depreciated his holding of stock to the extent of two million dollars (£400,000), so that we are asked to believe that each of the trout cost him the modest sum above mentioned. I shall have to dissemble when I go a-fishing, or else perhaps some one will be playing the same trick on me.

A WELL-KNOWN Dissenting minister was travelling by railway, and took upon himself to rebuke a fellow traveller for the sulphurous nature of his language. "Look here, guv'nor," replied the offender, "you just mind your own business, if you interfere with me I shall give you a punch on the nose." Then came the soft answer which turneth away wrath, "My friend, take my advice, never give away what you want badly yourself."

ONE of the policemen at the Royal Aquarium is a wag. An angling chum of mine enquired of him during the recent Fisheries Exhibition where the specimen fish were. "Oh! they're up the stairs, but I should not trouble to see them, they're all dead."

A PARTICULARLY knowing sample of the country blade recently came on a visit to "the great metropolis," and was determined not to be taken in by the "Lunnon folk." "How much is that hat?" said he to a shopman. "Eight shillings, sir," was the reply. "Tell yer what, I'll give yer sixteen bob, not a penny more." "I said eight shillings, not eighteen." "Very well," he answered smartly, "then I'll give yer six." No deal.

THE other morning, about 4 a.m., when I popped into the meeting of the Lychnobite Angling Society, I found the members in high glee. They had been reading Col. Mather's letter in last week's *Fishing Gazette*, and so highly did they appreciate his kind remarks, that to return the compliment he was proposed, seconded, and by the unanimous vote of the members present elected an honorary member of the club. In the course of my experience I have been brought into contact with the secretaries of a number of angling clubs, but I do not know one who works harder, or is more entirely devoted to the interests of our sport and its followers than Mr. Sid Ransom, the hon. secretary of the Lychnobites. I saw him in the corner scribbling, and, peeping over his shoulder, managed to copy the following verses in commemoration of the event of the evening.

Oh! Mather, would that I could breathe
The word that hostile swords might sheathe.
Thank God, no cause can keep apart
Our countries, for they're one in heart.
We shake your hand across the sea,
Your land, like ours, is for the free.
Though miles apart, in heart and mind,
Colonel, you're ours, we're kith and kind.
Greetings fly swift across the foam,
Betwixt us twain, from home to home.
Never forget, come peace or fight,
Henceforth you are a Lychnobite.

THAT was an impromptu. "Sid" seems to have the rhyme slinging complaint very badly (I wonder what he takes for it); but he never put his pen to better use than in writing these lines to welcome Colonel Mather as a member of "our" angling society. I do not know if I am telling secrets, but it is whispered that when the colonel comes to a meeting of the club, he is going to have such a reception as will astonish him. When a man reaches the venerable age of "six score," and that is what Colonel Mather tells us his years number, he naturally wants as much health as he can acquire, and in order to make him as robust as possible the menu of drinks with which to wish him all he wishes himself is already being arranged. Up to now it comprises Liebfraumilch, dog's nose, Usquebaugh, Beaune, four ale, "Kiss him for his Mather," rum punch, special Scotch (Dunripple), B. and S., Sloe gin, John Collins, Imperial stout, sherry cobbler, Day and Martin, Apollinaris, Bitter and Burton, Chartreuse, gingerbeer and Guinness, furniture polish, and a lot of other things. These are only suggestions, as the boys do not yet know what particular poison their new member is fondest of "hitting in;" but, Colonel, if there is any mortal thing you prefer that can be obtained in this little village—and there are few things that can't—please let us know before you cross that little damp spot they call the Atlantic Ocean, and you can bet your bottom dollar it will be "thar." Only come and see us soon, the sooner the quicker.

THE mail that carries this number of the *Fishing Gazette* will take to the Colonel his card of membership, book of rules, and all the papers necessary to make him a full blown Lychnobite. The hours of meeting are a trifle inconvenient to most people—that cannot be helped—but it should be noted that it is no good turning up at the John

Benson, I mean Ben Jouson, before two o'clock a.m., as the hostelry is not open till that time, the licensing magistrates and the police having the absurd idea that even printers need not moisten their clay between 12.30 a.m. and two o'clock.

THE ink with which the above remarks were written was not dry when the news came to hand of the trouble in Samoa. For the first time in history English and American sailors fought, and, unfortunately, some of them died, shoulder to shoulder. Lieut. Freeman, of the British Navy, Lansdale and Monaghan, of the United States Navy, and their men have died as brave boys would wish to die, on duty, and if I am not mistaken Easter Sunday of 1899 is going to be historic. "The blood of the martyrs is the seed of the Church," says an old proverb, and the blood of Lansdale, Freeman, and Monaghan is going to be the seed of an Anglo-American alliance, such a bond as the world has never seen. Their deaths will do more for the alliance than reams of diplomatic dispatches. "Ain't anybody got to be whopped for this 'ere?" once asked Mr. Samuel Weller. Well in this case somebody is, and no mistake. Stuart, and Kautz, and Sturdee, (with the might of England and America behind them, are awkward handfuls, and that they will exact reparation to the uttermost farthing is as certain as that two and two make four. This is no time for nice international distinctions, and I have purposely put Admiral Kautz's name between those of Stuart and Sturdee, two as smart sailors as ever wore the Queen's uniform, because, when the time comes to "cut the cackle" and clear for action, we Britishers know that side by side with our ships Kautz and the *Philadelphia* will be there, and we're quite content. The States have recently shown the world how their sailors can fight. Every month almost our blue jackets are "whopping" somebody; but with the two together there is no nation—alliance of nations—that can afford to be too cheeky; they would find, in the words of the song, they would have "something to play with." Just a few!

OUR F. G. ALBUM OF ANGLERS.

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MR. GEORGE STEGMANN.

is a well-known electrical engineer, of New Wandsworth, and not long ago he had a very curious experience. A gentleman called on him, and asked him to make a very extraordinary apparatus, which much puzzled the engineer. "It looks like an electrical fishing rod," said Mr. Stegmann to himself, and an electrical fishing rod it was doubtless intended to be. Like the good sportsman that he is, Mr. Stegmann did not exactly decline the job, but he followed the Irishman's tactics, and gave his customer "an evasive answer." Anyhow, if the unsportsmanlike weapon was made at all, it was not at Mr. Stegmann's establishment. He would fit up the welkin with electric bells, and light the Alps with electric lights at a few hours' notice—but he draws the line at fishing rods which the most abandoned Jack would pronounce "shocking!" Though a very busy scientific man, a good angler is Mr. Geo. Stegmann. He has fished many of the continental rivers, and whipped a good many English streams with no small measure of success. In recent years his fisherman's fancy has turned to "the briny," and no sea fisherman would wish for a more genial companion in either rough or smooth water.

WILD horses will not drag from me the name of the angling club whose dinner he had attended the night before, but Jones (that's a fictitious name) had been drinking several healths, and in his charitable endeavours to make the recipients of his compliments as robust as possible he had seriously, although temporarily, deranged his own system. When his friend Brown (another fictitious name) came to see him in the morning poor Jones was feeling bad. "How are you, old chap?" said Brown. "Oh, very seedy," was the reply. "Had any breakfast?" "Yes, but I could only manage a 'boozer's breakfast' this morning." "A boozer's breakfast, what's that?" "A brandy and soda, a dog, and a chop." "What was the dog for?" queried Brown.

"Oh," replied the invalid, meekly, "the dog is to eat the chop!" Brown is wiser now.

"A CORRESPONDENT on board the Orient line steamship *Austral* sends to us," says Reynolds, "the following singular story: 'Whilst we were making our passage home from Sydney, N.S.W., to London, on August 20, about four a.m., in the Red Sea, a large shark, from 20ft. to 25ft. in length, which must have been sleeping on the surface, was fanned to have come in contact with the ship's bows. The vessel must have hit the shark nearly in the middle of the back. The vessel, which was travelling at a great speed, carried the shark in the front of its bows for nearly two hours. When the captain found that the monster did not fall away, he had to stop the ship to allow it to fall into the depths of the Red Sea. Such an incident I do not think likely to occur again for many years. It caused great interest amongst the passengers and crew.'"

I AM afraid something must have happened to "Truthful Tommy," as this is what he writes me this week: "Satan Dragnet Sahib. Baghair dand-ke mallah kyunkar no, o khe-sakte hain?" Don't know, dear boy, I never learnt German, but I will inquire. But when he goes on: "Tum appa kaghaz kyun kharab karte ho?" I am glad to be able to reply, I don't, we were out of print with last week's issue on Saturday. What do you think of that? Next, please, but once more, this is not an India-rubber paper.

ONE of my friends, who is a skilled meteorologist, has let me into the secret of forecasting summer weather, and, in the hope that it may be useful to anglers, I give it here. "The proper forecast for the summer," he writes, "is fine, with local showers." This is his explanation: "If it is fine where you happen to be, it's all right; if it rains, it is one of the predicted local showers; so that you are right all the time. See?"

IN answer to "Button Off," who writes from Colney Hatch: No; you are quite wrong. A char-woman is not usually considered by naturalists to belong to the family of *Salmonidae*. They are often found partially immersed in washing tubs, and should therefore be more properly classed with the amphibia.

ON Wednesday I attended the British Sea Anglers' dinner at their new headquarters, the Holborn Restaurant. It was one of the most successful, if not the most successful, angling function at which I have been present. The hon. secretary was in good form, and is to be congratulated on the marked success achieved. The chairman, the Hon. Mr. Justice Bucknill, was, as he always is, the right man in the right place, and was ably supported by the Prime Warden of the Fishmongers' Company. Both these gentlemen are ordinary members of the society, and when such men can be numbered on its roll, the society is bound to flourish in the future as it has in the past.

"JOHN BICKERDYKE" (Mr. C. H. Cook) will preside at the annual dinner of the Gresham A.S. on Tuesday evening, April 25. A word of praise must be given to the executive of the Gresham for the admirable manner in which the new book has been prepared. Handy for the pocket, well printed and compiled, it gives every item of information that can be required. The list of officers is set out; names and addresses of members; weights of fish allowed to be shown (and they are pretty high); a list of fixtures up to Feb. 27, 1900; rules and regulations as to fishing at Kelvedon or Chesham; and last, but not least, two splendid maps (in colours—red and blue), showing exactly how to reach and fish the society's waters. The annual subscription to this up-to-date go-ahead angling society is one guinea and a half; entrance fee, one guinea. Mr. Alex. Wright is the hon. sec.; and the headquarters, Masons' Hall Tavern, Masons' Avenue, Basinghall-street, E.C.

ALTHOUGH I was unable to be present at the "smoker" of the Hoxton Brothers A.S. on Tuesday last, I hear that it was a great success. Mr. G. B. Shipton occupied the chair, and Mr. E. Brockett the vice.

ANOTHER enjoyable evening's amusement will be on Tuesday, April 18, when Mr. W. J. Wade will deliver a lantern lecture before the members and friends of the Bermondsey Brothers A.S., Woolpack Tavern, Bermondsey-street. The title of the paper is "Rambles in Kent." After the reading there will be a smoking concert.

THE annual dinner of the Society of Caxtonian Anglers took place on Thursday evening, April 13, under the presidency of Mr. W. Cate—Mr. Chapman in the vice-chair. It was a delightful little affair—good dinner—good wines—good company—and—good-night! (Home in the president's brougham.) More next week.

The "Thames Angling News" and "Hastings and St. Leonard's Club Chronicle" are to hand, and are brimful of interesting information. Will review them in next number.

MR. COLLINSON, the hard-working secretary of the St. Ives A.S., writes that their annual dinner will take place on May 3 at the Corn Exchange. A chair has been reserved for DRAGNET.

PISCATORIAL SOCIETY.

Few trout, comparatively speaking, were taken in the opening days of the season, the sharp snap of the previous week having caused them, like Brer Fox in "Uncle Remus," to lie very low indeed. A large number of members reported to the chairman of Monday's meeting (Mr. Horace H. Brown) that they had been out on the 1st, and for some days thereafter; but the results had hardly been commensurate with the labour entailed. The Moor stream and Kennet fished badly, only two brace of sizeable trout having been creeled amongst the whole body of anglers who visited Thatcham and Newbury. Mr. H. Harden had a nice fish from the Kennet of 3lb. 8oz.; Mr. E. M. Mayer one of 2lb. 5oz.; and Mr. J. E. Evans a brace from the Moor stream. Beyond these nothing of note was done in Berkshire. The new water on the Colne, at Uxbridge, fished better than either the Kennet or Moor stream. Mr. J. J. Hardy had three fish, the largest going close upon 3lb.; Mr. M. G. E. de Conroy retained a brace out of a catch of five; and Mr. H. A. Rolt took one fish. In private waters adjoining, Mr. Horace Brown grassed four and a half brace in two hours. This was something like sport. In the Thames members have been very fortunate. Mr. T. W. Gomm has had several fish, particulars of which have already appeared in the press. Mr. J. E. Evans, in all, caught nearly a dozen, large and small. The least of top weights went 3lb. 8oz., 3lb. 4oz., and 3lb. Mr. C. H. Wheeley had, of course, been amongst them, and on Saturday landed a somewhat old fish of 3lb. 8oz. Mr. Wheeley described that day as the very worst one he had for fishing. The cold was intense, and until the evening the wind was dreadful. Mr. J. W. Zehnendorf went to Uxbridge on Saturday, but, like a wise man, took refuge in the chalet, not caring to face the gale of wind, snow, and rain which obtained. Some interesting particulars of the Uxbridge water were given by a proposed new member, Mr. Woodbridge, who hails from, and thoroughly knows the whole district round about. Mr. H. H. Brown reported that he had on two different days attended some netting operations on private portions of the Colne at and near Uxbridge, the outcome of which was that nearly 400 fine fish were transferred to the society's water. There were tench up to 2lb. 8oz., chub of 3lb., plenty of perch of 1lb., and dozens of roach over the last mentioned weight, in short, an exceptionally lovely lot of fish was secured. Mr. Robt. C. Blundell, than whom no one takes a deeper interest in the fishery, considered that the trout were very shy there, his opinion being that dry-fly men would, later on, stand a much better chance of getting good sport than those fishing downstream wet. Mr. Blundell also mentioned that he, with other members, had attended the funeral of the late Dr. Brnnton, to pay the last tribute of respect to their old friend and colleague.

M. G. E. DE C.

GRESHAM ANGLING SOCIETY.

At a well-attended meeting Mr. W. Marshall occupied the chair. It is with great regret that I have to report the death of the wife of our esteemed hon. librarian, Mr. F. W. Norman, and I am sure the sympathy of every member of the society will be extended to him in his bereavement. Mr. A. W. Parker will next week read a paper before the society, entitled "Improvements in Sea Tackle," and I hope that every member who can will attend. The annual dinner of the society will take place at the Mason's Hall Tavern on Tuesday, April 25, when Mr. C. H. Cook ("John Bickerdye") will take the chair, supported by Messrs. W. Marshall and E. H. Bramley in the vice-chairs. The tickets are now ready, price 5s. each, and I hope every member will do his best to attend, and apply at once for the tickets. The new programmes are now ready, and will be forwarded in due course to those members who have not yet received them. Mr. H. Weber Brown, of 84, Bishopsgate-street, E.C., was unanimously elected a member of the society. Mr. Taylor reported that a deputation from the society had attended the funeral of our late honorary member, Dr. Brnnton. The service was a very impressive one, and the angling world was well represented at the graveside. A consignment of trout was placed in our waters at Chesham to the extent of 200, and we hope shortly to place further fish in the water. We are indebted to one or two members for this consignment. The fish are two-year-olds, and as soon as they were placed in the water commenced rising. Not a single fish was lost or damaged. The average length was about 7½ in. The opening dinner at Chesham last Saturday passed off admirably, fifteen sitting down. The reports of fish taken are below: Messrs. Taylor and Bridger, in the Isle of Wight, trout up to 3lb. each, with March Brown. Mr. Emery, one trout, Chesham, returned, and, spinning in other waters, forty-nine pike and twelve perch in one day, all returned, bait Devon; Mr. Powles West, two and a half brace trout, Chesham; Mr. Eldred, three brace, all returned but one fish; Mr. Eldred, five brace, only one brace retained; Mr. Chastaney, trout; Mr. Connellan, dace with fly, all returned; Mr. Buckingham, one and a half brace trout, from Scotland; Mr. Gibson, dace with fly, private waters, returned; Mr. Woodruff, two brace of trout, Chesham, largest 2lb. 5oz., one brace returned; also one trout from the Kennet. One trout, after being cut open, was found to contain four frogs. Mr. Close, one trout, Chesham, 13in., and one trout, Kennet, about 1lb. Flies that were successful were March Brown, Alder, Golden Sedge, Coachman, Artful Dodger, and Pink Wickham, on the Chesham water. Members are reminded that a book is kept at the Black Horse, Chesham, for the purpose of recording their capture and all particulars relating thereto, and it is hoped that every member taking fish will so record them. Dr. Ladell, pollack and conger from the Scilly Isles and Penzance. He also presented to the

society a piece of a wreck curiously bored by some of the marine insects. The usual toasts and a vote of thanks to the chair concluded the proceedings.

ALEX. WRIGHT, Hon. Sec.

WIMBLEDON PISCATORIAL SOCIETY.

ANNUAL DINNER.

The third annual dinner of this society was held on Tuesday evening, at headquarters, the Alexandra Hotel, when Mr. Walter Dowson, S.C.C., presided over fifty members and friends who attended the festive gathering. An admirable repast was served by Host Gibbs, at the close of which the chairman gave the toast of the Queen, followed by that of the society. He alluded to the steady growth the club had made during the three years it had been in existence, as evidenced by the large increase in membership and the greatly augmented prize list. He drew attention to the large number of preserved specimens on the walls, and expressed the gratification it afforded him to see that the members had aimed at securing quality rather than quantity. The hon. secretary (Mr. S. Peskett), in replying, said that the season just passed had been more successful than any of its predecessors. At one time they had sixty members on their books, but a few defections from the ranks had brought the number down to fifty, at which the muster roll now stood. (Applause.) The prizes they were presenting that evening amounted to £17 in value, against £11 in 1898, besides several articles given in kind—a good prize list for so young a society. (Hear, hear.) Several specimens—pike, bream, roach, perch, dace, chub, and grayling—had been creeled by the members, who, since the abolition of the gross weight prizes, had turned their attention to big game in lieu of "scripers." The principal event of the year—the silver cup competition—was keenly contested, the result being a win for their popular hon. treasurer, Mr. H. A. Rolt. (Applause.) The presentation of awards followed, the winners of the fifty-seven prizes being: Messrs. H. A. Rolt, S. Peskett, R. Howden, J. Gallie, Starling, Garrett, Bishop, F. Rolt, W. F. Bowie, Lawrence, H. Golding, sen., H. Golding, jun., C. Pain, J. Furnage, J. Gillman, and F. Salkeld. The remaining toasts were: "The Hon. Members and Prize Givers," proposed by Mr. G. S. Salkeld, responded to by Mr. W. Poole; "The Hon. Secretary," proposed by Mr. H. Bright, responded to by Mr. S. Peskett; "The Visitors and Host," proposed by Mr. H. A. Rolt, responded to by Mr. F. H. Amphlett (*Thames Angling News*), Mr. W. Gibbs (Alexandra Hotel), and Mr. Moore (Mitre Hotel, Weybridge); and "The Chairman," proposed by Mr. Cawse, and replied to by Mr. W. Dowson. In the course of the evening a case of handsome pipes was presented to Mr. S. Peskett as an acknowledgment of the valuable services that gentleman had rendered the society as hon. secretary for the past two years. A capital selection of songs was given by members and friends, and harmony was indulged in until midnight, when the company dispersed.

CENTRAL ASSOCIATION OF LONDON ANGLING CLUBS.

The usual monthly meeting of delegates was held at the Bedford Head Hotel, Maiden-lane, Covent Garden, on Monday evening last, the chair being occupied by the president, Mr. C. A. Medcalf; vice-chairman, Mr. Elsmore. The minutes and formal business being disposed of, Mr. Elsmore reported some interesting details concerning the recent doings of the Thames Angling Preservation Society, stating that the protection of the fishery during the spawning season was receiving careful attention, and arrangements were nearly completed for the removal of the barren swans; also reading a letter from the Thames Conservancy intimating that new regulations had been made doing away with right of netting by assistant river keepers—in his opinion a very wise course to adopt, and anything in the form of further restrictions of netting should commend itself to every reasonable and right-thinking angler, this opinion receiving the hearty approval of all the delegates present. The colour of next season's privilege card was decided to be light blue. Mr. C. Watling reported that visits had been paid to the Phoenix A.S., also a most satisfactory one to the Peckham Brothers' A.S.; twenty-five clubs present. Next one to the Royal George A.S., Queen's Arms, Bateman-street, Soho, on Thursday, 20th inst. The secretary reported the result of the recent annual concert would be of a satisfactory nature. It was also decided to hold the Central's monster competition on the opening day, on June 18, when the Emden cup and Elsmore cup will be competed for. Several important questions concerning additional railway facilities received consideration, and the secretary instructed to interview the various companies in reference thereto. Other matters were discussed, details of which it is at present unnecessary to publish. Votes of thanks were passed to the chairman and vice-chairman. All communications to be sent to the secretary, Mr. Wade, 6, Priter-road, London, S.E.

AN IMPUDENT FRAUD has been perpetrated upon a well-known Member of Parliament. This gentleman recently entered a small chemist's establishment in Northampton and asked for a box of Holloway's Pills. A packet was given to him, for which he paid and then left the shop. Having to leave for London that evening, it was not until he was in the train, many miles away from Northampton, that he discovered he had been swindled. Instead of Holloway's Pills he found that a pernicious and worthless imitation had been foisted upon him. Of course the rubbish was thrown away, and the M.P. had to wait until he arrived in London before he could get the genuine article.

LOCHLEVEN.

THE angling season will be open here on April 3, when a Glasgow club will compete. The weather has been exceptionally severe of late, but a heavy snowfall has brought with it a milder atmosphere. The pike netters inform me that they have never seen trout in more forward condition at this time. The other day one of the directors was on the loch for an hour or two, and saw a number of rising fish. The water was then rather dirty for angling from heavy flooding caused by the bursting of Loch Glow Reservoir. During the spawning season spates were frequent, though it is not supposed the redds were injuriously affected. Lochleven hatchery has produced its full complement of trout fry to stock the loch with. A list of the angling competitions to be held here this season will be found in another column. There are in all 116 competition fixtures besides the two special competitions after the loch is closed to the public. The National competition will take place on June 7.

ANGLING COMPETITIONS ON LOCH-LEVEN FOR 1899.

THE list of fixtures for competitions on this favourite resort of the angling fraternity has now been made up for the ensuing season. About forty clubs will hold 116 competitions, which is an increase of five on last year's number. The following are the dates on which the various clubs compete:

APRIL.	JUNE (continued).
3. Uddingston Waltonians	15. St. Mungo
22. Pollokshields	15. Pollokshields
24. Stirling	16. Killin Breadalbane
26. Perth	Angling Club
27. Wanderers	17. Dundee
29. Kelvinside Academical	19. Falkirk
29. Midlothian	20. Waverley
MAY.	21. Dundee Westend
1. Cockburn	21. Dunfermline
1. Wellshot	22. Clackmannan
2. Perthshire	23. St. Mirin
3. Strathearn	27. Bridge of Allan
3. Dunfermline	28. Edinr. Breadalbane
4. Kinross	29. Edina
5. Coatbridge	30. Northumberland.
5. Northumberland	JULY.
6. St. Andrew	4. St. Mungo
6. Bridge of Allan	6. Kinross
8. Edina	7. Wanderers
9. St. Mirin	11. Perthshire
9. Edinburgh Breadalbane	14. Dunfermline
10. Waverley	18. Clackmannan
12. Glasgow Angling Club	19. Cockburn
12. Uddingston Waltonians	20. Waverley
13. Dundee	28. Falkirk
15. Fifeshire	AUGUST.
16. St. Mungo	3. St. Andrew
16. Stirling	3. Clackmannan
17. Dundee Westend	8. United Glasgow Clubs
19. Bridge of Allan v. Northumberland	9. Dunfermline
19. Amateur	10. Glasgow Clydesdale
20. Bridge of Allan v. Northumberland	10. Perthshire
20. Pollokshields	12. Wellshot
22. Falkirk	12. Uddingston Waltonians
23. Clackmannan	14. Fifeshire
24. Callander	14. Stirling
25. Glasgow Clydesdale	15. Pollokshields
26. Wanderers	15. Glasgow Angling Club
27. Bohemian	16. Perth
27. Bothwell and Blantyre	16. Dundee Westend
29. Bridge of Allan v. Edinburgh Amateur	17. Coatbridge
30. Western	17. Rothwell and Blantyre
30. Rowbank	18. Coatbridge
31. Western	18. Midlothian
31. Perth	19. Dundee
JUNE.	21. Bridge of Allan
1. Kinross	21. Amateu
2. West of Scotland	22. Western
3. West of Scotland	22. Bowbank
3. St. Andrew	23. Western
5. Strathearn	23. Edinburgh Breadalbane
6. Buckland	24. St. Mungo
7. NATIONAL	25. West of Scotland
9. United Edinburgh Clubs	26. West of Scotland
10. Bohemian	26. Perth v. Perthshire
12. Stirling	28. Falkirk
13. Bridge of Allan	29. Waverley
13. Perthshire	30. Wanderers
14. Kelvinside Academical	31. Kinross
14. Fifeshire	SEPTEMBER.
	1. Patron's Prize
	2. Championship

R. B. LAING, Kinross.

EDEN FISHERY BOARD.

THE report of the Watch Committee, to be submitted to the next meeting of this board on April 8, states that there has been so far an exceptional scarcity of salmon both in the Solway and in the rivers running into the Solway. The Tweed and some other Scotch rivers have shown equally bad results. It is possible the stormy weather in the early part of the year may have driven the fish into deep water. In this case they may come on later. Owing to the state of the board's finances the staff of bailiffs has been reduced. The bailiff at Edenhall reports having buried over eighty dead kelts. This shows that a large number of spawning fish went over the Armathwaite weir in the autumn.

Notes from the North.

SPORT is somewhat brighter all over, although there is room for much improvement in this respect. The weather has been very indifferent, and those who came north for the Easter holiday week have made but meagre baskets.

Mr. Somerset and Mr. Bisset are having some sport on the Braemar Dee waters. Mr. James Temple, of Richmond, was with the Prince at Abergeldie, last week, and since then has been putting in the time on the Glentana water, at Dinnet.

The Grant Arms Hotel, Grantown, has been sold by Mr. Macdonald to a Glasgow syndicate at the long figure, for a country hotel, of £14,500.

Good sport has been got on the Ellon waters of the Ythan. Capt. Mitchell had a fine spring fish of 8lb. on the Turnhall waters, and some heavy baskets of finnock and sea trout are being made daily. These waters are open to daily ticket holders.

Information regarding any of the waters in the Perth district may be had from Mr. P. D. Malloch, Perth; regarding Aberdeen and the north, from Mr. Wm. Garden, tackle maker, Aberdeen; or through the *Fishing Gazette* Office.

The Aberdeen Harbour Commissioners have dropped £375 on their returns from their extensive salmon fishings this year up to March 31 as compared with last year, which was also a very poor one. Owing to the high prices presently a-going the drop does not represent the case at its worst. Last year the fish caught weighed 15,166lb. This year the total only amounts to 8262lb.

Sport is improving on the Deveron. Last week, at Bridge of Marnoch, Mr. Leitham had a fine fish of 13½lb.; and on same day, on an adjoining section, Mr. Chamberlain and a friend creelied baskets of 21lb. and 25lb. respectively, of nicely conditioned trout.

The Scottish National Sea Fisheries Association held its annual conference at Aberdeen last week. The association flies its banner under a high sounding title, which looks important; but its constitution, after all, is much after the model of the three tailors of Tooley-street. The association exists to put down trawlers. It may as well try to dry up the North Sea.

Two bottle-nosed whales were stranded in the Dornoch Firth last week, but with the flood tide both got away. Later on, however, one of them was seen foundering in the shallows at the head of the Firth, and was despatched by a party in a boat.

The mansion house of Williamsraig, Linlithgow, belonging to Mr. Blair, Glasgow, was totally destroyed by fire one night last week. Mr. Blair arrived home from Glasgow to find his fine house in a blaze.

The effects of the recent snowstorm are now being seen in the dead bodies of great numbers of our migratory birds. Plover seem to have suffered worst, and mixed up with them may be detected curlews, thrushes, blackbirds, and even wild duck.

A local poet on the Ythan, writes:—

"A glorious day; the sky is dark
And 'light' well up, to hit the mark;
A gentle breeze sobs from the west,
The air that suits the angler best.

"But—O good Lor', what's this I've got?
A beauty, and I'll stake a groat
It's fourteen pounds; but, holy roast!
A kelt as big's a pailing post."

At a meeting of the Tay salmon fishing proprietors, held in Perth last week, it was agreed to appeal the "Hang Net Case" to the House of Lords.

Mr. J. Arthur Thomson, M.A., F.R.S.E., of the Edinburgh Medical School, has been appointed to the Chair of Natural History in Aberdeen University, vacant by the death of Prof. Nicholson. The appointment was made by the Crown, on the recommendation of the Secretary for Scotland, out of a large list of most distinguished applicants.

Professor Thomson is well up in marine zoology, and will have a fine field in the north-east of Scotland, with the Fishery Board's Hatchery just at his door. There is also an aquarium at the bathing station, which the late professor of natural history took a great interest in, but which he latterly threw up in some friction with the Town Council.

The finnock question is the great theme with tidal anglers in the north. How will it end? every other one is asking. There is only one ending. The first one caught with finnock will be charged with taking whittling, and fined accordingly. The loop hole in the last indictment was charging the man with "sea trout" instead of "whittling."

SPECIAL SCOTCH.

Provincial Notes

FROM BIRMINGHAM AND DISTRICT.

The monthly meeting of the committee of the Birmingham Angling Association was held on Thursday evening last at the headquarters, Mr. T. Coles presided, and Mr. R. Holding occupied the vice-chair. The first business transacted was to receive the reports from the visiting committee, who were instructed to visit two new clubs who had applied for affiliation. Messrs. Bagley and Rabone reported that they had visited the new club formed at the Crown Inn, Upper Sutton-street, Ashton. The report went to show that the number of members on the books amounted to sixty, the club was properly constituted, and as no objection was raised by any of the clubs in the neighbourhood, the club was admitted. Mr. Hughes, in the absence of Mr. Foster, gave in a report of his visit to the Bridge Society, held at the Bridge Inn, Bridge-street, Smethwick. This club has forty-five fully paid-up members on their books, and a number of names down to join as soon as the society was accepted by the association. The report was very satisfactory, and as no objection was made by any of the clubs in the vicinity, the club was accepted. The Queen's Arms Society offered no objection to the affiliation of the new club, held at the Vine Inn, Newtown-row, so this club was also admitted. Opposition was made to the King's Head Club, in Brearley-street, becoming affiliated, so the application of this club was allowed to remain over until the next committee meeting. The balance-sheet for the quarter ending March 30 last was read by the secretary. This went to show that all liabilities had been met, and that a profit of near upon £6 had been made during the quarter. This sum was added to the general fund. The balance-sheet and report was adopted. The important matter of the association renting a portion of the river Avon at Defford was discussed at some length, when it was finally resolved that as the association could not rent the water direct from Lord Coventry the matter should be allowed to drop. The Lamp Angling Society, which has at present about 180 members, intends making their club the largest in the city. With this in view, Mr. F. Smith, the president, and Mr. B. Banks, the treasurer, intend giving a handsome prize for the member bringing the most members to the society during the next eight months. This club is one of the best managed clubs in Birmingham, and looks like being the strongest, considering they have only been in existence such a short time. The Birmingham Association have been during the last few years very particular as to the character of the members joining the new clubs that have lately been affiliated. The association is just now very particular, not only as to the members, but also the character of the neighbourhood and the houses where the clubs are held at. In this respect the clubs cannot be too particular, and several applications have been partly refused on these grounds alone, as the association can well do without clubs that are calculated to, perhaps, bring discredit on them in the future. Since the formation of the association a weeding out of some of the undesirable members has taken place, and, as a consequence, the members have been taught such lessons as to deter them from wrong doing in the future. A number of our members have put up their tackle until the close season expires; but those who go in for the "fine art" of fishing have been out with their fly rods. A number of gentlemen have visited the river Teme, which is one of the best public trout rivers we have near to our city. They found the river very much against them, still, some few fish were taken. Mr. A. Randall, of the Hearts of Oak Society, was the most successful. He took three and a half brace, the largest fish being over 2lb. None of the fish were in proper condition.

FROM DERBYSHIRE.

During the past week wild, cold, stormy weather has prevailed; rain and snow showers, which the Peaklanders call lamb storms, have fallen frequently. Fly angling has been out of the question, as it has been next to impossible to keep a line on the water. The streams for three or four days have been in flood and greatly discoloured. Few anglers have been out, and only bottom fishers and trollers have done anything. They have managed to take a few decent lots of fish in the upper reaches of the Derwent, and also on the lower waters where those methods of angling are permitted, and a few baskets have been made on certain parts of the Wye. There seems to have been better sport on the smaller streams, and last week's anglers did fairly well on some of them. The Amber yielded several fair baskets to worm fishers, and upwards of fifty brace were killed on the Nowe, in the Edale district. There has been no fly fishing during the week worth recording, for the reasons above mentioned, although numerous futile attempts have been made. The banks of the Dove and Wye, save in one or two places, have been deserted, and the best reaches of Chatsworth and Hathersage have not proved tempting. Such has been the unfortunate state of things up to Wednesday morning, when there came a welcome change. The wind had ceased to blow "great guns," the rain and snow showers passed away, the sun shone out, the waters sunk to their almost normal level, and were in splendid condition for bottom angling, with promises of good fly water in a short time. Thereupon anglers at once flocked to the rivers, and some good sport has been had. If the weather keeps up the streams will soon be in capital condition for fly angling, and as most of them contain an abundance of fish, good baskets will no doubt be made. In particular the Upper Lathkil is reported to be "brimful of fine trout," thanks to the care and attention of Mr. Symington, the lessee under Earl Cowper, whose famous hatchery on the banks of the river is in full operation. The Duke of Rutland's portion of the Lathkil is also well stocked, and in the adjoining

Bradford the trout are most plentiful. Special permission, however, is required to fish these waters, as they are strictly preserved, principally for the owners and their friends. It would be well if certain semi-public portions of the Derwent were better attended to in the way of restocking. Constant fishing, and no fresh supply to the waters, will in time most assuredly spoil them. This observation, however, only applies to a few small districts, for as a rule all the Derbyshire fishing streams are well and carefully preserved. Angling prospects are much more favourable, and fly anglers may take heart. They will find the Claret Bumble, Ash Dun, Yellow Dun, Black Gnat, Cooper's Fancy, Cock Wing, and Olive Dun useful flies.

FROM THE FEN DISTRICT (LINCOLNSHIRE).

The trout streams have been improved somewhat by welcome falls of rain, but the remarkably cold weather experienced this week has entirely ruined the prospects of angling. Indeed, snow has fallen on several occasions, and it is not surprising, therefore, to find that there are now practically no flies on the water. Those who continue to employ the worm in the deeper holes have taken a few brace of trout, but fly fishing is quite out of the question, and until we get a spell of warm weather very little will be done.

FROM HULL AND DISTRICT.

The weather in this district during the past week being rather mild, and favourable for trout fishing, and the top stretches of the River Hull being in good trim, several of our local anglers visited their favourite swims, both above and below the lock, but with only poor results, the best fish recorded only scaling 1lb. 5½oz., which was taken at Aike Beck-end with worm. A few small trout continue to be taken in the lower portion of the river at Wawne, Cicey, and Dunswell, running from ½lb. to ¾lb. each; and the flounders and eels are furnishing fair sport in these districts. On Easter Monday the Beverley Foresters' Angling Society fished their first match of the season on Swine-moor, Mr. G. Armstrong taking the first prize with 1lb. 2½oz., Messrs. H. Stork and F. Lacey taking the next two with under a lb. of fish each. The Star Angling Society, of Stoneferry, fished their first match at Figham, resulting in Messrs. L. Linsley, C. Leake, and E. Dann taking the first three prizes. The River Hull Angling Society opened their season at Hull Bridge, but with only poor results, Mr. J. Hepworth taking the first prize with only 14½oz.; Mr. T. Stead the second with 13½oz.; Messrs. H. Wild and Joseph Powel taking the next two with 10oz. and 8½oz. respectively. At the Sissons Brothers' A.S. match, which was fished at Weelferry, Mr. J. Mason was fortunate in securing a nice trout of 1lb. 5½oz. The Driffild Hearts of Oak Angling Society, by kind permission of the commissioners, journeyed to Barnston, and fished their first match on the Barnston Drain with very fair results, Mr. F. Waites taking the first prize with 2lb. 11½oz.; Mr. A. Waites second with 2lb. 9½oz.; and Mr. J. Cooper third with 2lb. 4½oz.; but those drains that have a direct communication with the salt water are always more prolific with flounders and eels. The Alexandra Angling Association, of Hull, opened their season on the Winstead Drain at Patrington, Mr. H. Heart being first prizeman with 1lb. 3½oz.; Mr. G. Kemp second with 1lb. 2oz.; and Mr. J. Gooch third with 14½oz. The Hull Ramblers' Angling Association have arranged that the whole of the prizes—they not having been won at the Good Friday match—stand over for the next match, the place and date to be decided upon at a meeting to be held at the Cricketers' Arms on May 8. On Monday evening next the Victoria Angling Society hold a special meeting at the White Horse Hotel, to fix place and arrange matters for their first match.

FROM THE LAKE DISTRICT.

Anglers are still waiting for more propitious weather. After two or three comparatively mild days last week, when heavy rain fell and brought out rivers, we have had a return to early March-like weather, and this week snow and frost, with cold winds, have been the rule. Nearly all the mountains, and in some localities the low lying lands, have been snow capped, while ice is formed each night on water sheltered from the wind. There was a considerable arrival of visitors last week in north Westmoreland from Northumberland, Durham, Yorkshire, and more distant parts, and on some of the rivers excellent sport was enjoyed for a few days. Mr. Broadbent, a Bradford angler, secured over a hundred fish in two days; and a local piscator, Mr. J. McHaffie, topped this total by some two score during the week. Many of the fish taken, however, have been rather small. The best fish so far this season has fallen to the lot of a Keswick boatman, who one day last week secured a handsome trout of over 4lb. There has also been a fair turn out of anglers on one or two occasions on the Lune, Kent, and other rivers, but there is a general lament that April is slipping away without the chance of sport usually enjoyed. Although there is a fair amount of sunshine, the cold showers and frosty nights make angling anything but the enjoyable pastime it ought to be. Very little is being done on the lakes, where the cold is more keenly felt.

FROM LANCASHIRE.

The annual *conversazione* of the St. Helens Anglers was held on the 6th—too late for notice last week—as a reunion of past and present members and friends, covers being laid for thirty. Mr. John Wells, president, presided over the whole proceedings, which were exceptionally enjoyable. Mr. and Mrs. Watts, and Messrs. Durie, Scott, Barrett, Seddon, and Humphrey, with the assistance of the St. Helens' blind pianist as accompanist, provided a programme full of good items. The Chorley Angling Society by way of making a start fished a friendly match on Good Friday for nine prizes, which were all awarded, the first four going to Messrs. E. Lever,

Bentham, Moon, and Sewell. They have placed eighteen candidates for membership on the nomination list, and no efforts will be spared to make things hum in the coming season. A new club is being established at Atherton, the Lion Inn, with the name of the Welcome Brothers' Angling Society. It is the intention of the members to seek admission into the Northern Anglers' Association. The Tyldesley and District Anglers' Association are noted for their annual dinner on the 22nd at headquarters; the corrected address of the hon. sec. is 1, Lime-street, Tyldesley. The Lune Fishery Board is deserving of the thanks of all fishermen for the great interest they take in the waters under their control. They do the best to stop pollution and other things likely to do harm; and at the same time try to do good to the sporting side of the question. Owing to pollution, the salmon are not coming freely into the river, and, in consequence, the licences have not brought in so much as in former years, but, on the other hand, trout licences have brought an increased revenue, which enables another baillif to be engaged until September. The Ribble, despite inclement weather, has afforded fair sport to a limited number of rods. The river is almost void of flies, and very few fish are rising; the chief sport is with the minnow. The Wyre has received a large number of fish below St. Michael's; the water has been in fair condition, only a few naturals are on, but the fish are in good condition and more plentiful.

FROM MANCHESTER.

The annual meeting of the Manchester Centre of the Northern Anglers' Association was held on April 7, at the Horseshoe Hotel, Pendleton, Mr. W. F. Constable presiding. Routine business being disposed of, the report and balance both found favour with the meeting, and were passed as satisfactory. Mr. Constable was re-elected president, and Mr. W. Prescott hon. treasurer and secretary; the following are the committee, Messrs. Bate, Berry, Cash, and Howarth. During the summer the centre will promote a match. The Victoria Angling Society, Longsight, have now a complete roll call, and have decided for the future to have a limit. The following matches are arranged: June 17, at Poynton; July 22, at Northwich; Aug. 19, at Marple; Sept. 17, not fixed. To-day, the first prize won at Wyresdale is timed to reach Manchester, but the time 10.30 is far too early for any quantity of fishermen to get a peep at the fish; this is a great disappointment, and many who wanted to see some rainbow trout will have to wait a little while longer. Club news of a deeply interesting character is very scarce, our local organisations being chiefly occupied in arranging for the coming summer's programme. Our men are gradually coming round from the regrets about Easter, and are talking already about Whitsuntide—the great holiday of the year. It is astonishing how buoyant a fisherman's feelings are—down in the dumps for a time, but this never lasts long, and the next news is another trip. The Kingfishers have commenced to fish their trout waters, but it is yet too early to say to what extent they will yield sport. Last season, in common with other waters, they fell short of expectations, but better results are hoped for in 1899. Very good reports are being made of the growth of rainbow trout in the County Palatine Angling Association's private waters. They are occasionally both seen and handled, and are in the pink of condition. With a good long lease, these waters could be made second to none.

FROM NORFOLK.

A few nice trout have been taken in this district since the opening of the season on the first of the month, otherwise no sport has been had. Most of our fishing here is for coarse fish, and, although we have no legal close time, very little angling is done by local people during the time that abatement from the sport is enforced in other parts of the country.

FROM NOTTINGHAM.

The Trent, since my last report, has undergone a rise of more than 5ft., and the heavy volume of water pouring downwards should assist salmon upwards. So far, no fish have fallen to the rod. The change has, however, come at a most opportune period. At the outflow of the Greet, on Thursday, Mr. W. Gillott caught, with worm, a very handsome trout; and several brace have been taken with the same kind of bait on privileged stretches of the lower Dover Beck. Sir Henry Bromley, of Stoke Hall, had his other honnds at work on the Greet on the 6th inst. The meet—a most fashionable one, so far as company is concerned—was at Rolleston Junction, and, on reaching a meadow above Southwell Silk Mill, a trail was struck. A vixen otter was bolted from an ugly "hold" adjoining the stream, and was soon lost to sight. Working downstream, she took refuge in the hollow stump of an old willow tree, and was with difficulty dislodged. Diving upstream, she showed her head, and honnds were on her in a second. The noble master plunged in to their assistance, and had a leading hand in her capture. She was about 16lb., and was hauled into the meadow, into the midst of her pursuers, amid a scene of unwonted excitement. Presently they were whipped off, and then the head, pads, and pole (tail) were severed from the body. Following this novel process, the kennel huntsman (Jackson) cut away the skin, and the carcase was thrown into the air, only, in a few seconds, to be devoured by the twenty-one honnds, with three rough terriers, taking part in the hunt. The head was presented to Miss Starkey, of Norwood Hall; the pole to Mr. Johnson of the Silk Mill named; and the pads to other gentlemen living in the neighbourhood. Not long ago a dog otter of about 28lb. was shot on the banks of the Greet by a local cottager, who thought he had despatched a "wild cat." Anglers frequenting the river feel deeply indebted to Sir Henry Bromley, who had, in the hunt, the able assistance of his sons, for having exterminated the vixen. The stream, needless to say, is extensively stocked with trout.

FROM SHEFFIELD.

The weather during the past week has on the whole been very favourable for angling, notwithstanding that occasionally it has been as cold as November. There has been pretty well of bright sunshine, and the showers of rain that have fallen have just been about sufficient to freshen the waters. Last week being Easter week, all the rivers in this neighbourhood were extensively patronised, and so far as can be ascertained sport was generally of a satisfactory character. Artificial fly anglers on the Wye and Derwent have had a fairly good time, the higher reaches of the rivers providing plenty of sport. It is reported that grayling are so numerous in the Wye as to constitute a nuisance to fly anglers, and the pity of it is that a lot of the fish are said to be affected with the fungus disease. In the waters of the Matlock Bath and Cromford clubs worm anglers have put in several days' good fishing, and the creels had many fish weighing from 3lb. upwards. Bottom anglers have accounted for some splendid catches all along the Derwent, the water being of a splendid colour. In future bottom anglers will be allowed to fish for roach and grayling in the Cromford and Matlock Bath Club waters below Cromford Bridge, from Nov. 1 to Jan. 31. The members of the Sheffield Trout Anglers' Society have devoted considerable attention to their private waters at Wingfield, and the results have amply repaid them for the care they have taken in preserving and re-stocking them. Dock grub and minnows have proved alluring baits, some of the fish captured weighing over 1lb. each. Locally the best sport has been obtained in the Loxley stream, upstream fishing with worms accounting for several brace of tidy sized fish.

FROM SHROPSHIRE.

The opening weeks of April have been characterised by much colder weather than those of the previous month, and the prospects of the trout fisher for the present are by no means bright. Storms of rain, hail, and sleet occurred early this week, and the running waters will not be in good order for a time, even given warmer weather. Fly fishing in some of the smaller tributaries of the Severn may result in the capture of a few trout, but really good sport cannot yet be anticipated. In the Severn and Vyrnwy anglers will probably do well to use the spinning and bottom lures. They will be doing useful service in ridding the river of as many pike and chub as possible, and a big trout or so may possibly be landed also. Just at present the main river is bank full and discoloured, but spinning should be practicable by the end of the week. This year it was hoped that the unusually high waters throughout winter and spring, and the great floods which once or twice occurred, and at times very favourable to the running of salmon, would have brought a fairly large number of good fish up the river to the waters of Salop and Montgomeryshire, but these hopes have not, unfortunately, been verified.

FROM WORCESTER AND DISTRICT.

Very few anglers have been out this week. A lot of what appears to be snow water has been coming down the Severn, and made it a very nasty colour. There was quite a 3ft. rise on, and the water has been kept up by the very high spring tides, which affected the river perceptibly nearly up to Worcester Weir. At Upton-on-Severn the tide was 18in. on Tuesday. The Teme is very fine and a nice height, but a very strong wind, N. to N.W., has been blowing all the week, which has interfered with sport very much, and made fly fishing very difficult. Still, a few were found whipping the water; but rises were not frequent, and some three brace only were taken, the fish coming very short, Blue Dun, March Brown, and Cowdung the only ones that coaxed a rise. Better sport was had on some of the club waters with the worm; but anglers would do well to let the trout alone for a week or two longer, they are not in high condition yet. Salmon fishing continues very bad; some of the nets have not taken a fish for weeks. One had a slice of good luck, and caught two very fine fish the end of last week, the two weighing about 40lb. I heard; and one was caught by Griffen, of Upton-on-Severn, on Monday, which weighed near 16lb., the only one caught in that part of the Severn for three weeks. The price of fish, as a natural consequence, is very high, 4s. to 4s. 6d. per lb. A small sturgeon has been sporting about in the water at Upton-on-Severn, and has been seen by many, but as yet has escaped being captured. It came up with the late high flood without a doubt.

FROM YORK AND DISTRICT.

The cold winds have interfered to some extent with fishing lately. Conditions have improved, however, this week, for not only have the flooded streams settled down, but the stormy weather has subsided. At the time of writing a delightful southern breeze is blowing, and though the atmosphere still retains a chilliness, testifying that the year is as yet, as Thomson puts it, "unconfirmed," it is pleasant alike in country lane and at riverside. The Wharfe is in nice condition, and some fairly good catches of trout have been made. The Yore, however, has yielded the best sport with fly, the most effective casts being the March Brown, Spanish Needle, Little Early Brown, and Dark Bloa; or the Snipe Bloa, Dark Snipe and Purple, and March Brown. Local anglers have not done amiss on the Harrogate Club's waters. The North-Eastern Sea Fisheries Committee will hold their quarterly meeting at York on the 19th inst. Mr. W. H. Ashford, the fishery officer, states in his report that the fisheries within the district generally have during the whole of the winter months, when the weather has permitted, been prosecuted with good results. At many of the coast places the fishermen report as being the best winter season they have had for many years. The enforcing of a due observance of the bye-laws in connection with the different fisheries has been attended with some difficulty, and will, observes the officer, continue to be so until he is able to be aloft in the boat which is in course of construction.

ANSWERS TO CORRESPONDENTS.

J. J. MUSGRAVE.—The king carp and golden orfe have been introduced into some waters in this country from Germany, where they breed them. The king carp is bred for the market, and highly prized as a table fish in Germany. It is a variety of the common carp, and takes the same baits, and is similar in its habits. The golden orfe is like a dace in shape, but of a red colour—like a red gold fish—it grows to 1lb. or 2lb. in weight. It is a handsome fish, and is said to have done well in some lakes and ponds in this country. The late National Fish Culture Association imported and distributed some hundreds of king carp and golden orfe between 1882 and 1886.

W. M.—Shilling day tickets are issued at Barcomb Mills. Inquire at the inn. Pike fishing is not allowed in the fence months, and is, of course, highly unsportsmanlike in any water, unless it is necessary to destroy and keep down the pike, as in a trout stream, for instance.

W. HUBBARD.—Yes, you may fish at both places in the close season, but we do not agree with fishing out of season.

Correspondence

[We do not hold ourselves responsible for the opinions expressed by our Correspondents.]

NETTING IN THE TEME.

SIR,—In reply to "Arthur Felton, Water Bailiff, Lndlow," allow me to say I do not report hearsay evidence without having the best of proof as to the truth of the statement, which statement was made to me in the presence of another person, and has since been vouched for as being a true fact—that netting had taken place, and that at the time he drew the attention of two witnesses to where the net had been taken out of the river. My informant is a gentleman well known in the district, and will probably write you confirming my report as true.—Your respectfully, S. LUDLOW.

TROUT FISHING AND BRACING AIR WANTED.

DEAR SIR,—I should feel greatly obliged if you or any of your readers would tell me where I could get trout fishing in May, combined with bracing air, mountain or moorland.

I have tried the Hawes district with benefit, but would like a change this year.—Yours truly, SURGEON.

RIVER POLLUTION FROM LEAD MINE WASHINGS.

SIR,—Can you or any of your readers kindly give any information as to the effect produced upon *Salmonidae* in particular, and fish in general, by the introduction into a river of the water used in lead mine washings?

This pollution I have heard called "lead mine poisoning," and I assume that it is so-called from it being known that in the rivers into which it finds its way it causes the death of the fish; and if this assumption is correct, does it follow that the water thus contaminated is injurious to cattle partaking of it, not to mention human beings?

If any information can kindly be afforded on this subject, it would be greatly enhanced if names of rivers could be included into which the pollution has flowed with disastrous results to the fish, and, in consequence, whether legal steps were taken by boards of conservators or others? The river on whose behalf I am asking this information, at times presents a milky appearance, and dead trout (*fario*) have been observed floating down it.—I am, &c., POORBEAH.

JOKIN' WI' DEEFFICULTY.

DEAR SIR,—In your kindly appreciative notice of Dr. Brunton's death, you say the good old doctor sometimes "joked wi' deefficully." I presume, Mr. Editor, that you are a sonthron, and are consequently not fully aware of the meaning of the phrase. To say that a Scotsman "jokes wi' deefficully" does not, or should not, mean that he lacks the sense of humour, but that he makes fun of difficulty, regards it only as an obstacle to be overcome by Caledonian perseverance, "sticking plaster" as it is called. That in its fullest and best sense the phrase might be applied to Dr. Brunton I am well aware, but Englishmen, bearing in mind the old remark about the surgical operation, seem to think that a lack of fun is a Caledonian characteristic, which it is not, as witness the article on "Angling Veracity from a Scientific Standpoint" in the same issue of your admirable paper.—Yours faithfully, SANDY MACPHERSON.

MANCHESTER ANGLING CLUB QUERY.

SIR,—Will you kindly inform me through the columns of your valuable paper whether there is a social fishing club, with reading room, &c., in Manchester, similar to that existing in London, and which it is proposed forming in Edinburgh? Your attention will greatly oblige.—213, Mostyn-street, Manchester. G. H. POMEROY.

[We advise our correspondent to consult Mr. Abel Heywood, the hon. sec. of the Manchester Anglers' Association.—Ed.]

RECORD OF TROUT CAUGHT IN THE JED.

DEAR SIR,—In your issue of April 1 a record of trout caught in the Jed and Teviot is given, signed by Mr. Thomas Renilson, representing his catch for 1899, who hopes it will "interest your many readers," &c. The catch does interest many, who think your correspondent should be ashamed as a sportsman to publicly record the

fact that he took 1366 trout, weighing 263½lb. (I am glad the ½lb. is accurately given). The record represents an average of a little over 3oz. per fish. This represents hundreds of fingerlings, from 2oz. to 2½oz., to produce such an average. This record comes from the district where there are many objectors to Sir Herbert Maxwell's Bill. No wonder trout are scarce in that region.—Yours truly,
EIGHT INCHES.

Newcastle-on-Tyne.

[We did not work out the averages, but we certainly should like to see it made illegal to take trout under 8in. in length in any part of the United Kingdom.—Ed.]

DO SEVERN SALMON TAKE A FLY?

DEAR SIR,—Replying to "Fly Man's" query, in last week's issue, I beg to inform him that in this upper part—Caersws, Llandinaw—some were taken with fly last year.—Yours truly,
J. EVANS.
Caersws.

RE NETTING IN LUDLOW WATERS.

DEAR SIR,—In your issue of the *Fishing Gazette* last week there appeared a letter from Arthur Felton, of Ludlow, the Severn Conservators' water bailiff for that district, which calls for a reply.

As he ventures to contradict your correspondent's statement about the netting in private waters below Ludlow, I desire to give corroborative evidence. There were marks on the river bank which convinced me that the river had been poached by netting; and, if need be, I can give the signatures of others, proving that their attention was called to the said marks at the time. The statement was not made as a reflection upon the water bailiff or upon the discharge of his duties, but as he states that he goes down that water twice a week on both banks, and I think we anglers, who pay our licences as regularly as the season comes round. "Why on earth does he travel that particular stretch of water so often when there is such vast area requiring his vigilance?" If instead of going down the river in the day time, when the sun is shining pleasantly, he had gone down in the night time, he would most likely have come across the poachers. He also said something about a "netted fish" and a "man who knew nothing about samlets." Are we to understand that the "man" was a Shropshire angler? If so, one would have thought that a conservators' water bailiff would have been too cute to be taken in like that! Or has he been venturing to teach his dear "old grandmother how to suck eggs." It looks like it. I enclose my card.

FISHING IN WATERWORKS RESERVOIRS.

SIR,—On behalf of the angling brotherhood we ask your kind indulgence in addressing you and the readers of the *Fishing Gazette* upon a matter which in our opinion is of vital interest to every wielder of the rod. In our particular locality there are a number of extensive reservoirs under the control of the local waterworks committee that are eminently suited for the growth of trout, and which, with systematic stocking, could be made to afford fine sport for anglers; but which, as at present managed, not only yield indifferent results, but are well nigh inaccessible to working-men anglers of the locality. At intervals—very many years apart—the authorities stock these waters with trout. Each year a limited number of fishing permits are distributed by members of the waterworks committee, who present them gratis to applicants as far as the limited number will allow. The number of local anglers exceeds the number of tickets issued, and it necessarily follows that whilst some influential individuals may secure several tickets, other unfortunates are unable to get even one. We think, sir, you will agree that this system is crude and inadequate, and that waters of this kind should be accessible by a reasonable payment, and that stocking should be done annually either by the waterworks authority or by the local angling association. The waterworks committee probably consider that they have more weighty matters than angling to deal with, and they are quite justified in holding that view. At the same time the present procedure involves the individual members of that committee in being worried by applicants for more tickets than they have at disposal, and it appears to us that arrangements might be made with the local association by which the latter could relieve the committee of this trouble by managing the fishing under rules and conditions to be approved by the committee.

Our object in writing is, firstly, to endeavour, through the agency of your columns, to obtain definite information as to what privileges and arrangements are in force in other districts possessing waterworks reservoirs, in order that we can lay before our waterworks people such an array of facts as may induce them to grant us better facilities for sport; and, secondly, by the publication of such particulars in your columns, to enable the anglers of other localities who may be in the same plight as ourselves to strengthen their position and afford them some ground of action. In any case the information, if obtained and published, will form an interesting and valuable record. We, therefore, respectfully suggest that you, Mr. Editor, might throw open your columns for the publication of details of arrangements in existence in those districts in which anglers have ready access, by payment or otherwise, to the waterworks reservoirs, and where systematic stocking is done by the angling association or the authorities. We feel quite assured of your own sympathy at the start, and earnestly hope that those of your readers who can furnish particulars will do so, and thus maintain the true Waltonian spirit of brotherly assistance.

We may add, in conclusion, that we are members of an association of some 200 strong, and that previous efforts we have made to secure improved arrangements have been unavailing, because, as we believe, we have not been able

to show to "the powers that be" that we are only seeking the advantages that have been obtained in other more favoured places. Should you, Mr. Editor, as we anticipate, be willing to give your assistance, we would suggest that for the convenience of those who can furnish particulars, and for the purpose of comparison, the information might take the form of answers to the several questions appended hereto. In conclusion, we would remind anglers generally that every year adds to their number, the available waters become more and more fished, and it is, consequently, desirable that every suitable sheet of water that at present is not properly utilised shall, if possible, be made available for furnishing the best sport it admits of.

QUESTIONS.

1. Name of locality or town?
2. Is angling permitted in the waterworks reserves?
3. Is a charge made for tickets, and, if so, how much?
- 3a. Are tickets issued to visitors as well as residents?
- 3b. Are tickets issued by the waterworks authority, the landowner, or by the angling association?
4. Are the reservoirs stocked, and how frequently, and by whom?
5. Have the local angling association any rights or privileges in the management of the fishing?

Remarks, or supplementary information.

Yours, &c.,

G. H. JONES

(Hon. Sec. Stamford Angling Society).

Ashton-under-Lyne.

THAMES TROUT—THE LATE DR. BRUNTON.

DEAR SIR,—I had the pleasure of capturing a nice little trout in Bell Weir on Saturday last, a very game fish of 2lb., which I returned to his native element. He seemed not to like his treatment for a while, and lay on the bottom wrong ways up, but a gentle dose of the handle of the landing net moved him, and I hope he will live to fight again. Weather cold, and fishing in snowstorms is not all delight. Here is another story of our dear departed friend, Dr. John Brunton. Just before starting to the north last August for some autumn salmon fishing I called on my old friend for a few parting words of advice as to flies, &c. "Here you are, my boy," he said, "take my book of flies and tackle. Do ye know how to hold a big rod?"—putting his up. "There, note, that's the way; an 18ft. rod then becomes a pleasure instead of a labour. But mind ye bring them back." Showing his usual kindness of heart.—Sincerely yours,
JAMES STARTIN.

HOW TO REAR GENTLES.

SIR,—Having supplied London shops with bait—worms and gentles—about twenty-five years, and my father before me, I should like to say a little about the gentles. If "Fossdyke" says you cannot get a large freshly bred gentle in the winter he makes a mistake. First, you must get a large fly, the ova to be fully fed up to its size, and when they are scoured will keep large; when feeding they will lose in size if not managed rightly; like men, one food stands longer by them than another, so it is with the gentle. Liver has proved the best to my experience, although under certain heat any food will do. Second, you must not disturb them more than is possible until they are scoured. The reason you get the best gentle in the fall is that nature gives the largest fly then to stand the cold, and to find any refuge; being cold, it does not smell so much. These gentles can be kept any length of time, and be as lively when in use. "Fossdyke" is right in saying that kept gentles are better than many that is used. Where do the London shops get most of their gentles in the winter—from me. The trade is so uncertain, that I, after twenty-five years' study, cannot keep a large supply ready for use. I have to have one lot under the other, some ready and some feeding, and oftentimes have to send them out green; then they waste away. My experience is that until some one that is in the fishing tackle trade takes to supplying worms and gentles, anglers will only get good bait by fits and starts. I have given my time to raising red, brandling, and marsh worms, and have at present the largest stock to be seen; they will soon run out, because the demand is ever on the increase.—Yours truly,
G. NASH.

WIRE SEA LINES, &c.

DEAR SIR,—I have been very sorry to see the wire sea line correspondence in your columns dropped so suddenly, as I was hoping some of the correspondents would have told us what gauge of wire they were using, both single, plaited, and twisted, as my experience with stranded wire running over pulleys is not quite so satisfactory as I could wish even with fine, soft copper wire stranded and lightly twisted to make it as flexible as possible; yet renewals are very frequent, although the pulleys are quite 2in. in diameter; and, if soft copper wire is so liable to breakage, I am of opinion that phosphor bronze is much too brittle for the rough usage we all put our fishing lines through. As a wearing material, i.e., rubbing surfaces, as in slides and bearings for machinery, it stands splendidly, but for tensile strain I do not like it. I much prefer Muntz metal, but do not know if that company make a wire so small as would be required for a line. I don't know what size the members of the B.S.A.S. use, but I think about 22 or 24 S.W.G. will be about right for single wire, and if stranded or plaited, and you get 36/40 strand, you will get a much thicker line than what I use in flax, and no stronger, for I can lift 33lb. dead weight, and that is several pounds more than a 36/40 strand of copper wire will lift. I find a 24 S.W.G. brass wire breaks where it is looped at 29lb. I intend making a few more experiments respecting breaking strains of wire of different gauges, but would like some Muntz metal wire if procurable. Perhaps some of your correspondents can oblige. I should have been glad if you

had given us a few more particulars re Carter's big wheel pulley for rod tops, both as to price and size of top they are made to fit. You see, my purchases are hardly likely to be sufficiently extensive to recompense Messrs. Carter for the expense of their catalogue if I wrote for one, therefore I think I ought not to do so; and I could not spare a £5 note for a visit to the Fisheries this time, as it might mean so many days off my fishing excursion to Scarborough.

How is it we get no reports from any of these N.E. stations? Nothing north of Yarmouth.—Yours respectfully,
R. A. GOODMAN.

FISHING IN WALES.

DEAR SIR,—In reply to "Medicus's" letter for Welsh fishing, I do not think he can do better than write to the Red Lion Hotel, Llangynidr (T. Evans, proprietor), Breconshire.

It is situated on the Usk, in which fish (trout and salmon) abound in size, quality, and quantity.

The accommodation is good, and the hotel close to the river. It is five miles from Talybont, and ten miles from Abergavenny. It has two miles of good fishing. Can give further particulars if required.—Yours truly,
APPLEGREEN.

DEAR SIR,—I would draw the attention of "Medicus" to page iii. of your issue last week, wherein are two places advertised; either would, I think, suit—Rock House Hotel, Llandrindod, Wells (Mid-Wales), L. and N.W. Railway; Porth Hotel, Llandysil (South Wales), G.W. Railway. River Ithon, Llandrindod; Teifi, at Llandysil. There is capital fishing at the latter place, where the fish run to a good size.—Yours truly,
J. EVANS.
Pendref, Caersws (Mont.).

PROPOSED FISHING TACKLE TRADES ASSOCIATION.

SIR,—Since the proposition for the formation of a fishing tackle trades association (reported in your last issue), several members of the trade have expressed a desire for steps to be taken to bring about its consummation. If members of the trade will communicate with me, and make any suggestion that they think is desirable, I shall be pleased to call a meeting at the earliest opportunity, for the purpose of its formation and enrolment of members.

I shall also esteem it a favour if any of your readers that have copies of trade association rules by them that are likely to be of use to us, if they will be good enough to send them to me. I will return them if so desired.—Yours truly,
J. RICHARDSON.

123, Euston-road, N.W.

A FISHING RECORD AT THE GREAT LAKE IN TASMANIA.

The following is an account of twenty-three days' trout fishing at the Great Lake, situated in the highlands of Central Tasmania, at an elevation of 3000ft. above sea level, Dec. 24 to Jan. 15. This is understood to be the record of one rod's fishing for trout. The successful angler is Mr. W. Bryant, barrister-at-law, an ardent trout fisher from Victoria; this makes his seventh trip to the Great Lake:

Dec. 24.—Two fish, 7½lb. and 9lb.; total, 16½lb.
Dec. 25.—4lb.
Dec. 26.—4lb.
Dec. 27.—12lb., 6½lb., 3lb., 3½lb., 8lb., and 7½lb.; total, 40½lb.
Dec. 28.—Weather bright and warm, with a strong westerly blowing; 9lb., 6lb., 8lb., 6lb., 7½lb., 7lb., 12lb., 6lb., 5½lb., 4lb., 7½lb., 8½lb., 3lb.; total, 90lb.
Dec. 29.—Nil. Weather bright, hot, sultry; light northerly, changing light N.W.; thundery.
Dec. 30.—8lb. and 6lb.; total, 14lb.
Dec. 31.—Nil. Weather bright, hot; northerly wind; thundery.
Jan. 1, 1899.—7lb., 9lb., 8lb., 9½lb., 4lb.; total, 37½lb.
Jan. 2.—11lb., 10½lb., 10½lb., 9½lb., 9lb., 9lb., 8lb., 7lb., 7lb.; total, 90½lb. Weather, strong northerly, with much rain.
Jan. 3.—11lb. and 6lb.; total, 17lb.
Jan. 4.—8lb., 8lb., and 6½lb.; total, 22½lb.
Jan. 5.—Nil. Weather, W. to S.W.; strong rain, sleet, and snow.
Jan. 6.—8½lb.
Jan. 7.—Nil. Weather, wild, westerly, cold; water dirty.
Jan. 8.—8½lb.
Jan. 9.—4lb., 8½lb., and 6½lb.; total, 19lb.
Jan. 10.—11lb.
Jan. 11.—9lb. and 10lb.; total, 19lb.
Jan. 12.—11½lb., 9½lb., 7½lb., 7½lb., and 12lb.; total, 48lb. Weather, southerly, changing to S.W.; heavy showers, occasional glimpses of sunshine.
Jan. 13.—12lb.
Jan. 14.—Nil. Hot and bright; dead calm.
Jan. 15.—7lb., 6lb., 10½lb., 10½lb., 10½lb., 9lb.; total, 53½lb.

This record gives a total of sixty-five fish; weight, 516lb. The bait used was eelskin and troutskin phantoms, as modelled by Capt. Owen, of Sydney.

Another angler, Mr. A. D. Hall, from Sydney, from Jan. 1 to 15, succeeded in landing nineteen fish; total weight, 174lb. The heaviest was 14½lb. and the lightest 2½lb. This is, however, by no means the record catch at the lake, as it has been exceeded by that of Mr. Thomas Carr, of Lanneston, who once, on a pouring wet day, captured over 120lb. of trout. Nor are the individual fish specially large, specimens having been previously captured up to 25lb.

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NOTICE.

THE FISHING GAZETTE is published every Saturday, and can be obtained at Messrs. W. H. Smith and Son's Railway Bookstalls and of the principal Newsagents and Fishing Tackle Dealers in London and the Provinces.

Communications relating to the Literary Department, Fishing Tackle for Notice, Books for Review, &c., should be addressed to B. B. MARSTON, Editor of the FISHING GAZETTE, St. Dunstan's House, Fetter-lane, London.

Correspondents are requested to write on one side of the paper only, and give their real names and addresses, not necessarily as signatures to their letters, but as a guarantee of good faith. Unless this rule be adhered to no notice will be taken of such communications.

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— The —

Fishing Gazette

WITH WHICH IS INCORPORATED

ANGLING AND CLUB GOSSIP.

SATURDAY, APRIL 22ND, 1899.

VARIETIES OF FISH FOOD.

FISH are very capricious feeders, and at times they show a marked liking for one particular food, and discard all other dietary than the one kind they happen to be taking at the time. At other times, if the mood suits them, they are omnivorous, and will devour nearly anything in the shape of food that chances to come near them. I have made a practice for a few years back of examining the stomachs of the fish I have caught, and I find that this habit has given me a great deal of insight as to what fish will eat. I feel as if I were taking an unfair advantage of the fish in so doing, but I have found out that this is a surer way to ascertain what fish have been taking than any other. When one knows how to fish, and what the fish are feeding on at the time—I take it for granted that they are feeding—it becomes an easy matter to catch them. There are times when fish feed fairly well, and when it is difficult to tell what they are feeding on, no matter how observant one may be, but if you catch one at such a time it is quite possible to get more. The chances are that at such times they are all taking one particular fly or other item of fare, and if you open the stomach of the one you have caught, and examine what it holds, that fish may be the cause of the capture of its fellows. I sometimes carry a small magnifying glass when

fishing, as it is often difficult to distinguish thoroughly some of the delicate morsels that the fish eat; and some kinds of food very quickly become unrecognisable, owing to the processes of swallowing and digesting. The glass is a great aid to tell what flies the fish have been taking, as they are so fragile that they become broken up and crushed to such a degree that it is often very difficult to distinguish their species by the naked eye. I do not recommend fishers to take all this trouble, and I have no doubt that there are many who will look upon it as a semi-barbarous proceeding, but many will admit that it is a sure way of becoming thoroughly acquainted with the food that fish will devour. It has not been my fortune to capture very many species of fresh-water fishes, as Scotland lacks the variety of fish to be found in England and some other countries. Nevertheless, I have caught many a trout and grayling, some pike, perch, and roach, a few sea trout, and a couple of salmon. It is chiefly about the food of the trout and grayling that I intend to write. Throughout the incoming season I will act on the advice of a friend, and try to arrange a kind of table containing, as nearly complete as possible, a list of the food I get in trout and grayling, and give the dates on which the fish are taken. I have been doing this for the last few years, and have kept my fishing diaries containing some useful observations on the above subject, and it is owing to the fact that there were a few times I did not examine the fish I caught that I do not publish such now. As a summary of my diaries, I find, on looking through them, that fish I caught during the spring months contained chiefly flies, grubs or larvæ, creepers, and shrimps, with a minnow or two. At this season of the year I have got trout containing the ova of grayling or some other fish. I am almost certain that it was grayling spawn, as the river Ayr, where I have mostly fished for the last few years, contains a great many of them, and they are increasing in numbers at a great rate. This river flows through a very rich and well-wooded country, and, I think, contains nearly all the flies and insects that are to be found on any stream in the country. I have met with nearly every fly I have seen mentioned in angling books with the exception of the Green Drake or May Fly. It is owing to the amount of feeding in this river that the trout here are so difficult to take at times. I will not attempt to give the names of all the flies I have seen on this river, as that is beyond me; but the principal flies that the fish take in the spring are the February Red, a large, dark fly like a small Stone Fly, Blue Dun, March Brown, Red Spinner, Iron Blue, Oak Fly, Yellow Dun, and Needle Brown. I have noticed that some of the above flies appeared rather earlier here than in other districts. When May and June approach the trout become very fastidious in their tastes, taking only the choicest tit-bits from among a great variety which is to be had at this time. Indeed, at this season something tastier than a fly is better suited for making a haul. Most of the trout taken here in these months contained a few beetles of various sizes and kinds, but a great supply of very small ones. They also contained creepers, flies, ants, shrimps, larvæ of many kinds, and great quantities of a small cream-coloured grub or caterpillar about a third of an inch in length. Later on in June I got specimens of full fledged Stone Flies, and some green caterpillars, house flies, bluebottles, and one or two garden bees in trout. At this time of the year the trout took the creeper, caddis grub, small branding or red worms as bait, and also small artificial beetles, Black Gnats, Sedges, Yellow and Golden Duns. When June comes on I find that the trout are not inclined to take the artificial fly very readily, unless after a flood, and I think the reason of this is that all kinds of aquatic weeds thrive in the water now, and harbour millions of larvæ and small creatures that trout feed on, and which are too small to use as baits, and very difficult to imitate. I have got trout at this time of the year with nearly everything in their stomachs in the shape of flies, ants, larvæ, shrimps, minnows, large and small creepers, beetles, aquatic snails, worms, and beasties of all kinds. I once caught a large trout in a pond while fishing for perch at this time of the year, and it contained a few minnows, gerris, flies, beetles, a small frog,

and a mass of blackish feeding which I took to be the remains of tadpoles. I have found small frogs in trout two or three times, but this was the only occasion on which I ever got anything like tadpoles in them, although I have caught trout in ponds and sluggish water that contained thousands of them. On another occasion I got a trout which contained, among other things, the remains of what I took to be a small eel or lampern. I have often got trout containing flesh maggots, but once, while fishing a stream near Peebles, I cut open nearly a dozen of the largest of my trout that day, and found that the most of them were nearly gorged with nothing else than maggots. On going up the stream before leaving off, I noticed a dead sheep lying in the grass overhanging the water. It was swarming with maggots, and the stench which came from it was far from being pleasant. Once, while fishing the river Tweed, I got a yellow trout of about 2lb., and it contained the remains of a salmon fry or small trout, some minnows, loaches, flies, and a creeper or two. Most of the large trout I have caught contained small fry, minnows, or stone loaches, and I think that when trout get to a certain size they become predaceous, and feed upon their smaller neighbours, and are more inclined to feed by night, or when the water is clouded. Extra large trout will account for as many fry and minnows as a pike of equal weight. On another occasion, while fishing Glencorse Reservoir, which sends its water to Edinburgh, I noticed a trout or two pick up bees which had fallen off the willow bushes that fringe a part of the bank. The bees seemed to be working on the willow flowers, or some other plants, and by some mischance or other they had fallen into the water, where they made a considerable stir for a time, until they were snapped up by some hungry fish. I have seen trout take ants, wasp flies, and other large insects in the same manner, and in the late autumn I have got an occasional wasp in the stomachs of trout. I do not think that the trout show any great liking for wasps, as I have cut open several trout in September and only got an occasional specimen or two, although there were hundreds of dead and drowning wasps in the water at the time. Wasps are often chilled and numbed by the cold in the late autumn, and, losing the power of their wings and legs, they drop off the trees in great numbers. If trout were inclined to feed upon them at such times, they could gorge themselves with wasps without much difficulty. During and after August trout show a tendency to feed upon flies nearly as well as they do in the spring months, and I am sometimes inclined to think that they take flies more greedily when few are on the water than they do at those seasons when flies are on at all times of the day in clouds. Trout feed principally on flies during the spring months, and will, at times, take nothing else if they can get them. They seem to know, instinctively, that few other foods are so nourishing. Trout thrive and come into condition very rapidly after feeding for a week or two on flies, and if one opens the stomachs of trout at this time of the year flies will be found to be the principal contents. I have often had baskets from the river Ayr containing both grayling and trout, and I have noticed that it is very seldom that the contents of the stomachs of these two kinds of fish are the same, even if they are caught in the same pool or stream. The mouth of the grayling seems to be better adapted for sucking very small "beasties" off a smooth rock bottom than that of the trout, and I have found very small larvæ and other extremely small beings in the stomachs of grayling that trout would often pass by on account of their insignificance. I have often found the grayling to be a great nuisance while fishing with creepers in the spring months. They seem to be very fond of them, and persist in hanging on to your bait, whether they are in condition or not, and, as creepers are not easily procured at all times, an ill-conditioned grayling is not received with very good grace by some anglers. Nearly all the grayling that I opened last spring contained creepers, or remains of them, shrimps, beetles, and flies of all kinds. The shrimp seems to be a great favourite with many fish, and few will refuse them if they are inclined to feed at all. The best grayling swim I know of in the river Ayr is behind Privick Mill. On one occasion I took a mixed basket of trout and grayling weighing 30lb. Most of them were grayling, and

the majority came from this swim. I have caught grayling more than once from this same pool, and, having opened some of them, I found that they contained a quantity of seeds and grain which had come from the mill. Some time before this a friend told me that he had experienced the same, and I was hardly inclined to believe it until I saw it for myself. I knew that roach and other coarse fish feed on grain at times, but I always thought that the grayling, belonging to the noble family of *Salmonidae*, was above that sort of thing. There is no saying what fish will eat at times. It has been my fortune to capture fish on four different occasions which contained hooks. I have no doubt that some, or, more probably, all, of them would be responsible for a few fairy tales about monstrous fish breaking away and smashing the tackle of some unfortunate fisher. The largest of the four weighed about $\frac{3}{4}$ lb. Two, taken from the river Ayr, had flies firmly fixed in their mouths, and one hook was almost rusted through. Another of about $\frac{1}{2}$ lb. contained a large bait hook and a piece of gut fixed well back in the throat. This fish was an ill-favoured looking specimen, and ought to have weighed a pound or so had it been in condition. In all probability its bad health would be due to its having this unnatural appendage in its throat. I got this fish in the Tweed, below Peebles. A coarse Stewart tackle, and nearly a yard of gut attached, adorned the mouth of another which was taken from the Tyne in East Lothian or Haddingtonshire. The hooks in this case seemed to be quite new, and the gut was not even rotten, although it was badly frayed. This fish was in the best of condition, and weighed $\frac{1}{2}$ oz. It may have furnished "exciting sport" to some unlucky individual before I caught it. Every time I see a fish lost through carelessness, I feel inclined to say something very uncomplimentary to the loser, as I consider all trout that have once tasted steel become the inveterate enemies of anglers, and settle down in after life as tutors to the rising generation of fish, and instruct them in all the wily ways of the fisher and his art. Joking aside, it nevertheless seems to be the case that fish have some means or power by which they can make their congeners understand certain things as well as we can by speech or writing.

BLACKBEETLE.

SALMO MARSTONII.

[MR. A. NELSON CHENEY very kindly sends me the following extract from the Canadian magazine "Recreation." If some of our friends of the Tourilli Fish Club would send me in ice a good specimen of *Salmo marstonii* I should be extremely obliged, and will pay all expenses of carriage. For years I have been hearing about this game and lovely namesake, and should like one stuffed in my fishing den. If I don't see or catch *S. marstonii* before I die, I shall begin to think it's "all my eye."—R. B. M.]

(From "Recreation.")

NEW SPECIES OF TROUT.

Quebec, Jan. 26.—A new species of trout has been discovered in the Tourilli Fish and Game Club's waters. This trout runs up to $\frac{3}{4}$ lb. in weight, and is the most beautiful and gamey of the salmon family. A specimen has been sent to the Smithsonian Institution, and has awakened a great deal of interest among scientists. It is generally supposed to be the rare and much coveted *Salmo marstonii*.—*The Citizen*, Ottawa, Canada.

Will you give us some information, in "Recreation," as to *Salmo marstonii*, mentioned in this clipping? Where is that species principally to be found?

In the early stages of spawning, by what exterior marks can the female be distinguished from the male speckled trout? Has colour anything to do in this respect?

Your magazine is ever interesting, and I am always awaiting it with anxiety and pleasure.

E. EDWARD LEMIEUX.

Dept. of Militia, Ottawa, Can.

The Editor of *Recreation* says: "I referred this inquiry to Hon. George M. Bowers, U.S. Fish Commissioner, who replies thus:

"The fish to which your correspondent apparently refers was described in 1893, by Professor Samuel Garman, of the Museum of Comparative Zoology, Cambridge, Mass., under the name *Salmo marstonii*, in honour of Mr. R. B.

Marston, editor of the London *Fishing Gazette*. This trout belongs to the group of salmonoids known in Europe as charrs or saiblings, represented in America by a number of species and varieties, most of which inhabit Arctic regions. Later authors have consequently assigned Marston's trout to the genus *Salvelinus*, of which our brook trout (*S. fontinalis*) is the best known example. Furthermore, this fish is closely related to the blue-back trout of the Rangeley lakes (*Salvelinus oquassa*) and is by some regarded as a variety of that species. Marston's trout is known from Lac de Marbre, Ottawa County, Quebec, from which the type came, and from Decallones township, seventy miles east and forty miles north of Montreal. This fish cannot be mistaken for the speckled or brook trout of either sex, except perhaps during the parr stage. It differs markedly in colour and form, having, among other distinguishing features, a plain back, a deeply forked tail, and thirteen dorsal and twelve or thirteen anal rays, instead of the ten and nine rays, respectively, which the brook trout has."

JOHN BRUNTON, M.A., M.D.

A REMINISCENCE.

DEAR SIR,—I was glad to see the excellent portrait and read the "In Memoriam" notice of our esteemed friend. During the past six months he visited Deal several times, and joined the B.S.A.S. and the Greshamites in fishing from boats, with good success, and sometimes from the pier. On one occasion, being fortunately provided with a single-barrelled pistol, he shot one of a passing school of porpoises, which bounded out of the water, showing that the bullet had taken effect. The porpoise was afterwards picked up dead, so I was told, on the beach near the ruins of Sandown Castle. Dr. Brunton was always considered one of the most skilful trout and grayling fishers of the present day; he never used a landing net for trout, but always landed them by hand. Trophies of his skill are shown in cases which ornament the walls of the Gresham Angling Society's club-room, grayling being most conspicuous. I remember well the year he acted as delegate for the Piscatorial Society at the annual Loch Leven trout competition (the society annually providing three guineas towards individual expenses) and winning the first prize, and his showing the members twelve Scotch £1 notes as the result. He also produced a chart of the loch, drawn by himself, pointing out the place where he captured his trout, his scientific knowledge and matured judgment being well rewarded. He had a silver cup made for the £12. On one side was a suitable inscription, and on the opposite a bunch of thistles most artistically engraved. The Brunton Challenge Cup, presented to the Piscatorial Society in 1889, has been won by several gentlemen. It is for the greatest weight of grayling, and must be won three times by a member before it becomes his property. Our late friend read two papers at the Piscatorial Society, which are bound with other papers in vols. 1 and 2—"The Science and Art of Spinning," in vol. 1; "On Grayling," 1882, in vol. 2.

When here he kindly visited and cheered me up three evenings. Once an angling friend came with him. We were conversing about Scotch songs, and, having a large musical-box which played Scotch tunes, I set it going. One Scotch reel tune so excited him that he jumped up from his chair, and caught hold of me to dance a reel with him. Our friend sat enjoying a good laugh to see us old fellows tripping it in bonnie style. This showed his happy disposition. He finished the evening at the P.S. dinner on March 20 with his usual "Auld Lang Syne," and surely his genial acquaintance will ne'er be forgotten.

T. R. SACHS, P.P.S.

"ABOUT BIG PIKE."—This is the title of an article in the current number (April 15) of *Harnsworth's Magazine*, and is by Mr. R. B. Marston. It is well illustrated.

FOREIGN BOOKS AND PERIODICALS.—Messrs. Sampson Low, Marston and Co., St. Dunstan's House, Fetter-lane, London, supply the Trade with Foreign Books and Periodicals. First train consignments from their Continental agents twice a week. Catalogue gratis.

OLD ANGLING BOOKS FOR SALE.

MESSRS. PICKERING AND CHATTO, 66, Haymarket, London, have now ready a new catalogue of second-hand books, containing many rare and interesting works on angling, including two sets of the first five editions. For the first set they ask £675 (the books are all in the original bindings); for the second set, bound by Riviere, they ask £525. These editions were all published during the lifetime of Izaak Walton, between 1653 and 1676. All lovers of angling books should obtain this catalogue.

"A LESSER STAR."

HE was a cadger, a prince among cadgers.

Do not imagine for a moment that there was anything princely in his appearance; in fact, by his lack of apparel and miserable, unshaven countenance, he seemed fitter for the Union than the palace, yet there was no doubt of the noble cunning of his ways.

When a schoolboy I first made his acquaintance whilst fishing in some private waters, where, I fear, I had no more right than had he. Hearing a voice behind me, I started in fear and trembling, sizing the stream rapidly for a jump, in case it should be the owner or those in authority under him. It was the cadger, a little bow-legged man, bent of back and grimy of visage, arrayed in a most dilapidated suit of corduroy.

From beneath the shade of his flapping straw hat twinkled a wicked pair of black eyes, which would have been beautiful had they not been surrounded by blood-shot whites; and I well remember the extra sparkle in them as he cheerfully said "No, Tommy; they ain't nabbed yer this time."

From his shoulder he swung a large coarse calico bag and a bundle of sticks, whilst the other arm lowered what seemed to be a large fish-kettle; then, fitting together various lengths of the sticks, he took a line from his pocket, baited with a bloodworm, and started work in my swim.

With boyish admiration I watched him transfer gudgeon by the dozen from the stream to the large can, and between each capture he kept up a running fire of sage remarks.

"Gudgins, Tommy! Lor, I beleive yer; 'undreds on 'em! These 'ere—tho' they aint hextry big, 'll fetch a brown apiece, that is, o' course, wiv proper 'andling. Gudgins (come up, yer varmint!), as I was agoin' to say, don't grow so wery fast; these 'ere aint no less than a 'undred years ole apiece! You wern't thought of then, Tommy, no more wern't I, tho' the beak did say as 'ow 'e can't rightly 'ollect when I fust made my bow, an' 'e's an old fossil if hever there was. 'Bloodwum Bill, I am,' sez I. 'Do yer washup want heny wums? cos, if so, my bag's in the p'lice's 'ands, an' they'll arl die o' grief if their marster's sent to do 'ard.'"

"What do the prisoner mean?" arsts the beak. 'What is bloodwums?'

"Jest fancy a man not knowin' wot bloodwums are! 'E might a bin born an' bred down a coal mine! I can't read, nor no more write, but I'd be bloomin' 'shamed o' meself if I didn't know wot bloodwums was."

"'Ere, Tommy! See that there bit o' lily root? Hook it hup. So! there's a good boy. Now, d'ye know wot that there bit o' root's for? Well I knows a sight o' ole wimmin wot buys fish orf o' me, an' keeps 'em in ole glarst jars an' sich like; so periodical I calls on 'em, and sez, sez I, 'Them there fish o' yourn 'll die if they ain't given some Umpa Dorum.'"

"Wot's Umpa Dorum?" sez they.

"Ah, mum, you're a arsting questions! sez I, 'but it's hard to git now, an' a shillin' a root's mighty cheap for Umpa Dorum nowadays.'"

"This 'ere lily root is Umpa Dorum, Tommy. Blow the connection, as the man sez to the rope when they 'ung 'im. Come hup."

"Now, some people sez as 'ow you must 'ave a 'spensive rod fur fishin'. This 'ere rod o' mine ain't 'spensive; don't look it, anyhow; came near bein' mighty so, though."

"Top jints a willer switch; next 'un's a sweep's rod I picked hup outside 'is door when 'e wern't

lookin'; if 'e had bin, this yere rod 'ud 'ave corst me seven days! Bottom jint's a broom 'andle, an' the 'ole lot corst nopence farthin'.

"'Ere's a eel! Bother eels, sez I, as a general rule, but jest now I've got a ole gal wot bleives in eels. I buys 'em down town, an' takes 'em to 'er kivered wiv weeds an' slime, and she pays a hextry bob for 'em cos she knows the difference, sez she, 'tween stale an' fresh 'uns! This 'ere's the fust fresh eel she will 'ave tasted fur munths, an' we'll put up the price accordin'.

"Now, Tommy, 'ere's a bloomin' dawg a-comin', so I'll be orf! You ain't got the price of a drink on yer, 'ave yer? No. Well that's a good job, cos I never likes a 'leavin' my young friends wivout coin passing. By bye! Olive oil, as the Frenchmen say."

And Bloodworm Bill made off upstream to a fording he evidently knew; whilst I shinned up a tree until the "dawg" might return home.

When in funds Bill was also in drink, and his appearance at the local bench was fairly regular.

On being ushered before his old friend "the Beak," Bill would familiarly bid him good day, remark on the weather, and the state of the rivers, until ordered to desist.

Then such a dialogue as the following would ensue:

The "Beak": "What have you to say for yourself?"

Bill: "I'm uncommon modest, yer honour, an' was always taught ter let others speak for me."

"Then you admit being intoxicated."

"No, yer honor, I don't admit nothing; mine's a wet business."

"Why not leave it for something more honest?"

"I'm a straightforrard man enough, my lord, if only them coppers 'ud let me alone (insinuatingly). Now yer honor, let me sell you a few beautiful wums?"

"Five shillings or —"

"Take it in wums!"

"Seven days."

"Would yer ludship kindly direct them blue bottles ter give the gudgin fresh water twice a day, an —"

Here Bill is forcibly removed.

I was once present when his enemies, the police, made an inventory of the contents of his parcels. They comprised half a peck of manure and myriads of bloodworms, seven pheasant's eggs, a fowl (deceased), a noosed rabbit (also deceased), two dozen gudgeon, and a bottle of whiskey! Not a bad day's work for a cadger!

His antipathy to eels was justified. Poor fellow! he was missing for a week, and then a ploughboy found his old bag in the river. Subsequent search discovered a portion of him, the remainder still glides about the sunken tree trunks and the mud; and I never see an eel in the old stream without pondering as to whether in it are incorporated the mortal remains of Bloodworm Bill, the Cadger.

KRYPTOS.

RE-STOCKING POSSIBILITIES.

"You'll never miss the water till the well runs dry," says the good old refrain, and the moral follows, as a natural sequence, that it is then too late to look for a drink. Hitherto the idea of re-stocking our northern Scottish trout streams has never seriously been contemplated. Certainly in the south of Scotland, and about the Lochleven country, re-stocking is nothing new; but beyond an occasional experiment in private ponds and such like quarters, artificial propagation and the like has been entirely confined to *Salmo salar* and *Salmo trutta*, while *fario* has been left to multiply and replenish his haunts as best he could, and in any haphazard fashion that came the way. So prolific were the streams and burns north of the Border, and the farther north the more so, that an inexhaustible stock of fish met the angler at every turn. This was the case some twenty years ago, not to go further back; but what has happened since then?

The early spring salmon angler had not then began to spin the minnow and gudgeon over the tail ends of the salmon pools, where the brown trout love to take up their winter quarters. Since

minnow spinning for salmon began trout of a large size have been conspicuous by their absence, where formerly they were met with in fairly large numbers. Now they are not there to slay. The salmon angler was not looking for them certainly, but his minnow was, and is, just such a tempting morsel as they were eagerly on the look-out for in their lanky winter condition, and which they came at with avidity, much to the disgust of the fisherman on the bank, who, with a curse at the unwelcome interruption, and disappointment at the wretched condition of his nicely trimmed minnow, now chewed and broken, pitched the unlucky offender—a 2lb. or 3lb. *fario*—high up the bank, to fester and rot in the broiling sun. We have stood by and seen it done times without number, and later on, in the summer months, when searching the streams for the big fish that were not there, could then easily account for the deteriorating size of the fish once so common, and now rarely met with beyond 10oz. or 12oz. in weight. To the salmon angler it was nothing. In fact, there are many who hold the opinion that the less trout there are in a salmon river the better. Probably they have the very strong argument on their side that trout live on salmon ova and parr, not disdaining a goodly-sized smolt when it comes its way. This is all quite true. On one occasion we took from the gullet of a 2lb. *fario* no less than six salmon parr, all more or less decomposed, from the last freshly taken one not yet fully gorged to the skeleton of the first, probably in its stomach for over an hour. Six 4in. salmon parr per hour is a costly tribute to pay for *fario*'s presence in a salmon stream. We feel that we are giving away the case for the trout in so damaging an indictment, and that our salmon streams would be better without it. But, on the other hand, there is the balance of nature to be considered, and which no theory can be complete without considering, and which science can hardly explain. The trout live on other foods besides salmon ova and parr. They have not always a diet of ova and parr to live upon; and, no doubt, though their presence in a salmon stream may not be an unmixed blessing, nevertheless Nature has a set and definite beneficial purpose in view, although it may not be obvious at first sight. The plague of mice in the south of Scotland, and such like plagues, when they crop up are undoubtedly object-lessons of an emphatic and telling order to conserve the balance of nature, lest a worse thing comes. Again, *fario* is always with us. The salmon, grilse, and sea trout pay our pools a flying visit, and should the weather be too hot or the water too small they will hide in the deepest shadows, and scarcely deign to indicate by the slightest sign the nearness of their royal presence. The angler may whip the pools with all his might and main and practised skill from morn to dewy eve, and yet return home with an empty creel and a desponding heart. But under such conditions let him think of *fario* in the necks of the pools and in the thickest of the current, or even out upon the shallows, and with a worm, a small phantom, or a parr tail, when the gossamer gut and invisible gnat is no avail, and he will not be turned away empty. To get an hour or two's good trout angling in the height of a July or August day, with the prospect of creeling a few big fish scaling 1lb., 2lb., 3lb., and even 4lb., is worth, *per se*, a considerable tribute in salmon parr.

Re-stocking by artificial propagation should be resorted to where there is much spinning for early spring salmon practised.

The poacher we have always with us. When the waters are small and clean, when bigger game is not on hand, then he falls foul of the trout, and scoops them out wholesale. There are two classes of poachers—the amateur and professional. The amateur is not of much account. He may use an illegal lure, but as long as he sticks to rod and line his depredations do not amount to much, and the keepers and watchers are quite able to take care of their preserves as far as he is concerned. But the professional poacher is quite a different sort. He has been steadily coming to the front in the north in recent years. For some time back he has been devoting his attention to finnock and brown trout in their respective seasons, and adding them to his bag, in addition to the salmon and sea trout which seem to have been all his prey heretofore. The trout are poked from under the

banks, herded into a deepish pool where the bottom is free of boulders and where there is no escape, and then literally scooped out. No stream or burn, even where a few ½-pounders can be "copped," is safe from the poacher's ken. Neither is distance any obstacle to him in the pursuit of his nefarious calling, and he will travel fifty and sixty miles per rail to establish himself if there is any chance of making lean the country round about, sending off his ill-gotten "takes" by rail with a barefaced shamelessness and bravado as if he were a sportsman born, and despatching his parcels to his friends. Nor is he wanting in his creature comforts. When in a fresh bit of country, and the field tolerably open, he can make a goodly thing of it, and live, if not like a prince, at least like a "fighting cock" in good form. The other day a colony—two men and two women—was unearthed on the banks of a northern famous finnock and brown trout stream of this description. For three weeks or so the rendezvous had been watched night and day in order to secure a capture, but every time the two men, either proceeding singly or together, were set upon nothing of an incriminating nature was found upon them, nothing more damaging than a bit of fishing line. The "colony" had built for itself a castle in the shape of a turf hut, in which a very snug lodgement was nightly found. A search warrant was found, and a raid duly made on the stronghold, which was easily carried, for there was practically no resistance offered; but, to the chagrin of the head bailiff and his assistants, not even an inch of a net could be pounced upon. There was abundant evidences of the regal style in which the quartet lived in the shape of empty meat cans, empty fruit cans, empty bottles (dead men), and even a "greybeard" of the capacity of two or three gallons with a suspicious smell about it, although it was given out that it was for carrying water.

There was no visible means of subsistence, no hawking, no trade of any kind, no begging even, and yet they had been living on after this style since the early days of the season. To cut a long story short, the inspector to the district fishery board solved the mystery, although he was unable to trap the birds before they had flown. The two men poachers were merely "decoy ducks." The women did the poaching, and while the three watchers were busily engaged stalking the "decoys" about a mile from camp, the two women netted the pool, which was replenished with every tide with fresh run finnock, and then dispatched the spoil from the local post office per parcel post or otherwise. This game was carried on right under the noses of the bailiffs for three weeks. When the women were scented they threw up the sponge and decamped, leaving their net behind them in the tideway, and a supply of light packing cases at the local station, which still lie there unclaimed.

Thus, "far from the madding crowd," these experts find a resting place, and ply their trade. It is finnock just now; later on and further up the country the brown trout will engage their attention, and, attended by their lady friends, there will be a descent made in due season, when the fish are more marketable and command higher prices.

A federation of the leading fishmongers throughout the kingdom, and a firm determination on their part to have nothing to do with poached fish, and to expose those in the trade who do, if it does not effectually shut the door, will at least reduce the poacher's market to the smallest possible dimensions, and be most gratefully welcomed, by all who have the interests of our fisheries at heart, as a magnanimous and noble step in the right direction, and worthy of all praise.

But the incursions of the poaching fraternity will need to be made good. Of course, the stock will assuredly increase of its own accord if left alone, but there are miles and miles of excellent trout waters on almost every stream where re-stocking is not only a possibility but an absolute necessity. It would take a series of years before it can redeem its former prestige by itself, and yield a respectable basket of goodly sized fish, which the necessities of the age cannot brook, to say nothing of the constant demands for current sport, so that the subject of re-stocking is not a matter of *may*, but *must* be done. G. M.

THE OPENING OF THE SEASON ON LAKE VYRNWY.

How anxiously, after a long winter, does the angler await the 1st of March. Only a few waters are open on that date, and one of the best of these is Lake Vyrnwy. The advantages are so many, and the drawbacks so few. Plenty of trout, unrivalled scenery, fine bracing air, obliging and capable gillies, the nicest and most homelike little hotel in the three kingdoms, and, as a rule, the pleasantest and most sporting lot of visitors that one can imagine. As I have said, the drawbacks are few. Perhaps, so early in the year, some of the trout are out of condition—well, this may be so, but many of them are quite the reverse, and the explanation is not far to seek. When the lake was originally stocked, many varieties of trout were introduced. Some of these became rapidly acclimatised, and have done well ever

the hotel after ten miles of posting through the Arctic regions. The cold was awful, but we were soon chatting away merrily with Miss Davies, in front of a huge bank of red hot coals, and, of course, taking our toddy under the Doctor's orders. How delightful to gaze once more upon the dear old lake, even through a snowstorm. How pleasant to recall experiences of years before, and to yarn away before that superb fire, until the fish we had caught in the past seemed to somehow or other get a *leetle* larger, and their numbers to insensibly increase. The Doctor was more or less of a novice, and styled himself "The Entered Apprentice." To me he accorded the august title of "The Past Master." He was as keen as possible on fishing, and we had barely disposed of our luncheon before he was asking me to make him up a cast. In ten minutes more we were off, attended by the faithful Simeon, who shook his head mournfully as he broke the ice with the oar before we could get out of the boat-

spite of the bitter weather, we soon found out that the trout were inclined to feed. Presently the Doctor had a quick, splashing rise, and, not seeing it at the moment, Simeon yelled out, "*There he is!*" This so startled the Doctor that he struck for all he was worth, and had the fly been fast in the fish something must have gone. As it was, no harm was done; and the trout scuttled off with nothing worse than a severe fright. I now began to get some nice fish, one (a pretty trout of 1lb. 4oz.) giving me some real good sport. The Doctor, too, killed three fish, and was mightily pleased thereat. Not being frightened by Simeon's stentorian "*There he is!*" the fish were quietly struck, and decorously landed in most artistic style. When the shades of evening began to fall, we reeled up as well as our frozen fingers would permit, and breasted the steep hill leading to the hotel.

How welcome was the warmth and brightness, after the biting wind; how welcome also was



LAKE VYRNWY HOTEL.



GILLIES AT LAKE VYRNWY.



A ROUGH DAY ON LAKE VYRNWY.



A SMOOTH EVENING ON LAKE VYRNWY.

since, others, evidently unsuited to the water, have deteriorated, and will ultimately die out. This, at least, is my theory, and when I take one of these eels, or "telegraph posts" (as a Liverpool fisherman called them), I usually knock the fish on the head instead of returning him to the water, as these fish are certainly better out of the lake than in it. There are thousands of good trout to be had, however, and it is a significant fact that on a good day, when the fish are taking, we rarely get a bad fish in the whole day's catch. On the contrary, when there is no rise on, and the fishing is bad, we kill a few of these thin fish. I can only say that in March last year I made a bag of twenty-three trout, weighing just on 20lb., and every one of them in the pink of condition.

Perhaps an account of a few days on the lake may be interesting to those who have not been fortunate enough to visit this charming spot. We (my friend the Doctor and myself) arrived at

house creek. Previous experience had warned me to clothe myself in Esquimaux fashion, so I looked more like one of the guys than the boys carry round on the Fifth of November than a sedate and elderly sportsman of the nineteenth century. I put up three flies—one which is christened Pine's Fancy, for the tail fly; Teal and Olive for the first dropper, and a small Zulu for the second dropper. This cast I used with the greatest success during my stay; and, although I often changed my flies, trying March Brown, Red and Teal, Claret and Grouse, &c., I always returned to my first love. Here I may say that I killed more than half my fish on Pine's Fancy, and whether used as tail fly or dropper it was equally good. I left a pattern of this fly with Miss Davies, who signified her intention of getting some tied for the use of coming visitors. As we had not much time to fish, we started the shallow shore immediately in front of the hotel, and, in

the cheery voice suggesting just a suspicion of bitters before dinner. Our fish were weighed and exhibited in dishes, thirteen trout, 9lb. in weight. Not bad for such weather, and in so short a time. Soon afterwards we were joined by a third belated fisherman, who had toiled all day for five fish, but who came up smiling, and, in spite of his avowed teetotal principles, took very kindly to whiskey toddy with his dinner, notably doing this "for his health's sake."

After dinner, fly-books were unearthed, and a most learned discussion upon the merits of the various flies was eagerly carried on. Casts were made up for the morrow, and the usual fishing stories were freely indulged in, the authenticity of which could not be doubted. The latest arrival told us a weird experience he had of the enormous rise of the Black Gnat. This gentleman was so impressive in his manner, that we placed the most

implicit faith in his statements. He told us that the Black Gnat came up in such huge quantities that the lake had a margin of these dead and dying insects all round the edge of several yards; that they covered the roadway across the dam to such a depth that navvies were employed to cart them away with spades and barrows; and that the effluvia was so injurious to health that the place was avoided as a plague spot.

The Doctor merely remarked that he quite believed it, and proceeded to tell us how he had once caught two fish simultaneously on the same fly, when the bedroom candles were brought in.

Up with the lark in the morning, breakfast (and such a breakfast) disposed of, and we were off to the boathouse. Not quite so cold, but still a good stiff nor'-westerly breeze with a bit of a sting in it. Now this was a special occasion; I had come into my jubilee, and it was my birthday. Simeon was anxious to bring home the best bag, and we determined to row up to the end of the lake, and fish home. Away we went, struggling gamely against the wind, and after an hour's hard work we found ourselves in the little bay, yecept Eunant. For an hour we fished every inch of the shore without result, when all in a moment the trout "came up!"

There was a great rise, though what the fish

real music hall fashion, although the tones thereof were rather tinny.

"And so to bed" (as Pepys bath it), with no premonition of a head in the morning. Retribution, however, was lurking in the background, and a gigantic thirst was manifest about eleven o'clock the next day. Altogether I killed 180 trout in eighteen days, and this in the most wintry weather, and with no fly up at all. Surely this is good enough early in the season, and, combined with all the charming accessories of the lake; is tempting enough to lure anyone away from the strife and turmoil of the world to the peaceful and beautiful shores of Lake Vyrnwy.

QUILL GNAT.

MID TAW TROUT FISHERY.

THE proprietors of The Fox and Hounds Hotel forward us the following particulars relative to the above fishery:

"Five hours from Waterloo, direct, without change. Best months for trout—March, April, and May. No trout taken under 8in.; fly only until end of April; average weight, $\frac{1}{2}$ lb. Hotel stands close to river, and you can fish six miles up or down stream. Country around thickly

If fish are dead off the feed one bait is no better than another, but there can be no question that fish will sometimes refuse to take a bait on one occasion that they will take with avidity on another; and if the angler happens to be without this special lure, so much in request on such occasions, a blank is almost certain to be the result, and the most clever and experienced angler may be as much at a loss to explain why the fish refuse to bite as the veriest tyro. Therefore, I think, so far as some rivers are concerned, it is rather foolish to confine oneself to one particular bait for any period or style of fishing, for something in the condition of the water, atmosphere, or even in the fish one desires to catch, for anything the angler knows (they may be queer), may, for the time being, prevent them from feeding; whilst, on other occasions, it goes without saying that both barbel and perch will prefer gentles to worm; chub, greaves to pith, and minnows to either; roach, blood worms to cubes of bread; and bream, brandling to marsh worms. This is my experience. On a similar day, and at a similar period, all this may be reversed; and it is just possible that, if one only took one sort of bait on these occasions, that bait would be certain to be the wrong one, and not a fish would be taken. If an angler finds that it is impossible to catch only a few fish by using in the most careful and clever manner three or four sorts of the most successful baits, how can the novice expect to obtain sport by using only one bait in any river he may visit haphazard? The fact is, the excessive use of any particular bait trains the fish to expect that bait; and in the use of white bread paste in the Lea, for instance, fish are constantly missed by a great number of anglers, and the flavour of it is always in their mouths. I also have an idea that the ground-bait employed increases the longing for this special hook-bait; and thus it happens that roach can often be caught with white bread paste in the Lea more successfully than with any other bait.

But with respect to certain baits for roach, say, in the Trent, this is what an old observant and successful Trent angler once said: "We commence to fish for roach about the beginning of July with gentles, and although there is a great variety of baits used for the capture of this fish, this is undoubtedly the best bait for this month. All throughout August and September creed wheat and malt are the most killing baits if the water be clear. Next comes white bread paste, which may be used with more or less success all through the winter; but, taking one occasion with another, the best bait in the winter months is the beautiful bright cockspur and the tail end of a female lob for choice. The angler should always take both sorts with him, and he should throw a few larger or coarser worms, chopped up very small, for ground-bait, where there is a fair number of fish, but he must be very sparing with it, as very little food satisfies them in winter."

It would be difficult to convince a Lea angler that stewed wheat would ever be so successful as white bread paste. Whenever it has been tried it has signally failed. On the other hand, although I have taken splendid roach both in the Wiltshire Avon and the Trent with the worm, I never saw a Sheffield angler fish with it for roach either in the Witham or the drains adjacent.

I do not say that they do not use the worm for taking roach in these waters, but I have never seen them; pastes (various), creed wheat, and gentles galore, but never worms.

I have heard it stated that Lea anglers stick almost entirely to white bread paste. All I can say is, I have been out with a good many Lea anglers fishing in various rivers, such as the Rother, Thames, Lea, Wey, Medway, and Arun, and I can safely say that they do nothing of the kind. Lea anglers adapt themselves to the necessities of the hour as much as any anglers I know, or have known; work as hard, and at the right period I have seen them taking roach in the Thames, both above and below Pangbourne, and other localities, with a bunch of gentles, employing their pellet of carefully kneaded ground-bait on the shank of the hook in a scientific manner. And what anglers, may I ask, are more clever in taking big bream in the Arun on a tight line with wheat, gentles, and worms; or roach, even, in his favourite river, with the blood worm proper, in certain foul and tainted swims, in preference to



FOX AND HOUNDS HOTEL, EGGESDON, N. DEVON

were rising at I could not make out. Pine's Fancy, however, did the trick, and for an hour I had grand sport, fish after fish coming to net, but none of them very large. By lunch time I had creeled twenty-three beauties, and then the rise seemed over. After luncheon the wind fell, and, although I used smaller flies, I could not get a fish. About four o'clock, however, the breeze freshened, and I took fourteen more trout before the falling light warned me to make for home. Thirty-seven fish is a good take for any water, but I began to feel anxious as to whether my friend of last night had beaten me. I had returned ten trout to the water, and so was left with a balance of twenty-seven; but, as it proved afterwards, I easily headed the bag, and so came out first on my birthday, which was only right and proper under the circumstances.

What an evening we had! The table was decorated in my honour, and a most marvellous cake, covered with fishing mottoes, graced the board. The harpist (Ernest Roberts) harped divinely in the hall, and a peep through the dining room door revealed the fact that the maids and gillies were dancing merrily to the fascinating strains. After this a gentleman of great accomplishments gave us a weird show on the gramophone, and the familiar air of "Her golden hair was hanging down her back" was reproduced in

wooded, and any amount of bird life; very little population. Three flies will take fish throughout the season, viz., Blue Upright, Rusty Red, and Rusty Blue. Hotel water was re-stocked three years ago with 1000 yearlings from the Brunton Fishery, and are now giving splendid results. Peal run up to this part of river during wet seasons; best months August and September. Good train service; and Barnstaple, Ilfracombe, Lynton, and Lynmouth, also Bideford, Tarrington, Westward Ho, and Clovelly may be visited during the day, the New Tor Railway from Barnstaple to Lynton passing through lovely country, giving a day's outing that would be difficult to surpass. From middle of April Mr. Cheriton's otter hounds hunt two days a week, and good sport is the rule. The Taw trout are short, deep fish, and, when in condition, fight like sea trout. This season has opened well; in spite of the keen frosts and east winds good baskets have been made."

ON AND OFF.

No matter what river an angler is going to fish in, I think he who takes three or four different baits will stand a better chance of obtaining sport than he who takes only one.

any other bait, as is only natural below these overfalls?

The fact is, some Lea anglers I know are real good all-round anglers, and know quite as much of other well-known styles as they do of the Lea style, and can show as good specimen trout, pike, perch, chub, barbel, bream, tench, and carp as one need wish to see.

Lastly, if Lea anglers could catch more roach and better roach with any other bait than white bread paste (say, a cube of bread, for instance), depend upon it they would be the first to use it.

A. O. D. H.

ANCHOR FISHING SOCIETY, KINGSTON.

THE fourth annual dinner of the Anchor Fishing Society was held at the Druid's Head, Kingston, on Wednesday, Mr. G. H. Howard, president of the society, in the chair. The vice-chair was ably filled by Mr. J. R. Richardson, who has just recovered from an attack of muscular rheumatism in the leg. Amongst those present were: Messrs. H. Pincott Hill, F. Littlewood, G. E. Caton, F. H. Amphlett, F. Lockett, T. King, C. Wells, T. Perdue, P. Collins, McE. Collins, R. Howse, J. Henwood (hon. secretary), &c.

The chairman, in proposing "The Anchor Fishing Society," said, as their president he did not come amongst them as much as he ought. He had previously suggested that they should get someone who could come amongst them more often. Still, he was proud to be their president. There were forty-four members, and if they pushed twice they would get eighty-eight. There had been eight monthly competitions and two special ones. There was £10 in hand, and for a small society like that it augured well for the future. The accounts had all been passed as read, and some passed as blue. (Laughter.) He hoped the society would go on and prosper, and he would himself get one or two honorary members for them.

Mr. Henwood (hon. sec.), in response, said he would be glad to see the membership increased, as they were shorter now than at this time last year. They must work, and get up the membership again. Their loss had been caused through members leaving the town.

Letters were read from Mr. Higgins and Mr. Crumplen, regretting their absence; and Mr. Douglas, on behalf of the T.A.P.S., opened the box, which contained £1 11s. 9½d. and a button.

Mr. H. P. Hill, in proposing "The President," said that he was glad to be allowed to propose that toast. Mr. Howard was well known in the fishing world, and he was not only a friend of the young, but the bosom friend of anglers of older years. He often went to a great deal of trouble to give any information in his power to all those who cared to ask him for it. The importance of restocking and preserving their waters, more particularly the Thames, was daily growing. In fact, it had become of national importance, and he hoped before long there would be a Government grant to assist them with hatcheries, and for the better restocking and keeping up a good head of fish in the river. (Hear, hear.) In fact, those who took no interest in fishing ought to see the importance and necessity for this work, for the destruction of fry and ova by steam launches was enormous. (Hear, hear.)

Mr. G. H. Howard, in reply, said it was a pleasing duty to respond to the toast of their president. Mr. P. Hill, whom they were proud to have in the society, had made a very flattering speech, but he (Mr. Howard) assured them that when he was elected their president he suggested they should get someone who could be more often amongst them. He hoped he was a sportsman and an angler, and that in his capacity on the *Fishing Gazette* he would always assist to increase the love for the river. The Thames was a fine river, and he loved any scheme on the board for improving its stock. (Hear, hear.)

Mr. Douglas (T.A.P.S.) said he was pleased to represent his society. They were all doing all they could for the river, and they had just taken fifty swans off the river. He had 150 yds. of wire netting to stake over the perch spawn, and Mr. Knight would help. He was very glad of that assistance. He also thanked them for the money handed over to him from the box.

Mr. McE. Collins then proposed "The Prize Winners," and was sure that in no other club was there such keen competing. Anyone who could win a prize in the Anchor Society could win a prize in any society.

Mr. F. H. Amphlett responded, and said he hoped that next year their worthy vice-president (Mr. J. R. Richardson) would secure a prize. The sport during the winter was fairly good, so whether they won a prize or not they enjoyed themselves. In the summer the river was very low and clear, and sport was poor.

The following prizes were distributed during the evening: For pike, to Mr. P. H. Conroy; perch, Mr. J. Charter; roach, first, Mr. P. H. Conroy (given by Mr. J. R. Richardson); second, F. H. Amphlett; bream, Mr. A. C. Wells; barbel, first, Mr. F. H. Amphlett; second, Mr. Arthur Wells; chub, first and second, Mr. H. P. Hill; dace, Mr. Arthur Wells. Prizes were also awarded in competitions as follows: Barbel, Mr. A. Wells and Mr. W. Hedger; bream, Mr. A. Wells; gudgeon, Mr. R. Howse; roach, Messrs. A. Wells, McE. Collins, F. H. Amphlett, and Charter. In the hospital competition the prize given by Mr. Hearn (of the Druid's Head) was won by Mr. R. H. Conroy, and the prize presented by Mr. T. Lyne, of the Kingston Piscatorial Society, was won by Mr. C. Littlewood.

The following prizes were offered for the coming season: Mr. H. Pincott Hill, £1 1s.; Mr. J. R. Richardson, £1 1s.; Mr. H. P. Conroy, £1 1s.; Mr. King, £1 1s.; Mr. R.

Howse, 10s. 6d.; Mr. F. H. Amphlett, 10s. 6d.; Mr. Caton, 10s. 6d.; Mr. Hearn, £1 1s., for the best roach; Mr. G. H. Howard, £1 1s.; &c.

Mr. J. R. Richardson proposed "The Hon. Secretary and other Officers." They had a good secretary and officials, and they would all put their shoulders to the wheel to raise the membership. He appealed to the members to attend the meetings regularly, and pull together and support the officers.

Mr. Henwood and Mr. R. Howse responded. The latter said they had done their best, and he hoped that members would attend regularly.

Mr. Caton proposed "Kindred Societies and Visitors." Every society of this kind wanted friends, and he was pleased to see some members of the Kingston Piscatorial Society and others present.

Mr. Fred Lockett was sorry that he was a disturber of the spawn on the river with his launch, but he never disturbed anyone who was fishing. His launch had once been termed by Mr. Hill as the fisherman's friend. And the anglers generally got a fish when he went by. As a visitor, it had been a pleasure to see them sitting on a nice dry seat, instead of in mackintosh and sou'-westers. When a punt was towed up the bank it often made more wash than a launch.

Mr. F. H. Amphlett also responded, and said that he believed that before long a Government grant would be given towards promoting sport on the Thames, and was glad that the two angling societies in Kingston were so friendly disposed towards each other that members of each society were to be found in the other. (Hear, hear.)

The vice-chairman (Mr. J. Richardson) proposed "The Press." He said that when they referred to the Press they spoke to them as friends, for they were able to push them forward. They always did their best for them.

Mr. Christie (the *Surbiton News*) and Mr. Amphlett (Editor *Thames Angling News*) responded.

Mr. Conroy proposed "The Host and Hostess." Mr. Hearn responded, and the musical entertainment lasted until the early hours of the morning.

REPORTS FROM RIVERS, LOCHS, &c.

ENGLISH AND WELSH REPORTS.

Lower Thames.—GENERAL REMARKS.—As far as the anglers are concerned in regard to sport, the trout is the only fish in which all their hopes and expectations are centred, and the weather has been the only drawback to anything but a successful realisation. The fish taken during the first ten days have all been small. Mr. T. W. Gomm during that time has been successful in creeling both the largest and the smallest fish in this portion of the river, the former weighing 5½lb. and the latter 2lb. (which was returned), and he has succeeded in landing six trout, each day being attended by Charles Hone. I have received an interesting letter from George Rosewell, of Shepperton, who in the first place informs me he has only been out on the first day and saw five nice fish feed, but the gentleman he was with could not "rise" one. Perch have at last commenced to spawn, and several patches were found in the backwater at Welton, which head river keeper Douglas at once protected with wire netting; and on Monday the swans were taken up from Staines to Hampton Court, and the remainder, from Hampton Court to Teddington, were removed on Tuesday. The water is in good condition, but the cold winds and cold nights have completely checked the ardour of trout anglers. All the reports up to this morning (Wednesday) include only one capture, from the rod of Mr. T. W. Gorman, of 3lb. On my visit to the riverside there was only one opinion of the fishermen in regard to the trout, that there would be none taken without a thorough change in the temperature of the water.—B.

—(**Datchet**).—I do not remember seeing so little of the trout up to time of writing, very discouraging state of affairs exist. I was out yesterday. Mr. Lands had a good fish on at the weir and lost him. We fished all round the Old River, saw no sign of a fish; not likely, either. A bright cloudless day.—G. LUMSDEN.

—(**Eton**).—The water is in good order, but the wind still continues very cold, with sharp frosts each morning, as much as eleven degrees being registered on Monday morning. Several anglers have been out, but I have not heard of a fish being creeled. Mr. J. Comber, of Eton, lost a nice fish on Sunday, about 7lb., after playing him some ten minutes, unfortunately having a triangle off his flight to be disposed of.—CECIL HOWLETT.

—(**Hampton Court**).—William Milbourn writes: "There is a great quantity of barbel drawing up to the weir, and several have been taken whilst fishing for trout, up to 8lb. and 9lb. each. There is a great quantity of roach getting up to the weir, but owing to the cold weather there has been nothing done since the last report"—B.

—(**Henley**).—April 20. The first trout of the season in this district was caught on April 16, by Mr. W. Meyers, fishing with J. James, above Shiplake Lock, a nice made fish weighing 7lb. 2oz. The water is in good condition, but the cold mornings and evenings seem to keep the fish from moving.—STANLEY MEAD.

—(**Kingston**).—William Douglas in his general report states: "I have not heard of any trout being taken. Several have been seen on the move in different parts of the river."—B.

—(**Lechlade, Cricklade**).—The river in these districts is in good order for trouting. Mr. Sturgeon and Mr. Walter Weil have been fishing at St. John's Bridge, and other trout fishers have been out in the district. There will not be much done with Thames trout

until May, when, about the middle of the month, an artificial fly should take a rising fish.—RAMBLER.

—(**Shepperton**).—Mr. Ralph Smith, fishing with George Rosewell, caught an old male trout weighing 8½lb. The worthy fisherman adds, "If people do not come and try they cannot expect to catch them. I never knew it so slack before. It is worse this year than last. However, this capture may bring me a bit of luck."—B.

—(**Staines**).—Charles Hone says: "I had a very pretty fish on Monday just 3lb., but had bad luck this last week, as I could not get the hook into the right place. This makes the seventh fish to the credit of Mr. T. W. Gomm this season."—B.

Coin, Leach, &c. (Gloucestershire).—These trout streams continue to attract anglers to their banks, but the weather has been very bad for fly fishing, and sport has consequently been generally but indifferent. The rivers are in very fair order for the time of year, and the trout rise freely in the forenoon, from about 10.30 until twelve o'clock, and again about three and four o'clock. There has as yet been no evening rise to speak of, it being much too cold.—PAN.

Cornish Streams.—The weather has been too bright and cold for much sport lately, but in the sheltered parts of the Camel and Fowey some very fair baskets of trout have been got. One rod fishing the former got trout weighing very nearly 1lb., and others have taken from twenty to thirty sizeable fish in a single day. The salmon season does not begin until May.—BODMIN.

Darehth (Horton Kirby, Farnham, &c.).—The river soon cleared after the little flood on Saturday, and is now low again rather than high. The fish are beginning to show, and occasionally to rise at a tiny grey fly, which is on the water. Little sport has been had at present, and the larger fish are not yet in condition. Out of fifteen or twenty, which I noted, not more than five or six seemed fit to keep out. They lie rather low in the water, and, in fact, have not yet started their summer habits. The best fish I heard of was taken with wet fly.—J. P. T.

Dart (Totnes and District).—The recent rains have been beneficial to salmon fishing, the river now running in good volume. The condition of the fish is good, and several have been killed during the past few days in the moorland waters. Mr. Arthur Holman landed a ten-pounder near Dartmeet with the Silver Doctor, and Mr. W. W. Symington, J.P., killed a couple on successive days, one scaling 16lb., and the other 14lb. Mr. Edbrook has added another to his list at Buckfastleigh, the weight being 21lb. Useful salmon flies are Silver Doctor and Popham. Very few fish have been caught by the nets, and prices are exceptionally high. Trout are not taking well, although some nice creels have been made above Totnes Weir in the evenings by Messrs. H. T. Distin and E. Distin, the former getting a splendid pounder. A few brace have been killed by Messrs. M. Revell, H. Full, &c. Flies: Edmund's Palmer, Half Stone, Blue Upright, Yellow Body, and the natural minnow at night. A number of bull trout are in the moorland waters, and complaint has also been made of the number of herons on the moor, which led to considerable destruction of trout and salmon. The conservators have decided to ask the Duchy authorities to assist them in enforcing the limit size of trout, and preventing the killing of salmon fry by the examination of baskets. It is asserted that at present a lot of immature fish are killed on the higher waters.—DEVONIAN.

Devonshire Streams.—The streams are now running in fairly good fishing trim, and salmon have been enabled to run up. Trouting has improved somewhat, but several of the best streams are not providing anything like good average takes. The southern border rivers show the best sport, one rod on the Carey getting a nice lot of forty, with the Half Stone and Red Spinner. Unfortunately, night-liners are at work in this district. On Saturday fish rose so freely that on two occasions two fish were landed from one cast. Some nice fish were killed on the upper Tamar, whilst fish have been taking well on the upper Lyd, several Bridestowe rods doing well. Bishop's Fancy was responsible for over a dozen of one basket. An improvement is apparent on the North Devon streams, and fair baskets of trout have been made by Messrs. Rule, Doe, and others, with the Blue Upright, Red Spinner, &c. The Torridge is well patronised, and salmon have been killed by Messrs. Pearson and Routley (Hatherleigh) and Col. Macartney (Torrington). On Tuesday, Mr. E. C. Norrish, of Sandford, landed a fine fish of 22lb. in the Eggesford district. Several fine fish have been killed in the Dart. An attempt has been made to reduce the number of pike in the Exe, and some big fish were destroyed. One rod has killed twenty-five this season.—DEVONIAN.

East and West Cleddau (Fembrokeshire).—Water in first rate order for trout fishing after the recent rainfall. Weather still cold with frosts.—H.

Eden (Carlisle).—We are still waiting anxiously for a good run of fresh fish from the Solway. During the last two or three days a few have been taken by the nets at the mouth of the river; but where there is one there ought to be fifty, if the spring of 1899 is not to beat the record for scarcity. The few fish that are being taken with the rod are nearly all old laid fish, and have lost all their sea bloom. On April 10, Lord Brockley had one, 14lb., in the Crown Hotel water above Wetheral; Mr. T. Harris, one, 20lb., at Brockleworth; Mr. C. Liddell, one, 16lb., at Warwick Hall; and the Corby Castle keeper, one, 6lb. On the 12th, Mr. Roe, one, 23lb., in the Little Corby water. On the 13th and 14th, the Corby Castle keeper, one each day, 8lb. and 26lb. On the 17th, young Mr. Howard, of Greystoke, one, 16lb., in the Corby water. Trout have been taking the fly fairly well, but they are only in moderate condition.—SILVER GREY.

Fen District (South Lincs. and Cambs.).—The weather holds cold and sunless for April, but the

streams are in better ply in consequence of the rains. Fly fishing is said to be at a standstill, and sport is only obtainable by seeking fish in the holes with the bottom bait.—LIMPET.

Idle District (North Notts).—Sport is very quiet in the district of the Idle, and there has not been much done in the way of trout fishing. We hear of a few brace taken from the streams which fall into the Trent on the other side of the forest district. Trout fishers are somewhat exercised by the knowledge that there are others in the neighbourhood. Sir Henry Bromley, however, has had his hounds over there, and one or two have been captured.—L.

Lake Vyrnwy (North Wales).—Better weather has prevailed, and the fishing has been exceptionally good. The record of the lake has been hitherto held by Mr. R. L. Garnett, with a catch of forty-two trout, on the 17th May, 1897. This has now been beaten by the Rev. Gregoire, who creel'd forty-three trout on the 14th inst. Both baskets of course were made with fly. All Mr. Gregoire's fish were taken on Teal and Red, Claret and Grouse, and March Brown. On the 12th the weather was comparatively warm, and five rods brought home fifty-five fish, weighing 35lb. 12oz. Mr. Malpass made the best basket with nineteen fish (12lb. 5oz.), Mr. Murly took fifteen (9lb. 8oz.), Dr. Fenton ten (6lb. 10oz.), Mr. Henty eight (5lb. 4oz.), and Rev. Gregoire three (2lb. 10oz.). On the 13th, four rods creel'd fifty-five fish (33lb. 9oz.). Dr. Fenton's basket of twenty-two fish (14lb. 10oz.) was the best. Mr. Malpass killed fourteen (8lb. 3oz.), Mr. Henty ten (6lb. 8oz.), and Rev. Gregoire nine (4lb. 13oz.). On the 14th, six rods killed 106 fish. Rev. Gregoire's basket of forty-three fish is the best yet made on the lake. Mr. Malpass killed fifteen (9lb. 6oz.), Dr. Fenton fourteen (8lb. 9oz.), Mr. Henty thirteen (8lb. 7oz.), Mr. Chittenden thirteen (8lb. 10z.), and Mr. Murly seven (4lb. 12oz.). The 15th was a miserably cold day, and anglers devoted themselves to the river. Only three rods were on the lake, the best basket being made by Mr. Malpass, with seven fish (7lb. 10z.), the best fish weighing 13lb. On the 17th, four rods killed twenty-three fish. The best basket was made by Mr. Henty, with twelve fish (7lb. 12oz.); Mr. Chittenden killed six (3lb. 9oz.), and Mr. Murly three (1lb. 12oz.). On the 18th, five rods killed twenty fish. Mr. Murly making the best basket with seven (4lb. 5oz.); Mr. Henty next with five fish (2lb. 13oz.), and Mr. Chittenden four (2lb. 12oz.).—LONG DRIFT.

Lea.—Delightful weather prevailed by the riverside on Wednesday, and if the south-west wind continues, and we are treated to more sunny days, many trout ought to be met with on the move. The season, as already announced, opens on May 1, and some good captures are anticipated. Many fine trout have their haunts in the upper waters. The tributary Beane also opens on May 1 for trout fishing. So far I have not heard of any coarse fish spawning in the main river, but the perch should soon be depositing their ova now. The water has been nicely freshened up by the rains.—ISAAC WALTON.

Lugg and Arrow (Leominster).—Both these streams are now running in good order for fishing. They have been running stained and slightly coloured after the heavy rains at the end of last week, but the wind changed south, and the weather has been more suitable for anglers to get out. The fish have been rising better this week, and a good few flies are on, which the fish take well. A fair number of rods have been out, and some very nice lots of fish landed. The best flies are the Blue Dun, March Brown, Stone Fly, Red Spinner, Cowdung, and Palmer. The Pinsley is running clear, and a nice level.—GWYNNE.

Lugg, Arrow, and Pinsley (Kingsland).—Rain at the close of last week rose these rivers a foot or more of muddy water, since run off, and they are now in good order. Still, sport there is little or none, the weather being dead against it. Strong frosts by night usually followed by bright days, with wind for the most part N.E. Flies and rising fish are both scarce, although specimens may occasionally be observed of the March Brown, Blue Dun, Brown Spinner, Iron Blue, Hardy Brown, Stone Fly, and Yellow Dun, from which the choice should be made according to the day.—R. T. WILLIAMS.

North Staffordshire Rivers.—All our streams are in a fit state for fly fishing, and numerous rods have been out during the past fortnight and had sport. The natural flies, particularly the early Duns, have been out in sufficient force to bring fish on the feed. The Blythe has yielded four to five brace to March Brown, April Dun, and Blue Dun. The Tean Brook has done best to Hares Ear Dun—the old Staffs. pattern, body blue fur, legs hares flax, and wings sterling. Olives and Blues have paid on the Dove, and Coachman has been accepted on several streams in late afternoon.—F. W. DALE.

Otter (Budleigh Salterton, Devon).—The rains set in last Thursday (13th inst.), and a capital spate followed. The river began to clear on Saturday (15th), and in the afternoon trout took the fly greedily in some parts, notably on the Bicton water, where one rod took thirteen, and another nine, really good fish. The river is now full, but in perfect order for the fly. To-day (18th) there was a good rise at midday, and thereafter for two or three hours. One rod on the public water here took two brace of nice fish with the dry fly—Blue Upright. At sea, pollack have lately taken very well. A few days ago a sea rod took twenty-four fish, aggregating in weight 90lb.—HERON.

Ouse (St. Ives, Hunts).—A nice trout, weighing 34lb., was taken in the Stanch Pit at St. Ives, on the 18th, by Mr. G. A. H. Mence, a member of our society. It is going to J. Cooper and Sons for preservation, and the gentleman has kindly intimated that it is to be presented to the angling society's club-room.—E. COLLINSON.

Flodden Waters and Onny.—Wind until to-day has been N. or N.E. Water of a clay lake appearance.

No rods have been on the water. Matters are beginning to improve. The Stone Fly is well in evidence.—TRUTH.

Flymouth.—Some nice dishes of trout have been taken from the Walkham, although they run rather small. I was on the Meavy yesterday, and saw some very fine fish in the pool below Gratton. I have also heard of some nice ones from the Tavy, two of 4lb. each, four, over 4lb., being amongst one basket. The rivers are in fair condition, but the Meavy is very clear.—W. HEARDER.

Severn, Vyrnwy, Tanat, and Cain (Llanymynech).—During the latter part of last week the weather was again very wet and stormy, so that all these streams were flooded more or less, and little sport could be obtained, but on Saturday, Mr. T. H. Johnson, Llanymynech, one of the most practical and persevering of our local anglers, whilst angling in the Vyrnwy near the mouth of the Tanat, succeeded in capturing two fine perch, which were in good condition and scaled 1lb. 4oz. and 1lb. 3oz. On Tuesday Mr. Edmundson, a Liverpool gentleman, landed several very fine trout from the Tanat below Llanbyddwel Bridge, and on Wednesday last two other Liverpool anglers had very good sport in the same river. Although there has been more than the average quantity of water in all these rivers no salmon have been seen about here lately.—VYRNWY.

Sussex Rivers and Chichester Harbour.—Rivers have been running high, owing to recent rains, and those who, in association waters, have tried for roach or chub have not met with much success. From the upper reaches of the Ouse, above Isfield, four and a half brace of trout were recently taken, and from the tributaries near Fletching six and a half brace of small fish. A brace of 1lb. trout are notified from the Rother, taken with minnow, and the tributaries of the Adur have yielded a few nice fish. Harbour fishing is now at its best among the smelt. On Saturday, Mr. Fowler, Dr. Humphrey, and Mr. Willis, fishing from a boat off the sluice at Apuldram, secured what I believe to be a record take of smelt at one tide, viz., fifty-one dozen and one; several nice fish of 7in. among them. Other takes of from six to twelve dozen were made fishing from the bank, and although the eflux from the drainage works is not rosy to the olfactory organs, the fish congregate in large numbers. Paternostering without a float, with rag worm as bait, has been the most successful method.—GEORGE F. SALTER.

Taw (North Devon).—The rain during the past week has made fishing good. Many anglers have taken some good catches of trout in the various brooks. Salmon fishing has not been very good. I heard of one of 10lb. being taken Monday, also a few kelts, which were returned. Best flies: Rusty Red, March Browns, Blue Uprights, and Half Stone.—RUSTY GAME.

Taff (Llandowr, Carmarthenshire).—The river is in first-rate order for trout fishing, plenty of water and nice colour. Were it not for sharp frosts at night fish would rise more freely.—H.

Teifi (Campeter, Cardiganshire).—The water is in grand condition for fishing, and good baskets of trout are being caught daily by local fishermen and visitors.—H.

Teme (Kidlow).—The Teme in this part underwent a sudden change at the end of last week owing to the heavy falls of rain and hail, and the rain must have been very severe in the upper parts, as on Thursday and Friday the river began to colour, and rose several inches, and at one time there was a probability fishing would be stopped, but a sudden change on Monday caused the rivers to go down, and they are now running clear and a nice level and in order for either fly or bottom fishing. The weather has been beautiful and fine, and there has been a fair number of anglers out, who have used the Blue Dun, Stone Fly, Cowdung, Red Spinner, March Brown, and Iron Blue, and some very nice lots of fish have been caught. Worm fishing has been most successful. On Monday a fine dish of five trout were landed with the worm. The largest scaled 13lb. and the smallest 10oz. On the river with the Stone Fly and Blue Dun, six good fish were taken. During the week Mr. R. Smith has landed several nice lots of fish with fly. On Sunday an old fisherman and well-known fly maker, Billy Jones, was found dead in his bed at the age of seventy-four. Deceased was an expert on flies and fishing, as was his father before him.—S. LUDLOW.

Teme (Tenbury).—The Teme in this part is now going down and clearing, and is in good order for fishing. At the end of last week the weather turned rough, and rain and hail fell, and the water came down quickly and rose a little, but a change to fine weather soon put the river right again, and the fish have been moving well at the fly, and a good few anglers have been out this week, and some fair sport has been had, and some very good-sized fish have been landed, and the prospects for the coming week are good, as there are plenty of fine trout in this part, and fishing is easily obtained from the association, and good sport will be had during the coming week.—WORCESTER.

Upper Coln (Bibury, East Gloucestershire).—Several rods have been out on the Swan waters and also on private waters in the district. Messrs. Hurst and Mills have been on the Ablington Manor waters, with some nice sport. Messrs. Peto, Lea, Yeates, Morgan, and Senior have been fishing the Swan waters, with fair sport for the time of year.—SHERRY SPINNER.

Upper Yore.—The anglers staying at the Crown, Hawes, have had a good week with the minnow and fly, taking from 4lb. to 10lb. daily. The river is in good condition at present for fly fishing. Best flies: Thompson's Fancy, Dark Snipe and Purple, Light Snipe and Yellow. A few good baskets were made by local gentlemen, one taking thirty-three trout. Blades has made a splendid basket to-day; information just received.—JAS. FAWCETT.

Usk (Abergavenny).—The recent rains have put the river in good order for trout fishermen. Water rose about

2ft. last Thursday, followed by a sharp fall. Friday it seemed fairly good salmon water, but I think rather high for the streams. I understand Mr. Poullett, has taken two salmon; Mr. W. Peake, one, 20lb. Trout ought to take well this week, should the weather continue as at present (Monday). There is a nice sun this morning, and plenty of flies ought to hatch; hitherto it has been so raw and cold. I took a few trout last week. I believe there were many medium baskets taken, but nothing worthy of mention. Master Percy Denner took a nice trout, in good condition, on Monday, weighing 1lb. 10oz.—ERNE DELAFIELD.

Usk and Tributaries (Senny Bridge).—The trout fishing has improved here lately, and the rivers are just now in perfect order for fly fishing. Some very fair baskets have been caught during the last week. Mr. C. H. Eden caught over 5lb. last Saturday. The best killing flies are March Brown, Light and Dark Blue, and Quill Gnat.—PONTSENNY.

Witham, &c. (Mid-Lincolnshire).—Very little in the way of sport comes from the North Lincolnshire district. From the Wold district there is next to nothing, whilst in the upper Witham the only item of satisfaction is that more water is found in the streams, and prospects are brighter in view of warmer weather. Snowstorms are hardly conducive to aquatic life, especially when several degrees of frost sweep over the water during the night. Only warm weather is wanted to set things going.—LUCI.

Wye and Derwent (Derbyshire).—Up to the time of writing reports from the various districts are not very cheering. Those anglers that have been out returned with very light creels, especially the fly man. As there has been a remarkable absence of natural flies on these rivers, the cause is attributed to there being a large quantity of snow water in these rivers from the Derbyshire hills. A few trout have been taken by using the minnow and swimming a worm where it is allowed. Only a very few trout rising at present.—DOTTEREL.

Wye (Builth Wells).—Both salmon and trout anglers are having fair sport. River is now in grand trim. Sport should be good this next week. Weather fine but cold. Best bait for trout: March Brown and Blue Dun; or, for evening, spinning with Kill Devon.—W. B. ROBERTS.

Yore, Swale, Wharfe, Nidd, &c. (Yorkshire).—The weather has certainly displayed some little improvement to-day to what we have experienced nearly every day since Easter, but there is still snow on the higher hills and moorlands, and until it has disappeared we cannot look for "the genial spring time," a spell of which would bring the fly well on and improve sport all round. Up to now I never saw fewer flies on the water than has been the case, and no wonder, for the night frosts have been very keen and the weather too boisterous and cold, even in the middle of the day, to allow anything in the shape of insects to live long, consequently the angler is at a loss what to offer the trout, and but poor sport has been had with the fly. The best dishes of trout have been caught with either the minnow fished on the "Chapman" or "Ariel" spinner, or the worm used with the "Practical Pennell Tackle." Some of the members of the Hawes Angling Association have had fair sport, and Mr. Willis, of Carperly, tells me that some anglers in the neighbourhood of Bainbridge have done very well. Mr. Willis confines himself to the fly, and he has found the Merlin Hawk, both with purple and green body, and the Waterhen Bloat to kill best. With these he has got a few nice trout, and I have met other anglers who have used the same flies, as well as the Snipe and Purple, and March Brown, with some success, but the keen night frosts and cold and boisterous weather have of course been sadly against the fly fisherman. Mr. C. Ilinson, of Middleham, caught sixteen in the Cover on Monday, and on the same day I had four grand trout in half an hour's angling, and that not at the best period of the day. However, an hour's walk to the river and back, in addition to the time spent in angling, serves a good purpose. From the Swale itself I have no encouraging accounts; from either Catterick, Richmond, or higher up the Dale; the few fish caught being taken with the worm, but one or two nice dishes are reported from the tributaries, the best by Mr. T. G. Duff, of Leeds, who had three good trout, weighing 3lb. 7oz., caught in the Bedale Beck. Other anglers have done well in the preserved portion of the same stream. Good dishes on the Wharfe, Nidd, Aire, Esk, Rye, Riccall, Derwent, &c., have been the exception, not the rule. A case of considerable interest to Yorkshire anglers and manufacturers was heard at Sheffield on Monday, where Messrs. Tyzack, Sons, and Turner, edge-tool manufacturers, Abheydale Works, Sheffield, were summoned by Mr. F. Stead, head water bailiff to the Yorkshire Fishery Board, for having, on February 18, permitted to flow into the river Sheaf, a tributary of the rivers Don and Ouse, containing salmon, certain scourings and refuse of a dam, to such an extent as to cause the waters to kill or poison trout. Mr. H. T. Waddy, barrister, instructed by Mr. J. E. Jones, of York, secretary to the Yorkshire Fishery Board, prosecuted; and Mr. T. E. Ellison defended. Mr. Waddy said the summons was taken out under sect. 5 of the Salmon Fishery Act 1861. It might be thought strange that the provisions of the Salmon Fishery Act should be put into operation with regard to the Sheaf, but the explanation was that the Sheaf was a tributary of the river Don, and the Don was a tributary of the Ouse. Both these rivers were salmon rivers within the meanings of the Act, and as the Sheaf contributed to them it came within the section. On Feb. 18 defendants cleared out their mill dam, and, in order to do so, they opened wide the shuttles by which the water entered and left, with the result that the whole force of the river was taken through the mill dam, cleaning out the dam, and carrying into the river tons of mud which had collected to a depth of 20ft. The

effect was to fill the pools where the trout collected with intensely offensive fluid, and this killed the fish. Evidence having been given in support of Mr. Waddy's opening statement, Mr. Ellison, for the defence, said if mill owners were prevented from sludging their dams it would make it practically impossible for them to carry on their business. The cost of removing this mud by any other means would be prohibitive. What was in the dam was an alluvial deposit brought down the river. This deposit was not in itself harmful or noxious, but because there was a very much larger quantity than under normal conditions it smothered the fish. It was a natural deposit, and came within the excusing provisions of the Act, in support of which, Mr. W. Hy. Lancashire, civil engineer, Sheffield, said the invariable custom of mill-owners on the streams converging into Sheffield was to sludge out their dams. It would be almost impossible to get rid of the mud in any other way. He calculated that, roughly speaking, there would be about 30,000 tons of the sludge in the Abbeydale Dam. The process of sludging out would be more likely to kill fish in the dam than in the river below, though fish in the river below might be choked by the mud. After consultation, Alderman Franklin said the bench had decided to convict. They did not think the defendants took the best practical means of repairing the shuttle, and they would be fined £2 including costs. Weather to-night more settled, and slightly warmer. The best flies are March Brown (male and female), Waterhen Bloa, Blue Hawk (Merlin), Purple, Snipe and Yellow, and Spanish Needle.—JOHN E. MILLER, Northern Anglers' Depot, 19, New Station-street, Leeds.

By TELEGRAM.—There is a considerable rise in temperature to-day; wind is south-west; the weather far more spring-like than we have had it up to now. All our rivers are in fine trim, and prospects for next week are good. Sport in the Hawes Angling Association waters has been good. Baskets of from 4lb. to 10lb. have been caught. Best flies: Dark and Light Snipe and Thompson's Fancy, the latter kills well.—JOHN E. MILLER, Northern Anglers' Depot, 19, New Station-street, Leeds.

SCOTCH REPORTS.

Awe.—Fishing from Taynult Hotel on April 17, Mr. Macdonald had a beautiful fresh run salmon of 22lb. The river is getting into fine order and prospects good; weather very fine.—D. McDONALD.

Border Esk and Liddle.—Snow is lying on the Dumfriesshire hills, and several lambs have been frozen to death. The tops of Whita and Warbla, the two famous heights overlooking Langholm and the conflux of the Border Esk, Ewes, and Wauchope were white with snow on Sunday and Monday, consequently in such wintry weather fishing is almost out of the question, and few anglers have been out. Spring salmon are scarce, notwithstanding the fact that they have a fine access to the fresh water from the Solway, whereas last year the reverse was the case, as a great sandbank thrown up by the tide blocked the passage from the frith. This impediment has now been removed. Yet this salmon fishing has even been worse than that of last season, which was exceedingly poor. Sea trout are not expected to run till next month. Mr. Alex. Grant caught one sea trout in the Metal Bridge water, and Mr. J. Scott, Longtown, landed a couple. Yellow trout are affording what sport there is, and, although they are not in prime condition, some big ones have been caught. An angler in the Canonbie water has creeled two and a half dozen since the beginning of the season. Mr. McMellan has had some in the Langholm water weighing about 1lb. A few odd takes have been made in the Ewes, but nothing to speak of, and Tarras has as yet yielded next to nothing. Fishing in the mid reaches of the Liddle above Penton Bridge, with fly, Mr. James Jardine, Kershope-foot, caught a yellow trout weighing 2½lb. Mr. Jas. Elliot, London, had a good basket in the Liddle, and Mr. Little, Carlisle, and Mr. Whitfield, Carlisle, have both had fair catches. Mr. Hobbiuk, Newcastle, and others have had nice kills in the upper reaches. A few also have been got in the Shillinghaugh Pool of the Hermitage. All the trout have been caught with the fly, bait fishing not having begun yet.—GILNOCKIE.

Carron (Easter Ross, Ardgay, N.B.).—On the Gruinards water the following sport has been got: On April 9, Mr. Warner, London, landed a 9lb. salmon on Washerwoman's Pool, besides a 6 pounder on Ross's Pool; and R. T. Coupland, of Gruinards, one of 7lb. on March Pool. On 11th, Mr. Warner had two salmon, of 6½lb. and 5½lb., on March Pool; and Mr. Coupland a 9-pounder on Ross's Pool. On 12th, Mr. Warner caught a salmon of 10lb. on Washerwoman. On 14th, Mr. Coupland had one of 8lb. on Poll Moral; and Mr. Warner one of 7½lb. on Gledfield Pool. Mr. Marquis and party are fishing the Braelangwell water; Mr. Cosens and party the Invercharron water; and Mr. G. Buge, along with Dr. Eley, are on the Balmagown Arms Hotel water (Gledfield), but very little sport has been got on these waters since last reported. Mr. F. T. Gervers, of Amat, has arrived at Amat House, on the upper reaches of the Carron. Weather most wintry and unfavourable. On Monday this week snow lay down to sea level. On Tuesday snow disappeared, but keen frost prevailed.—B.

Cassley, Roseshall (Sutherland).—Mr. Banks has landed three salmon, weighing 24lb., 11lb., and 9lb. Capt. MacTaggart, of Glenrossal, has also been successful in landing several. Weather most adverse.—B.

Dee, Don, Ythan, &c.—The water has been in a very unsettled state all the week. Sport on whole fairly bright on the Dee, but almost nil elsewhere. On the Glentana waters, Sir Wm. Brooks' fisherman had one or two from Waterside and adjoining pools during the week, of average weights; while Mr. Barclay had one of 7lb. and one of 6½lb.; Mr. Laming, two, of 15lb. each, three, of 6lb., 7lb., and 12lb., four, of 18lb., 15lb., 12lb., and 6lb., and one of

22½lb.; and Col. Brinckman, one or two of average weights. On the Aboyne waters, Mr. Bush had two, of 7lb. and 14lb.; Mr. Clive, one of 8lb., and two, of 7lb. and 8lb.; Capt. Scott, two, of 7½lb. and 8½lb., and one of 8lb.; Mr. Millburn, one of 9½lb.; and Mr. Crawshaw, one of 22lb. and one of 6lb. River in good order, but weather of worst description. On the Kincardine O'Neil reaches, Mr. L. H. Crake creeled three, of 6lb., 6½lb., and 20lb., on Ballogie water; Mrs. Pickering, one of 6½lb. on the Lodge water; Major Davidson, three, of 7½lb., 8½lb., and 14½lb., on Dess water, and two, of 6½lb. and 25½lb.; while Mr. Walter Davidson, one of 8½lb. on the same section. On the Comonty, Mr. H. Lawrence creeled one of 6lb. and one of 6½lb.; while Lord Garrioch had one of 6½lb. on Borrowstone water; and Mr. Crake other two, of 7lb. and 7½lb., and one of 6lb., on the Ballogie water. On the Cairnton section, Mr. T. Turner Farley last week creeled, in addition to a number of smaller fish, one of 30lb., the top weight for the Dee this season. The salmon fishings on the coast are not showing much improvement, the returns up to date being only half of last year's. On the Don a few good baskets of finnock have been made. Mr. Reid has been very successful on the Ugie.—G. M.

Deveron (Banffshire).—This river is in good condition both for angling and net fishing. The weather, however, continues bitterly cold, the ground being white with frost in the mornings. Strong easterly winds also prevail. We hear of fair baskets of trout being got on the lower part of the river in the end of last week. There is still a dearth of salmon, and the net fishermen up to the middle of this week, although keeping the nets going in the river night and day, have scarcely got a salmon or trout. On the coast the heavy sea on the inshore kept the fishermen from examining the nets for several days in the end of last week and until late on Monday. In the nets nearest the river's mouth only three salmon were got. Grilse have not made their appearance as yet. Only a small box of fish has been sent from the Deveron district to the market this week. On Tuesday, a box, weighing 1cwt., was consigned from the fishings at Gardenstown to the market. These fishings are situated about seven miles east of the Deveron.—H. W.

Lairg Hotel Waters (Sutherland N.B.).—Mr. W. Hughes was out on Loch Shin last Friday, and made a basket of eight trout, 4½lb.; and on Saturday, nine trout, 4lb. Cold and stormy weather still prevails.—B.

Lochleven (Kinross).—The weather has been of such a wintry aspect during the past week that only the keenest anglers have ventured on the loch with the rod. Their efforts, however, notwithstanding the bitterly cold weather, with frequent heavy showers of snow and hail sweeping over the water, were rewarded with surprisingly good results. Fish have been rising well to the fly, though refusing the minnow, and the prospects of a good season—given anything like favourable weather—are very bright. Mr. Hardie secured twenty-one trout, 16lb.; Mr. Rait, Glasgow, twelve, 8lb.; Mr. Macleod, Edinburgh, twelve, 10lb.; Mr. W. Ormiston and Mr. R. L. Middlemas, Edinburgh, twelve, 10lb.; Capt. Cowan, fifteen, 9lb.; Mr. Hunter, Edinburgh, eight, 8lb. 4oz.; Mr. Duncan, Alloa, ten, 7lb.; Mr. S. Taylor and Son, Edinburgh, seven, 7lb.—ROBERT LAING.

Loch Tay (Kenmore, N.B.).—On the hotel water, April 6, Mr. James Lord killed salmon, 15lb.; 11th, Mr. James Lord killed salmon, 16lb.; 12th, Mr. James Lord killed two salmon, 21lb. and 19lb.; 15th, Mr. James Lord killed one salmon, 16lb. Loch in good ply; only one boat out.—W. KNIGHT.

Loch Tay (Killin, N.B.).—On April 13, Mr. W. Worthington killed three salmon, 15lb., 16lb., 16lb. 14th, Mr. J. R. Sloan, one, 19lb.; Master H. Berger, one, 17lb.; Mr. Stenhouse, two, 19lb. and 16lb. 15th, Mr. Wheen, one, 21lb. 17th, Mr. Smith, one, 21lb.; Miss Berger, one, 15lb.; Miss Sloan, one, 19lb.; Mr. Sloan, one, 17lb.; Mr. W. Worthington, one, 15lb. 18th, Mr. J. R. Sloan, one, 18lb.; Miss Sloan, a fine trout of 10lb.—H. J. MAESSEY.

Lyon (Fortingall Hotel, Perthshire).—Gentlemen fishing from the hotel. Mr. Stewart landed a beautiful salmon grilse, weight 7lb., on the 8th inst.; also Dr. Childs landed a beautiful salmon, weight 15lb., on the 12th; and Mr. Stewart, on the 13th, landed a beautiful salmon, weight 15lb.; and Professor Cash, one of 17lb.; and Dr. Kidd, on the 15th, one of 16½lb. River in ply.—PAUL MACPHAIL.

Naver (Bettyhill, via Thurso, N.B.).—The weather has been so stormy that anglers from the various lodges have not been out regularly of late. On 10th, Mr. Stibbard, Syre Lodge, caught two salmon on Beat No. 2; and Colonel, two, on No. 3. On 11th, Mr. Campbell, Dalvina Lodge, landed two salmon on No. 2. On 13th, Col. Fryer, Dalvina Lodge, had one on No. 4. On 14th, Mr. Blood, Skelpick, caught a salmon on No. 2; and Col. Curtis, one on No. 1. On 15th, Mr. Marston, Skelpick Lodge, landed one on No. 4; and Mr. Blood, two on No. 3.—B.

Oykell (via Lairg).—Despite unfavourable conditions, Mr. W. A. Soames, London, and Mr. Soames, junior, fishing from Balmagown Arms Hotel, have landed several salmon, ranging in weight from 6½lb. to 16½lb.—B.

Shin (Inveran, N.B.).—On 10th inst., Mr. Farrer, fishing Sutherland Arms Hotel, got a salmon of 19lb., and Mrs. Farrer, one of 9lb. Since then there has been no sport to speak of; in fact, more serpents than salmon appear to be killed. One day last week, John Ross, gillie (who was accompanied by Mr. Duncan, inspector of the Kyle of Sutherland Fishery Board), came across a number of these reptiles, four of which he dispatched right off, while several others made good their escape. The four killed were unusually large, ranging from 24in. to 30in. in length.—B.

South of Scotland.—The Border rivers are in nice ply this week for trout fishing with fly. Sea trout are

not making any show in the Solway rivers yet, although the netmen are getting some in the Solway nets near the mouth of the Annan and Nith. The weather this week is more favourable and much milder. With April drawing near to its close, the spring salmon fishing in the rivers of this part of the country may safely be said to be at an end, and, like many recent spring seasons, that of 1899 may be classed as a total failure. In the ANNAN several rods have been out with fly for trout. The only favourable day last week was Friday, when Mr. J. Jackson had a splendid basket of burn trout in the middle waters, with fly; Mr. Thomson had several good trout, one weighing 1lb. On Monday, Mr. McEwan had a fine basket of yellow trout. His heaviest fish weighing 1½lb. On Tuesday, the same angler had a fair catch, all with fly. In the higher reaches of Wamphray and Moffat, a number of visitors have done fairly well this week. In the NITH not much sport has been done in the lower waters. Nearer Thornhill several rods have had moderate baskets of burn trout. The Duke of Buccleuch's portion of Mid Nithsdale gave fair sport among yellow trout. In the Sanquhar waters the baskets have been small. In the Cairn and Cludon a number of anglers had pretty good baskets. The reports from the Galloway rivers are somewhat poor, but the district lochs are now affording improved baskets, and the brown trout are in better order. More rods are out on the Ayrshire lochs, but angling is not yet of much account. Several Dumfriesshire anglers paid the Upper Clyde waters a visit last week in the hope of getting some sport among the burn trout, but had poor sport. On the waters above Coulter and at Tankerton, Mr. W. Dickson caught a basket of yellow trout, weighing 3lb. 14oz.; Mr. W. Nicholl had 3lb.; Mr. Robert Gray, a similar creel; Mr. Lawson, 2lb. 12oz.; Mr. R. Gray took a trout of 12oz. THE DERWENT.—With much snow on the Cumberland hills, and melted snow in the waters, trout fishing has not been good of late. In the Cockermouth portion Mr. J. Allison had fair sport with fly, and Mr. B. Hewitt had also some nice trout with worm bait. Mr. J. Wright took a good basket of trout in the Cocker.—HEATHERBELL.

South of Scotland.—SOLWAY DISTRICT.—The weather last week was very wintry over the Solway district, and the nets in the frith had a poor return for this period of the season. Last week the great decline in the salmon fishing in the Solway and the Eden river was the subject of discussion at the Eden Fishery Board's quarterly meeting. One of the members said that for some years the salmon fishings had been going very much to the bad, but this year it seemed to have finally collapsed.—WM. WRIGHT.

Spey.—The river is now in better condition for angling, but the biting east winds are against sport being so successful as it should be. From the Knockando House water, on Thursday, a salmon of 8lb. was landed by Mr. Hankey; and one of similar weight was also killed on the Laggan section. On Friday, on the Carron House water, Mr. Grant was successful in landing a newly-run beauty of 18½lb. On the Fiddich, sport continues to be satisfactory. On the reaches below the Distillery Range baskets weighing 5lb. and 6lb. are common, while further along the Auchindoun way a good number of sea trout, &c., have also been got. This season should be a much better one than last, as the principal distilleries will be all closed during the summer months, so that the water will be clear and sport more of a pleasure than in recent years.—J. M.

Tay.—River Tay is at present in fine order, but rather poor sport is being got, the weather being cold and unseasonable. Fishing on Fisher's Hotel water, lower Dunkeld, on Thursday, Mr. D. M. Stuart landed two fish, of 24lb. and 18lb.; and Mr. Evans, one of 15lb. Mr. A. M. Prain, Longforgan, had, on Wednesday, one fish of 27lb., and on Thursday, three, of 24lb., 17lb., and 10lb. Mr. J. R. MacIntyre, Edinburgh, fishing on Birnam Hotel water, on Wednesday, caught one salmon of 21lb. On Findyate water, on Friday, Mr. Macpherson caught a salmon of 17lb. On Fisher's Hotel water (Pittochry), on Saturday, Mrs. A. M. Prain caught a splendid newly-run fish of 16lb. Col. Phillips landed one fish of 31lb. On Ballathie water, on Thursday, Col. E. R. S. Richardson caught two fish. Poor sport has been got on the Muthly and Delvine waters during the past three weeks, only one salmon being got, and that on Wednesday, by Mr. Ivers Bland, Delvine. It weighed 17lb. Capt. Baldwin, fishing on Redgorton water, on Saturday, landed one fish.—A. A.

Tummel.—Miss Henry Peters, fishing Faskully waters on Wednesday, after a most exciting run, landed a nice salmon of 18½lb. On account of the recent floods in the Tummel, the fishing has not been a success during the past two weeks. LYON.—From Fortingall Hotel, Dr. Childs killed a fish of 15lb. on Wednesday; and on Saturday Dr. Kidd landed a beautiful salmon of 16½lb.—A. A.

Tweed, Teviot, and other Border Streams.—Notwithstanding all the various causes which have militated against successful angling, some fairly good takes of trout have been got during the past week, both on Tweed and Teviot. The tributary streams, however, are doing little or nothing as yet. In the Kelso district a few salmon have been got during the past ten days, mostly on the famous Floors Castle preserves, while one or two have also been killed on the Birgham water by Lord Dunglass. Amongst those who have been killing trout the following may be mentioned: Mr. R. Newton, Kelso, 3½lb., 7lb., and 4½lb., on Tweed and Teviot. On the Teviot, Mr. W. Barff had 3½lb. Mr. Robert Robertson had 5½lb. on the Teviot on Tuesday. On the Tweed, Mr. Charles Farquharson had baskets of 3½lb., 4lb., and 6lb. last week-end; while this week in the two main streams, Tweed and Teviot, he has killed some nice dishes of trout, weighing from 8lb to 8lb. Mr. W. Mercer, on the Eden, has had 4lb. and 2½lb. of nice trout; while below Ednam Mr. James Patterson had 4lb. of trout, fly fishing. On

Tuesday, on the Teviot, Mr. A. Williamson had 3½lb. of trout, and a sea trout of 2½lb.; and Mr. Alfred Jamieson a good dozen, weighing close on 5lb. Many other baskets have also been killed, including three or four by Mr. Thomas Pringle, Westwood Cottage, Kelso, whose weights ranged from 6lb. up to 8lb. The first competition of the Selkirk Angling Club took place on the Tweed. There was a fair number of competitors, and the total number of trout killed weighed close on 50lb. aggregate.—MAX-WHEEL.

IRISH REPORTS.

Bandon River (co. Cork).—On the Carrigmore water at Ballineen, Mr. J. Pike, D.L., during the week landed four salmon, 12lb., 11lb., 8lb., 7lb.—W. HAYNES AND SON.

Belfast.—Trouting was pretty good recently on the Woodburn Dams. Amongst those out were Capt. E. R. O. Lndlow, D.A.A.G., Mr. A. McD. Caldwell, Mr. Hunter, Mr. Kirk, Mr. Williams, Mr. Langhead, &c., all of whom half a dozen fish each per day out. At the last committee meeting of the Belfast Anglers' Association twenty-five new members were elected.—J. A. B.

Boyle.—Since my last report weather here was awful, and very little fishing done. This week, however, matters have improved considerably, and some very good baskets have been made. Mr. Hertney, fishing Corbally Lake, killed thirty-two nice trout in three days, these trout averaging 1lb. Longhs Key, Gard, and Arrow are doing very well. Col. Carr's best day on Arrow this week was four trout, largest 4½lb. Mr. Fenwick, fishing Gard, had very fair sport, getting three and four trout each day. The river was never in better order for spring fishing, as it is in winter flood just now, and full of large fish. Local anglers are getting some beauties on it up to 4lb. and 5lb. each. We are looking forward to a first-class May Fly season, especially on river.—GEO. TAYLOR.

Caragh Lake (Caragh).—Lake fishing is now improving. Mr. Day, of Cork, staying at the Southern Hotel, took three dozen good brown trout on the 10th inst. If the weather settles now there will be good fishing in future.—G. C.

Coghlan's Hotel (Foxford).—Mr. Edward Maitland, fishing here, killed, in five days, 180 trout. River just coming in order; expects good sport.—ANGLER.

Cork Rivers.—Sport has exhibited an all-round improvement on the Cork rivers of salmon, and trout angling has generally given fine sport in the Bandon district, and at few other points. The weather has been all that could be desired during the last few days.—T. J. D.

Corrib (Galway).—Adverse climatic conditions and the unsettled state of the rivers militated salmon fishing since last report. Three or four fish were killed on the shrimps. There seems to be a fair stock of fish now up. The floods assure good summer peal fishing.—J. A. B.

Erne (Ballyshannon and Belleek).—This river is again in high flood, but some good-sized trout were again taken since last report by Capt. L. Moore, Mr. Maxwell Moore, Mr. Kuox, Mr. Duff, &c.—M. ROGAN AND SONS.

Imperial and Royal Hotels Private Water (Ballina).—River is now in good order, and weather at last favourable. There is a good supply of fresh run fish in the pools. Two gentlemen, staying at Gortnorrabbey Hotel, had some good baskets of trout during the week. There were also five salmon killed on the lake.—MANAGER.

Kerry Rivers.—Sport has been very good on all the Kerry rivers open for angling between Waterville and Castlemaine at brown trout, and some good baskets of "pinks" have been had on the Waterville (upper portion), Reenroe, Inny, Fartha, Behy, Cmmmeragh, and Caragh. Salmon have not given any sport except in the Killarney district, where a few good fish have been had.—T. J. D.

Lee (co. Cork).—Cold north and north-east wind, with low water, has not been an advantage to the fishing; nevertheless, good sport has been had. On Ashton water, Mr. J. Sullivan, 9lb. On Oak Grove, H. E. Stanley, 21lb., 17½lb.; G. M. Ievers, 9lb., 11lb. On Nettleville, Col. Broderick, 10lb., 10lb. On Lee Mount, Mr. H. M. Lewis, 16lb., 11lb., 8lb., 7lb. On Fargus, Mr. H. Austen, 9lb. On Cronody, Capt. Bowker, Hants Regt, 8lb. On Castle Lynch, Mr. J. P. Hawkes, 14½lb., 11lb., 11lb., 8½lb., 8lb.; and Mr. J. O'Brien, 14lb., 10lb.—W. HAYNES AND SON.

Lough Currane (Waterville, co. Kerry).—Sport has been very poor since last report, so far as salmon are concerned, but generally average sport was had at brown and pink trout. Salmon have been ascending from the sea rather slowly last week, and no peal have yet been noticed.—T. J. D.

Lough Melvin.—The weather during the past week was again against the chances of good sport, owing to heavy falls of rain at intervals (most rain fell during the nights), and very cold in the day time. Mr. A. J. Troup landed two salmon of 10lb. each on 14th and 17th insts. Mr. Philley took one salmon of 6lb. on the 15th inst., Mr. Whitehead landed one salmon of 10lb. on the 14th inst., Mr. R. Bailey landed one salmon of 9½lb. on the 15th inst., Mr. F. Hughes landed one salmon of 8½lb. on the 18th inst. Trouting has been excellent since last report.—M. ROGAN AND SONS.

Lough Neagh.—Pollen fishing continues pretty good, the takes being fair and the fish of an average quality. Demand from cross channel markets steady. The same remarks apply to trout netting. The cold weather is keeping back trouting on the tributaries.—J. A. B.

Mountain Lakes (Waterville, co. Kerry).—Sport continues good on all the above waters, especially on Loughs Coomavoher, Bricdarrig, Coomcatcum, Drenane, and Cmmmeravahig.—T. J. D.

Moy Hotel Private Waters (Ballina).—Water in good order, with southerly winds; fair run of salmon on the pools; prospects of fishing favourable. There was a

couple of fish taken on the lough last week. There was some nice trout taken at Runagry, and, on the whole, fishing fair.—JOHN DEVERS.

Moy, Loughs Conn and Cullen (Ballina, co. Mayo).—The weather has changed for the better since my last report, and the river is getting into good order. The lough is high for good sport. Have heard of some salmon being taken by trolling. Trout anglers done fairly well for past week.—PAT HEARNES.

Shannon and Lough Derg (Killaloe).—Yet another week of most disreputable weather—hail, sleet, and rain squalls, together with bitterly cold north-east blasts all the time. It was simply marvellous how any sport has been had at all, yet the following captures of salmon have been made: Mr. W. A. H. Martin, of Ladbury, England, landed two bright springers, of 15lb. and 14½lb.; Mr. R. H. Wilson had two, 28½lb. and 25lb.; Tom and Jack Grimes, fishing my water, two, 12lb. and 6lb.; D. Ellis, two, 13lb. and 11lb. Weather still wild, but fish showing in fair numbers.—S. J. HURLEY.

Shannon (Castleconnell).—On Doonass, Mr. G. C. Williams killed, 14th, one salmon, 43½lb.; 17th, two salmon, 11lb. and 14½lb. On Newgarden, Mr. Greenfield killed, 17th, one salmon, 18lb.; on the same fishery, Mr. F. Cooper killed, 18th, one salmon, 34lb. On the Castle fishery, Mr. E. T. Ingham killed one salmon, 21lb., on 11th. On the Worldsend, Mr. J. W. Stancliffe killed one salmon, 19½lb., on 13th. The weather has become very wintry.—JOHN ENRIGHT AND SON.

Tyrone Rivers.—The past week was a rather poor one on the Ballinderry, Blackwater, Mourne, &c. The weather still keeps cold, with frequent sleety showers.—J. A. B.

SEA FISHING.

Deal (The Pier).—There has been a slight improvement in pier fishing during the past week, though scarcely any sizeable fish have come to hand. Sunday found two local anglers—Gray and Glyn—at their accustomed posts, but their only catch was half a dozen very small flat fish. Monday did not witness much improvement in sport, for Messrs. Welch, Tapley, Filmer, and Bushnell could only muster half a score of dabs and pouting between them at the end of the day. Mr. Gray was early upon the scene on Tuesday morning, but only took two fish; while, during the forenoon, Mr. Bushnell and Mr. Filmer hooked and landed the same fish—a small swallow-tailed dab—three times in succession. Late in the afternoon Mr. Filmer secured a few nice dabs, much larger than any lately seen about here. Mr. T. T. Atkinson took half a dozen dabs in quick time on Wednesday, and Mr. Filmer had half a score of dabs and pouting in the course of the day. The water is in splendid colour, and some fair sport may reasonably be expected in the near future.—J. RICHARDSON (B.S.A.S.).

Eastbourne.—Some good sea fishing should shortly be had off the Sovereign Rocks. I hear that the professional fishermen are catching a few pout in their lobster and crab pots, which is a good omen for rod and line fishing. What is wanted is that someone should personally test the fishing ground with rod and line to see if the fish have arrived yet. Weather the last day or so has been nice and fine, and with its continuance some good sport should be had.—J. W. SODDY.

Plymouth.—We are having some good sport now with large pollack. They have come in very suddenly, and the fishermen who were prepared for the small springers have been losing their gear; in fact, some of the pollack have snapped off the traces of treble gut as if they were cotton. They seem to be all over the Sound at the back of the island, where the brigs lay inside, and also around their mooring spot outside the East Winter Buoy. It is well if you go after these fish to use strong gear and a cane tell-tale, for if you make your line fast you are bound to lose your gear. Some of the boats have been coming in with good catches of mackerel, but they are a long way out yet.—W. HEARDER (B.S.A.S.).

Southend and Leigh (April 20).—Last week's forecast as to the improvement of fishing has been amply borne out by the event. Things are undoubtedly better, and with the continuance of the splendid weather at present prevailing should still further improve. Many rods have been in evidence on the pier, and on April 16 I was pleased to see some familiar faces. I have to report the capture, on April 18, off the pier end (in a whitebait net), of a very fine conger. When the fish was landed a considerable portion of his tail was cut off, but judging from the weight of what was left, and the proportions of the slice sent to me, his live weight must have been well up to 40lb. These large congeners are very occasional visitants here. We could do with more of them. The sub-act of pier fishing has been brought before the corporation, and improved regulations suggested, but up to now without result. High water on April 23, 10 52 a.m.; barometer, 30.2 in.; steady; wind, W.N.W.; light; sea calm, weather clear, with brilliant sunshine. Fishing prospects favourable.—CHARLES HUSSEY (B.S.A.S.).

"HAVE you 'boned' this fish, my man?" "Well, mnm, it's the first time as I've been insulted, but I'd let yer know as I comes by my fish honest."

THE PRETTIEST WOMAN IN LONDON is said to be Miss Clara D., a young lady belonging to a very old English family. She is shortly to appear in a comedy—declares—at a West-end theatre in a new comedy by one of our leading dramatists. She is very wealthy, and her only reason for going on the stage is that she is reluctant to keep hidden away any longer her genius and beauty. These gifts of nature were meant for mankind, and it would be selfish to conceal them. Actuated by a similar motive, George Henry Camp writes to say that he has been cured of his rheumatism by Holloway's Ointment; while by the use of Holloway's Pills he keeps himself healthy in mind and body.

Angling Fixtures.

April 24.

Cambridge Heath Brothers: Visit.
Prince of Wales: Benefit concert.
Thames Re-stocking Association: Annual meeting.

April 25.

Gresham: Annual dinner.
Original Alexandra: Distribution.
Waggoners: Visit.

April 26.

Amicable Waltonians: Distribution.
Drayton Park: Smoking concert.

April 28.

Anglers' Benevolent Society: Meeting.

April 29.

Hearts of Oak: Supper.

April 30.—Stockwell: Outing to Southend.

May 1.—Original Alexandra: A.B.S. concert.
" 2.—Collingwood: Annual dinner and distribution.
" 3.—Cambridge Heath Brothers: Annual dinner.
" 4.—Sundial: Supper.
" 4.—United Brothers: Annual dinner.
" 8.—Globe: Supper and distribution.
" 8.—South Bermondsey Piscatorial: Annual dinner.
" 9.—Blackfriars: Supper.
" 9.—Firm and True: Distribution.
" 9.—Golden Barbel: Supper and distribution.
" 9.—Thames Re-stocking Association: Dinner.
" 10.—Clapham Strollers: Annual dinner and concert.
" 11.—Pekham Brothers: Annual dinner.
" 14.—Islington Brothers: Brake outing.
" 16.—Battersea Friendly: Annual dinner.
" 17.—Royal George: Supper and distribution.
" 30.—Islington Brothers: Distribution.
" 30.—Izaak Walton: Sea fishing outing.

Reports from Clubs

We beg to remind Secretaries that their Reports must reach us not later than **SIX o'clock on Thursday Evening.** Address "Editor, FISHING GAZETTE, St. Dunstan's House, Fetter-Lane, London," marked "CLUB REPORT" outside envelope.

Anglers' Association.—IMPORTANT NOTICE.—The "Angler's Guide," which is published by the above association, will shortly be going to press. Will secretaries please forward to me any alteration of the meeting night, houses, &c., since the last issue, so as to have it as perfect as possible.—R. GHURNEY.

Anglers' Benevolent Society.—Since my last report I beg to acknowledge with thanks the receipt of £3 8s. 6d. Harcourt, £2 2s. Plumstead, £1 13s. Izaak Walton, £1 9s. Prince Albert, 13s. 6d. Bermondsey Brothers, 13s. Hatcham Brothers' Angling Societies from their donation boxes. At the last meeting three applications were entertained; £12 1s. were granted, and two guinea Convalescent Home letters. The next committee meeting will take place on Friday, April 23, at 8.30.—R. GHURNEY.

Anglers' Association (No. 1 EASTERN DISTRICT) Visiting List.—The next return visit will be to the Cambridge Heath Brothers' A.S., the Good Intent, Mowlem-street, Bishop's-road, Cambridge Heath, on Monday next, April 24, when I hope to see a good muster of brother anglers and friends.—G. MANNING.

Anglers' Association (No. 2 DISTRICT) Visiting List.—A most successful visit was paid to the North London A.S. on April 18, when the following thirteen societies were represented: Amicable Waltonians, Albion, Allason United Brothers, Convivial, Crown and Buckland, Clissold, Camden, Didden, Hoxton Brothers, North London, Original Clerkenwell Piscatorial, Phoenix, Wenlock. Mr. Bouffier, of the Phoenix, officiated as chairman. The following contributed to the harmony: Messrs. Broughton, Stretch, Welsh, Lazarus, Thomas, Mike O'Leary, Collins, Fuller, and Ravill. Mr. Stretch and his son did their best in getting the talent together.—BEN ABRAHAM.

Albion Brothers' Angling Society, Frampton Arms, Wells-street, Hackney.—Our meeting on the 19th was fairly well attended, when it was decided to have a concert in aid of the A.B.S. on May 22. Members please note it is the return visit of the Cambridge Heath Bros. on April 24.—C. J. KING.

Allason United Brothers' Angling Society, Dnke of Sussex, Uxbridge-street, Notting Hill Gate, W.—The delegates gave their report of the Anglers' Association, which was accepted. The fish auditors likewise gave their report of winners of past season. Everything seems ready for May 10. Messrs. Abrahams and Wheeler were at Southend-on-Sea and had some decent sport with flat-fish. Shall be pleased to receive prizes won in past season's list by Wednesday, 26th, and May 3.—BEN ABRAHAM.

Battersea Friendly Angling Society, Queen's Hotel, Queen's-road, Battersea, S.W.—It is decided to hold our annual dinner and distribution on May 16. I should feel obliged if gentlemen who have promised prizes will forward them as soon as possible before that date. Several alterations have taken place in our rules, notably to the standard of fish; several species have been increased. A satisfactory report of Central Association meeting was read by our delegate. Will all members please turn up in force on Tuesday next.—A. JENKINS.

Battersea Piscatorials, Lord Ranelagh, Peronastreet, Battersea.—On Wednesday last we held our general meeting, when some very important business was transacted, it being decided to shift our club to the above, which all secretaries please note. Will members owing contributions, &c., kindly clear the books.—T. TRINGHAM.

Blackfriars Angling Society, The Imperial, Southwark-street, S.E.—We had a good muster of members on Wednesday evening, and made final arrangements for snapper to take place on May 9, and I wish to inform brother anglers and friends that Mr. G. Shepherd (Host Bermondsey Brothers) has kindly consented to take the chair, and Mr. W. J. Wade (Central Association) the vice-chair. Mr. G. H. Howard, one of our oldest and respected members, has promised to attend if possible, and I anticipate a grand evening with plenty of talent.—J. WHEELHOUSE.

Bloomsbury Brothers' Angling Society, Rose and Crown, Broad-street, Bloomsbury.—A special general meeting is called for Wednesday next, April 26, when all members are requested to be in attendance by 9.30 p.m. for important business. This will also be audit night, Mr. J. Morrell and Mr. F. S. Pavett being the auditors appointed.—T. PATERNOSTER.

Brunswick Brothers' Angling Society, Cherry Tree, Brunswick-road, Bromley-by-Bow, E.—Mr. P. West occupied the chair at our meeting on Tuesday, 18th, when officers for the new year were elected, and several alterations made in the old rules. I hope all members will turn up in full force on Tuesday next to arrange the annual supper; also to consider the case of an old member who has been unable to follow his employment for the last three months.—F. RANDALL.

Cambridge Heath Brothers' Angling Society, The Good Intent, Mowlem-street, Bishop's-road, Cambridge Heath.—The next return visit on No. 1 Eastern District takes place at the above house on April 24, when all anglers are cordially invited. On the 18th, there was a strong muster of members, and it was decided to hold our annual dinner at the clubhouse on May 3; our worthy host, Mr. B. Williams, will supply the ground bait. I am pleased to say that Sir W. Bownaggre, Q.C., M.P., will preside, faced by Mr. H. Everett. Shall be pleased to receive prizes promised for last season.—P. E. LOFT.

Clapham Junction Angling Society, The Clarence, Winstanley-road, Clapham Junction, S.W.—Members please note that general meeting will take place on Wednesday, April 26, at nine o'clock sharp, when I hope all will be present on this occasion, as important business will be brought forward.—G. T. JAMESON.

Clapham Strollers' Angling Society, Alexandra Hotel, Clapham Common, S.W.—We held our annual dinner and concert at the above house on Wednesday, May 10. Any friends wishing to obtain tickets can do so on application to the secretary. A balance-sheet up to March 30 was also audited and passed, showing the club to be on a sound financial basis.—S. VIOLET.

Clerkenwell and District United Visiting List.—A successful visit was paid to the Dihden A.S. on Monday evening, Mr. Elton in the chair. The following seventeen societies were well represented—viz., Great Northern, Lincoln, St. John's, Eustonian, Bloomsbury Brothers, North London, Camden, Phoenix, Royal George, Midland, Queen's Piscatorials, Dihden, Harcourt, Brompton, Original Clerkenwell, Bostonians, and Hoxton Brothers. They had plenty of good talent. The next visit will be to the Harcourt A.S. (date later). We held our competition at Amberley on July 9. The concert in aid of the prize fund is left in the hands of a committee.

Clissold Angling Society, The Cricketers, Northwold-road, Stoke Newington, N.—On April 25 all working members are asked to attend a special meeting, as we have some important business to arrange. All members who wish their A.B.S. cards should apply at once.—T. FAULKNER.

Collingwood Angling Society, The Lord Nelson, Nelson-square, Blackfriars-road, S.E.—The result of our sea outing at Southend was as follows: Mr. Jarrett, first; Mr. Ball, second; Mr. Down, third. There were other prizes, but were not taken. Our fourth annual supper and prize distribution takes place at the above house on Tuesday, May 2. Tickets, price 3s. each, can be had at the clubhouse or of the secretary.—W. H. STAFFORD.

Dalston Angling Society, Brownlow Arms, Brownlow-street, Dalston.—On April 18 a few members were present, when it was decided that the dinner should take place on June 4. Members are requested to communicate with the secretary if they intend to attend the same.—S. MALBY.

Dibdin Angling Society, St. Martin's Tavern, Pratt-street, N.W.—Our concert and visit on C.D.V. list, last Monday, was a great success. Seventeen clubs answered to roll call, all of whom, on behalf of the members of the D.A.S., allow me to thank most heartily for support shown us. Wednesday meeting very quiet; nothing of importance transpired.—JOHNNY EDWARDS.

Drayton Park Piscatorials, Stanley Arms, Landseer-road, Holloway-road, N., will hold their forty-fourth smoker at the Stanley Arms, Landseer-road, N., on Wednesday, April 26. Chair to be taken by Mr. A. W. Horsay, at 7.45 sharp. Pianist, A. Brooker.—GREG.

Firm and True Angling Society, Prince Regent, Beresford-street, Walworth.—At our last meeting some important business was transacted. Our annual prize distribution takes place on May 9. We shall have some good talent on this occasion. Will members please clear the books before the distribution night?—T. ROSSER.

Globe Angling Society, Earl Russell, Isledon-road, N.—We hold our twentieth annual supper and prize distribution on Monday, May 8. The chair will be taken by Mr. C. Ellis, and the vice by Mr. R. Sharpless. Supper on table at 8.30.—W. LAWRENCE.

Golden Barbel Angling Society, Sir Isaac Newton, Union-street, Middlesex Hospital.—Our annual supper and distribution of prizes takes place on May 9, when we shall be glad to see many friends. Our audit took place on the 18th inst., showing the club in a good financial state. Our member, A. Fowler, takes a benefit concert at the Windsor Castle, Edgware-road (Prince of Wales Angling Club), on Monday, April 24.—A. W. ELLINS.

Hearts of Oak Angling Society, Ye Olde Crown, Brick-lane, Bethnal Green.—I hope members will attend next Wednesday for special business. Our supper takes place on May 29; distribution of prizes the Monday following. Will members pay in promised prizes?—C. SMITH.

Highbury Angling Society, Globe Hotel, Upper TOLLINGTON-road, N.—Mr. T. A. Shaw has had a trout of 1lb. 14oz. from the club water during the week, and Mr. F. Berry two good trout, 6lb. 8½oz. (first medal of season) and 3lb. 14½oz., the two latter fish scoring in the challenge cup competition.—E. W.

Islington Brothers' Angling Society, Myddleton Arms, Canonbury-road.—On Tuesday last the minutes of the previous meeting were read and confirmed, when the steward reported in reference to the outing to Pardon on May 14, by brake. The distribution of prizes will take place on May 30, so will those members and friends who have kindly promised prizes please forward to the secretary as soon as possible.—J. H. HERBERT.

Izaak Walton Angling Society, Old King John's Head, Mansfield-street, Kingsland-road.—It has been arranged to have a sea fishing competition on April 30. Full particulars can be had at the clubhouse. Quarterly night, and the end of our financial year, occurs on Wednesday, May 3. Shall esteem it a favour if all members in arrears will attend and clear the books on or before that date.—H. B.

Jubilee Angling Society, Prince Arthur, Golborne-road, North Kensington.—Will members please attend next meeting night, if possible, to enable us to get our annual business settled.—G. BENCE.

Original Alexandra Angling Society, The Lamb, Three Colts-lane, opposite Bethnal Green Junction.—Our distribution of prizes will take place on Tuesday evening, April 25, at the clubhouse. Members and friends who have promised prizes please note the date. The third Bohemian concert this season, in aid of the A.B.S., will take place at the clubhouse on Monday, May 1.—E. BROCKETT.

Peckham Brothers' Angling Society, Windsor Castle, Cator-street, Peckham.—We hold our twenty-first annual dinner and distribution of prizes on Thursday, May 11. Members and friends who have promised prizes will greatly assist me by forwarding same to the clubhouse by May 5. On Tuesday, April 18, our worthy host presided over a very successful gathering at the Bermondsey Brothers.—G. HETHERINGTON.

Phoenix Angling Society, The Tavistock, Stihbing-street, N.W.—Our annual special general meeting is on Wednesday, April 26, and every member must attend, as we have to fix date of distribution, brake outing, and revise our rules for next season, &c.; also those members who have not been up lately will be able to make the acquaintance of our new landlord.—R. C.

Prince of Wales' Angling Society, Windsor Castle, Church-street, Edgware-road.—We distribute our annual prizes won during the season on Monday, May 15, during which I trust that the prizes promised will be handed in. I hope to see anglers and friends muster strongly on Monday next for the benefit concert on behalf of Mr. A. Fowler.

Royal George Angling Society, Queen's Arms, Bateman-street.—Our annual supper and distribution of prizes will take place on May 17 instead of May 24, as stated in my last report. Will secretaries kindly note the alteration of date? The price of supper ticket will be 3s. Members and friends requiring same can get them at the above address. Will members who have received post-cards kindly turn up next meeting night?—J. GIBBONS.

Royal Surrey Angling Society, The Sun, Boniface-street, Westminster Bridge-road.—A special meeting will be held on April 26, to decide when and where we shall have our annual dinner and prize distribution.—W. ANSTEV.

South Bermondsey Club Piscatorials' Institute, Rotherhithe New-road.—Our annual dinner takes place on May 8. Mr. Arthur Sutherland, entertainment secretary of the above, will supply the artistes. We have also arranged with Mr. W. Wilson, of Cleveland-street, W., the well-known caterer, who has supplied us on the last two occasions with every satisfaction.—J. H. DAVIES.

Stockwell Angling Society, Old Queen's Head, Stockwell-road, S.W.—At our meeting on Thursday, 13th inst., some important business was transacted, rules revised, &c., to the benefit of the members. It was also resolved to have an outing to Southend on April 30, and that a donation should be sent to the Camden A.S. in response to their charitable appeal.—THOS. LUCAS.

Sundial Angling Society, Plough and Harrow, King-street, Hammersmith.—On April 18 the yearly balance-sheet was passed, showing the club to be in a sound position as regards finances; and anglers residing in the neighbourhood and wishing to join a club for the coming season can get particulars at clubhouse on Tuesday between nine and ten o'clock. The committee will meet on April 27 to arrange programme for the supper on May 4.—C. E. LOCK.

Twickenham Piscatorial Society, Black Dog, London-road, Twickenham.—At our weekly meeting on April 18, Mr. J. Hebblethwaite in the chair, three new members were elected, viz., Messrs. T. W. Gomm, W. J. Burne, and A. J. Blades. It was decided to hold, once a month, a special meeting for the discussion of some item

of a piscatorial nature, such as rods, floats, &c.—J. M. BROUGHAM.

United Brothers Angling Society, Druid's Head Tavern, Deptford.—The members of the above club will celebrate their sixteenth annual dinner on May 4, Mr. H. A. Merton, M.P., in the chair, and R. Lowes vice-chair. Members will please notice that the club night for the future is Thursday instead of Saturday.—H. TYLER.

Waggoners' Angling Society, White Lion, Albert Embankment.—We had a good meeting on the 11th, Mr. H. Walton in the chair. Some very important business was got through. We take a visit on the S.L.U.V.L. on Tuesday next, April 25, Mr. G. H. Shepherd (host of the Bermondsey Brothers) in the chair, when we anticipate a large gathering. Those societies who have not received notice, please accept this invitation.—H. C.

Walham Green and Chelsea Angling Society, Black Bull, Fulham-road, S.W.—Will members please show up next Wednesday in full force, for very important business? The club committee gave in their report, and an increase in other club prizes was passed by the meeting.—TIDLER.

Ye Olde Clapham Rovers' Angling Club, The Windmill, Clapham Park-road.—We had a good meeting at club on Tuesday, when our books were audited by Messrs. Wyatt and Taylor, with everything satisfactory, and leaving a good balance in hand. I hope to see all members next Tuesday to arrange for supper and distribution of prizes.—N. LINDIN.

BAKER'S PATENT DAPPING FLIES.

MESSRS. S. ALLOOCK AND Co., the wholesale fishing-tackle manufacturers, of Redditch, send us some samples of Mr. Baker's Patent Dapping Flies, which they have tried, and find very killing. They say: "If you can give a notice of the flies in your paper, we shall esteem it a great favour, as he is a fisherman of over thirty-five years' standing, and has killed a great quantity of trout with his Patent Dapping Flies."

We should be much obliged to Mr. Baker if he would kindly send us some account of his method of using these very taking-looking flies. Many of the specimens we should with great confidence fixat over a rising trout any where. At first sight they remind one of the detached-hody flies and larvae illustrated by Blacker in his "Art of Fly Making," but on closer inspection you see that they are made to represent, and very cleverly do represent, a fly impaled on a hook. For dapping they certainly are the best artificials we have ever seen, as the fly merely hangs in the bend of the hook, just as you would a natural fly, so when you push it through the bushes and drop it in front of a trout or chub he sees nothing of the hook. But we should very much like to try some of these patterns, and also standard patterns fixed up in the same way for use as in ordinary dry fly fishing. As well as hooks with single flies on them, there are some with double bodies and wings. Many of the patterns have a more natural look about them than flies dressed in the ordinary way or even with the fly in the head.

We can with confidence recommend anglers who can fish with fly to try Mr. Baker's patents.

Doffings by the Bay.

A REPRINT is to hand of the Earl of Howth's letter to the salmon angling community of Ireland, entitled "Ireland's Salmon Fisheries." His lordship holds very decided views on the decadence of salmon fishing in the emerald isle, and uses strong words in condemning the apathy of successive governments on this important subject. "Come and help us" is the burden of his cry, but it is not quite easy to see what help we on this side of St. George's Channel can give to the cause beyond sympathy and good wishes.

GOOD reports are to hand of the trout fishing in the river Coquet. At Easter time good baskets of thirty yellow trout were quite common. I am pleased to hear from Mr. J. A. Williams, the clerk of the Northumbrian Anglers' Federation, that the watching and protection of the river during the past three years, aided by judicious re-stocking, has borne good fruit, and that the state of the Coquet has undoubtedly improved.

VERY serious news is to hand of further troubles with our fishermen in Iceland, and the high-handed conduct of the Danish authorities certainly requires explanation. The French have recognised the danger, and a French man-of-war has been on the spot for some time to look after national interests. These are by no means so large as the English, and it is surely time our Government sent one, if not two gunboats to look after and protect British fishermen. Meetings have been held to impress this upon the powers that be, but the result of their representations is, to say the least, doubtful.

As briefly noticed last week, the terrible gale which raged recently wrought sad havoc to the fishing fleets. The loss in hard cash is considerably over £20,000, but worse than all, I am grieved to learn by later advices, human life has to be added to the mournful catalogue. The Mayors of Penzance and Lowestoft, assisted by the most

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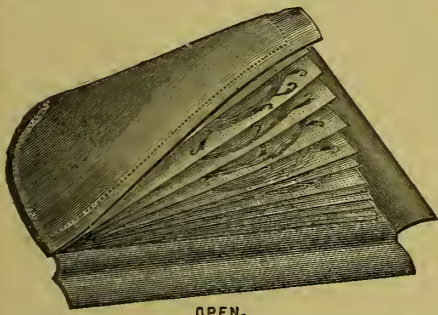
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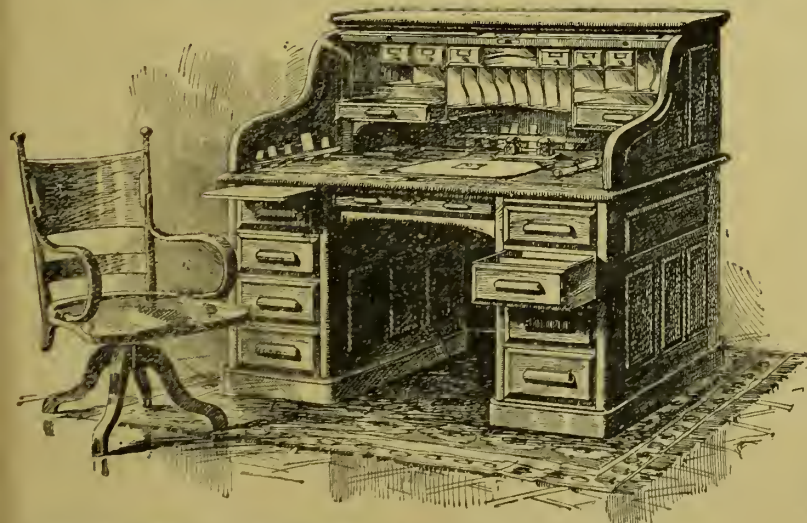
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LINES (waterproof).—Plaited silk, stout, 1d. per yard; hemp, ½d. per yard. Plaited Flax Lines, 20 yards, 7d.; Tanned, 8d.; 60 yards, 2s. Cable Laid Cord, 50 yards, 7½d.
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influential residents in their respective localities, are cordially co-operating with a view to a national appeal on behalf of the sufferers. The Lord Mayor of London has consented to open and support a fund. *Bis dat qui cito dat*, and a fund has been already started, of which Mr. W. E. T. Bolitho is treasurer. The editor of the *Cornish Telegraph* will receive subscriptions. Surely we who fish for our own sport and pleasure only can spare something for those who depend upon fish for a livelihood, and help to pay the terrible cost of this storm.

IT will be of interest to anglers residing in the districts of Batters, Clapham, Stockwell, Brixton, &c., to know that the L.B. and S.C.R. have, at the request of Mr. W. J. Wade, added Clapham Junction to the stations from which anglers' tickets can be obtained after June 15.

THE S.W. Railway have also added to the list Cobham from Clapham Junction, and Leatherhead and Cobham from Vauxhall and Hammersmith; also Leatherhead, Chertsey, and Egham from Richmond.

"RAMBLES IN KENT" was the title of a lantern lecture delivered on Tuesday evening last by Mr. W. J. Wade before the members and friends of the Bermondsey Brothers' A.S. at the Woolpack Tavern. The room was crowded to excess. Host G. H. Shepherd and Secretary Conn did their best to wool "pack" the meeting, and the word "success" was writ large. Mr. A. E. Clarke (host of the Peckham Brothers) presided. The lantern was admirably manipulated, and the views (which had all been photographed and made into slides by Mr. Wade) came out beautifully clear and distinct.

THE lecturer kept up a running fire as view after view appeared upon the screen, describing the beauties and fishing capabilities of the various places he had visited on angling intent, amongst which were Ramsgate, Deal, Margate, Dover, Broadstairs, Minster, Canterbury, Grove Ferry, Sturry, the fishing in the river Stour at the two latter places being particularly described, also Chilham, Sandwich, &c. A hearty vote of thanks was unanimously accorded to the lecturer on the motion of Mr. G. H. Shepherd, and his health drank with musical honours.

THEN the lantern was cleared, the screen removed, and more room made. (Mr. Shepherd, you must have a larger sack your wool to pack!) Then the band played, and right well. The artists were Miss Horton (who was in splendid voice and rendered her services gratuitously), Messrs. Harry Payne, Will Musgrave, J. Hobbs, J. Smith, and many other excellent singers. I understand it was kept going as late as possible, and that a substantial collection was made for the A.B.S. "Rambles in Bermondsey" will be the title of my paper before the Bermondsey Bantam's Boys (without a lantern).

AT Monday evening's meeting of the Piscatorial Society, Capt. Thorp, R.A., related the capture of a pike, which, when weighed by the gallant captain (not captor), scaled 42lb. It was "found" at Felbridge, near East Grinstead. The fish was in very poor condition. It appears that the mill dam broke, or the bank broke, or something broke, and the 42-pounder was left stranded high and dry. The fish is being set up, and will, for a short time, be on view at the Piscatorial Salon at the Holborn Restaurant.

MR. WILLIAM HOWLETT, of Newmarket, and Flint Cottage, Barton Mills, informs me that the trout fishing has improved in the Lark during the last few days. A brace of pretty trout were taken at Icklingham on the 15th. One good fish of nearly 4lb. was taken at Mildenhall on Tuesday, by Mr. Frank Large; a brace were taken near the Lock at Barton Mills, rather small, but in good condition. I had a long walk on Tuesday and Wednesday last, nearly all the length of the river, and I am well pleased with the number of trout I saw, also roach and dace, &c. There will be some good fishing now the navigation is opened to Temple Bridge. Gangs of barges laden with stone are going up and down, so that the bed of the river will soon get well dredged. Up to the present time, since the opening day (April 1), there has been over ten brace of good fish taken, so that, considering the weather, angling for trout cannot find much fault. Mr. Howes, at Bull Hotel, Barton Mills, has baits ready for his patrons.

FISHING on the river Lark at Barton Mills on Saturday and Monday last, Mr. W. Howes, of the Bull Hotel, caught three trout; the largest 5½lb., the others just over 2lb. He writes: "I am convinced that any good angler fly-fishing would have captured some of the beauties which I saw on Tuesday. I wish I was more experienced with the fly-rod." [All right, Mr. Howes, I've got my rods, I've got my flies, and I'll have some trout as well!]

WHILE talking of "Barton Mills" (this is not an advt., but a genuine tip), Mrs. Howes has a very comfortable, well furnished cottage, which she can let for 50s. a month. Everything in the garden—and in the house—is "all right." It is close to the "Bull" and the water.

MR. A. R. MATTHEWS was at the annual general meeting, re-elected honorary reporter to the Anglers' Association.

THE "ARCHITECTURAL REVIEW" for April is a truly magnificent number. "Disappearing London" is now a feature of this magazine, and the picture of King-street,

Westminster, is as clever as anything Mr. F. L. Emanuel has done. There is a remarkably interesting article on "The Home Doors of England," and another one on "The Church and Village in North Devon." The *Architectural Review* appeals to the general reader as well as to those connected with the arts and crafts.

THE T. A. N. for April is, as usual, bright, readable, and up to date. The portrait of an enthusiastic angler, Dr. J. W. Turrell, M.A., M.D., adorns the front page, and two columns of the doctor's experiences and opinions form interesting reading. Other good things are "A French Fishing Party," "Dorsetshire Jack Fishing," "Thames Trout Fishing," "Barbel Fishing," by the veteran, Mr. W. H. Brougham; but from cover to cover the T. A. N. is emphatically "all right."

ANOTHER little paper, the *Club Chronicle*, of the Hastings and St. Leonards A.S., also deserves notice. It contains a mass of notes interesting to members, club notices, and last but not least the continuation of Mr. Jardine's article on "Pike and Perch."

THE latest attraction at the Royal Aquarium is the great fight between Sharkey and McCoy, which was fought at New York, in January last. The films used in the Cineograph are so clear that the whole contest can be seen, and the machine works so steadily that no unpleasant vibration takes place. The general show is as good as ever.

THE annual meeting of the Thames Re-Stocking Association will be held on Monday, the 24th inst., at Carr's Restaurant, 265, Strand, W.C., at 8 p.m. The president, Mr. C. H. Cook ("John Bickerdyke"), will be present, and the committee trust that all anglers who are interested in the scheme for establishing a fish hatchery on the Thames will attend. The first annual dinner of the association will be held on May 9, at Carr's Restaurant. Tickets (4s. 6d. each) may be obtained from the hon. secretary, M. H. G. Hankins, Hampden House, Phoenix-street, N.W.

THE Twickenham Piscatorial are inaugurating a series of monthly meetings, to discuss rods, reels, lines, and floats, steam tugs, swans, punts, and boats. [The comps. made your "monthly" meetings "mother's" meeting. Jack, they're beginning to know you!]

I REGRET to hear that two of my fellow members of the B.S.A.S., who have been fishing at Southend, are now suffering from a severe attack of hepatico-cerebro-sistosis in the hyperisistal membrane of the anterior lobe of the dexter cerebellum, or some distressing malady of the sort, caused by an overdose of rosiner while attending the performance of "Naughty Rosina" at the Empire Theatre in that town. I know the cure for their complaint. Next time I see them afloat I shall beach 'em.

G. O. R. LUMMEY enquires if *Truth* and the *Fishing Gazette* come from the same office. Certainly not. *Truth* emanates from Carteret-street, Westminster, whilst, as all the world knows, the home of the *Fishing Gazette* is in Fetter-lane.

THE compiler of a new collection of "yarns," under the title of "Fish Stories" (London: Simpkin, Marshall, and Co., Ltd.), pays a high tribute, in his introduction, to the peculiar gifts of one of our old contributors. He says: "The fish liar is woefully lacking in imagination—he is not to be compared to liars in other branches of sport. There are one or two good story-tellers in America, but since the lamented death of Mr. T. E. Pritt, only one, so far as we know, in England, Mr. Carter Platts, the Angling Editor of the *Yorkshire Weekly Post*, whose ANGLING DONE HERE, and A FEW SMILES, are excellent examples of his works."

HERE is one of the genial "W. C. P.'s" yarns that the "Fish Stories" man presses into his work: "One of our cycling men did a bit of fishing in the river here the other day, and when he mounted his machine to return home the handle-bar was decorated with a handkerchief containing some remarkably fine eels. He didn't ride far before the tyre of his front wheel came off, and while he got off his iron steed to investigate the amount of the damage, one of the largest eels glided out of the handkerchief, and dropped on the groove of the wheel, which it completely encircled, and stuck there as though the berth suited it. Our friend was startled at first, but he is a practical man, and knows a good thing when he sees it. So, letting well alone, he stuck the tail of the eel in its mouth; and the greedy beggar, in trying to swallow itself, tightened more and more round the wheel, and the cyclist rode home on his new tyre. He says, for 'resilience' and 'go' the Dunlop pneumatic isn't in it with the 'patent eel tyre.' The only fault he can find is the fishy aroma imparted to the circumambient air when he goes for a spin on his machine. The eel is not dead yet, and, it is hoped, with careful using, may last throughout the season."

BY the way, readers of Mr. Carter Platts's side-splitter, "THE TUTTLEBURY TALES," which has already gone through five editions, will hail with delight the news that the publishers have in hand a companion volume to the "TALES," which will be issued shortly, under the title of "THE TUTTLEBURY TROUBLES." At present "W. C. P." is hard at work on a new illustrated sixpenny humorous annual, the first number of which will be published in

October, under the title of "Carter Platts's Rolling Year." From what I can hear about it, it will be crammed with the humorist's best efforts.

A COMMITTEE MEETING of the Kingston Piscatorial Society will be held at the Snn Hotel, on Tuesday next, to consider the revision of the rules. Members who have any suggestion which they would like to make in regard to them should send it to the hon. sec. before that date.

MR. GORDEN HOOPER, while trout fishing at Temple Lock, near Marlow, Bucks., on April 6, caught three jack, about 4lb. each, and also two chub, one about 4½lb., all of which were carefully returned none the worse for being caught.

MR. W. H. ROGERS, of Reading, writing under date of April 16, says: "A handsome trout of over 6lb. was taken this morning in Caversham weir pool, by the lock-keeper, Walter Knight."

THE following announcement has been received from Lewes signed C. H. Morris, hon. sec.: "Ouse Angling Preservation Society. A large number of rainbow trout having lately been put into the river, notice is hereby given that the following regulations are in force, for this year: 'All trout captured between the mills at Barcombe are to be returned to the river.' 'In order to encourage the increase of trout, the close time for pike does not apply to this stretch of water.'"

SEVERAL anglers would not recognise in our announcement of the death, which took place on April 13, his fifty-seventh birthday, of Mr. Henry William Cushing. It was, unfortunately, mis-spelt "Cnsping." After having been, for some fifteen years, associated with Italian and English opera, Mr. Cushing joined, in 1875, Sir Henry Irving's Lyceum company, of which he continued a member until his death. He visited the States, under Col. Mapleson, eighteen years ago, and has since been there three times with Sir H. Irving. His son, known as "Mr. Wilton Heriot," is the joint author with Mr. Mark Ambient of "A Little Ray of Sunshine," now being played at the Royalty Theatre. The funeral took place on Saturday last in Wandsworth Cemetery.

MR. F. HOLDEN, the energetic and popular manager of the Canterbury Theatre of Varieties, Westminster Bridge-road, sends a most interesting and artistic souvenir of the Easter company at that house of entertainment. It comprises a portrait of Mr. Adney Payne and a photographic group of all the *artistes* engaged. In the middle of the group is the serenely solemn face of Dan Leno, surrounded by a host of brother and sister entertainers, with a useful key to the likenesses. The list is so tempting that Mrs. Drag and I intend to make a "Canterbury Pilgrimage" at the earliest opportunity; but we shall not go in the orthodox way, "on ambling palfrey borne"—not much—a ha'penny bus will do us. Besides, we are neither of us fliers at equitation. Thank you, Mr. Holden.

THIS is a little "Debate" by "Kryptos":

A man, no friend of mine was he,
Was railing at the sport.
"No angler did I ever see
Behaving as he ought.
Roach-fishers I adjudge the worst
Before my notice brought!"
"Your words proclaim your lack of sense,"
I calmly told him then,
"For though I fear you're very dense
Nine cases out of ten,
You'll notice that the bait they use
Declares them gentle-men!"

A CORRESPONDENT sends the following: "A few days since, a young man, named Robert Walton, employed as engine cleaner at the sausage works of Mr. William Harris, of West Smithfield, bought a secondhand overcoat from an old Jew in the Holloway-road for 3s., and being rather long for him, his wife, on Monday afternoon, was employed removing the stitches at the bottom of the garment, in order to shorten it, when she came upon, sewn in the inner lining of the coat, six £5 Bank of England notes. The notes evidently, judging from their dirty condition, had been in their hiding place some considerable time, but how they got there remains a complete mystery. On the back of one of the notes was written, in red ink, 'Comedian, Charles Colley, 1892,' and on another, in pencil writing, was '1894, Ostend, Belgium.'"

BOY: "Is there any virtue in oysters, pa?" PA: "Yes, my boy, a lot." BOY: "And do they make those who eat them virtuous, pa?" PA: "Here! You run along and play, and don't ask silly questions."

THE *Globe* of Wednesday last contains a most interesting "turn-over" on "Tobacco Reminiscences," from the pen of Mr. Frederick Gale. Throughout it praises the fragrant weed most highly, and amongst its other good things is the following: "Very many of our great men have been constant smokers: Sir Isaac Newton, Izaak Walton, who recommends his disciples after laying down their ground bait to retire for a while and smoke a pipe of tobacco; Addison, Thackeray, Tennyson, Carlyle, George Bidder, Robert Stephenson, and Brunel all were inveterate smokers." To this list future generations will probably add the name of DRAGNET.

PISCATORIAL SOCIETY.

MR. E. McFEE presided over Monday's meeting, when there was a large gathering of members present. Sport, however, in the society's waters had been of the worst possible description, only one small fish having been taken at Uxbridge, and none on either the Kennet or Moor streams. Mr. E. M. Mayes had two trout on at the first named place, but, thanks to an absolutely pointless hook, failed to hold either. Mr. R. C. Blundell thought that the new water was very much later than the other portions of the Colne. There had been no rise of fly, and the fish would not feed. It was, in fact, a question whether it would not be advisable to postpone the opening of the trout season until May 1. Mr. R. Bradford, on the occasion of his visit there, had only caught "a half crown lunch at the Chequers, and an eightpenny tea at the Temple." Dr. C. S. Patterson varied the monotony of doleful tales of sport, or rather, lack of it, by mentioning that he had fished a private part of the Lambourn on Saturday, and had creeled eight brace of trout. He retained but two fish for *post-mortem* purposes, and discovered that one was full of flies and the other of water shrimp. The bigger fish were somewhat thin and lanky, but the smaller ones were in good condition. The doctor also said that he had seen a very fine Thames trout, which had been taken spinning in the Shiplake district, weighing 7lb. It was the finest specimen of a real old Thames fish he had ever looked at. Capt. A. H. Thorp gave particulars of the stranding, below a mill pool, of a huge 42lb. pike, which is referred to in another column. Mr. H. H. Brown read some amusing excerpts from a French paper, from which it appeared that the restrictions to spinning with a spoon bait in certain French rivers had been modified to the extent that anglers could employ it, provided they used a float with it! Again, in the glory of their power the three prefects of the Nord, pas de Calais, and Somme had issued a notice that trout fishing would be forbidden from April 15 to June 15. Of course the editor of *La Pêche Moderne* said a few words and sobbed his life out. "Sarcelle," in the *Field*, however, had written stating that a portion of this ukase had been removed, and that they were now going to fish. Mr. Lefèvre kindly translated some interesting extracts from the same journal for the benefit of the company. Several members who had been to Uxbridge for the first time spoke very highly of the water there. M. G. E. DE C.

BRITISH SEA ANGLERS' SOCIETY.

THE usual weekly meeting was held at the Holborn Restaurant on Wednesday, April 19, at 8 p.m., Mr. Edward McFEE in the chair. Members present reported poor sport. As previously announced, Mr. J. C. Wilcocks read his paper on "Sea Fishing at Shoreham." The lecturer briefly gave descriptions of the various baits used at this station. He specially recommended the soft crab, and recommended preserving them in the courcee or floating bait basket. Speaking of the sand eel, the lecturer recommended that two whitebait nets be licensed for catching whitebaits and sand eels in Shoreham Harbour, as the latter was the marvellous bait for pollack and bass. Speaking of the latter fish, the lecturer mentioned that very large specimens were to be taken up to 18lb., but that the largest he himself had killed was 14½lb. He then briefly described the best situations, times of tides, &c. As regards pollack, the lecturer pointed out that with living sand eel large quantities of these fish can be taken at the Billy Boy wreck. To obtain sand eels, the lecturer advised a jiggling arrangement of a triangle and a pipe lead, and mentioned that he had procured by this method forty one day for use as bait. Conger also, he mentioned, were to be taken on the rocks just off the mouth of the harbour. Red sea bream he had not met with in this district, although the black sea bream is very common. Good cod may also be taken on the rough ground close in shore. An interesting discussion took place on the paper, in which Messrs. Minchin, Wood, Mallet, Preston, Gardner, Linfoot, and the hon. sec. took part. A hearty vote of thanks was proposed from the chair to the lecturer, and carried by acclamation. Mr. Lewis asked for information about Skull and Baltimore, Irish fishing stations. Mr. Lane recommended Clacton as a good station for bass, which were in fine quantity round the pier in July. A vote of thanks to the chair closed the meeting.

CHARLES S. PATTERSON, Hon. Sec.

GRESHAM ANGLING SOCIETY.

AT an ordinary meeting Mr. A. J. Sanders occupied the chair. It was decided to at once remit the entrance fee to the National Angling Club's competition on Loch Leven, and it is the opportune moment in which nominations to represent the society at that competition can be taken. Members are requested to at once let the secretary know as to whether they intend to be present at the dinner or not, and also as to the number of tickets they will require. Dinner takes place next Tuesday, 6.30 for 7, at the above address, when C. H. Cook, Esq. ("John Bickerdyke"), will take the chair. Please rally round, Greshamites. Fishing reports: Mr. Close, two brace trout, Chesham, largest fish 1½lb., a beautiful well-fed fish; the other three were returned to the water. Mr. Eldred, one brace trout from Chesham, returned; Mr. Meyers, a fine trout from the Thames of 7lb.; Mr. Bridgman, one brace of trout from private waters, returned. Mr. A. W. Parker then gave us an admirable paper entitled, "Improvements in Sea Tackle." He described the growth of sea angling generally, and stated that this society was the pioneer of sea fishing with rod and line. He described the various methods used in catching fish in the early days of the society, in which he took a prominent part. He exhibited various kinds of

rods and tackle for fishing in and about the various sea-port towns of this seagirt isle. Several of these rods, and some of the tackle used with them, were made entirely to Mr. Parker's own idea. Mr. Parker is a great believer in using wire lines in preference to the hemp lines generally used. He is now having made some phosphor bronze twisted lines, and believes that in the future these will be the only lines used by rod anglers, because one can fish with so much lighter a lead than with the ordinary lines, thus making sea angling more pleasurable than of yore. He also recommended using a whalebone top to the rod. A lot of useful information was derived by the members present, and at the close of the paper a very hearty vote of thanks was accorded the lecturer for his most interesting and instructive paper. I should be glad to receive the name of any gentleman who would kindly offer to read a paper before the society, we have one or two vacant dates on the programme. The usual toasts and a hearty vote of thanks to the chair concluded a very pleasant evening.

ALEX. WRIGHT (Hon. Sec.).

ANGLERS' ASSOCIATION.

THE annual delegate meeting of this flourishing association was held on Monday night, under the presidency of Mr. Philip Geen, at the Foresters' Hall, Clerkenwell. There was a crowded attendance of delegates, a number being only able to find standing room. The statement of accounts and balance-sheet for the past year were presented by the auditors—Messrs. J. Bowles-West, R. G. Woodruff, and W. H. Barber—and printed copies of the same were distributed in the room. The expenditure, it appeared, had amounted to £492 4s. 6d., and among some items set forth were the following:

	£	s.	d.
By rent of Grand Junction Canal and four-			
teen other fisheries	113	5	4
„ Preservation, local water bailiffs' salaries	67	10	0
„ Nettings (Tottenham and Clissold Park)	94	16	10
„ Salaries	99	14	8

The receipts included 3712 railway privilege tickets at 2s.—£371 4s.

Mr. F. H. Sparling (West Green A.S.) proposed that the balance-sheet be passed. He said he thought it a very satisfactory one indeed, considering the large amount of expenditure in connection with netting matters, but notwithstanding that, they had a balance of £105 10s. 9½d. Mr. F. Thorling (St. John's) seconded the resolution with much pleasure. Discussion arose with reference to one or two documents which had not reached the auditors, but it was stated by those gentlemen, in reply to the chairman, that the balance-sheet was perfectly correct. Mr. J. B. Close (finance committee) suggested that it should be referred back, while accepting it as correct, to the auditors, and this was eventually agreed to. The association is leaving its old home at the Foresters' Hall, and a committee had been appointed to seek out some other suitable headquarters. Mr. A. J. Marriott (Waltonians) now stated that, as a result of their inquiries, they had met with a place which, he believed, would be very suitable for their meetings. That was the Cripple-gate Institute, in Golden-lane, Barbican. They had seen the room, which was a very well-lighted and spacious one. Mr. Frei stated that he had made inquiries as to the delegates smoking, and he had no doubt that the governors would agree to that. At any rate, they should want that matter satisfactorily settled before taking the room. The vice-president (Mr. W. H. Beckett) said he thought the institute was as close to Aldersgate-street Station as their present meeting place. Mr. F. Newton (Hoxton Brothers) detailed his efforts to find a suitable meeting house, but without result. The rent had been either too dear or the rooms were not in suitable positions. Mr. F. Thorling said that Mr. T. Keeble, of the Coffee Pot, Warwick-lane, on hearing that the association was leaving Foresters' Hall, had offered his house for the use of the association until such time as accommodation was found. The Chairman: I am sure that is very kind of Mr. Keeble. Eventually the matter was left in the hands of the original committee to deal with, and to take the institute room if suitable arrangements as to rent, meeting hours, smoking, &c., could be made. The hope was also expressed that the committee of the Anglers' Benevolent Society would meet at the institute. Mr. Beckett said in the selection of the new headquarters they must study delegates from north, east, south, and west, and he thought the position of the institute would be easy of access to all.

The election of officers then ensued, and resulted as follows: President, Mr. Philip Geen; vice-president, Mr. W. H. Beckett; hon. treasurer, Mr. A. Wright; trustees, Messrs. G. H. Field, G. Manning, and J. Jennings; secretary, Mr. R. Ghurney; hon. reporter, Mr. A. R. Matthews (*The Angler*), Tyler, Mr. Ben Abrahams; renting and preservation committee, Messrs. B. Abrahams, E. Clarke, S. Malby, A. A. Matthews, G. Norris, T. C. R. La Mond, F. H. Sparling, C. Ashmore, F. Westoby, F. Newton, T. Collins, and E. Rowles; finance committee, Messrs. J. B. Close, F. H. Sparling, J. P. West, and R. G. Woodruff; general committee, Messrs. W. H. Barber, E. Brockett, F. Castell, G. Chamberlain, E. Clarke, W. Ford, J. Gibbons, J. Harwood, E. Hunt, S. Jones, R. Murphy, S. Malby, F. Newton, G. Norris, F. H. Sparling, F. Thorling, J. P. West, R. G. Woodruff, E. Loft, C. Ashmore, E. Knight, F. Gray, T. R. C. La Mond, and G. Beaumont; visiting officers, Messrs. La Mond, Abrahams, Manning, Rowles, and Harris.

The Anglers' Benevolent Society Committee was also elected, Mr. J. B. Close being elected auditor.

With reference to the netting fund inaugurated by the association, the following resolution was passed: "That a

committee be appointed in order to formulate a scheme for the disposal of the netting fund, and that such scheme be laid before the delegates for their consideration." The committee will consist of Messrs. Wright, West, Barber, Thorling, Sparling, and Frei. Mr. W. H. Beckett, speaking in connection with this fund, stated that he had recently been present at the Plumstead Piscatorials' annual dinner, at which they had voted £2 15s. towards the fund, and also £2 2s. in aid of the funds of the Anglers' Benevolent Society, a statement which was received with loud applause.

Mr. Harwood (Sundial) remarked that it was usual at this time to make a grant to the T.A.P.S. Mr. Ghurney, in reply to the chairman, stated that up to then no application had been received from that society.

Mr. Albert Derry (Prince Albert Angling Society) handed to the secretary a petition, asking the L. and N.W.R. to issue privilege tickets from Willesden Junction, which, after being duly signed on behalf of the association, will be forwarded to the proper quarters.

Mr. J. W. Harris introduced to the notice of the delegates the case of a late member of the association whose privilege ticket had been forfeited six years ago for misuse. He had asked him to bring the matter forward, referring to the punishment he had experienced, and hoping that after that lapse of time, they might perhaps re-issue him his ticket. The feeling of the meeting appeared to be in favour of that course being adopted, providing the railway company was agreeable.

Several notices of motion have been handed in, and the meeting at a late hour was adjourned, a vote of thanks being accorded Mr. Geen for presiding.

THAMES RE-STOCKING ASSOCIATION.

AN important committee meeting of the above association was held at Carr's Restaurant, Strand, on April 14, Mr. C. H. Cook ("John Bickerdyke") presiding.

It was decided to hold the annual meeting on April 24, and the annual dinner on May 9. Tickets for the latter are to be 4s. 6d. each, and the committee resolved that none of the funds of the association (which are for re-stocking purposes) shall be spent for the purpose of entertainment.

Mr. C. H. Cook stated that he had had promises of assistance from Members of Parliament and others towards the proposed fish hatchery on the Thames. He thought it probable that if a hatchery was built sufficiently large to supply fish for the whole of the Thames, and not, as was once suggested, for a part of the river, the cost would be about £500. This would involve the permanent service of an experienced official to superintend the hatching of the ova and looking after and feed the fish, which would be placed in ponds until they were a respectable size. It would cost about £200 a year to keep the hatchery going. He had written to the up-river associations asking if they would join the T.R.A. in this matter. In return for any subscription that they might propose to forward they would be supplied to the full extent of their donation with fish from the hatchery. They would then get Thames hatched fish for the Thames. (Hear, hear.) He had seen the futility of little experiments, and if they undertook the work it must be on a big scale. He proposed that a council of the T.R.A. be formed especially to look after the interests of the Thames hatchery. The Hon. Justice Bucknill had promised to join and help them. The Hon. W. F. D. Smith, M.P., stated that he would be happy to join the council and would subscribe £5 a year to the funds. Mr. T. Skewes-Cox, M.P., for the Kingston Division of Surrey, wrote that the work which the T.R.A. had undertaken was of great interest to him, and he (Mr. Cook) was to signify in such a manner as he thought best Mr. Skewes-Cox's appreciation of the steps that were proposed to be taken with a view to the establishment of the hatchery for the Thames. Mr. W. G. Mount, M.P., had also written, wishing access to the scheme. Mr. R. A. Hermon Hodge, M.P., wrote that he was in favour of the hatchery scheme and would give an annual subscription. Mr. H. T. Clutton had also promised a guinea a year, and had sent his first donation. He (Mr. Cook) had also been endeavouring to get the Thames Angling Preservation Society to interest themselves in the matter, and had received the following letter from Mr. Higgins: "Your letter upon the question of fish culture in the Thames has been fully considered at a meeting of the executive, and I am desired to inform you that the society does not feel justified in making the promise you suggest as to supplying funds for the proposed hatchery. Experts like Buckland, Francis, Stephen Ponder, and others, years ago, raised substantial funds, devoted enormous energy and ample time, without appreciable effect, after years of expense and anxious thought and close application to the object in view." In reply to this, said Mr. Cook, I wrote as follows: "Thanks for your letter relating to the proposed fish hatchery. I may say at once I am well aware that the work carried on by Buckland, Ponder, and others showed very poor results; but there were good reasons for this. In the first place fish culture was comparatively little known in those days, and the mistake was made (for it has proved a mistake since) of placing in the Thames fry of salmon and trout. To continue the work on these lines has never been in my mind, at any rate. Fish culturists nowadays meet with the most brilliant success, and there is no more reason why a fish cultural establishment should not be as successful on the Thames as at Howietoun or at Crickmere. With a hatchery there would have to be ponds where the fish could be reared until they were of sufficient size to be turned into the river. It was, moreover, not at all our idea to deal simply with the *salmonidae*, but to rear coarse fish in large quantities. We should no doubt benefit by the mistakes made by the earlier fish-culturists." Mr.

Higgins replied that he would put this letter before the next meeting of the T.A.P.S. executive.

Mr. Cook, in replying to a vote of thanks, said that if they received support, not only would the hatchery be started but they would endeavour to purchase the land on which it was built, so as to make the hatchery free to the Thames. They would only then require sufficient annual subscriptions for the working expenses, and as fish would be given in return for these the hatchery would be self-supporting. These conditions having been complied with, the fish which remained on hand would be a considerable quantity, and these the T.R.A. would turn into different sections of the river itself. The exact locality of the hatchery could not yet be decided upon, but he would suggest somewhere in Mid-Thames, a mile or so up a Thames tributary, where it would be absolutely safe from Thames floods. (Hear, hear.)

Mr. Howlett then referred to the abolition of the cast net, and said he thought the honorary assistant river keepers had been unfairly dealt with, and that the proposal would abolish the whole of the honest river keepers on the Thames. He moved the following resolution:

"That a letter be sent to the Thames Conservancy stating that, in the opinion of this association, it should be left in the hands of the local associations to recommend those persons who can be trusted to be assistant river keepers, whether professionals or non-professionals, with the privilege of using a cast net, and that it would be better to deprive an undesirable river keeper of his deputation than to take away from all honorary assistant river keepers any of the small privileges they have in return for their services; also that this association has no knowledge of any honorary assistant river keeper using the cast net for improper purposes."

Mr. Amphlett entirely agreed with the resolution, although he had neither directly or indirectly anything to do with it being proposed at that meeting. He thought a great injustice had been done by taking this privilege, which was seldom, if ever, taken advantage of, from the honorary river keepers, who were, he believed, all men of honour, who could be trusted.

The resolution was carried unanimously, and the meeting closed.

HON. REPORTER.

CAXTONIAN ANGLERS' ANNUAL DINNER.

THE twenty-seventh annual dinner of the Society of Caxton Anglers was held at the Falcon, Gough-square, on Thursday, when a most enthusiastic gathering assembled to support the president of this ancient and respected society, Mr. W. Cate, who was in the chair.

Amongst those present were Messrs. Parker, Clarke, Carpenter, Brooks, Jackson, Dr. Patterson, G. H. Howard, Harrison, Walker, J. J. Chapman, Chapman, jun., F. H. Amphlett, D. Denniford, W. H. Cate, Hall, F. Hiller, Goadby, Spong, and Hardy.

After the toast of the Queen had been received, Mr. J. J. Chapman, who occupied the vice-chair, proposed "The Society of the Caxtonians and its President." He said they were a very happy society, having an excellent president, who had been amongst them for a number of years. The club still continued to prosper, and the officers were always ready to answer to the call of duty.

Mr. W. Cate, in response, said he took a great interest in the welfare of the society, and had always done so. He should also continue to do so, for the harmonious feelings which existed amongst the members made it a pleasure to be their president.

"Kindred Societies and Visitors" was proposed by Mr. W. H. Cate in very happy phrases, and

Dr. Patterson, in reply, said it was with mingled feelings that he rose to reply. The toast was kindred societies, but he was inclined to look upon the B.S.A.S. and the Caxtonians as one and the same, and not kindred societies. Few members of that society were not members of the British Sea Anglers' Society. He had heard a gentleman present speak of capturing a 4½ lb. trout in a tennis net, but perhaps he was not a member, and certainly could not be strictly called an "angler, although he might say that any Caxtonian ought to be proud of such a capture. He could only, in conclusion, return thanks for the kind way in which the toast had been proposed, and hoped that the words of the song would not prove true, and that this would not be, in the words of the last singer, the "Last, last Time we Meet."

Mr. W. Cate, in proposing "The Prize Winners," always hoped the new members would win. He generally took part in the outings, and he enjoyed them very much.

Mr. Brooks, in response, said he was glad to think that he, personally, had done better than in the previous year. That was probably because their genial president was not there. (Laughter.) Next year he would try hard for the silver cup. He hoped that their chairman would join all their competitions next year. (Hear, hear.)

Mr. F. Hiller said he was at the bottom of the list of

prize winners, but he thought that in the particular class of fish which he had caught he was not at the bottom. He thought Mr. Clarke was rather carping when he called a carp a chub. He was pleased to see Mr. Howard present, for he (Mr. Hiller) was very loyal to the *Fishing Gazette*, and sometimes saw some very funny stories in it. He regretted the absence of Mr. G. D. Deuchar, and he hoped they would send their congratulations to him with regard to his winning the silver cup.

Mr. W. H. Cate, in proposing "The Angling Press," said they were very pleased to see Mr. G. H. Howard and Mr. Amphlett present, the former representing the *Fishing Gazette*, and the latter the *Thames Angling News*. They were all glad to get an opportunity to go fishing, but when they were unable to do so they enjoyed reading the angling press. He could not say that all the stories that they told were true, but he believed that they did their best to educate them in the art in which they one and all indulged. (Hear, hear.)

Mr. Howard said this was an annual function that he had never missed. The society was still alive, and they had their dear old president and his son, Willie, still amongst them. He thought he ought to belong to the society—(laughter)—for there were some monster prizes—(laughter)—though he did not know whether he would ever be able to win any.

Mr. Amphlett said that he thanked them for their support of the T.R.A., and was glad to think that that support would continue.

Mr. J. J. Chapman proposed "The Hon. Secretary," and whom, he said, looked after their welfare and finances with great ability, and he wished him long life and happiness. He hoped that his services would always be at their disposal, for he was a most able secretary. The toast was accorded musical honours.

Mr. W. H. Cate, in response, said he was glad that he had such an excellent committee to work with, for all the business of the society and their competition arrangements were done with great consideration towards him. He thanked them heartily for their generosity.

The Chairman announced during the evening that the prizes had been won as follows: Mr. W. H. Cate, honorary secretary, wins the first prize in the jack competition, value £3 3s.; the first and second prizes for bream, value £1 1s. and 10s. 6d. respectively; the first prize for chub, value £1 1s.; and the first prize for roach, value £1 1s. Mr. Deuchar wins the club cup, value £5 5s. Mr. Brooks wins the second prize in the jack competition, value £2 2s.; and the first prize for jack, value £1 1s. Mr. Parker wins the first and second prizes for tench, value £1 1s. and 10s. 6d. respectively; and the second prize for jack, value 10s. 6d. Mr. Stevens wins the second prize in the roach competition, value £2 2s. Mr. Chapman wins the third prize in the roach competition, value £1 1s.; and the first prize for dace, value £1 1s.; and Mr. Hiller has won the second prize for roach, value 10s. 6d.

There was an excellent musical entertainment during the evening.

Notes from the North.

THE old finnock question, or, as it is called, the "great" finnock question, is still being fully, and in some cases, fiercely, discussed in the north. Columns upon columns are appearing in Aberdeen local papers, of letters, interviews, and statements concerning the matter.

The weather is still far from genial, while, at times, occasional showers of snow and hail make it anything but agreeable to be at the waterside. There has been no show of March Browns to speak of as yet, and trouting prospects are bleak in the extreme.

Ex Inspector Crnickshank, of the Dee Fishery Board, does not think that the period of spring frost of '95 has anything to do with the present salmon famine. Rather, the series of easterly winds and coast storms have played the deuce with the returns.

Mr. McLeod, chief bailiff on the Ugie, has been busy during the past week transporting his 30,000 trout fry to the upper waters. He is quite enthusiastic over this new departure of restocking with trout, his operations hitherto having been confined entirely to *Salmo salar*.

Inspector Duncan, of the Dee Fishery Board, is about to distribute his annual tribute of over a million salmon fry hatched out in the Drum hatchery, belonging to the Dee Fishery Board. Half of the stock will be kept in the rearing pond, and the other half taken to various parts of the river well inland.

Mr. David Smith, Feughside Inn, Banchory, has the Upper Blackball water, for May, June, and July, with

rights on the Feugh, and anyone on the look-out for early summer quarters could not do better than go there for a week or so.

The Duke of York left the Balmoral waters just as a fine head of fish was teeming into the pools. If he could time his visit to April, it would be certainly less risky, as regards a good head of fish being forward in these parts, and the chances are that the weather would be more acceptable than during the past two seasons.

The Duke uses one of Hardy's powerful split cane steel centre rods, and is an excellent all-round caster.

Mr. Wm. Davidson, Bucksburn, Aberdeen, was fined £6 4s. for having had in his possession an "unclean" salmon, and for having consigned it, without branding it, to Newcastle, where the case was tried last week. Mr. Davidson did not know that, when he sent his fish thus across the Border, he was breaking the laws of the land; although, had he only sent it as far as Edinburgh or Glasgow, there would have been no mistake.

The Aberdeen Salmon Company, who lease the tidal salmon nets, charge £1 for a licence to angle on their fishery, where an expert who knows the ground may occasionally make a basket of a half dozen, or, at most, a dozen, small finnock. Some of the conditions are, if anything, hard. No wading, no angling after 9 p.m. (even in summer), no bait, no minnow. These might be modified with advantage, and the 5s. licence restored, then the cry of the finnock angler would be heard no more.

Golf has, during the past week, been over-topping all other sport in the north. A grand tournament came off, on Friday and Saturday at Cruden Bay, which brought a great many sportsmen into these parts. Naturally, the Ugie and Ythan came in for a share of attention afterwards.

Among lady anglers angling on Deeside just now may be mentioned Mrs. and Miss Pickering, Kincardine Lodge, Mrs. Bateman and Mrs. Laming, Glentana; Miss Nicoll, Roscobhie; Mrs. Leslie, Potarch; Mrs. T. Turner, Farley Cairnton; and Miss Fortescue, Kingussie. Not a bad representation of the fair for one single river.

SPECIAL SCOTCH.

Provincial Notes

FROM BIRMINGHAM AND DISTRICT.

A very pleasing meeting was held on Friday evening last in the lecture hall at Bingley Hall, when the members of the Birmingham Association assembled to witness the distribution of the money prizes given by Mr. G. Stanley, the manager of the Trades' Exhibition, for the exhibits of specimen fish. Mr. T. Coles presided over the meeting, which was well attended, and comprised nearly the whole of the best anglers in the city. Mr. Coles, in opening the proceedings, said that he, together with others, had looked forward for years to see a public display of specimen fish such as had been got together. It would be an inducement for clubs and their members to preserve all good fish taken. Mr. Stanley had done much to induce the members of the association to place their fish on view by giving them a substantial sum for prizes, and also giving each exhibitor a free pass for the whole time the exhibition remained open. Mr. C. White, the hon. secretary, said that although the notice for getting the cases together had been so short he had exceeded all expectations, as, instead of getting about fifty cases, he had got together near upon 200 cases. A vote of thanks was given to Mr. Stanley for his kindness, to which he replied. A vote of thanks was also given to the chairman for presiding, and to the hon. secretary. For some time past the constant pollution of the river Penk has been a source of annoyance to the whole of the angling clubs in Wolverhampton, and also to the tenants of the farms through which the river runs. This matter was brought before the notice of the committee of the Provincial Angling Association at their late meeting at Kidderminster, and the secretary was instructed to write the clerk of the Staffordshire County Council upon the matter, which has been done. The Penk, at one time, was one of the best fish-producing streams in Staffordshire; but since the Wolverhampton Corporation have commenced their sewage operations at the Bamhurst Farm the river has become comparatively worthless in that portion above Penkridge. In October, 1897, all the fish from Coven Lawn to Penkridge were poisoned, among them being from 8000 to 10,000 stock fish, turned in at a very considerable expense by a Wolverhampton angling club.

EIGHTY-THREE SALMON

Taken on one of our SPECIAL SINGLE GUT CASTS, such as we are now selling at 8s. each, or 90s. per dozen.

Warranted to pull 8lb. dead weight dry.

TROUT CASTS, 3 yards long, 9d. each, 8s. per dozen.

" " " " " extra tapered, 10d. each, or 9s. per dozen.

A VERY LARGE SELECTION OF SPRING SALMON AND TROUT FLIES IN STOCK AT VERY MODERATE PRICES.

OGDEN and SCOTFORD, 19, LEICESTER SQUARE, LONDON, W.C.

And at CHELTENHAM.

FROM DERBYSHIRE.

During the week there has been an improvement in the weather, although it still remains cold, with sharp frosts in the night time. The streams are running in capital condition, and there is a fair sprinkling of anglers on the best known and favourite waters. The unfavourable weather of the past few weeks retarded improvement in the condition of the fish, and they suffered from the great scarcity of natural flies on the waters, which, no doubt, was caused by the severe and continuous cold. An improvement, however, is now taking place, and warm weather will bring the fish into good condition. Fly anglers, trollers, and bottom fishers have, within the last few days, been only moderately successful on any of the streams, and but small creels have, as a rule, been made. Visitors, so far, have not been numerous on any of the upper waters of the Derwent, and not much has been done by any of them. The Bamford and Sickleholme reaches have yielded a few good sized fish, and some moderately fair baskets have been made on the lengths by Hathersage and Grindleford. The Stoke and Calver waters, both private and open, have in places afforded a little sport; and on the Baslow and Chatsworth portions of the river, where anglers have been tolerably numerous, a few small creels have been made both by fly and bottom fishing, mostly on the Park lengths between Baslow and Beely Bridge. The Beely and Rowsley reaches have furnished a few brace of fish, but angling generally has been far from good throughout the Chatsworth district, as elsewhere. The Darley Dale and Matlock waters have yielded a few fish, but, practically, nothing much has been done either there or on the Cromford and Lea Hurst reaches. Bottom fishers on the lower lengths of the river, by Helmesford, Watstanwell, Ambergate, and Belper have on some days done fairly well; but no large baskets appear to have been made in any part of the river. A few anglers from a distance have been out on the Millersdale and Monsoldale lengths of the Wye, and some small lots of trout have been taken; but, on the whole, sport has been very disappointing. There has been a tolerably good number of visitors to the Bakewell, Haddon, and Rowsley waters; but only exceedingly moderate success has been met with by any of them.

FROM THE FEN DISTRICT (LINCOLNSHIRE).

The weather has been so unsettled during the past week that trout anglers have scarcely wetted a line. The streams, however, have been greatly benefited by the recent rains, and as soon as warm weather sets in successful sport should be obtained. At the time of writing, the meteorological conditions were of a more promising character; but it is still extremely cold, and five degrees of frost, which have been the prevailing element overnight twice this week, are not calculated to increase the number of flies, which are very backward for the time of year. Those who have yet caught any trout have done so by bottom fishing.

FROM HULL AND DISTRICT.

Mr. Waites, of the Driffield Hearts of Oak A.S., has taken a good fish in the upper waters, but the best brace scaled 2lb. 10oz. and 1lb. 14oz. respectively, taken by Mr. H. Whitfield, a member of the River Hull A.S. Mr. J. Mason took one at Weelferry that scaled 1lb. 5½oz., and Mr. J. Cheeseman also caught one at Dunsell that scaled 1lb. 7oz. Messrs. Amos and Smith's A.S. visited the river at Hull Bridge to fish their first match of the season, and did fairly well. The Royal Albert A.S. also fish their first match on the river at Weelferry. Mr. J. Wilkinson taking the first prize with 1lb. 10oz. The Red Lion A.S. held their first match, Mr. J. Hartley taking first prize. The Holderness drains and the bays on both sides of the river Humber are furnishing fair sport amongst flounders and eels during tide times, and odd trout have also been met with. The Izaak Walton A.S. opened their season at Patrington, on the Winestead Drain, Mr. A. Davis being first prize man with 2lb. 8½oz. The East Hull Brass Band A.S. also fished theirs at the same place, Mr. Frank Carle taking first prize with 1lb. 11½oz., Mr. J. Lawson second, 1lb. 10½oz., and Mr. T. Northern third, 1lb. 1½oz. There are now in Hull and district no less than eighty-four angling societies; but out of that number only about thirty-four of them are affiliated to the Hull Amalgamation; taking this into consideration, it is high time the anglers of Hull moved in the matter, and did something to strengthen the hands of the amalgamation. To-day (Saturday) the East Riding and the Kingston Angling Societies each fish their first match on the river Hull, the former at Weelferry, and the latter at Hull Bridge; and on Saturday next the Stoneferry A.S. fish a match on Minto Flatts, and the Victoria A.S. hold their annual open match on the river.

FROM THE LAKE DISTRICT.

On account of the wintry weather which has prevailed, only a few anglers have been out. Many of the rivers within the jurisdiction of the West Cumberland Fishery Board have benefited during the past month by the enlargement of some thousands of young trout into their waters. The board's head bailiff, acting under instructions, has distributed the fish as follows: About 6000 to Bootle, 4000 to St. Bees, 2000 in the Bleng, 2000 in the Mite, about 2000 in a tributary of the Esk at Boot, Eskdale, and about 6000 in the river Ehen. The distribution was successfully carried out, hardly a fish dying from the removal. The question of fish ponds for hatching *versus* the purchase of trout has been under consideration by the board, it being contended that young fish can be bought at a lower sum than that expended on the board's hatching ponds.

FROM LANCASHIRE.

The St. Helen's Angling Association have lately devoted a lot of time, trouble, and money to improving the stock of fish in their waters. The king carp turned into the

Eccleston Dam a few years ago are now being taken upwards of 6lb. weight. The Liverpool East End Angling Association are due on the Aln to fish a match for trout on April 23, when suitable prizes will be offered. The Nelson Club have decided to open the coarse fishing season with a match which will be open to the members of other clubs. The West Derby Club is doing well, and at every meeting enrolling new members. They are strong already. The Warrington Anglers' Association announce, in answer to repeated inquiries, that the fishing in the river Bollen recently acquired will not be open to any but their own members. The Brook Tavern Angling Society, Swinton, have become affiliated with the County Palatine Angling Association. This association wish it to be distinctly understood that their waters at Irlam and Cadishead are closed entirely until officially notified otherwise. The Ribbles has been in fair order for fly fishing, but catches have been small. On the Lune the cold weather has affected both it and its tributaries. Baskets in consequence have been light, but still these streams are reported as fishing better, and prospects for the future are brighter.

FROM MANCHESTER.

Last Saturday we received the fish won by the Levens-bulme representatives in the recent Wyresdale competition, comprising 1000 rainbow trout. Several members of the club met them at the station. The Beswick Angling Society have arranged for an interesting lot of matches, the first of which is fixed for July 16. The total of Mr. Selkie's record of pike for the past winter was 279 pike (weight, 1831lb.) retained, and 96 pike (weight, 360lb.) returned. The Lancaster Angling Society, Longsight, had a good muster at their last general meeting, and disposed of a lot of useful business. Owing to the illness of Mr. Standing, his paper on Izaak Walton had to be deferred. The Moss Side Social Angling Society had a splendid muster at their last meeting, which included visitors. The prizes won in the recent stocking competition were presented. At their next meeting the dates of the championship competition will come up for discussion. The improved state of the weather has tempted a few anglers to try their luck, but they have not met with much success.

FROM NOTTINGHAM.

There is nothing to report as regards angling on the Trent, which has undergone another exceptional change—perhaps for the best in so far as future rod fishing for salmon is concerned. Maybe the big waters experienced will bring up additional "springers." Poor old Stephen Dale, of St. John-street, late Coalpit Lane, in this city, has gone over to the majority. The deceased, in his eightieth year, expired at Burton-on-Trent, and was buried there on the 13th inst. He had a leading hand in the production and perfection of the Nottingham centre-pin winch, and his old-established business in the lace town (he was in business fifty years) descends upon the shoulders of his most enterprising grandson, Mr. Harry Dale, who, as a Nottingham fisherman, enjoys the respect of all the leading lights in the profession. The Nottingham Waltonians have celebrated, since my last, their half-yearly dinner at headquarters, Blue Ball Inn, Peck-lane. Host Rayson provided a grand repast, and at the subsequent proceedings Mr. J. Truman (president of the Shoulder of Mutton Association) presented the customary prizes. The chairman proposed the success of the society, and paid a compliment to the members for their enthusiasm for the club and on behalf of the sport in general. Mr. Frettingham (president), in responding, expressed the hope that the society would soon be able to boast the possession of a stretch of water of its own.

FROM SHEFFIELD.

In the Derwent, between Hathersage and Yorkshire Bridge, some fairly good sport has been obtained by adopting the upstream method. With worms several nice trout have been landed, and at Sickleholme also a moderate amount of sport. The conditions for bottom fishing in that portion of the Amber rented by the Sheffield Trout Anglers' Society have been of a first-class character, and, with maggots as baits, fishermen have fared very well indeed, many of the catches running up to four brace per rod. Locally the best sport still continues to be obtained in the Loxley, and, with hand-feeding worms, visitors to the stream near Low Bradfield have fared fairly well. Very little sport has been obtained in the Sheaf, and it would appear that the unfortunate affair which occurred on Feb. 18 has altogether spoilt fishing—at any rate, for the present season. On Monday, Tyzack, Sons, and Turner were summoned at the Sheffield Police Court for putting, or permitting to be put, certain liquid or solid stuff, namely, the off-scourings of a dam, into the Sheaf, a tributary of the Don and Ouse, to such an extent as to cause the water to kill or poison fish. After a lengthy argument the defendants were fined £2, including costs.

FROM WORCESTER AND DISTRICT.

A lot of rain fell in this district during the past seven days, which kept the Severn in a high and discoloured state. There must also have been much rain farther up the country, for the Teme has been swollen and much discoloured, and practically put a stop to angling. Some of the smaller streams have not been discoloured but improved, and in some of them sport has been very fair, a few brace of very nice trout having been taken. The water in both the Severn and Teme is running off fast, and clearing nicely, and by Saturday should be in good condition for angling; and if the cold, frosty nights we are having should give place to something more genial, sport should be good. It was hoped the rise in the Severn would have brought some salmon up the river, but such does not seem to be the case. I have only heard of two fish being taken by the Worcester nets and one by the Upton-on-Severn nets during the week, which shows the

paucity of fish in the middle part of the river, and as the price continues so high (4s. to 4s. 6d. per lb.), I presume there have not been many fish caught elsewhere.

FROM YORK AND DISTRICT.

On account of the cold, wintery character of the weather, and the flooded condition of the streams, anglers have had a quiet time since the middle of last week, when the prospects were suddenly marred by the return of easterly and northerly winds, which brought forty-eight hours' rain, with sleet and snow in places. Trout fishers have had their sport spoilt, very little having been done. Early this week the wind changed to the west and south-west, and the effect was soon perceptible in a more genial atmosphere. The trembling year, however, is as yet unconfirmed, and it is early to be sure that the north-east wind has really given place to the effusive southern breezes.

ANSWERS TO CORRESPONDENTS.

BRAMFORD.—The charge for fishing the Red Lion Hotel water, at Farningham, is 7s. 6d. per day. At Eynsford, the Plough Inn has now no water to let, as it has all been taken (including Sir W. Hart Dyke's water).

Correspondence

[We do not hold ourselves responsible for the opinions expressed by our Correspondents.]

THE EXTRAORDINARY CLOSE TIME FOR TROUT IN NORTHERN FRANCE.

DEAR MARSTON,—I have just heard that we have won our cause, and gained revocation of the absurd edict which stopped trout (and salmon) fishing in the Pas de Calais, from April 17 to June 17, and I hope to hear that the two other northern departments—the Nord and the Somme—have followed suit.—Yours very faithfully,

CHAS. A. PAYTON.

TROUT FISHING AND BRACING AIR WANTED.

DEAR SIR,—If "Surgeon" will try Killaloe, Ireland, he will find first-class trout fishing, bracing air, lake and mountain scenery. The dapping on Lough Derg will be at its best during May, and nowhere will there be better fishing. There is also a good hit of free salmon and trout fishing opposite my house. If he will write to me I will be glad to give him full particulars. I can give him first-class accommodation and highest references, if necessary.—Faithfully yours,

P. M. GRACE.

Ayle Vane, Killaloe.

DEAR SIR,—In reply to "Surgeon's" letter in *Fishing Gazette*, if he has never tried Bihury, up amidst the Cotswold Hills, I think it would be just the very place for him if the Swan is not full up then. It is very bracing, and the scenery around very beautiful. There is a nice show of trout in the hotel waters, one and a half miles in extent, some of it very private and secluded. He should write Mrs. Woodman if she could put him up. He can have plenty of references. There is good postal service and a wire in the village.—Yours faithfully,

F. LOCKWOOD.

Fairford, Glos.

SIR,—If "Surgeon" will send me his address I will tell him of a pleasant trouting holiday by the river Tweed, where he can have fishing over thirty miles of river—really good trout angling, large river, splendid scenery, and bracing mountain air—at very trifling expense, ten hours from town. This, I think, my fifth excursion to the place, and I hope to go again soon.—Yours truly,

Higham Hill Fishery,

WM. SMITH.

Walthamstow.

DEAR SIR,—In reply to "Surgeon's" letter, he will find both bracing air and trout fishing in abundance in the extensive moors belonging to the Earl of Feversham (north of Kirbymoorside railway station), in the valleys of Farnedale and Bransdale, on the upper reaches of the Dove and Hodge. Tickets are obtainable at Estate Office, Helmsley, 1s. per week, 3s. per month, less by half or whole season. May Fly and Grey Drake last over a month. A brother doctor (now departed) was in the habit of bringing several friends yearly, and making Kirbymoorside or the Inn on the moors a centre. Charges are moderate. The local Is Guide to Ryedale, sold at Smith's bookstall, gives map and further particulars, and shall be glad to assist with fuller information to a brother fisherman on direct application. Some of the farm houses also provide accommodation.

JOHN CRAVEN FRANK.

High Hall, Kirbymoorside.

DEAR SIR,—If "Surgeon" has not tried Bihury, up amidst the Cotswold Hills, for trouting in May, I think he would find all his requirements there, that is, if he is lucky enough to be able to get a rod on the Swan waters, nearly two miles in extent. The rods are limited in numbers, so that there is never any over-crowding, and there is a very fair show of trout.—Yours faithfully,

F. L.

SIR,—In reply to "Surgeon's" inquiry, in your last week's issue, as to where he could get trout fishing combined with bracing mountain air, let me suggest that he should try Carsphairn, in the Stewarty of Kirkcudbright. This is a small village about 700ft. above sea level, amongst the Galloway hills, the land of "the Raiders," and river or burn fishing can be had close at hand, and loch fishing about five miles off. The air is splendidly bracing, and if "Surgeon" cares to climb some of the higher hills he will be rewarded with a magnificent pano-

rama (if the day is at all clear), ranging from Ben Lomond on the one hand to the Cumberland hills on the other. The hotel, the Salutation (Mrs. Mitchell), is surprisingly comfortable, and the place can be easily reached in one day from London. Route: by 10.35 a.m. Scotch express from St. Pancras to Kilmarnock; there change for Ayr (train connects), and from Ayr to Dalmellington; thence drive ten miles to Carsphairn. The postal address is Carsphairn, by New Galloway, N.B. There is a daily post and a telegraph office. I shall be glad to give any other information if desired.—Yours faithfully,
22, Glebe-road, Kilmarnock. A. DALGLEISH.

BAKER'S PATENT DAPPING FLIES.

DEAR SIR,—As to the construction of the patent fly. The construction of the fly is such that it is an imitation of a natural fly impaled upon a hook at right angles as for dapping. In practice the fly rests upon the water in a natural position, and the hook being placed immediately above it, is not visible to a fish viewing the fly from below. The position of the hook also causes it to act more effectually than in the case of ordinary artificial flies when used for dapping, and the fly being moveable on the bend of the hook, slides out of the way of the barb when a fish is struck.

As to the use of the patent fly. It supersedes the use of natural flies which cannot always be obtained, and which are, moreover, prohibited in many waters in common with other natural baits. That, being an artificial fly, as much skill is required to fish successfully with it as in other forms of artificial fly fishing, inasmuch as it is used in an artistic and sportmanlike way if on the surface of the water, and requires as much patience and as dexterous a hand and eye in practice, and owing to the presence of bushes, roots, &c., greater judgment and circumspection in playing and landing a fish. By using the Patent Fly, the plan of resorting to minnow and worm under the plea of removing the large cannibalistic trout is obviated. Small fish need not be allowed to take the fly, and are not often accidentally caught, and owing to the smallness of the hook used, no injury is done to returned or escaping fish. It is not necessary to dry the fly so long as it is kept on the surface of the water. I would call your attention to the hook, which has been specially designed for this fly by Messrs. Allcock and Co., of Redditch, from whom the flies can be obtained wholesale.—Yours truly,
MESSRS. S. ALLCOCK AND CO.

"THE GREAT ZEBRA TROUT."

DEAR SIR,—I have seen this week, at Blackpool, a fish in the Aquarium labelled "the great zebra trout."

Having asked a number of my piscatorial friends if they know anything of the breed, and receiving a negative reply, I should esteem it a favour if you will kindly inform us through the columns of the *Fishing Gazette*, where the fish is a native of, and to what size it grows. The specimen I saw was a very fine fish, much larger than any *Levenensis* or *fario* I have ever seen.—Yours truly,
G. H. WARD.

[This fish is probably a cross between *fontinalis* and *fario*.]

TROUT FISHING IN THE BLACK FOREST.

DEAR SIR,—To Waldshut on the Rhine is not a far cry, and once at the latter place a half hour's drive lands the inquisitive traveller in a charming little Black Forest hotel, on the banks of the river Schluecht, a capital trout stream, fishable free for seven miles.

I have fished there all through the last three seasons, occasionally walking to the banks of the Rhine to grapple with heavier fish. The name of the hotel is Bad Brückhaus, distant one hour and a half from Zürich and Schaffhausen, and situated amid woods and vineyards.
S. LITLEDAL BENTLEY.

Grand Hotel, Hungaria, Budapest.

[The above is kindly sent us by a member of the Fly Fishers' Club. It appeared in the *New York Herald*, Paris edition.—ED. F. G.]

RE WIRE SEA LINES, &c.

DEAR SIR,—If your correspondent, R. A. Goodman, will send us his address, we shall be most pleased to post him our price list. Any information he desires we shall be pleased to give as far as lays in our power, regarding wire lines and our "big wheel" pulley. We beg to draw attention to the fact that our price list is sent post free to any one who applies for same.—Yours truly,
A. CARTER AND CO.

137, St. John Street-road, London, E.C.

GENTLES IN WINTER.

DEAR SIR,—The above subject is evidently of much interest to your readers. Mr. G. Nash evidently understands the proper feeding of gentles. The gentles fed on fish or lights are no good for ground baiting purposes in streamy waters, as they are instantly carried away out of the swim, and so do more harm than good. A maggot fed on beef or liver is more solid, and sinks like a shot. Liver gentles are of a fine yellow. Big flies produce big gentles, and the art of feeding the flies needs to be understood. By careful attention to this and to the arrangement of proper heating apparatus I can produce gentles in winter fully up to the summer average in size, having a house specially designed and built for the purpose. I shall be pleased to submit samples to your correspondents, and also, what is more important, samples of freshly laid ova, of which I have had a supply all through the winter. The liveliness of the gentle is of course mainly a matter of freshness and of temperature.—Yours truly,
PICKERSGILL.

44, Market-place, Koighley.

NETTING FUND.

DEAR SIR,—Since last report I beg to acknowledge the receipt, with thanks, of £2 15s. from the Plumstead Piscatorial.—Yours faithfully,

ALEX. WRIGHT (Hon. Treasurer).

JAPANESE FLIES AND FISHING.

DEAR SIR,—The articles lately published by you on Japanese fly fishing (Averill in *Forest and Stream*), interested me very much, especially as I believe I sent you, some seventeen or eighteen years ago, the first Japanese artificial flies you had seen, and they were, if I remember rightly, presented by you to the Fly Fishers' Club.

The photograph of the flies in your last issue is first class, and anyone seeing it will at once have an idea of what I also think the correct angle at which hackles should be placed, i.e., on Palmer and Bumble Flies.

I send you enclosed two or three flies tied for me by Max Walbran some years back. I have done well with these, especially on Welsh streams (fishing both wet and dry), and think the gold bead at head and tail an excellent thing—certainly so in coloured water.

There were in the collection I sent you one or two grubs with red or pink beads at head and tail, and which I found very killing when grayling fishing. These, I should think, were supposed to represent shrimp, or some other fresh-water insect. The last patterns I have unfortunately lost.

Some of the hair on which these flies were tied was of enormous strength and length, though very fine; other flies were tied on two or four twisted hairs. I never used such strong hair (that is strength combined with fineness) as that obtained from some Japanese stallion ponies. But in these days of fine gut, both drawn and undrawn, we have practically discarded hair, especially when fly fishing.—Yours truly,
A. C. DE BOINVILLE

[The flies Mr. A. C. de Boinville sends are very good, and Mr. Walbran credit; they would kill well on any moorland trout streams. We remember Mr. de Boinville sending us some Jap flies on hair many years ago.—ED.]

SWANS.

DEAR SIR,—I am now able to report that after protracted negotiations with the Lord Chamberlain's Office, his lordship, through the Comptroller of H.M. Household, the Hon. Sir Spencer Ponsonby Fane, G.C.B., has been pleased to issue instructions to Mr. Abnett, H.M. swankeeper, to make arrangements with the Vintners' and Dyers' Companies to take off fifty barren swans (if so many can be found) between Teddington Lock and Penton Hook. The birds to be housed after receiving two clear days' notice from our head river keeper, and to be replaced on the river when we hear that the ova has hatched. The cost will be 2s. per head per swan per week, besides the costs, &c., of the swankeeper and his assistants, strict account whereof is to be kept.

Up to time of writing, perch have not commenced to spawn, owing doubtless to the abnormally cold weather.

DEAR MR. MARSTON,—Our head keeper writes, April 18, that the barren swans are off, but that only forty-two have as yet been found. He is going, however, to obtain the correct numbers, and will report by whom they are housed locally between Teddington Lock and Staines.

Wire netting and stakes have been ordered to such an extent as may be necessary, and Douglas, Knight, and others will be engaged in placing same.

Should the warm turn in the weather of to-day continue, perch will soon be in full spawning condition. Am afraid, however, night frosts may retard the hatching out.—Yours faithfully,
H. W. HIGGINS, Hon. Sec.

Thames Angling Preservation Society.

HERTFORD ANGLING SOCIETY.

DEAR SIR,—I regret to say our society is at present in the same condition, as the waters have been the past two seasons very low; but there is certainly an improvement this year, and there should be better sport. Unfortunately, we are compelled to give up the subscription water, as our funds would not meet the expenses, but shall endeavour to find our friends some little sport when they visit us.—Yours truly,
W. WALLER.

HOW THAMES ASSISTANT RIVER KEEPERS ARE APPRECIATED.

DEAR SIR,—I was as much surprised as Mr. Amphlett to get a letter from the Thames Conservancy, informing me that in consequence of the misuse of cast nets by some persons not mentioned, the privilege of using a cast net was to be taken away from all assistant river keepers.

I gather from your editorial note that some misapprehension exists concerning the history of this matter. Not so many years ago practically anyone used a cast net of considerable size in the Thames. I myself have seen, in the neighbourhood of Henley, five large cast nets being worked in one afternoon, and all for poaching purposes. The worst offenders in this respect were the waterside loafers, so-called watermen, men on the border line between being watermen and professional fishermen, and, in a few cases, the professional fishermen themselves.

Later on the size of the cast net was judiciously diminished, and, it being felt most undesirable to allow anyone to use a cast net who pleased, the use of these nets was limited to assistant river keepers. This was intended to have, and did have, the effect of making the better class of professional fishermen become assistant river keepers, in addition to several private gentlemen, who very generously gave up some of their time to the unpleasant duties connected with the post.

Now, I understand, the professional fishermen, some of whom were among the original offenders in the using of cast nets, are to continue to use the net, while the public-

spirited men, who have been acting as assistant river keepers solely in the interests of Thames anglers, are to be debarred from this small privilege. The thing is almost in the nature of an insult. If on the T.A.P.S. water there are one or two persons who are abusing the privilege, then they have no business to be assistant river keepers, and they should be deprived of their deputations by the Thames Conservancy; but to cast this slur on all the assistant river keepers appears to me a very grave matter.

I have only, in conclusion, to say that I have no personal interest whatever in the use of the cast net, as I have never used one in the Thames, or, indeed, in any other river, and have no wish to do so. I hope, in the interest of that good feeling which should exist among all who are helping to improve the Thames fisheries, the T.A.P.S. Committee, and also the Thames Conservators, will see their way to reconsider this matter, and at once take steps to annul the warrants of assistant river keeper given to those persons (if any) who have been netting the Thames for bait for purposes of sale and profit.—Yours faithfully,
JOHN BICKERDYKE.

DEAR SIR,—In your issue of the 8th inst. I notice Mr. Amphlett has once more given vent to an instalment of his large stock of ill-will towards the T.A.P.S., and with something more, if possible, than his usual lack of justice and common sense in dealing with an institution whose chief fault possibly, in his eyes, is that it does not include his worthy self in its executive.

He complains that the society has robbed certain honorary officials of a privilege to which they, like Mr. Amphlett himself, attach very little value.

If any of these "robbed" honorary river keepers feel themselves aggrieved, it is very doubtful if they will appreciate Mr. A.'s advocacy of their cause. At any rate, as one who respects the intentions and appreciates the work of the T.A.P.S., I consider that Mr. A. has paid the old society an unintentional compliment by writing such a long letter on such an unreal grievance.

The withdrawal of the use of the cast net to these gentlemen (and I venture to say that all, or nearly all, are placed in the same position as Mr. A. himself, that they do not possess one) will not lose the society any of its friends and supporters as Mr. Amphlett predicts, and seems most ardently to desire.—I am, sir, yours faithfully,
WALTER BACK.

TROUT FISHING IN IRELAND—'WARE BULLS.

DEAR SIR,—Presuming on your well-known kindness and courtesy, I would be glad if you would kindly insert in your valuable paper one or two items of information that might prove interesting to English anglers. In the first place, then, to those who are enamoured of trout fishing, I can strongly recommend Newtownstewart, co. Tyrone, as one of the very best centres in Ireland, and can make this statement with safety, having fished over the whole country. Newtownstewart is within easy access of four fine rivers, the swift and broken waters of which leaven to an angler's eye the home of trout, and, in the proper season, of salmon, too. The scenery is good, and the air fine and bracing.

I got the very best and kindest treatment I received in Ireland at the Abercorn Arms Hotel, where the angler's minutest wants are attended to. The best fishing on these waters can only be had by wading. I killed, myself, although only a moderate angler, twenty-three nice trout in one evening in the early part of this month, and under unfavourable conditions on no day need the sportsman return with an empty creel.

In the second place, to those who prefer grilse or peal fishing, I know of no finer river than the Mulcaire, a tributary of the Shannon, and which can be fished from Limeick. I found Geary's Hotel, Thomas-street, very comfortable. Whilst fishing the Mulcaire one day in August of last year I had five grilse in my bag averaging 4lb. each. I crossed a stile, intending to fish higher up the stream, and had to pass near a herd of cattle, which, to my surprise, began to show signs of hostility, and the bull more so than any. Matters became so threatening that I began slowly to retreat to the stile; the bull must have guessed (if bulls guess) my intention, and made a furious charge. I then put on full steam, and got half-way up the stile, when "taurus" rather rudely assisted me over the other half, and I fell sprawling, but unhurt, on the other side.

I never before had such deep feelings of devotion as when I viewed the now harmless and irate monster on the safe side of that stile.

Whilst fishing the Eden, above Carlisle, for salmon, I met with a very uncommon incident. I killed a 10½lb. fish, and saw a much larger one rise further out in the stream. I now waded in deeper, and let out a few more yards of line, and made as strong a cast as I could; but suddenly found my Castleconnell rod smashed by a violent wrench behind. On looking round, I found I had firmly hooked a bullock at the root of the tail. I gave him plenty of line (upon compulsion), got out, and played the animal a good distance, when the beast threw up his hind legs and left me minus a splendid casting line and two flies. The bullock then swam the river. During the play of this odd fish the laughter of the pedestrians was great, and I was compelled to join them.

I went home dejected, and asked my wife to kindly examine the hind quarters of the herd, so as to locate my loss, but she declined. However, my first accident proved to me that I am possessed of sprinting powers of which before I had no idea; and the cause of the commotion amongst the cattle was the sight of a flaring red tie. So I would advise all anglers to avoid red ties and bullocks.—I am, dear sir, yours faithfully,
F. WARREN, B.A.
Dublin.

Several letters unavoidably held over.

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THE FISHING GAZETTE is published every Saturday, and can be obtained at Messrs. W. H. Smith and Son's Railway Bookstalls and of the principal Newsagents and Fishing Tackle Dealers in London and the Provinces.

Communications relating to the Literary Department, Fishing Tackle for Notice, Books for Review, &c., should be addressed to R. B. MARSTON, Editor of the FISHING GAZETTE, St. Dunstan's House, Fetter-lane, London.

Correspondents are requested to write on one side of the paper only, and give their real names and addresses, not necessarily as signatures to their letters, but as a guarantee of good faith. Unless this rule be adhered to no notice will be taken of such communications.

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The GAZETTE can be had by sending Postal Order or Stamps to Messrs. Sampson Low, Marston and Co., Limited, the Proprietors, St. Dunstan's House, Fetter-lane, London, to whom all money payments should be made.

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Fishing Gazette

WITH WHICH IS INCORPORATED

ANGLING AND CLUB GOSSIP.

SATURDAY, APRIL 29TH, 1899.

THE NEW EDITION OF "DRY-FLY FISHING IN THEORY AND PRACTICE."*

THE last edition having long been out of print, we are glad to welcome a new and revised, and much cheaper edition of this classic of dry-fly fishing. The only sad thing about it is that it should be dedicated, not to George Selwyn Marryat personally, as the first edition was, but "to his memory"—a graceful tribute none the less. Nor could the author's references to his late friend in his preface to this edition easily be matched for genuine feeling and good taste.

It is interesting to know that many of the revisions and corrections in this edition were made by Mr. Marryat himself not long before his death, and that since then the author has consulted two of the best dry-fly fishermen of the day—Mr. N. Lloyd and Mr. W. H. Pope—and has incorporated in the present edition many valuable suggestions made by them.

As regards the particulars in which this edition differs from the earlier one, we cannot do better than quote Mr. Marryat's own words:

"A comparison of this with the original edition

will show that, although the alterations in the general scheme have been few, the revision of minor points and matters of detail has been most comprehensive. After all, success or non-success in dry-fly fishing is greatly dependent on matters of detail; and my chief aim and object have been to give the modern angler the benefit of any experience acquired during the last ten years, so as to bring this edition thoroughly up to date. Any real improvements in the manufacture of rods and tackle have been exhaustively treated, including the Lloyd Ferrule, as well as the valuable and practical suggestions of Mr. Hawksley in reference to testing rods. The early part of the chapter on selection of fly has, in view of experiments on the colour question, been entirely re-written, and in the later part it has been much improved by the addition of a number of new patterns which have been tried and found successful. The principles of playing a hooked fish in weedy places have been considered in the light of the experiments conducted in the first instance by Mr. Lloyd and checked by further experiments on the part of the author and many friends; and the chapter on *Autopsy* has been corrected and improved in details."

As regards the illustrations in this work, they are practically the same as in the first, and include the hand-coloured steel plates and the full page plates of the different casts sometimes used by dry-fly anglers, such as dry-switch, steeple, underhand, as well as the ordinary overhand cast used by most anglers in most cases.

These plates have scared some anglers off buying Mr. Halford's book, as they have glanced at them, and then said "what fearful work; life is too short to try to learn such terrific casting," whereas if they had read the book they would have seen that in the picture of the *dry switch* the length of line was only 10yds. from fly to reel; in all the other casts only about 12yds. to 15yds. were used, and the author refers to 10yds. to 15yds. as being the length for most people.

We think that Mr. Halford places too much reliance on the art of photography as controverting those writers who say that you should wait until the line is well extended behind you before making the forward cast. Mr. Halford says these writers say extended "in a straight line" behind you, but we do not remember any of them insisting quite on the "straight line." All they intended, of course, was that you should give the fly time behind before making the forward cast.

Then Mr. Halford says the line cannot be extended in a straight line behind you. "This position cannot in any style of casting with a line of appreciable length occur." But surely if this were correct you could not extend a fly in front of you, for the force and nature of the action sending the fly back is the same as that in sending it forward. If the line can never extend straight out behind you how does it happen that you often find your fly hitched up in the long grass, or in a bush or tree, in a straight line behind you, and to the full extent of your line behind you, so much so that you are pulled up short the instant you begin the forward cast? It is just because you have allowed a little too much time behind that your fly has dropped and hooked round that thistle as far behind you, as the fish you are trying for is in front of you. For these reasons we have never considered photographs of casting as having much more than a pictorial interest in most cases. Perhaps the cinematograph, which gives the whole movement, instead of a lightning flash part of it, may throw more light on this interesting point. But the fly fast round the twig 15yds. or 20yds. behind you, when you hoped to get it fast in the trout 15yds. or 20yds. in front of you, will always be a very stubborn fact to get over in considering this question.

IF THERE ARE NO FISH RISING SHOULD THE "DRY-FLY" MAN FISH?

This is a tremendous point in dry-fly ethics. In his first edition Mr. Halford said he thought it was "riding the hobby to death" never to fish except over rising fish, and said, "I for one am a strong advocate for floating a cocked fly over a likely place, even if no movement of a feeding fish has been seen there," and he describes likely places for so fishing.

In his new edition we are somewhat sorry to find he has cut out all about his being a strong

advocate for trying the dry fly in a likely place, and will only go so far as to say that: "If an angler on private or exceptionally well-stocked water sees a trout or grayling in position for feeding in a likely place, he is perhaps justified in floating a cocked fly over it."

We think most dry-fly anglers will agree with us that he would be fully justified in doing so—even if he only imagined the fish was there.

Just as there are High Churchmen, Broad Churchmen, and Low Churchmen, so there are High-dry-flymen, Broad-dry-flymen, and Low-dry-flymen.

The High-dry-flymen use only dry flies (cocked) over rising fish.

The Broad-dry-flymen use dry flies over rising fish, or where they expect a fish to rise.

The Low-dry-flymen use the Alexandra or a sunk alder on a dry fly water, if they cannot move fish with the dry fly.

They are all jolly good fellows, but the H. D. F. doesn't think a great deal of the B. D. F., and the B. D. F. thinks less of the L. D. F., and the L. D. F. thinks the other two are both B. F.'s (big flats, possibly).

Here a few words from Mr. Halford's book, which the beginner in dry-fly fishing ought to have engraved on a large brass plate and fastened on his creel:

"THE DRY-FLY ANGLER MUST EXPECT TO MISS AN ABNORMALLY LARGE PROPORTION OF RISES."

If our author had added, "therefore the dry-fly angler should carry an abnormally large whiskey flask," it would have been consoling and appropriate after such a damper. Mr. Halford does not tell us what a normal proportion of rises to miss would be, certainly as compared with the wet fly style the number of rises missed is far less in dry-fly fishing. Derbyshire anglers will agree with us that it is not quite correct to say that "in Derbyshire a few years back everyone fished downstream." We fished on the Derwent, Wye &c., thirty years ago, and fished and met many anglers who fished casting upstream, as recommended by Stewart, Wade, Ogden, and other writers forty and more years ago. For instance, the late James Ogden, who has many claims to be considered the father of dry-fly fishing, in describing how he introduced artificial dry-fly fishing on the Derbyshire Wye in 1865 says you should cast your fly upstream always, and keep below your fish.

"A SILENT ROD AND A WHISTLING LINE MEAN GOOD CASTING."

So said the late Mr. Marryat. Mr. Lloyd remarks in a footnote that he finds the rod always makes a noise if held so that the rings are in front. If, on the other hand, the rod is turned so that the rings lie above or underneath there is no sound from the rod, the line only being heard. Mr. Marryat often fished thus, which would account for his mistaken idea. We think it does not much matter which sings, and that at times both do, and at times neither. It depends on the wind, on the shape and make of the rings, on the nature of the line, as well, doubtless, as the position in which the rod is held and the force used in casting. Mr. G. M. Tod, in our columns many years ago, referred to the peculiar swish made by a good fly fisher.

"A FEEDING FISH SHOULD NEVER BE PASSED OVER."

This is another of Mr. Halford's maxims which the beginner should learn by heart. It does not matter how difficult the cast may be, try it if the fish is worth trying for. At the worst you leave a bit of gut and a fly behind; at the best you get a fish which, never tried for, is generally a good one.

Another good old maxim is, never to leave rising fish because you think you may do better elsewhere. Many an angler who has seen the fish begin rising has said to himself, "By George! those big fellows in Hine's Pool will be on now;" and hurries away from feeding fish, often only to find that those a mile higher up or down the stream are not feeding. The rise of fly is sometimes limited to a short stretch of water.

Although it is not in the least necessary to know one quarter, or one twentieth part for that matter, of all the "recipes and wrinkles" scattered so freely through Mr. Halford's invariably inte-

* DRY-FLY FISHING IN THEORY AND PRACTICE. B. Frederic M. Halford. Revised edition. London: Vinton and Co., Limited, 9, New Bridge-street, E.C.

resting pages—although it is quite unnecessary, we say, to know these and yet be a very good dry-fly fisherman, able to hold your own, as far as *killing fish goes*, with the best of them; still, there is no question, and can be no question, about the value of most of these rules. They are undoubtedly "correct tips;" but the bother of it is so few of us have leisure enough to carry them out. The fact is, that dry-fly fishing is not one quarter so difficult as anyone reading Mr. Halford's book would imagine. Trout in some of our rivers are well educated; but when Mr. Halford tells us to sit down and consider not only the probability of the fly dragging, but the general surroundings and the "*idiosyncrasies of the individual fish when feeding*," before attempting a cast, we can only say we fear life is too short for most of us to do so. Catch him first, and study his idiosyncrasies, *i.e.*, autopsy him afterwards, if you feel so disposed. For our own part, we regret to say, making autopsies of any sort has such a sickening effect that we would rather other people did it for us. And after all, what is the practical good of cutting open and making *post mortems* on trout? In ninety-nine cases out of a hundred you can tell the cause of death without that, and equally in ninety-nine cases out of a hundred it has no relation whatever to the contents of the deceased's stomach. The principal effect of an autopsy of a trout after you have had a good day's sport and a good dinner is to upset your own stomach, therefore we like to let others who have cast iron "innards" carry out these self-imposed investigations, which at times lead their devotees into error. For instance, on page 276, Mr. Halford says: "One often hears the expression 'splashing at sedge.' Do not believe it. Fish do not splash at sedge." In other words, they do not rise with any noise when feeding on sedge in the evenings. But what is one to believe, print or one's own eyes and ears? Many a time on an August or September evening have we seen the sedge flies coming down, and seen and heard the trout and grayling sucking them down with a noise like a cow pulling her hoof out of the mixen. On such occasions the grayling, especially the big fish, abandon their usual habit of returning to the bottom after rising and (especially if the water is at all deep) lie just under the surface, moving right and left like the trout to meet the flies. Fishing a short line to such fish rising under the bank just above you, with stoutish gut and a big Cinnamon Sedge, you can often hustle a good fish in the net before he knows what's up, by holding him hard and keeping his head on the surface.

It is interesting to note that the lovely 4lb. 9oz. trout which Mr. Halford presented to the Fly Fishers' Club, killed on a dark sedge one dark evening on the Test, was seen and weighed by Mr. Marryat, whose name is not mentioned in the first edition. After a most exciting description of his fight with this splendid fish Mr. Halford says:

"It was too dark to weigh it there and then, but on my way home I met my friend Marryat, who inquired as to my sport. I told him one fish over 2½lb., and another good one. To his inquiry 'How big?' I said 'Oh, about 4lb.' He said 'Let me see,' and added 'No, that is a well-conditioned fish, but it will not go 4lb.' However, when we reached home and weighed it, we found that, although a short fish, it was in such perfect condition as to turn the scale at and slightly above 4lb. 9oz."

Mr. Halford's directions for hooking, playing, and landing a trout will put the beginner into the best form if carefully followed out. We note that while Mr. Halford agrees with striking from the reel, which we believe we were the first to advocate in print, Mr. Pope thinks striking from the hand gives better immediate command over the fish, but qualifies it by saying "No doubt, when using very fine gut, it is safer to strike from the reel." It seems to us Mr. Pope gives himself away on this point, as if you are not using very fine gut there can be no fear of *smashing*.

A novelty in the way of playing a fish which has weeded you is described in this edition of Mr. Halford's book; it is based on practical experiments made by Mr. N. Lloyd and himself, and consists in taking the line in your fingers, and by "gentle hand playing," as it were, coaxing the fish out of the weeds, and once out of the weeds the fish "can be played with greater ease and certainty

by hand than by the rod, and that it is as easy to net the fish playing from the hand as from the rod." This sounds like sea fishing in the hand-line style. "It is only fair to add," says Mr. Halford, "that this plan, while uniformly successful on some days, seems to fail in nearly every case in others." On the whole, we should prefer to do the coaxing by pulling on the line gently with one hand, while holding the rod ready for a rush out in the other.

In conclusion we can only once again, as we have so often done in past years, recommend this charming and in every way interesting and admirable book to dry-fly anglers, and not only to dry-fly anglers but to all fly fishermen, for there is not a fly fishing stream in the whole world in which its most clear and practical directions may not be followed with advantage.

THE SOUTH COUNTRY TROUT STREAMS.*

"The trout fisher, like the landscape painter, harnts the loveliest places of the earth, and haunts them alone."
—TOM BROWN at OXFORD.

THIS appropriate quotation is on the title page of Mr. George A. B. Dewar's new and most welcome little book on our south country trout streams, a book which in our opinion cannot fail not only to interest but also to be of very great use to south country anglers. With this and



Frontispiece to]

ON THE UPPER TEST.

["South Country Trout Streams."

(From Mr. Percy Buckman's Picture, by kind permission of Mr. Henry Hammans).

"The Angler's Diary" (edited by Mr. Irwin E. B. Cox, now, we are glad to say, M.P.), those who want to find some quiet fishing place from Kent to Cornwall ought not to have much difficulty, especially as the diary is arranged alphabetically, and Mr. Dewar's book has an excellent index.

In the preface, after thanking many gentlemen for information supplied to him, Mr. Dewar says: "Two things have especially struck me in the course of my inquiries into the condition and the characteristics of our south country trout streams. First, the large and, I am afraid, not decreasing number of fine waters which are subjected to the most objectionable forms of pollution, and, secondly, the lowering of the springs of various chalk streams by water companies and the like."

The only remedy for this unhappy state of many of our rivers is to educate the public generally to see that sewage and refuse from mills and factories ought never to be put into running or other waters. That the modern British sewage farm is a horrible fraud is proved by the condition of the Wandle below the Croydon sewage farm effluents, by the condition of the Lea at

Tottenham, the Stour below Canterbury; but it is sickening to go through the list, and the recent report of the Trent Board of Conservators shows a similar horrible state of affairs, salmon practically extinct, and the main river and its tributaries literally poisoned to death. The people who draw up the books used by our School Boards ought to appoint a committee to inquire into the condition of our rivers and streams, and report in the books supplied to the children: then the coming generation would demand reform.

In his opening chapter Mr. Dewar says that "it is a somewhat curious fact that a trout-fishing expedition, or holiday, commonly conveys the idea to the south country man, and more especially, perhaps, to the Londoner, of a trip to the North of England, to Wales, or Scotland, or even much farther afield." We venture to say that the thousands of south country anglers, and especially the Londoners, who fish in the hundreds of trout streams mentioned in this charming little book, will tell the author that his "curious fact" is only pure fancy; if Mr. Dewar had referred to a salmon-fishing expedition, or holiday, of course it would be different. The fact is, Mr. Dewar has a wonderfully amusing way of discovering things which exist only in his own imagination, or else have been common knowledge to everybody else for centuries. For instance, he "does not hesitate to assert" (p. 2) that "a good deal of the finest trout fishing in the United Kingdom is actually in, or hard by, the counties, or shires, of the

southern seaboard." If Mr. Dewar had said it is well known that the finest trout fishing to be had in these islands is to be had in our south country streams nobody who knows would have been surprised. For size, wariness, and gameness where can you beat the trout of our south country chalk streams?

We will not wade with Mr. Dewar deep into the oil bottle and its value. He says he "still ventures to hold the view that the fly can be made to float and kill without the oil." Who ever said it could not? What did we all do in the twenty or five-and-twenty antemaccassar years of dry fly fishing? Why, we worked three times as hard as was necessary, and on soaking wet days we had to stop indoors, instead of going out to fish dry, as now we can do.

However, let the galled angler wince, our feathers are unwrung (and don't want wringing, as they are oiled). Anyone who has ever seen, as we have often done, an artificial May Fly cast on a rough, wet day among waves, get pulled clean under water, and then come up and float like a duck, will never, as long as he lives, question the value of paraffin. Of course, some flies float better than others—some feathers are naturally oily, and, unless they have been treated with soda, will throw off the water better than others; but a little paraffin makes all wonderfully buoyant, and

* THE SOUTH COUNTRY TROUT STREAMS. By Geo. A. B. Dewar, Author of "The Book of the Dry Fly." Illustrated. London: Lawrence and Bullen Ltd. Being the new volume in the Angler's Library edited by Sir Herbert Maxwell, Bt., and F. G. Adabo.

we also find that moths will not attack flies which have been paraffined. The question as to whether the oil used should be odourless or not is purely a personal one for the angler. The fish don't mind the smell or flash point of the oil, it's the flash of the rod they object to. But accidents will happen and last season, in getting an oil bottle replenished at a cottage, the old lady upset some on the fish in our creel. If it had been "Dagonet's" "Tatcho," which is nicely scented, it would not have mattered so much. "Tatcho" is evidently an inflammable oil, highly scented with citron, and as such we recommend it to dry fly anglers, as a shilling bottle will last for months; and to test its nature soak a bit of paper in it, and then set fire to it, and it flares up like—paraffin. For this reason those who use it as a hair dressing should be very careful of fire.

To give our readers an idea of the scope of Mr. Dewar's book, it is only necessary to say that it deals in a more or less general, but always interesting, way with the streams of Kent, Surrey, Middlesex, Hertfordshire, Sussex, Bucks, Oxfordshire, Gloucestershire, Berkshire, Hampshire, Dorsetshire, Wiltshire, Somersetshire, Devonshire, and Cornwall.

One of the things Mr. Dewar mentions, viz., the "lessening in the number of natural flies" noticed on many rivers, he does not think is so widespread an evil as some anglers suppose, and he quotes Sir Humphry Davy as stating that he had observed a diminution of the number of flies in some rivers he had fished for the best part of half a century, and as Sir Humphry wrote over seventy years ago, Mr. Dewar has grounds for his inference that things are not so bad as some of us suppose. We are all too prone to praise the good old times at the expense of the present, but who would really care to go back to the old coach days when people in this country were hung, or branded, or transported for stealing a loaf or a pocket-handkerchief? All the same, there can be no doubt of the disappearance of the May Fly from many stretches of water where it was formerly plentiful, and we know stretches of the Test, Itchen, etc., where it is certain the variety and quantity of small fly is not what it was ten or twenty years ago. As Penton, the late Mr. T. J. Mann's admirable river keeper, says (and few have had better opportunities of observing): "The absence of fly grows less." Penton (who one morning landed for Mr. Mann four trout weighing 16lb., all killed on a small dark olive) means the reverse of what he says, but his quaint way of putting it emphasises the fact. He is one of the best river keepers we ever met (alas, now no longer able to do much active work), and the water under his care below Horsebridge for many years held the finest stock of trout, both for size, number, and quality, that we have ever seen, and when he commenced work on it early in the eighties, there were more pike than trout. At that time, and for some years, Mr. Mann bred his own trout, and it was not until he gave up doing so that the stock began to show signs of falling off.

We think few anglers will be disposed to question one statement of Mr. Dewar, viz., that in consequence of well sinking and abstraction of the natural flow of water in other ways, there is not nearly the same volume of water in many of our streams. The Darent is a notable instance, and some of the celebrated Hertfordshire trout streams threaten not to have enough water in them to cover a decent trout before long, and naturally nothing plays old Harry with a fishery so much as absence of water, except absence of fish.

A very pleasant chapter in Mr. Dewar's book is No. III., in which he describes a south country trout stream, its scenery and wild life; there is nothing affected about his love of streamland and its delights, nothing, perhaps, very new in his descriptions, but his style has the genuine ring, and, moreover, Mr. Dewar is able to make very happy contrasts between the rivers and the scenery of all the district he treats of, and of others outside it, very much of his descriptions being from personal experience. How better could the Mimram be touched off than in these few words: ". . . nor the excellent streams of Hertfordshire, such as the Mimram, or Maran, that can often hide itself behind a thin hedge, so as to be neither seen nor heard by one who passes by within a few yards, and knows nothing of its dashing two-pounders." All who have fished this

pretty stream will admit the truth of this little picture of it.

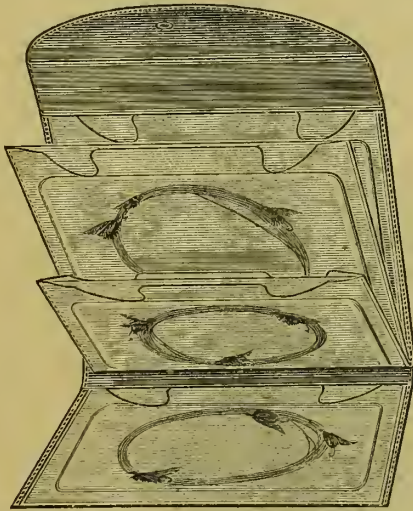
But we must not attempt to follow Mr. Dewar in his wanderings all over this delightful south country, though we have read all his book with great pleasure, and admired his illustrations. It is a book of reference for the angler looking out for fresh fishing quarters, and its information about waters, quarters, fish, and flies is most pleasantly interspersed with natural descriptions and apt quotations from previous travellers over the same district and writers on the same subject. There is no book covering the same ground in the same way, and we most confidently recommend it to all who love a charming book about angling, but especially to lovers of our south country streams.

THE "ARCHER" CAST CASE WITH TRANSPARENT POCKETS.

PROVISIONALLY PROTECTED.

THIS new cast case is intended to put gut casts and made-up casts in, as the pockets are of embossed transparency, and the contents of each can be seen at a glance.

The wholesale manufacturers of this new registered cast case are Messrs. W. Bartleet and Sons, of Redditch; it can be obtained through any retail fishing tackle maker, and there can be little doubt about its becoming one of the most popular cases for holding gut casts in the market.



The beauty of the case is that you slip your gut casts of different kinds, fine, medium, and stout, and your made-up cast of three flies—if you use them so—and your hank of fine gut for renewing the important last link next the hook; you slip these things, and your fishing ticket if you like, into a transparent pocket made of xylonite. This material is stiffer than parchment, very tough, and although you can see your casts, yet they are perfectly protected from damp, and also from light when the case is closed. Every angler knows the truth of the old saying "out of sight, out of mind." You put some special collars, etc., away carefully in the pockets of your fly book, and forget all about it; in the Archer case everything it contains is seen at a glance as you turn over the leaves. Messrs. Bartleet are applying the sheets of transparent xylonite in making fly books, etc.

We are so pleased with the sample they have sent us that we have ordered half a dozen to be made slightly larger, and intend to try one for holding trout and grayling flies on eyed hooks; with a pair of flat nippers it will be quite easy to pick out any fly you want, and while you can see them all, they are safe from damp and moth. With a few modifications the idea can be adapted to suit the dry-fly or wet-fly angler admirably—we mean for holding flies, as well as casts. This inexpensive novelty has certainly a big sale before it.

MR. R. RAMSBOTTOM'S CATALOGUE.

ONE HUNDRED strands of gut for threepence! A three yard gut line for twopence! Everyone naturally turns to the pricelist of gut in the nicely got up and fully illustrated catalogue of Mr. R. Ramsbottom, of Gt. Market-street, Manchester, and the above named items at once "catch the

eye," no doubt they will catch fish too, though naturally in no way equal to the higher qualities of the "Refina" gut ranging from 1s. to 4s. 6d. per hank, or the drawn gut ranging from 3s. to 10s. per hank of 100 strands. Mr. Ramsbottom's salmon casts range from 2s. to 10s. 6d. each, and his trout casts from 2d. to 1s. per 3yds.

But Mr. Ramsbottom's catalogue covers every branch of angling, and he is himself an angler and practical fly-maker of over forty years' experience. The following note introduces the long list of general and special patterns of which his catalogue makes mention:

"In presenting my list of trout flies I beg to offer to anglers a few remarks upon a subject on which I claim to speak with some authority, having sat for twelve years at the fly bench, and, in addition, used flies from the subjoined list for over forty years.

"In the first place kindly take a word of warning and eschew all cheap flies. Their use is fraught with infinite annoyance and provocative of profanity. To find a particular fly taking well, and every second or third fish either breaking off the point of the hook, pulling away the feathers, or snapping the gut, is by no means conducive to a rapid growth of the Christian graces, and yet such results not only invariably follow the purchase of cheap (?) flies, but, in the nature of things, must do so. In flies, above all things, you require the best materials and the finest workmanship, coupled with a nice judgment of shade and colour. To obtain these advantages the angler will find a few pence extra on a dozen of flies well spent; I therefore make a charge of 1s. 6d. per dozen, holding these to be cheaper than any made at a lower price, when the full difference in workmanship and material is taken into account.

"My ordinary stock comprises fully 250 varieties, but about 100 are selected therefrom, which will, I believe, be found equal to every requirement of the angler."

Among the salmon flies we notice Ramsbottom's Parson and Ramsbottom's President, both favourites with many of Mr. R.'s customers. The list has a good index, and more than 250 illustrations.

ROWLAND AND HARRISON'S ADDRESS LABELS.

ANGLERS who are in the happy position of being able to send to their friends dishes of trout, or other fish of their own catching, are invited to look at the new advertisement appearing in our columns this week (on page 298). It shows a black and white representation of the nicely coloured and well-drawn trout, which is the distinctive feature in the new address labels invented by Messrs. Rowland and Harrison. The labels are cut out to the shape of the fish, and even a man who could not read could see that the parcel that had this label on contained fish, and must be delivered quickly. It is a good idea well carried out, and every angler who expects to have good sport should keep a supply of these nice trout labels handy. Messrs. S. Allcock and Co. are the wholesale agents.

FISHINGS AND SHOOTINGS TO LET IN IRELAND.

MESSRS. JOSEPH BRADDELL AND SON, whose catalogue of high-class fishing rods and tackle we noticed recently, send us their 1899 list of "Fishings and Shootings to be Let," with the large coloured map of Ireland by John Bartholomew which we have so often praised in these columns. In addition to a long list of fishings and shootings to let the "list" contains particulars respecting salmon and trout fishing quarters, sea fishing, yacht clubs, game licences, fence months, hunting, &c.

Messrs. Braddell are the makers of the patent "Flexible Grip" Castleconnell greenheart rods, which have long had a great reputation among lovers of the fascinating Castleconnell style of rod.

SOME A1 GUT CASTS.

MR. GEORGE HOLLAND, 29, The Square, Winchester, has prepared for this season a supply of gut casts made from specially picked gut, nice and soft to the feel, three yards tapered, and each strand fastened with a very neat buffer knot, as suggested originally by Mr. Cholmondeley Pennell many years ago, only not made quite in the same way and a very short buffer. The casts are 1s. 6d. each, and well worth it.

GRESHAM ANGLING SOCIETY.

THE annual dinner of the Gresham Angling Society, held on Tuesday night, April 25, at headquarters, the Masons' Hall Tavern, Coleman-street, E.C., passed off most successfully. Mr. C. H. Cook ("John Bickerdyke") presided, and in the vice-chairs were Messrs. W. Marshall and G. Girling. There was a large company present. Letters of regret at absence were received from, among others, Messrs. E. H. Bramley, F. Abraham, E. J. Chambers, G. Hoyle, A. J. Bonsall, A. Gee, G. Rose, L. B. Wrightson, G. Ohlson, F. R. Ohlson, J. H. Ranger, Cartland, &c.

In giving the toast of "The Queen," the CHAIRMAN mentioned the interesting fact that Her Majesty was a subscriber to the Windsor and Eton Preservation Association.

The CHAIRMAN next rose to propose the toast of the evening, "Success to the Gresham Angling

fraternal intercourse had increased; they did not have any gross weight, but a good standard of specimen fish, which they stuck to, and they gave prizes as a reward, as an acknowledgment of the excellence of their skill. Gross-weight fishing, in his opinion, was likely to create jealousy and bad feeling. His (Mr. Cook's) idea of angling was the angling of Izaak Walton—the pursuit of the sport by wandering streams, to get away from the smoky town, to listen to the song of birds and the hum of insects, and perhaps there might be a pretty milkmaid in the question. The charm of angling did not only consist in catching fish for the pot or for the weighing-in scales. The chairman went on to refer to the various points connected with the club, and one of those points, he said, was the activity displayed by their committee. The members of the society now numbered 130. There was a balance in hand, their fishery leases had been renewed, and their weeds cut at Kel-

secure new waters for the club. Words of praise were also due to their entertainment committee. Another point was the splendid example set by their treasurer in re-stocking their water at Chesham. Last but by no means least he desired to draw their attention particularly to the able manner in which Mr. Wright, their hon. secretary, carried out his duties.

MR. J. P. CONNELLAN, in responding, said he was glad to hear that they had succeeded in carrying out the business of the society to their satisfaction. It was a very joyful occasion for them that evening. It was their pay day, and their payment was the club's thanks. They had paid them very liberally that evening, and on behalf of the officers he thanked them for that payment.

MR. J. B. CLOSE also acknowledged the toast, remarking that they had only done what the members of the club had asked them to do—it was their fault if they had not done more. They hoped the club would find them more work. They were quite ready and willing to carry it out, and they called for it. They could not help working well when they looked round and saw the class of members they were so strongly supported by.

The CHAIRMAN, rising again, said he had no idea that he would have to perform anything more than the ordinary duties of a chairman, but he was delighted to that night have an extra turn placed upon him. He understood that, after fourteen years' service as their hon. treasurer, Mr. Parker had retired. He had always worked well in the club's interests. The members of the club had decided—and very properly decided—to give Mr. Parker some small mark of their esteem and respect, and it had taken the form of a clock. If that clock was furnished with a pendulum, and the gong had a good sounding boom, they could not have presented Mr. Parker with anything more appropriate or better. Not only had Mr. Parker been hon. treasurer of the society for many years, but also had held a similar position on the London Anglers' Association, and had been engaged in almost every movement for the benefit of angling in that part of England. He (Mr. Cook) hoped he had expressed the members' feelings, and now he had only to present Mr. Parker with the clock.

MR. A. W. PARKER, on rising to reply, was received with loud and prolonged cheers. He thanked them most heartily for the very kind and handsome present. He was sure the work he had done for the society had been carried out without any thought of fee or reward. It was a pleasure to do the work. Since he had been a member of that club he had learned a very great deal, beginning with a paper read by Mr. Bentley. The chairman (Mr. Cook) had helped him a very great deal with his (Mr. Cook's) first book on sea fishing, which was worth far more than the price asked. Before they could instruct every man must learn, and he had reaped a very great reward by listening to papers at the Gresham. He begged to thank all very much.

The CHAIRMAN said he had a little tale to relate about his sea-fishing book. Once, while fishing at Filey, on the Yorkshire coast, he met a young fellow at his hotel who said he would be glad to go out and give him a wrinkle or so. They went out in a coble, and Mr. Cook was very humble and willing to learn. The young fellow told him a lot of things, and Mr. Cook answered nearly every time, "Yes, I should do the same." Happening to look in the angler's bag, what did he see but his own little book, and he had been actually teaching him sea fishing from what he had written himself.

The CHAIRMAN also presented the prizes, and heartily congratulated the various winners. These were:

DR. BRUNTON'S CUP.

Mr. W. R. Reeves, for perch of 2lb. 2oz., and grayling, 2lb. 1oz.

DR. LADELL'S SHIELD.

Mr. J. T. Emery, for trout of 3lb. 10oz., and bream of 5lb.

DEAL CHALLENGE CUP.

Mr. E. C. Clements.

SILVER MEDALS.

Messrs. J. T. Emery, for trout of 2lb. 10oz. (Chesham); W. R. Reeves, for perch of 2lb. 2oz. J. H. Walker, for grayling of 2lb. 4oz.; Wright-



PATERNOSTERING—"A GENTLE PULL AT THE ROD-TOP."

(From John Bickerdyke's "Angling for Pike")

Society." It was, he said, a deservedly honoured toast, because there was no angling society in England, in the world, which was so flourishing, so prosperous, so excellent, and so energetic as the Gresham Angling Club. The membership of the society was always increasing, and he did not wonder at it when he looked at their rules. One of their objects, as set forth in those rules, was "to promote the advancement of the art of angling," and what society had done more to advance it than that club? He did not know of any, although, perhaps, there were members of a certain club who might cross swords with him over that statement. But let them refer, for instance, to sea fishing. Why, their society was the pioneer of the sport, and their good friend, Mr. Parker, and many other members, had always been to the front in turning sea fishing into a delightful art, as against the commercial system of hauling fish into the boat. Their

vedon, where their private water was thoroughly well stocked with coarse fish. Lastly, there was the library and the museum, both of which were steadily increasing. He had only to add his best wishes for the success of the Gresham Angling Society—might it go on increasing, flourishing, and prospering, which he was sure it would while it had such an admirable committee to support it.

Proposing the toast of "The Committee and Officers," Mr. F. E. ELDERED remarked on the admirable way in which the business of the club had been conducted. A very noteworthy feature was the large amount of time and attention given to angling matters and to the society in particular, and the ready manner in which any suggestions emanating from the ordinary meetings had been acted upon. In many cases they had even anticipated their wishes in the direction and carried them out. Another point which struck him was the alertness shown by the committee to

son, for pike of 15lb. 8oz.; J. B. Close, for trout of 3lb. 9oz.; E. C. Clements, for whiting of 2lb. 14oz.; J. Dryden, for cod of 14lb. 2oz.; and Dr. C. S. Patterson, for conger of 18lb.

Mr. W. R. REEVES, in replying for the prize winners, made kindly reference to the late Dr. Brunton, and said that it was, he believed, with one of that well-known angler's favourite flies that he took the specimen grayling. It was later on intimated that Mr. Reeves would put some trout in the Chess, a river in which the late Dr. Brunton (whose cup he had won) took much interest.

Mr. J. B. CLOSE next submitted the toast of "Preservation and Angling Societies," remarking that an enormous amount of money had been expended upon the preservation and protection of the Thames, the national river. He was very pleased to find that at the present moment the various preservation and re-stocking societies, although they carried on their own business separately, worked jointly together on behalf of one great and grand movement. These associations were doing a very big work. Mr. Close referred to the T.A.P.S. (founded in 1838), to the upper river societies, and said that within the last two or three years a new society had been founded up the Thames—the Thames Re-Stocking Association—of which their chairman of that evening was the working head. He hoped it would develop, increase, and receive the support of the angling societies; and he trusted that its object would be attained. The Re-Stocking Association had brought forward one of the biggest schemes ever placed before the angling public—to go in for the British workman system of re-stocking the river Thames; and, so far as he could glean, they were going to introduce fish to that river indigenous to it. The fish would not be confined to trout, but would include all the coarse fish that were generally found in the Thames. As for the Thames, he believed that it was better protected and preserved, and yielded better fish than ever. They also had the Lea, which was watched, preserved, and re-stocked by the London Anglers' Association. They had re-stocked that river with quantities—he might say tons—of fish at a time, all, too, large, mature fish. In conclusion, Mr. Close referred to the good work the Anglers' Benevolent Society was carrying on, remarking that it had been able to relieve many club anglers who had fallen upon evil days.

Mr. A. R. MATTHEWS acknowledged the toast, as a member of the Thames Angling Preservation Society and the London Anglers' Association. He thanked Mr. Close for the kind way he had spoken of the Thames Associations, and expressed the opinion that the Thames was the best preserved and the best stocked angling river in England. He had fished in many parts, but after all, from an angling point of view, no water, in his opinion, could excel the Thames. It was the finest all-round angling river in England; but, at the same time, he asserted that but for the formation of the T.A.P.S. it would have been a very poor fishing river indeed. He always came back to his Thames with delight, because he knew the fish were there. Speaking with reference to the club anglers of London, he claimed that they were the most sportsmanlike big body of anglers to be met with—anglers who had called for a fish measurement up the Thames, and who, although they did not support preservation and re-stocking as he should like to see them do, yet, nevertheless, had done much to improve the sport for themselves and the public. In conclusion, he said he could assure them that the associations to which he had the honour to belong would do in the future what they had done in the past, and perhaps a little more.

Mr. T. B. FOURMY next gave the health of "The Visitors," observing that the Gresham's motto was not to fish for the bag, but for specimen fish. Applying it to the visitors, they had broken the rule somewhat—they had numerous visitors there that night—but in coupling the toast with the name of Mr. Chatterton he felt sure they would agree with him that they had carried out the latter part of their motto, and captured a specimen fish. He extended a hearty welcome to the visitors, and hoped they would retain pleasant recollections of the Gresham angling dinner of 1899.

Mr. G. J. CHATTERTON, who met with a very cordial reception, remarked that whoever com-

piled the programme was a man of business. He had a desire to minister to the weaknesses of the speakers, and had very kindly provided them with ideas. He could, he said, quite appreciate their pleasure in offering hospitality to himself and his friends that evening, because it had been his privilege on several occasions to act as host at an angling club. He belonged to a society of which their chairman that evening was the president—the Fly Fishers' Club—and that he would call the Carlton Club of the piscatorial world. He also belonged to the True Waltonians, who looked so far back into history that it might be almost said that the mantle of the prophet was upon their shoulders—that was, Izaak Walton's mantle—and he called that the Athenæum; while he was further a member of the Piscatorial Society, which could be very well described as the Constitutional. He had at once, he thought, showed that he had offered hospitality to guests, and now he was the guest at the hands of the Gresham Society, and he thought that the Gresham might be best described as a happy union between the National Liberal and the Reform. It was admitted on all hands that it was the most progressive angling society in the world. It was a very great privilege to be their guest, and he expressed the sentiments of all present in the capacity of guests that they hoped the club might continue to flourish, and that the mark they had already made in the angling world might be continued. They were told that brevity was eloquence, therefore he would conclude by heartily thanking them for all the good things they had placed before them that evening.

Mr. JAMES TAYLER ("Red Palmer") proposed "The Press," and Messrs. A. R. MATTHEWS and G. H. HOWARD acknowledged the toast.

Mr. GIRLING submitted the health of "The Chairman" (which was received with musical honours), remarking that Mr. Cook was one of the most accomplished men of his day. It was charming to read his books; he was a most expert fisherman; was a most unselfish angler; and, he thought they would agree with him, made one of the finest chairmen that they could possibly conceive.

Mr. COOK, in replying, thanked the company for their kind reception, and referred to a most influential association which had been formed to preserve the Thames as a national place of recreation. It was called the Thames League, and the sport of angling was not to be overlooked.

Mr. BENTLEY proposed "The Vice-Chairman," remarking that they had had a captain and two vice-captains, and under their command the evening had been brought to a brilliant conclusion.

Mr. W. MARSHALL and Mr. G. GIRLING suitably acknowledged the toast, and after "The Angler's Song" had been given by Mr. Bentley, the proceedings terminated with "God Save the Queen."

During the evening the various toasts were interspersed with some excellent music, contributed by Messrs. Pelham Wilkes, W. Wheeler, Wallis Arthur, H. S. Starnes, L. Oakley Parrott, F. G. Gray, &c.

We are indebted to Mr. Upcott Gill for kind permission to reproduce the illustration of "John Bickerdyke" which appeared in his latest edition of "The Book of the Pike."

THE RESTORATION OF SALMON RIVERS.

"THE Thames as a Salmon River," the article by Mr. R. B. Marston, in the *Nineteenth Century* Magazine for April, lets a flood of light on to the present state of affairs on that noble river. Many of the successful attempts to deal with salmonless rivers in past years may be unknown to the generality of the readers of the *Fishing Gazette* of the present day, therefore a recapitulation of some of them, and the circumstances attending each case, may be both interesting and instructive.

A notable case was the introduction of salmon into the rivers emptying into Loch Shin, the description of which, in the "Book of the Salmon," by "Ephemera," p. 172, was written by Mr. Andrew Young, of Invershin, at that time manager of the Duke of Sutherland's fishings.

Loch Shin, a piece of water about twenty-one miles by a half to four miles broad, situate in the heart of the Sutherland mountains, is the immediate feeder of the river Shin, noted for its salmon fecundity. The loch itself has four feeders—middling-sized rivers—viz., the Terry, Fiack, Garvie, and Garry, in which, previously to the year 1836, not a salmon was ever seen, though many were in the habit of entering the loch or lake.* In the year mentioned, at the request of His Grace of Sutherland and Mr. Loch, M.P., salmon were caught in the river Shin shortly before the spawning season, and conveyed to the four rivers above named, amongst which they were distributed in due proportions. Mr. Young was the managing director on the occasion. In the wonted season all the fish spawned, each in its respective river. Now, mark one of the consequences. Salmon at present, and ever since, come regularly to spawn, traversing the lake to do so, in all these heretofore salmonless rivers. Nay, more, the fish hatched in the Terry—at least, those that survive long enough—return to the Terry; and the young of the other three rivers return from the sea to them, each grilse or salmon entering never-faillingly the stream that gave it birth! What wonderful and unerring instinct! One might think that they would remain in the river Shin, and spawn where their ancestors had spawned. But no; they leave their own natal shallows, pass down the lake, through the river Shin, along the Kyle of Sutherland, to the sea, and there having become adolescent, they retrace their route, and, after necessary rests on their long voyage, very frequently on the spots of their parents' nativity, they revisit, for the first time, the scenes of their birth and infancy. Revisit them—for what? Being adult, to breed, which they do where their forefathers begot them, and so they go on increasing and multiplying in colonies heretofore tenantless of salmon, ever since volcanic action called from the "vast deep" the mountains and rivers of Northern Caledonia.

This has proved true to some extent. Although Loch Shin does produce a nice few salmon every year to the rod, they are yet not so numerous as one might expect. The inference from the above is that salmon, although they enter a lake, will not go further into the streams beyond unless they have been reared there, but drop back to spawn in the main river. Has all been done in the feeders of Loch Shin that could be? Would not 30,000 or 50,000 fry put down annually for a few years on the gravels of the four feeders, taken from such breeds as Thurso, Inverness-shire, Garry, Aberdeenshire Dee, upper end, all good free rising and early running breeds, mightily improve the angling on this fine loch? It might pay well. We have often thought that a like planting of fry, from any of those or similar early rivers, in the Dochart, Lyon, and other tributaries of Loch Tay might produce a breed of fish that would rise to fly in Loch Tay, and so improve and lengthen the season there. Another thing the before-mentioned operations brings to mind is the way in which fish get what is called potted, fixed at one spot, and don't seem to move on again, no matter what tempting freshets and lifts in the water come; no matter how many runs of fish come up and go on past, there they are, and mean to remain. We remember scores of such fish stuck at one place from August till the last day of the rod season, Nov. 1. The fact is they were fish that had been bred on the gravel above or the one below. They had got home, and knew it much better than we did. Some of these fish seemed to be the same fish for two or three years running, but, of course, that would be difficult to prove. In the way of improving a river, a very notable case lately is he buying up by the Tees Fishery Board of the Dinsdale dam for purposes of removal and the general benefit of the river. This dam, which had for long been a great bar to the prosperity of the river, was acquired by compulsory powers

* Although salmon were frequently seen going into Loch Shin in great numbers and leaping in its waters, not one had been caught either by fly fishing or trolling in the loch until last year (1849). His Grace the Duke of Argyll, trolling in the loch last season for the *salmo ferox*, hooked and killed a salmon, and therefore was the first to break the charm that had from time immemorial protected the *salmo salar* sojourners in this large lake. It may be reasonably inferred from the above fact that as spawning salmon increase in the four rivers that feed the loch salmon and salmon angling will increase in it also.

granted to boards under certain circumstances by the Lands Clauses Consolidation Act. The river ought now to double its yield. Doubtless there are many other obstructive dams in the country which could be and ought to be removed by the same means, as water power in many cases has ceased to be of the value it once was, and to a large extent has been supplanted by steam.

J. W. W.

(To be continued.)

ILLEGAL SALE OF GRAYLING IN LEEDS.

ON Wednesday, at the Leeds City Police Court, Mr. James Brown, president of the Leeds Fish Game and Poultry Association, and proprietor of the Albion Hotel, Leeds, Mr. Charles Brown, and Mr. Albert Brown, trading as Messrs. Brown and Son, fish and game dealers, with shops in various parts of the city, were summoned under the Freshwater Fisheries Act. The prosecution was instituted by Mr. Farrar Stead, the chief officer of the Yorkshire Fisheries Board, who were represented by Mr. T. Piercy, whilst Mr. A. Willey represented the defendants, against each of whom four summonses had been taken out. The allegation was that they had exhibited for sale grayling after the commencement of the close season; and the summonses referred to the repetition of the offence on March 16, 17, 18, and 20. Before the case was proceeded with, Mr. Willey intimated that he was prepared to plead on behalf of the defendant Albert Brown, but Mr. Piercy was not content to withdraw the summonses against the other defendants at that stage. Some discussion took place as to the responsibility of the defendants James and Charles Brown, in the course of which Mr. Willey said that the defendant Albert Brown was alone responsible, being the tenant of the shop, 57, Otley-road, Headingley, where the offence was alleged to have been committed. The stipendiary magistrate suggested that the case against Albert Brown should be proceeded with, and said that he could then be called as a witness for the prosecution to prove the connection of the other defendants with the matter. A statement of the facts was then made by Mr. Piercy, and supported by the evidence of a chemist's assistant named Geo. William Jubb, of Albert-grove, Headingley, who said that on March 16 he saw some grayling exposed for sale at the defendants', who traded under the name of Brown and Son, at Otley-road, Headingley. He warned the defendant, Albert Brown, that grayling was out of season, and that he was liable to penalties, but saw similar fish still exposed for sale on April 17, 18, and 20. It was agreed that the summonses against James and Charles Brown should be withdrawn, Mr. Willey pointing out that they were in favour of protecting the fish; as a matter of fact, they were the partners in the firm of Brown and Sons, and the other defendant was a paid servant. His worship said that in his opinion the case against Albert Brown was a most flagrant one, because he continued to expose the fish for sale after he had been warned. He must pay a fine of 40s. or go to prison for seven days on the first summons, and pay costs or go to prison for three days on each of the other three summonses. The fines were paid.—JOHN E. MILLER, Northern Anglers' Depot, 19, New Station-street, Leeds.

THAMES RE-STOCKING ASSOCIATION. THE HATCHERY SCHEME.

THE third annual meeting of the Thames Re-Stocking Association was held on Monday evening at Carr's Restaurant, 265, Strand, W.C. Mr. C. H. Cook ("John Bickerdyke") presided over a fair attendance of members.

The annual report presented to the meeting stated that during the past year the committee had devoted most of its attention to the scheme for bringing into existence a Thames fish cultural establishment to stock all parts of the river on a really large and sufficient scale, and efforts were now being made to raise the necessary funds for this purpose. The experience gained by the committee had led them to the conclusion that if the stock of fish in the Thames was to be satisfactorily maintained the best, and probably the only way, to do so was by breeding both trout and coarse fish in great numbers on or near its banks. It had been found that the expense of purchasing fish from private breeders was, owing to the cost of carriage, too great to allow the association to obtain those large quantities required to appreciably benefit anglers in such an extensive river as the Thames. With regard to netting ponds and streams, the outlay and trouble involved was almost invariably in excess of the value of the fish so obtained. During recent years the number of private fish breeding establishments had largely increased, and as they all appeared to be profitably carried on, there was no reason why one on the Thames should not be successful, if in skilled and experienced hands. The president (Mr. C. H. Cook) had been at great trouble in laying the scheme before a number of gentlemen likely to support it, and he had received encouraging letters from various sources promising assistance. To erect and properly equip a hatchery with a sufficient number of ponds would cost at the lowest estimate £500, and an income of not less than £200 a year would be needed to maintain and carry on the work of the establishment. With regard to the capital outlay, the committee proposed to make an endeavour to enlist the sympathy of the Corporation of London, the Fishmongers, and other City companies. Once the hatchery and ponds were established, the committee believed that there would be no difficulty in raising the necessary annual income from anglers and those who sympathised with them.

In November last the association turned in a number of

very fine perch at Windsor and Hampton, which had been obtained from Mr. T. Ford, of Caistor.

The president stated that, in addition to the support already given to the scheme by the Hon. W. F. D. Smith, M.P., Mr. Justice Bucknill, Mr. T. Skewes-Cox, M.P., and Mr. Hermon Hodge, M.P., he had received letters from many other influential gentlemen promising assistance.

Mr. F. H. Amphlett mentioned that the Kingston Piscatorial Society had unanimously passed a resolution in favour of financially supporting the hatchery, and expressing the hope that their example would be followed by other angling societies.

Mr. Cecil Howlett also stated that the Windsor and Eton Preservation Association would be willing to assist if it were found the hatchery could be successfully established.

Mr. C. H. Cook was then re-elected president of the association, and Mr. H. Osborne O'Hagan vice-president. Mr. F. G. Littlewood was again elected to serve as hon. treasurer, and Messrs. D. Denniford and G. A. Cooper will continue to act as hon. auditors. The hon. secretary (Mr. H. G. Hankins) was also re-elected. The following gentlemen compose the committee for the current year: Dr. C. S. Patterson (Piscatorial Society), Messrs. W. H. Cate (Caxtonian Angling Society), J. Cole (St. John's Wood Piscatorial Society), F. H. Amphlett, A. Drinkwater, T. J. Barnes, F. G. Littlewood, C. W. Littlewood, and T. Lyne (of the Kingston Piscatorial Society), A. E. Hohs (Henley Preservation Association), G. R. Clark, H. A. Rolt (Wimbledon Piscatorial Society), G. Greg (Drayton Park Piscatorial), Cecil Howlett (Windsor and Eton Preservation Association), C. E. Walker (Piscatorial Society), F. W. Gomm (Earlsfield Angling Society), and G. H. Howard (*Fishing Gazette*).

A long and interesting discussion ensued on the hatchery scheme, and eventually the meeting was adjourned to Thursday, May 4, when the balance-sheet of the association, which had not been audited, will be laid before the meeting.

The committee will be pleased to hear from any angler who desires to attend the first annual dinner of the association, which is to be held at Carr's Restaurant, 265, Strand, W.C., on May 9. Tickets (4s. 6d. each) may be obtained from the hon. secretary, Mr. H. G. Hankins, Hampden House, Phoenix-street, N.W.

HON. REPORTER.

REPORTS FROM RIVERS, LOCHS, &c.

ENGLISH AND WELSH REPORTS.

Lower Thames.—GENERAL REMARKS.—The ornamental water in the grounds of Lyon House, Isleworth, which has a connection with the Lower Thames, has always been known to hold some large pike, but there was the difficulty of getting permission to fish in it, and I can remember my predecessor as secretary of the T.A.P.S., who occasionally fished there, told me it contained a monster fish. In the year 1889 I took the liberty of writing to the late Duke of Northumberland, who was one of the vice-presidents of the society, to allow me with a friend to go there, and on Oct. 23 I received a favourable reply, which was thus expressed: "Your services in the preservation of the Thames afford a sufficient reason for breaking through the usual rule in your favour on this occasion." In company with my friend the late Mr. John Graham, I paid a visit to the private water, and we got some fine pike. I have been reminded of this circumstance by a report in the local press of this last week of the swan, a fine male bird, which had been there for years, was quietly disposing itself, when, having submerged its head, it was seized by a voracious fish. The swan fought for all it was worth to avoid suffocation by drowning, and made a great clatter with its wings and feet. The finny denizen of the water was, however, too much for the occupant of the upper air, and, retaining a tight hold on the appetising bait, the fish succeeded in drowning the swan. It is conjectured the fish guilty of this savage attack is an old one which has been known to exist in these waters for many years, and when last seen was estimated to weigh some 50lb. or 60lb., and must have increased since then. It is expected its capture could only be made by the water being thoroughly cleaned out, which would be found to contain any amount of mud. It appears from the Hampton Court report the roach are getting up to the weir. It was the custom in days gone by to net the ditch above the hack weir, where the fish used to get to prevent them being illegally taken, and one year it was officially reported no less than 11,000 roach were restored to the Thames. On one of these occasions I got possession of a fine gudgeon which I had set up by Mr. John Cooper in a case with some other Thames fish.—B.

—(**Eton**).—The cold winds still continue, and fish will not move, the water is very much coloured for this period of the season. Mr. C. Harris, of Eton, ran a nice fish last evening close to Windsor Bridge, but was not fortunate enough to bring the spotted beauty to the net, but Charles is a stickler, and will no doubt give me the pleasure of placing the beauty in the scale at no distant date.—CECIL HOWLETT.

—(**Lechlade, &c.**).—There is a splendid head of water on in this district, especially at St. John's Bridge. Trout fishers are few and far between, and but little doing. Must wait for warmer weather. Two or three small ones are reported from the neighbourhood of Cricklade. Steam launch has been through Thames and Severn Canal.—RAMBLER.

—(**Hampton Court**).—In the report of William Milhorne, received yesterday (Tuesday), he says: "Owing to the bad weather there has not been anything

done in the lower district. The water is rising and has become very thick, and will stop the trout fishing for a few days. The roach are still heading up to the weir, and they are getting up in great quantities."—B.

—(**Hampton Wick**).—Head river keeper William Douglas officially reports: "I have not heard of any trout being taken, and the water is rising. I am busy, with some help, covering the spawn of perch. There is a lot in the hackwater at Walton. Mr. H. O'Hagan, of Hampton, has kindly enclosed all his ducks in with wire netting on the application of the T.A.P.S., and it is hoped others will follow his noble example. I have got an assistant to help me during the spawning season." All the reports received this (Wednesday) morning are a complete blank as regards the trout.—B.

Ancholme District.—Not much trout fishing has taken place as yet. There is quite a dearth of aquatic flies. The one fly most in evidence is the Cowdng, which takes well on breezy days. Five hundred very fine tench, of 5in. to 10in. long, go into the Ancholme this week from the Manor Fishery, Caistor. Some rainbow eggs were taken there yesterday. This is the latest date yet known, for the earliest are now hatched out. The spawning is three months later than trout, but these fish catch and pass both Leven and *fario*, and run up to 9in. or 10in. as yearlings next season. From a cultural point of view they are the best and easiest to raise.—THOMAS FORD.

Coln, Leach, &c., East Gloucestershire.—The continuous daily rain we have had has put a good head of water on these trout streams, but for a time it sadly discoloured the water, which, combined with strong winds, has not improved sport. Several rods have been out both on hotel and private waters. Col. Porter has been fishing the Fairford Park waters, with sport, and rods have been out on the Hatherop Castle, Bihury Court, Ahlington Manor, and Winsor Waters. Dr. Marsh has also been out on the lower Coln. The trout rise freely in the forenoon, and again between three and four o'clock. Saw a very good rise in the Bibury district on Friday as late as 6.30 p.m. Plenty of fly on the water on warm days—March Browns, Olive Duns, Brown Spinners, Blue Duns, and Grey Gnats, all of which will kill. A number of swans have been seen on the Coln from off the Thames—Weather dull and overcast, and looks like more rain. Dr. Lockwood has been out at Little Faringdon, and Messrs. Falkner, Battershy, and Chambers at Whelford.—PAN.

Cornish Streams.—The heavy rain of the end of last week and the beginning of this have brought about a grand improvement in the rivers, all of which are to-day (Wednesday) in improving condition for fly fishing. During the freshet the worm accounted for some good baskets of trout in the main streams as well as the tributaries. From St. Breward, on the Camel, there was capital sport on the moorland streams, which very rarely, despite heavy rains, get coloured with road water. As a rule, six hours after rain all the streams are fishable with fly. In the Launceston and Lydford districts some capital baskets of trout have been taken.—BODMIN.

Dareth (Shoreham, Farningham, &c.).—Unless the weather improves very much before Saturday, fly fishing will be of little use. If the river has gone down and cleared a little, the Soldier Palmer, fished wet, will give the best chance. Very little has been done since last week. It must be remembered that all this wet must improve the state of the springs, and benefit us in the end.—J. P. T.

Dart (Totnes and District).—Trout fishing has been attended with fair success lately, although takes do not run above a couple of dozen. Last week Mr. E. Distin killed nineteen at Staverton, and after the flood on Friday he tried the Harbourne. The same day Mr. T. Brown was on the Hempton Leat, and got almost the first lot for the season. On Monday there was another flood down, and fish rose pretty freely afterwards. Mr. A. Townsend secured a dish of exceptionally fine trout, and in the Dartington water Messrs. H. T. and E. Distin creeled several brace between them. Dr. Walters, of Reigate, who is staying at Northbrook, Buckfastleigh, has had some fair sport, principally on the Kilbury water; and creels up to two dozen have been made by Messrs. Eelbrook, H. Wright, and J. Millman, of Buckfastleigh.—DEVONIAN.

Devonshire Streams.—All the rivers are now running in excellent volume, and salmon have run up to the higher waters. Sport generally is improving, and some very fair takes of trout have been made on the Southern and Border streams. Baskets on the Meavy have run up to three dozen, and among those who have had good sport in the Upper Tamar district is Mr. C. Woody, who has creeled several nice lots in the preserved portions, whilst Mr. C. Stainton has had some good lots. Capt. Nixon, Capt. Walker, and Mr. C. P. Tanner have killed some fine fish on the Mid-Taw and Little Dart. Baskets running up to nine brace. On the Dart, Avon, &c., takes average from six to twelve brace, and many of the fish are of good size. The North Devon streams are in order for the fly, and sport has improved.—DEVONIAN.

East and West Cleddau (Pembrokeshire).—We had a very heavy fall of rain on Thursday night, April 20. The rivers have since fished down, and trout are sporting freely.—H.

Esk (Whitby).—This river has been running in good condition for angling during the past week, and a fair number of anglers have been out, though there have been no heavy catches. The returns up to the time of writing are as follows: Dr. English, twelve brace; Mr. J. W. Nicholson, seven brace; Mr. T. Wright, six brace; Mr. G. Falkinbridge, four brace; and Mr. W. Rhodes, six brace; whilst several others have had fair sport. Most of the fish landed have been caught with Blue Dun and March Brown fly.—J. JACKSON.

Exe and Canal (Exeter).—Weather still cold and stormy. The recent rains have served to materially

improve the river, and a large number of salmon have been observed running up during the last flood. A few fish of good size have been taken from the lower Exe, also at Thorverton and Bickleigh, and one or two anglers have done well among the trout; but the cold and cheerless season has sadly retarded general sport. Best flies at present are Stone Fly, Blue Dun, Blue Upright, and Hare's Flex.—RED PALMER.

Fen District (South Lincs. and Cambs.).—The weather is improving and prospects are in the direction of better sport among the trout. As yet flies are very scarce, and scarcely worth a trial. On the other hand, however, we hear from the waters above Bourne and the nplands in that direction of the capture of a few brace of trout with the dock grub. Dock grub may be depended upon as a reliable bait just now.—LIMPET.

Idle District (North Notts.).—As yet the Idle in the neighborhood of Retford has received but very scant attention. As soon as the weather becomes favourable the swims about Bollam Mill are sure to have attention. These swims are known to contain fine specimens. A local angler is reported to have taken the other morning by means of the ordinary garden worm a fish of the Loch Leven species scaling 3lb. While the cold water lasts, worms, dock grubs, and gentles for the deep holes will be successful, whilst swimming brandling worm in eddies and tails of strong streams should produce good results.—L.

Lake Vyrnwy (North Wales).—Since my last report there has not been much improvement in the weather, in fact, one or two days have been so cold and stormy that fishing on the lake was not even attempted. Still, some very nice baskets have been made whenever fishing was possible. On the 20th thirty-eight fish were taken, scaling 23lb. 1oz. Rev. Gregorie made the best basket with sixteen fish, 8lb. 5oz.; Messrs. Hart and Caley were next with ten fish, 6lb. 4oz.; Messrs. Murly, Henty, and Chittenden took four fish each. On the 21st twenty-six fish were taken, 16lb. 3oz. Mr. Murly had the best basket with ten fish, weighing 6lb. 10oz.; Messrs. Hart and Caley had five fish, 3lb. 1oz.; Mr. Henty, four, 2lb. 6oz. The other baskets contained less than four fish each. On the 22nd, thirty-seven fish, 20lb. 1oz., were weighed. Mr. Murly killed nine, 5lb. 5oz.; Rev. Gregorie, eight, 4lb. 4oz.; Messrs. Hart and Caley, eight, 4lb. 1oz.; Mr. Henty, five, 3lb. 1oz. On the 24th, thirty-seven fish, weighing 19lb. 12oz., were taken. Rev. Gregorie killed fifteen, 7lb. 10oz.; Mr. Henty, eleven, 5lb. 12oz.; Mr. Densham, five, 2lb. 9oz. The remaining baskets contained three or under.—LONGDRIFT.

Lark (Lackford and Icklingham).—Trout fishing in this stream has not been over brisk during the past week. The cold easterly winds have kept the fish down. At the time of writing it is just lovely, with light warm showers from the west. Messrs. Skinner Bros. have certainly thinned the river of pike, taken six one day and eight on last Tuesday, best fish 5lb. Messrs. R. Major and Hancock, on the 22nd, killed a nice little trout, 1lb. 14oz., and six pike; Mr. Leggott, one pike; Mr. Bowers and friend, eight pike. The water is getting rather low and clear, and a push of water is wanted to improve sport.—A. E. KEMP.

Lea.—On Monday the trout-fishing season opens on this river, and there are very fair prospects of sport. Fish have been seen on the move in various directions, and the water is in good order after the rainfall. Live baiting with a minnow, bleak, or gudgeon should prove killing. A spinning bait is very attractive, while a big lob is also extremely tempting. In fact, early in the season, especially in the Hertford district, more trout are secured with the Lobelia than with any other bait, ledgering proving most deadly. The fly should also be tried, and I wish my readers tight lines. Good districts to fish will be Hertford, Ware, St. Margaret's, Rye House, Broxbourne, and Hoddesdon (Dobbs's Weir). The Beane trout stream also opens for fishing on Monday.—ISAAC WALTON.

Lugg and Arrow (Leominster).—Both these streams continue to run clear and a nice level, and are in good order for fishing, but sport has been very quiet, owing to the most changeable weather. Heavy falls of rain have been had, accompanied with strong north-west winds, and anglers have not been inclined to go out. During the warm parts of the day the fish have rose a little at the fly, and warmer weather is wanted to make sport good. The best flies to use will be the Blue Dun, March Brown, Stone Fly, Red Spinner, Yellow Dun, and Brown Spinner. The Pinsky is in good order, and sport should be good in it with fly.—GWYNNE.

Lugg, Arrow, and Pinsky (Kingsland).—Rivers are running in fair order, but the weather continues unsettled and unseasonable, occasional sharp, cold showers, with wind for the most part from northerly or easterly points. Still very few flies to be seen, and sport is decidedly slack. Flies as last week. Till a favourable change in the atmosphere takes place fishing will not be of much account.—R. T. WILLIAMS.

Otter (Budleigh Salterton, Devon).—For a week back from present date of reporting (April 26), fly fishers on this river have had a chequered career. The water has been generally heavy from the spates, but fish have shown an inclination to rise. On Saturday (22nd) a good rise of Olives and Iron Blues took place in the afternoon, but for some reason or other the trout were hard to take. On Monday (24th), although the water was "heery," fish took well in parts of the stream. The large Iron Blues came on at 2.30 p.m. One rod got six grand fish; your reporter took thirteen, but not such good specimens; and other anglers did more or less fairly. Yesterday (25th) the river was almost unfishable from heavy spate, and, judging from the barometer, there is a likelihood of further floods soon.—HERON.

Plowden Waters and Onny.—April 25.—The weather has been generally unfavourable. River high and discoloured. In the Plowden club water, on Wednesday,

Dr. Gore had five trout. On Saturday, Mr. J. M. Etches had eight brace. On Monday, Dr. George, two. On the hotel water no fishermen have been down during the past week. This place is within walking distance of four rivers, the Onny, the Corve, the Clun, and the Teme, in all of which fishing may be obtained by request.—TRUTH.

Plymouth.—There is plenty of water now in all the rivers. I have just returned from a visit to the Meavy, Walkham, and Tavy, and all are in good flood, in fact, a little too much for fly fishing. I saw one rod using the minnow, but it was very windy. A good basket was taken on the Meavy on Monday, about three dozen, some over 4lb.—WILLIAM HEARDER.

Slapton, South Devon (Royal Sands Hotel).—The fishing on the Slapton Ley has been very good this season. W. Bastard, Esq., caught a very fine pike, good shape, 15lb. G. E. Owen and three others caught over 400 perch, commencing at 11 a.m. and finishing at 4 p.m., on Monday. Two gentlemen caught forty-four pike. Water in good condition.—J. T. CABLEY. [Surely pike and perch are out of season?—ED.]

Sussex Rivers and Chichester Harbour.—Rivers and streams are running high and discoloured. A few coarse fish have been taken from the cluh water of the Ouse, Mr. Worcester having a grand roach of 2lb. 2oz., and others up to 1½lb. have been caught by other members. On May, dace fishing (fly only) commences, and from the number of fish seen good sport is anticipated. A few trout have been taken in the brooks—principally by worming. Mr. Burstow has had several brace from the upper waters of the Cuckmere. Tributaries of the Adur have yielded a few trout, one, a malformed fish of 1½lb., was caught with minnow; and from the Rother, fish up to 1½lb. are notified. Roach and perch are spawning in Chichester Canal, and now that the moorhens' nests are protected, the reeds are not disturbed in the search by the egg-hunting fraternity. Smelt fishing was not so prolific last week, as tides were low, but at present the small fish are up in great numbers, and affording good sport. A few small bass have been caught, but with the advent of the bigger bass smelt take their departure. Live smelt is a killing bait for bass.—GEORGE F. SALTER.

Taff (Llandowror, Carmarthenshire).—The river is in good order for trout fishing, and to-day, April 24, some good baskets have been taken. The March Brown, dressed tackle fashion, without wings, blue body, and ribbed with silver tinsel, is a killing fly.—H.

Taw (North Devon).—This river has not been fishable since Friday last. Some of the smaller streams have been in fair order for a few hours daily. In the Bray, Thursday, I heard of two catches of over twenty. In the Molland water, a few takes; one or two with the worm. In the Mole, up high, two good takes, the Yeo, Barnstaple, that portion open Saturday, Monday, and Tuesday, fair sport. The Lynn after this flood will be the anglers' paradise; although the fish are small, numbers will be captured.—RUSTY GAME.

Teifi (Lampeter, Cardiganshire).—River in good condition. Plenty of water, and good catches of trout made daily.—H.

Teme (Ludlow).—The Teme in this part is still running clear and a nice level, and has been refreshed by some good falls of rain, and is in good order for either fly or bottom fishing. The weather has been anything but suitable for anglers to get out, with storms and a very strong north-west wind blowing, and this week sport has been rather slow. A few rods have been out, but no good baskets have been landed, and there is little prospect of them being taken until the weather takes up and gets warmer. The flies used have been the Blue Dun, Cowdung, Red Spinner, Iron Blue, Yellow Dun, and March Brown. Bottom fishing has been fairly successful with the worm, and minnow fishing will soon be in good go. In the water near the Castle some nice trout, 2lb. each, were landed with the worm. On Monday, six trout were landed with the worm. On Tuesday, with fly, a nice dish of fish were landed near Ludford. The other houses were at Leintwardine on Saturday, and killed a bitch otter, after four hours' hunt, 14lb. The Onny, Corve, Clun, and Ledwyche are all in good order, and sport may be expected when the weather gets warmer.—S. LUDLOW.

Teme (Tenbury).—The Teme in this district has been visited with some heavy falls of rain of late, accompanied by cold, strong north-west winds, which have made it unpleasant for anglers. The water has not been altered, and it is now in good condition for fishing, but owing to the weather there has been very little fishing done this week. The fish during the bright parts of the day have been rising well, and if the weather would only get warmer there is every prospect of some good sport being had in this part, as there are plenty of fine trout in the river.—WORCESTER.

Torcross Ley.—During the past week, in spite of the stormy weather, splendid sport has been obtained with the rudd. Mr. John J. Lane has landed some every day, from 1½lb. to 2lb. each, and one of 2½lb.; on the 21st, he fished three hours, and landed fourteen rudd, from 1½lb. to 2½lb. each.—W. V.

Torridge (Torrington).—River steadily clearing after a high flood, and as the weather looks a little more promising, will probably be fit for minnow on Friday. Salmon are on the move upward. Mr. T. V. Beresford, of Wear Gifford, and son got three fish last week, weighing respectively 10½lb., 12½lb., and 22lb., all of them just up from the sea in prime condition, taken with Devon minnow. The constant showers having kept river coloured, it has not been fishable with the fly.—E. S.

Upper Yore.—This river is in good order for fly. Gentlemen staying at the Crown have had good sport, one basket weighing 7lb. Thompson's Fancy is considered the best fly.—FAWCETT.

Witham, &c. (Mid-Lincolnshire).—Fishing matters are only very quiet in this district. Very little is

done in the district round about Market Rasen, and the same may be said of the waters towards Grantham. From the district around Sleaford some nice trout are being secured with both worm and fly. Fair results have been obtained not only from the Slea, but from the hecks in the same locality. The best captures have been obtained by whipping the water with the Black Gnat. This is generally a taking bait. Other artificials, such as Bumbles and Cockwing Duns, are recommended. Naturals are very scarce.—LUCY.

Wye and Derwent (Derbyshire).—These rivers are in order for fly fishing, and a good average number of anglers have been out on both streams. There has also been a little improvement in the catches. Gentlemen that have fished the Wye have taken several nice fish, but there is yet room for better sport. The Chatsworth, Hathersage, and upper reaches of the Derwent have yielded some nice fish; baskets ranging from two to five brace have been obtained. Mr. Brown, on the Darley Dale Club's water, on Thursday and Friday in last week landed two and two and a half brace respectively. I hear of a few trout being taken about Matlock Bridge; also the Matlock and Cromford Angling Association's water in Matlock Dale, a few nice trout. A gentleman visitor, fishing on the Lovers' Walk side of the Derwent, took a trout weighing 1lb. 2oz. The greater portion of the fish have been taken with worms and dock grubs. The prospect is fairly good for the next few days, weather being showery, which is favourable for angling. Useful flies: Cooper's Fancy, Ash Dun, Grannom, February Red, and Claret Bumble.—DOTTRELL.

Yore, Swale, Wharfe, Nidd, &c. (Yorkshire).—We had a snowstorm on Saturday, and all the higher hills were covered with the wintry element, but it quickly ran into the rivers, and the weather is certainly more genial now, although the wind to-day has "hold of the north." The swallow, cuckoo, sand martin, and other summer migrants have arrived, the grass wears a more emerald tint, the shrubs and trees are commencing to burst their buds, in fact, the whole face of the country is beginning to put on its spring garb. For all that the season is distinctly backward, and the angler still keeps to his early flies, and nothing better, if as good, can still be used as the Little Brown, Spanish Needle, Waterhen Bloa, Snipe and Purple, Snipe and Yellow, Spring Black, Woodcock and Orange, and Thompson's Fancy. The latter is a capital killer all the season through, and is well worth a trial on dull, damp days, or in a brown water on any river containing trout. The trout often take it when "midging," when no other fly will. Sport in the Yore has been good, but the best dishes of fish are still caught with the worm or minnow; but now the swallow and sand martin are with us, insect life will become more plentiful, and the fish rise more freely to the fly. Sport in the Yore itself has been far from bad; indeed, several experts have had extra good sport in the upper waters, and in the tributaries a lot of trout have been caught. One angler, on the Cover on Monday, filled a pannier with thirty-four trout with the worm. I have half that number of larger fish, taken with the natural minnow. I found the fish to take the latter bait well in the Yore, above Middleham, yesterday and again to-day, when the wind veered round from the south-west to nearly due north, and the only flies I saw on were a few "Spanish Needles." Why it is called Spanish Needle I know not! From Hawes, J. Blades writes: "Sport has been good with both minnow and fly here, and I hear some good baskets have been made in the Ashrigg water. I had a day there yesterday, and made a good pannier. I caught all my fish with the Snipe and Purple, Woodcock and Orange, and Spring Black." On the same water Messrs. E. and T. Topham did well. Fishing commenced on Tuesday in streams preserved by the Driffield Anglers' Club. The water was rather low, but fish were plentiful and in good condition. The largest catch was by Mr. Claude Renard, four and a half brace. The members afterwards dined together at the Bell Hotel. Sport up Swaledale has been very fair, a remark that applies to the tributaries of that river, particularly the Bedale Beck, the Codbeck, and the Wiske.—J. E. MILLER (Northern Anglers' Depot, 10, New Station-street, Leeds).

By TELEGRAM.—There is a welcome promise of spring this morning, the weather being brilliantly fine and genial, and, as the barometer is rising steadily, there is every indication it will continue. All our rivers are in fine order, particularly for fly fishing, therefore prospects for sport are good. Best flies: March Brown (male and female), Blue Dun, Snipe and Yellow, and Thompson's Fancy.—J. E. MILLER (Northern Anglers' Depot, 10, New Station-street, Leeds).

SCOTCH REPORTS.

Border Esk and Liddle.—The sun has appeared at last in the Esk and Liddledale districts of Dumfriesshire, and the snow has slid from the tops of the hills. Summer is looming in the near future, and anglers are getting their tackle ready for action. Few fish have been taken in the Border Esk worth noticing, but yellow trout in the Liddle have shown a vast improvement, and are getting into prime condition. Fishing between Kershopefoot and Newcastle-town, Mr. Boa, Edinburgh, had a basket of fifty-eight trout, and Mr. Dawson, Edinburgh, in the same water, had a catch of four dozen trout. Messrs. Wm. Elliott, T. Dickie, and J. Hobkirk, Newcastle-town, had good baskets, and Mr. J. Armstrong, Edinburgh, had a grand kill below Kershopefoot.—GILKOCKIE.

Carron (Easter Ross, Ardgay, N.B.).—Last week very unfavourable, and sport felt off considerably. On 15th, Mr. R. T. Conpland, of Grinnards, landed a salmon of 8lb. on Grinnards water. On 18th, Mr. George Buge, Herne, had a trout of 2½lb. with salmon fly. On 19th, which was very stormy, Mr. F. T. Gervers, of Amat, caught an 8-pounder. On 20th, Mr. Marcns, Balnagown

Arms Hotel, had a 9lb. salmon on Braelangwell water; and on 21st a beauty of 13lb. On Monday this week Admiral Markham, R.N., Amat House, just on the eve of his departure for the south, landed a nice salmon on Amat water. On Tuesday, Mr. Marcus landed two salmon, of 9lb. and 11lb. On Wednesday the weather changed for the better, and the river is in excellent ply.—B.

Deveron (Banffshire).—For the past week there has been a marked improvement in the weather, which is now more seasonable, and almost quite free from frost. The water in the Deveron is in good condition for angling and net fishing. Fair sport is being enjoyed at trout fishing, but no fresh run salmon have, we understand, of late been killed on the lower sections of the river, and grilse have not as yet made their appearance either in the river or on the coast. In fact, it was well on to the middle of May before they entered the river last year. On the Corniehaugh section, on the Marnock water, and on the Auchintoul water, some capital baskets of trout have been got. Kelts are still to be met with in the water, and smolts are proving troublesome to the angler on their way to the sea. Few salmon and trout have been got by the nets for the past week. On the coast the fishing is improving. In the beginning of the week, on one day, the total number of salmon from the various stations was twelve, the yield from the nets being from two to six fish; the heaviest weighed close on 30lb. On Tuesday, a box of 2cwt. was sent from the Deveron district to the market, and one of 1cwt. from the coast fishing at Gardenstown. In the end of last week several boxes were sent to the markets. With a continuance of favourable weather, no doubt the fishings will improve.—H. W.

Dochart.—Mr. James Kinnear, of Edinburgh, out from Luib Hotel, on the river on Saturday, had eight trout, weight, 5½lb.—D. McNAUGHTON.

Loch Katrine (Stronachlachar Hotel).—Out from Stronachlachar Hotel, on April 22, Mr. H. W. H. Dunsmore and Major Pearson, fishing on Loch Chon, had a fine basket of twenty-nine trout.—H. M.

Lochleven (Kinross).—A great improvement has taken place in the weather. The cold snap has disappeared, and the atmosphere is now mild, with daily rainfalls, cloudy weather, and moderate breezes from the south-west and east. Trout have been taking the fly readily, and anglers have had invariably heavy creels. The good fishing is bringing in anglers in increased numbers, and the applications for boats for the next few days will keep all the boats engaged. The following anglers were out: Mr. Ure, Bonnyhridge, twenty-seven trout, 24lb. 8oz.; Mr. J. J. Harris, Kinross, thirty, 22lb.; Mr. Dunlop, Bridge of Allen, and Mr. Steel, Perth, twenty-one, 17lb.; Mrs. W. J. Stevenson and Miss Stevenson, Stirling, twenty-five, 18lb.; Mr. R. T. Annan and Mr. Sberiff, Helensburgh, seventeen, 14lb.; Sir David Baird, ten, 6lb.; Mr. Robertson, Stirling, thirteen, 7lb. 8oz.; Mr. S. Taylor, Edinburgh, sixteen, 12lb.; Mr. Rutherford, Edinburgh, eighteen, 10lb.; Mr. Ogilvy, Ardenae, twenty-two, 13lb. 8oz.; Major Dobie, of Dollarbeg, in four hours had nineteen, 11lb.; Mr. Lewis Spence and Mr. Bowhill, Edinburgh, thirty-five, 22lb. 8oz.; Mr. Inglis, Dunfermline, twenty-eight, 24lb. 8oz.; Mr. W. S. Vaughan, Newcastle, twenty-five, 19lb. 8oz.; Mr. W. S. Vaughan and Master Wedgewood Vaughan, twenty, 13lb.; Mr. Bramwell, Newcastle, twenty-one, 11lb. 8oz.; Mr. Bramwell and Master Ronald Vaughan, eighteen, 14lb.; Masters Wedgewood and Ronald Vaughan, sixteen, 11lb.; Principal Williams and Mr. J. Gordon Mason, Edinburgh, twenty, 12lb.; Mr. and Mrs. Westview, twelve, 10lb.; Rev. W. A. Macleod, Godalming, and Mr. D. M. MacLay, Glasgow, twenty-five, 17lb. Two cluhs competed during the week, viz., Pollokshields (seven rods), and captured fifty-one, 38lb. 7oz. First prize, Mr. J. Malcolm, eleven, 8lb. Mr. D. Kater, one of the competitors, killed the heaviest during the week. Its weight was 2lb. 6½oz. Seven members of the Stirling Club landed seventy-three, 49lb. 10oz. Mr. R. T. Annan gained the first prize with a catch of twenty, 11lb. 7oz.—ROBERT LAING.

Lochmaddy.—Fishing from Lochmaddy, on Loch Skealtair, Mr. A. W. Craig, one salmon, 9lb., on 14th inst. On Lochandune, Dr. B. and C. Fry, three fish, 2½lb. (heaviest, 1½lb.), on 15th inst. On Strumore, Mr. A. W. Craig, seven fish, 3½lb. (heaviest fish, 3½lb.). On same date, on Strumore, Dr. and Messrs. C. and B. Fry, fourteen fish, 11½lb. (heaviest, 1½lb.), on 17th. On Strumore, Messrs. Charlie and Basil Fry, five fish, 3½lb. (heaviest, 3½lb.), on 20th. On Loch Fada, Dr. F. C. and Mr. B. Fry, thirty fish, 18lb. (heaviest, 1lb.), on 21st. On Loch Tormosat, Dr. F. C. and Mr. B. Fry, nineteen fish, 7lb. (heaviest, 1lb.), on 22nd.

Loch Tay (Killin, N.B.).—On April 19, Miss M. M. Berger killed a nice salmon of 17lb.; Mr. Stenhouse, one, 16lb. 20th, Mr. S. Berger, three, 23lb., 18lb., and 16lb. 21st, Mr. Smith, one, 21lb.; Miss Berger, one, 17lb.; Mr. Wymond, one, 14lb.; Mr. S. Berger, one, 17lb. 22nd, Mr. S. Berger, one, 16lb. 24th, Mr. Wymond, one, 19lb.; Mr. Haynes, one, 24lb.; Miss M. M. Berger, one, 24lb.; Master H. Berger, one, 18lb. 25th, Mr. Haynes, one, 18lb.—H. J. MAISEY.

Naver (Bettyhill, via Thurso, N.B.).—Owing to N.E. winds, snow, frosts, &c., angling, as well as pastoral and agricultural interests have suffered. The sport in the river has been as follows: On 17th, Col. Fryer, Dalvina Lodge, caught two salmon on Beat No. 1; and Col. Curtis, Syre Lodge, one, on No. 2. On 18th, Mr. Blood, Skelpick Lodge, had a salmon of 12½lb. on No. 5; Col. Curtis, three salmon (one of which weighed 13lb.) on No. 3; and Col. Fryer, two, on No. 2. On 19th, Mr. Blood landed a 12-pounder on No. 6; and Col. Curtis, one of 10lb. on No. 4. On 20th, Mr. Blood caught one salmon on No. 1; Mr. Marston, Skelpick Lodge, one, on No. 2; and Col. Fryer, two, on No. 3. On 21st, Col. Curtis, Syre Lodge, had two salmon on No. 1; and Mr. Blood, one, on No. 2. The sad death of a well-known angler in the

north—Mr. George D. Stibbard, lessee of angling and shooting at Syre, Strathnaver, and of 22, Stanhope-gardens, Queen's Gate, and 21, Leadenhall-street, London—took place at Syre Lodge on Sunday last. For his all-round kindness and generosity to the people in the district the deceased gentleman will be much missed. For many years Mr. and Mrs. Stibbard have been liberally contributing to local, charitable, and philanthropic objects.—B.

North-East of Scotland.—The first signs of really acceptable spring weather were experienced on Tuesday, when rain fell copiously, with the wind from the south-west. The rivers are in spate, but the prospects have been made all the brighter, though in the meantime somewhat dull. On the Braemar section of the Dee Major Shute had three salmon, weighing 6lb., 6lb., and 7lb.; while Col. Morland had one of 6lb. on the Invercauld water; Mr. Harris one of 6lb. on the same beat; and Major Shute one of 9lb. on the Crathie waters near Balmoral. On the Ballater waters a good few fish are being got daily. On the Glentana section Sir William Brooks' keepers are doing much better than at any former period of the season on the home pools; while Mr. Barclay had one of 7lb. and one of 6½lb.; Mr. Laming, two, of 15lb. and 15lb., two, of 5½lb. and 9½lb., two, of 7½lb. and 11lb., and two, of 8lb. and 12½lb.; Mr. Farrer, one of 8lb., two, of 4lb. and 6lb., and one of 21lb.; Miss Hihbert, one of 9½lb.; and Mr. Smith, one of 19lb. On the Aboyne reaches sport has also revived somewhat. On the Huntly Arms water, Mr. Crawshaw had two fish, of 11lb. and 10lb., while Capt. Scott creeled four, of 18lb., 15lb., 6lb., and 8lb.; and Mr. Gaithing one of 15½lb. On the Kincardine O'Neil section, Mr. Henry Lawrence creeled one of 8lb., on the Commonly water, on the 18th, and another of 9lb. on the 19th. On the Borrowstone water, Lord Lisburn had one of 8lb., and Lord Garrioch, one of 23lb. On Dess water, Major Davidson had one of 9lb., and Capt. Brook, three, of 6lb., 7lb., and 8lb. On the Ballogie water, Mr. H. L. Craik had two, of 6lb. and 12½lb., and Willie Dunn, one of 7lb., on the Carlogie water. On Tuesday, Col. Morland had a nice fish of 9lb. on Upper Inver waters. Sir John Gladstone has had a fairly good season on the Blackhall and Woodend reaches, his record being about the best on the middle reaches of the Dee. Good baskets of yellow trout are now being got daily on the Don, Ythan, and Ugie. The Aberdeen rock fishers have made a start. WEDNESDAY NIGHT.—The prospects have not been so bright for months past; weather settled, genial, and water in good condition, and steadily getting better. On the Glentana water, Mr. Laming had five on Monday of 4lb., 7lb., 5½lb., 7½lb., and 17½lb., and several on Tuesday of similar weights; while Mr. Barclay, on another section of the river, creeled one of 8lb., and two 18½lb. and 6lb.; Mr. Farrer, one of 8lb.; and Mr. Smith, one of 6lb. On the Braemar waters, Mr. Harris caught one of 8lb.; Mr. Lubbock, three of 6lb., 8lb., and 9lb.; and Col. Morland, two of similar weights. Mr. G. W. Orr, Aberdeen, has taken Mrs. Pickering's Kincardine section for the month of May. The yellow trout are coming freely, and grand baskets were made on Wednesday on the Don, Ythan, and Ugie.—G. M.

Shin (Inveran, N.B.).—Notwithstanding the abnormally adverse weather, the following sport has been got by anglers from Suberland Arms Hotel. On 13th, Mr. Farrar had one salmon weighing 18lb. On 18th, Mr. Evans one of 22lb. On 19th, Mrs. Farrer caught one of 21lb., and Mr. Johnson one weighing 27lb. On 20th, Mrs. Farrer caught a 22-pounder, and Mr. Evans one of 9lb. On 21st, Mr. Johnson grassed one weighing 20lb., and Mr. Evans one of 10lb. On 22nd, Mr. Johnson one salmon, 21lb., and Mrs. Farrer one, 24lb. The average weight of salmon landed during the week was 19½lb.—B.

South of Scotland.—The Border rivers were in flood on Tuesday, and most of the lower waters were too muddy for minnow. Only a few rods were out bait fishing, and the catches were of little or no account. Since Monday the temperature has been much milder than anything experienced this spring. Trout have not been rising freely to the fly this week notwithstanding the favourable conditions. A few sea trout are making their way up the rivers, and two or three have been caught by the rods. The salmon fishing has been a huge failure this season. Since the nets in the Solway opened their season, very few spring salmon have been caught. The Lockerbie Commissioners are now taking steps to have the sewage purified. Some fair yellow trout fishing has been obtained on the higher waters of the Annan with the fly. Sea trout are now running up the river, but they do not generally take the fly at all well until the end of May. In the lower reaches of the river, on Tuesday, Mr. D. C. London killed one with the Devon minnow. Mr. Thomson had several yellow trout on different days with fly and worm. Mr. W. Wright caught half a dozen with the fly. In Kinmount Loch, Mr. E. J. Brook, the proprietor, had some nice yellow trout. Not much has been done on the lower portion of the Nith during the past week. In the Mid Nithdale, at Thornhill, a number of fair-sized yellow trout have been caught with fly. In the upper waters at Sanguhar a few trout have been caught by the local rods. Several rods have been out in the lower portion of the Kirtle, and local rods did very well, especially with fly. The angling is improving now with the milder weather in the Ayrshire lochs. The weather was cold last week and not so favourable for angling in the Galloway Ken. A number of visitors were out, and had fair baskets. On the Ken, above Allangibbon Bridge, Messrs. Frazer and Johnstone had fine baskets with the fly. Two local rods, on Wednesday, killed three dozen good fish on the Dench. The Lochinvar Hotel loch gives some good yellow trout fishing in May. In the Cocker-mouth Derwent, Mr. J. F. Fleming caught five burn trout, and at another outing, nine; Mr. J. Grave took

thirteen, in Cocker; Mr. Matty Thompson, Mr. Howard, and others had fair sport; Mr. Hewitt had one of nearly 1½lb., one of 3½lb., and one of 7½lb., all caught with the running worm; Mr. J. Allison landed a dozen; Mr. Joseph Grave took thirteen. In the Solway the nets are taking more sea trout now, but spring salmon are exceedingly scarce. The rivers are in the pink of order for trout fishing now.—HEATHERELL.

Tay.—The Tay is still in good ply, and sport is considerably improved since last report. The weather is now much milder, and better takes are anticipated. Out from Fisher's Hotel (Pitlochry) water, on the 20th, Mr. Wm. Maxwell, of Donavoured, killed three nice salmon, of 10lb., 17lb., and 25lb. Mr. M. A. Mackenzie, London, on the 21st, killed a newly-run fish of 19lb. A great improvement has taken place in the salmon fishings of Mustly Castle water. Mr. Herbert Millington, of Worcester, on Monday had two salmon, of 18lb. and 22lb.; on Tuesday, one of 13lb.; and on Thursday he killed other two, of 20lb. and 22lb.; and on Friday, one of 14lb. The Delvine waters have also fished well. On Tuesday, Mrs. Gordon L. Bland had a nice fish of 10lb.; and on Wednesday, Mr. P. L. Leaf had one of 14lb. On the same water Mr. Shaw caught a salmon of 17lb.; while Mrs. Leaf, on Friday, got a salmon of 16lb. Out from Stanley Hotel, on Monday, Mr. Fred Kelly, Sheffield, had a salmon of 24lb.—A. A.

Tweed, Teviot, and other Border Streams.—The rivers in the Border district during the past week have been all in good trim for fly fishing, although the weather has not been such as could have been wished. Despite the drawbacks, several good baskets of trout have been got on both Tweed and Teviot. On the former river, Mr. T. Marris has had baskets ranging from 10lb. to 15lb., and a small fish of 5lb. Mr. Arch. Steel, jun., on the Teviot, had 6lb.; on the Tweed, 9lb.; and on the Eden he had 8½lb. in four hours' fishing. On the same streams Mr. T. Mercer had 12lb.; Mr. Jas. Thompson, 4lb.; and on the Teviot, Mr. Charles Farquharson had 8lb.; and on the Tweed he had 6lb. Mr. Wm. Shiells, on Tweed, 6½lb.; Mr. James Simpson, 4½lb.; and Mr. R. Ferguson, on the Teviot, 4½lb. Mr. R. Robertson, on the same stream, has had 5½lb., 6½lb., and 4½lb., on three occasions. Mr. Jas. Affleck, Heaton, has had 6½lb. and 8lb.; and Mr. Robt. Affleck, 4lb. of trout, and one pike of 5lb. All the above takes of trout were killed with fly during genial weather. Mr. Thomas Pringle has also had some nice baskets of trout on the Hendersyde water, some of his fish being from ½lb. to 1lb. in weight. On the Floors Castle upper water, Lord Savordale has had some capital dishes of trout, many of them being of excellent weight and superior quality. Pike fishing in the main streams seems to have abated somewhat, but in both rivers a good many large-sized grayling are still being killed. Salmon fishing as a rule, is just about nil, although I am informed that a few fish have been killed on one or two of the lower waters. On the Floors water, Lord Savordale has had three or four clean-run spring fish, and landed any amount of kelts. On the Tellmouth water (Tweed), Capt. French had an 8lb. salmon, and Stoddart, the keeper, had one of 8lb. also. On the Teviot, Mr. A. Elliot-Caverton has had the first fish of the season, which weighed 14½lb., and on a previous day he had a kipper grilse and a sea trout, both weighing about 4lb. each.—MAXWHEEL.

IRISH REPORTS.

Ballina (Imperial and Royal Hotels Private Water, and Gortnorahbey Hotel, Loch Conn).—The fishing on the river has somewhat improved since my last report, and a great number of fish are showing themselves. The fishing on the lake is good, but would be much better if the water was lower. Mr. and Mrs. King have made some good baskets of trout; on the 20th Mr. King killed a nice salmon weighing 9lb. There were also nice baskets of trout made by Messrs. Garvey, Booth, and Little; the latter killed the largest, weighing 6lb.—G. W. F.

Belfast.—The dams are in good trim, and trouting fair. Mr. A. M'D. Caldwell, Mr. Hunter, Mr. Murray, Mr. Langhead, Capt. Lndlow, and other local gentlemen were out killing from six to twelve fish per day.—J. A. B.

Blackwater (co. Cork).—River has been in high flood for past week. The Duke of York's visit to the Earl of Warwick to fish the Careysville water did not prove a success, the river being quite unfishable, except for a few hours after his arrival; however, during that time the Duke hooked and landed a very fine salmon.—W. HAYNES AND SON.

Boyle.—Fishing for the past few days was very good, and some splendid baskets made. Mr. Fenwick is still holding his own as to number and weight. For the last five days he averaged six trout each day, several being over 4½lb. each. These were all got on Lough Gara. Mr. J. Callaghan, fishing Moyburg, in six days, killed fifty-two trout, weighing 41lb., his best day, last Friday week, seventeen. Col. Carr, fishing Gara, on April 24, got six very good trout and several pike and perch. Messrs. Wills and Thornboro, fishing Gara for the last few days, had very good sport. Yesterday (April 25), Mr. Fenwick, on Gara, killed six very good trout, two largest 3lb. each. Some English gentlemen arrived yesterday, and prospects for a real good May Fly season never were so good. P.S.—Since writing above, Mr. Fenwick has brought in a first-class specimen of the Green Drake. It is now sporting about in one of my glass cases, and leads me to believe the general rise of fly will be earlier than anticipated.—GEORGE TAYLOR.

Boyne (Navan Section).—Continued low water and inclement weather has ruled since my last report. The Duke of York fished for a few hours on the Beauparc streams on Monday in last week, and landed a 14lb. fish,

losing another. On Ardmulchan, two fish were taken by Mr. Foster, and one of 32lb. by the fisherman; one of 25lb. on the Blackwater, by Mr. Boylan, jun.; and six, of 12lb. to 24lb., on Upper Black Castle, by Mr. Ley and his fisherman. At time of writing we have a little freshet, which should bring up a good stock of fish.—CLARET FLY.

Clonbur (Mount Gable Hotel, co. Galway).—The weather last week was very rough; but a pleasant change has set in. Capt. O'Hara caught (on Corrib) a fine spring salmon of 12lb., and some nice trout on April 22. Mr. and Mrs. Ledger and party had some good fishing on Mask.—J. A. JOYCE.

Cork Rivers.—Salmon have given better sport on all the principal rivers, and the fish taken were generally of a good size, and in fine condition. The chances are that some really fine sport will be had during the coming week, as all waters have had a thorough refreshing, and are now in good angling trim. Trout fishers have done well on all waters open for angling.—T. J. D.

Corrib (Galway).—The river has cleared away considerably, for it was thick and heavy last week, and with it an improvement in salmon fishing. Amongst those out were Mr. W. Townsend, Mr. G. Hallett, and the two Lyons.—J. A. B.

East Tyrone Rivers.—The Blackwater and Ballinderry are in fair order. On the latter stream, on Monday, two Belfast anglers killed each a dozen trout.—J. A. B.

Erne (Ballyshannon and Belleek).—Some fine sport was had amongst the trout on the Erne during the past week, and the river is now in splendid order. The prospects for the salmon fishing season on the Erne, which opens on 17th prox., promises to be very good, as several fine salmon have already been captured in the nets and boxes.—M. ROGAN AND SONS.

Forford (The Anglers' Hotel, Pontoon, co. Mayo).—Trout fishing is now very good on Loughs Conne and Cullin this year. Gentlemen staying here are getting splendid fishing, getting from seven to ten trout each day, all large, some 5lb. Anglers intending to fish this season can rely on good sport.—P. HEALY.

Kerry Rivers.—Sport has shown much improvement on all the Kerry rivers open for angling since last report, though salmon have not yielded good sport on any water so far. Trout fishers have had good baskets on the Fartha, Reenroe, Flesk, Main, Sneem, Currin (Waterville), Caragh, Laune and Ahalubrid. On the Caragh, Flesk, and Laune salmon anglers had fair sport on odd days, and the prospects for all the above waters are good.—T. J. D.

Killarney.—Sport has improved at salmon, though it yet cannot be considered good or even fair in this department. Trout fishing, on the other hand, has yielded generally good sport on lake and river.—T. J. D.

Killarney District.—Both trout and salmon fishing is improved on the lakes of this locality. Roberts and Glessane had two salmon each up to 10lb. In two days, on the lower lake, Major Irvine and Mr. J. G. Sharkey killed twenty-nine trout; Mr. J. T. Brooke had a similar take; whilst several officers of the Norfolk Regiment, including Capt. Marriott and Lieut. Donne, had nice takes. On Lough Gintane, Messrs. J. A. J. and G. T. Brookes killed forty-four trout in two days (heaviest, 1½lb.).—J. A. B.

Lee (co. Cork).—The river has been in rather an unsettled state for the past week, but is now getting into good order. On Ashton, Mr. O. L. Evans, 10lb. On Lee Mount, Mr. W. T. Crawshaw, 10lb.; Mrs. Crawshaw, 9lb.; and Miss Stansfield, 9lb. On Ballineadig, Mr. S. Haynes, 9lb. On Fargus, Mr. Allgood, 10lb., 9lb. On Cronody, Capt. de Montmorency, Hants Regt., 10lb.; Capt. Bowker, Hants Regt., 9lb.—W. HAYNES AND SON.

Lough Currane and other waters (Waterville, co. Kerry).—Sport is still very poor on Lough Currane as far as salmon are concerned, only three fish being had since last report, viz., one of 10lb., by Mr. Mason; one of 9lb., by Major Cresswell; and one of 11½lb., by Ned Dennehy, a local professional. Much rain has fallen during the past three days, and the lake is now in good order, and salmon have been coming up pretty freely. The trout fishing on the lake has yielded fine sport. On the upper lakes sport has not been quite so good as usual, but on the mountain lakes brown trout anglers had generally very good sport.—T. J. D.

Lough Melvin.—The weather since last report continued unsettled and very rainy. Still, some of the anglers who were out had some good sport. Mr. J. Johnston landed a salmon of 10lb. on 20th inst.; Mr. Mahon, one, of 9lb.; Mr. P. G., one, of 8½lb.; Mr. Whitehead took two, of 11lb. and 8lb. On 25th inst., Mr. Pulley, one, of 8lb.; and Capt. C. R. Barton, two, of 11lb. and 9lb. Trout fishing was first-class during the past week, quite a number of fine baskets of gillaroo trout and brown trout being taken, some of the baskets containing as many as forty trout, and weighing up to 19lb. Amongst the most successful anglers were the following: Mr. Slater and two friends, Mr. Lewis Lipsett, Mr. Wm. Neely, Dr. R. Creighton, Mr. Morgan, Mr. J. Kelly, Mr. E. Mulhern, &c.—M. ROGAN AND SONS.

Mourne (Newtonstewart, co. Tyrone).—The river was in grand order in the past week, and the weather was favourable to trout. Amongst those out (stopping in the Abercorn Arms) were Capt. Costobadie, Mr. Costobadie, Capt. Ansley, Messrs. Warren, Wood, Evans, Allnutt, Low, and Arson, all of whom had fair sport. Capt. Ansley killed a fine 4lb. trout.—J. A. B.

Moy Hotel Private Waters (Ballina).—Water clear, with south winds, and the nets are doing fairly well since last report, showing a fair run of fish. There was some salmon got on the lake, spinning; and some good baskets of trout got at Rinagong Lodge last week; and on Monday, Mr. W. C. Wilson hooked a large fish and

lost him on the private waters of the Moy Hotel.—JOHN DEVERS.

Moy, Loughs Conn and Cullen (Ballina, co. Mayo).—River in order, but north wind has prevented fish from taking. Major Saunders one salmon, 10lb.; Mr. Pitwick, one salmon, 13lb.; Mr. C. Winton, two salmon, 11lb., 14lb. Mr. A. King had a salmon 9lb. on the Lough, and some nice trout. Mr. Brown and friend had some trout; also Mr. Poach had a trout 8lb., trawling.—PAT HEARNES.

Shannon and Lough Derg (Killaloe).—Two more days of terrific thunder and rain storms. Only two fish taken this week, one a majestic fellow of 36lb., by Mr. R. H. Wilson, of London, and the other, a 32-pounder, by Mr. W. A. H. Martin, of Ledbury, England. Latest arrivals from England include Miss Hope-Johnstone, Mr. W. A. H. Martin, and Major J. R. Motts, Mayfair, London.—S. J. HURLEY.

Shannon (Castleconnell).—The weather during the past week has been stormy, with a very heavy rainfall. On Doonass, Mr. G. C. Williams killed one salmon 30½lb. on 21st. On Prospect, Major Allenby killed one salmon 19lbs. on 21st; on the same water Mr. H. Chapman killed one salmon 24lb. on 24th. On Newgarden, Mr. F. Cooper killed one salmon 15lb. on 19th. On the Castle fishery, Mr. G. W. Greenhill killed one salmon 24½lb. on 21st, and one salmon 13lb. on 24th.—JOHN ENRIGHT AND SON.

Angling Fixtures.

April 30.

Izaak Walton: Outing to Southend.
Stockwell: Outing to Southend.

May 1.

Central Association: Delegate meeting.
Original Alexandra: A.B.S. concert.
Original Clerkenwell: Visit.

May 2.

Bath Anglers' Association: Annual meeting.
Collingwood: Annual dinner and distribution.
Enterprise: Annual dinner and distribution.
Epsom: Annual dinner.
Hoxton Brothers: Benefit concert.

May 3.

Cambridge Heath Brothers: Annual dinner.
St. Ives and District: Annual dinner.
St. John's: Concert and distribution.
Walbam Green: Dinner.

May 4.

Sundial: Supper.
United Brothers: Annual dinner.

May 5.

Cheltenham: Annual meeting.

May

- 7.—Original Clerkenwell: Distribution.
- 8.—Albion Brothers: A.B.S. concert.
- 8.—Amicable Waltonians: A.B.S. concert.
- 8.—Dibdin: Dinner and distribution.
- 8.—Globe: Supper and distribution.
- 8.—South Bermondsey Piscatorials: Annual dinner.
- 9.—Blackfriars: Supper.
- 9.—Firm and True: Distribution.
- 9.—Golden Barbel: Supper and distribution.
- 9.—Queen's Piscatorials: Dinner.
- 9.—Thames Re-stocking Association: Dinner.
- 9.—Ye Olde Clapham Rovers: Lantern lecture.
- 10.—Allason United: Annual dinner.
- 10.—Battersea Piscatorials: Annual dinner.
- 10.—Clapham Strollers: Annual dinner and concert.
- 10.—Eagle: Annual dinner.
- 10.—North London: Annual dinner and distribution.
- 10.—White Hart: Annual dinner.
- 11.—Junior Piscatorials: Annual dinner.
- 11.—North-East Brothers: Annual dinner.
- 11.—Peckham Brothers: Annual dinner.
- 14.—Islington Brothers: Brake outing.
- 15.—Clapham Junction: Dinner and distribution.
- 15.—Clissold: Supper and distribution.
- 16.—Alma: Annual supper.
- 16.—Battersea Friendly: Annual dinner.
- 16.—Blackfriars: Visit.
- 16.—Seymour Brothers: Supper and distribution.
- 17.—Cambridge Heath Brothers: Distribution.
- 17.—Islington: Annual supper.
- 17.—Phoenix: Supper and distribution.
- 17.—Royal George: Supper and distribution.
- 17.—Victoria Brothers: Annual dinner.
- 18.—Bloomsbury Brothers: Annual dinner.
- 18.—Cobden: Dinner and distribution.
- 18.—Walworth Waltonians: Annual dinner.
- 18.—Woolwich Brothers: Annual dinner.
- 19.—Wellington: Annual supper.
- 29.—Hearts of Oak: Annual supper.
- 30.—Islington Brothers: Distribution.
- 30.—Izaak Walton: Sea fishing outing.

NEWS comes from New York that at the sale of Mr. H. E. Cox's library, Messrs. Scribner and Sons paid \$2870 for a copy of Walton's "Compleat Angler."

£10,000 A YEAR.—How one might play the part of Prince Bountiful on such an income! What comfort and relief one could bring to the poor and to the suffering. And yet, even without money one can do good if one has the will. If I see a fellow-creature suffering from ague, fevers, or disorders of the stomach; or from gout, rheumatism, neuralgia, and the like, I don't need to be a man of wealth in order to show him the way to health. If I point out to him the wonderful efficacy of Holloway's Pills and Ointment, I have, perchance, done more good by that one thoughtful action than I could have achieved with all the wealth of all the Rothschilds.

Reports from Clubs

We beg to remind Secretaries that their Reports must reach us not later than **SIX o'clock on Thursday Evening.** Address "Editor, FISHING GAZETTE, St. Dunstan's House, Fetter-Lane, London," marked "CLUB REPORT" outside envelope.

Anglers' Association.—The renting and preservation committee will meet on Monday evening next, May 1, at 8.30.—R. GHURNEY.

Anglers' Association (No. 2 DISTRICT) Visiting List.—My next visit on No. 2 district takes place Monday next, May 1, at the Original Clerkenwell Piscatorials, opposite Foresters' Hall (A.A. headquarters). Name of house, Sutton Arms, Great Sutton-street. I hope to see a crowd.—BEN ABRAHAMS.

Anglers' Association Visiting List.—The Blackfriars A.S. take a combined visit with S.C.W.V.L. on May 16.—E. ROWLES.

Albion Brothers' Angling Society, The Frampton Arms, Hackney.—We hold a concert on May 8, in aid of the A.B.S. (not 22nd as reported last week). The prize list will be ready for Wednesday next, also special business, when it is hoped all will attend.—C. J. KING.

Allason United Brothers' Angling Society, Dnke of Sussex, Uxbridge-street, Notting Hill Gate, W.—The usual weekly meeting took place on April 26, when invites to our dinner were sent to the gentlemen by our members' wish. The dinner takes place on May 10. Dinner on table at 8 p.m. sharp. Will all members please settle up by May 3, and get dinner tickets? Also please let me have prizes promised? Messrs. Derry and Stanniford, of the Prince Albert A.S., were the recipients of a vote of thanks for their energy in doing what they are for our western societies *re* L.N.W.R. Messrs. Wells, Wheeler, Prouten, and Ben had some flounders on April 23 from Southend.—BEN ABRAHAMS.

Alma Angling Society, Coach and Horses, Portsmouth-place, Lincoln's Inn Fields.—At our last meeting some important business was carried through. Messrs. Drew and Chambers were elected chairman and secretary respectively for the ensuing season. The annual supper and distribution of prizes will take place on May 16. Prize donors are requested to kindly send in their prizes as soon as possible.—J. CHAMBERS.

Amicable Waltonian Angling Society, The Fox and French Horn, Clerkenwell Green.—The forty-third annual distribution of prizes took place on Wednesday, 26th, when a most pleasant evening was spent, and over forty prizes, given by members and friends, were handed over to the successful competitors, and a long prize list arranged for the coming season, over forty prizes being promised. On the 29th a smoking concert will be held on behalf of our old friend H. Nunn, who, after twenty-two weeks' illness, was knocked down by a cab and killed. We hope to see some of our angling friends present. On May 8 we hold our annual Bohemian concert on behalf of the Anglers' Benevolent Society. Mr. Frank Newton, Hoxton Brothers, will take the chair; Mr. Bert Ingram, pianist. Mr. Fred Thorling, of the St. John's, will give a short address during the evening on the Anglers' Benevolent Society, and will open the A.B.S. Box. Several of the most prominent of the angling world have promised to be present. This also being a ladies' night, I hope to see a good muster of the fair sex. This concert having been announced for so long a time in the angling press, I sincerely hope to see a big muster of angling friends. Mr. Will Musgrave and his company having control of the concert department, I can promise a good entertainment.—GEORGE MERRY.

Battersea Friendly Angling Society, Queen's Hotel, Queen's-road, Battersea, S.W.—Will gentlemen who intend taking part in our annual dinner on May 16 kindly let me have their names as soon as possible? Several of our members were out sea fishing at Sontbend on April 22, but met with poor sport.—A. JENKINS.

Battersea Piscatorials, Lord Ranelagh, Peronastreet, Battersea.—We hold our dinner on May 10. Any member requiring tickets may have them of secretary or stewards. Will donors of prizes kindly forward same by next week? Will secretaries of clubs please make a note of change of address?—T. TRINGHAM.

Bermondsey Brothers' Angling Society, Woolpack Bermondsey-street, S.E.—At a special meeting of the members, on the 26th, a hearty vote of condolence was passed to the widow of our late respected member, Mr. H. Patman. Most of the members notified their intention of attending the funeral on Saturday, the 29th, at St. Pancras Cemetery, Finchley; the 3.30 service. All to meet at the Bald Faced Stag, Finchley, at three o'clock.—ALF CONN.

Blackfriars Angling Society, The Imperial, Southwark-street, S.E.—I wish to remind members and secretaries that we take a visit on the South London List and Anglers' Association on Tuesday, May 16. Will all members turn up next Wednesday to settle club business? Our supper and distribution takes place on Tuesday, May 9; and I think we shall have a grand night. Mr. G. H. Shepherd, Mr. Wade, Mr. Crumpley, and Mr. H. Howard, and many others have signified their intention of being present.—J. WHEELHOUSE.

Bloomsbury Brothers' Angling Society, Rose and Crown, Broad-street, Bloomsbury.—A special general meeting was held on April 26, when several important matters were decided. The balance-sheet was read and passed as satisfactory. The twenty-seventh annual supper was fixed to take place on Thursday, May 18, on which occasion the chair will be occupied by Mr. R. Lammes, supported by Mr. J. Pailles. An adjourned meeting for

other important business takes place on May 3, at 10 p.m. sharp, when all members are particularly requested to attend.—T. PATERNOSTER.

Bostonian Angling Society, Dalby Tavern, Dalby-street, Prince of Wales-road, Kentish Town.—It is with deep regret that I have to announce the death of Mr. H. Patman, a much respected member, and well known amongst the angling fraternity. Harry was a good angler and thorough, and his efforts on behalf of the Anglers' Benevolent cause are well known, and need no comment. Will members please attend meeting night next—important business? On April 23 Mr. Rundell had a nice trout. Annual dinner and distribution on June 1.—J. H.

Burlington Piscatorials, Burlington Hotel, Burlington-road, W.—Our annual dinner and distribution of prizes will take place on May 11, at 7.30. All members requiring tickets can have them of the secretary or treasurer. A hearty vote of thanks was unanimously accorded to Messrs. Stroud, of Sunbury, for netting about twelve bushels of fish and replacing them into the Thames, which entailed considerable trouble.—P. LAVINGTON.

Cambridge Heath Brothers' Angling Society, The Good Intent, Mowlem-street, Bishop's-road, Cambridge Heath.—Our return visit on the 24th was a grand success, neighbouring clubs showing up in good numbers. The following answered the roll: Albion Brothers, Brunswick Brothers, Good Intent, Hearts of Oak, Izaak Walton, North-East Brothers, Original Alexandra, Perseverance, Royal Oak, Stepney, Camden, and North London. The chair was occupied during the evening by Mr. H. Everett, Mr. C. J. King (Albion Brothers), and Mr. Hayward (Izaak Walton). Mr. Manning, visiting officer, made a very able speech on the good work of the A.B.S., and opened the box, which contained £20s. 2d. I beg to thank Messrs. T. Blanchard, B. Thwaites, T. Hawkes, A. Thompson, H. Pink, J. Baines, jun., F. Noland, Boxall, Willson, Jagot, Brockett, and Mansfield for their services on that occasion. The fifth annual dinner takes place on May 3, at the above house, when our worthy host (B. Williams) will be universal provider. Prize distribution takes place May 17; shall be pleased to receive prizes promised.—P. LOFT.

Camden Angling Society, The Locomotive, James-street, High-street, Camden Town, N.W.—The concert last Monday, for the benefit of the widow and children of the late Mr. Nicholls, was a great success, thanks to the clubs who supported us. Next Wednesday will be quarterly night, when I hope to see a good muster, as we have a lot of business to transact.—E. BOXALL.

Central Association of London Angling Clubs.—The usual monthly meeting will be held at the Bedford Head Hotel, Maiden-lane, Covent Garden, W.C., on Monday evening next, May 1, at 9 p.m.

Cheltenham Angling Club.—The annual meeting of this club will be held on May 5, at the Royal Hotel, at 8 p.m. Agenda: Report and balance-sheet, election of officers for the ensuing season, alteration of rules, &c., and any other business of which notice may be given. The committee earnestly request you to attend this annual meeting, as the increased prosperity of your club can only be maintained by your taking an active and personal interest in the management of its affairs.—Geo. A. POWELL.

Clapham Junction Angling Society, The Clarence, Winstanley-road, Clapham Junction, S.W.—Members kindly note that our annual dinner and distribution of prizes of the above society will take place on Monday, May 15, at clubhouse. Tickets, 2s. 6d.—G. T. JAMESON.

Clerkenwell and District United Visiting List.—The concert in aid of the prize fund of the above will take place on Monday, June 5, at the Empress, St. John Street-road (the clubhouse of the St. John's A.S.). The committee meet again on Tuesday to settle details.—F. CASTELL.

Clissold Angling Society, The Cricketers, Northwold-road, Stoke Newington, N.—On April 25 we elected officers, and fixed date for supper and the distribution of prizes, which will take place on Monday, May 15. Members will greatly oblige by letting me have prizes in as soon as possible, and also to observe rule 10. On Wednesday next the new committee will meet and arrange date for our A.B.S. smoker, as our club-room is now completed. Tickets for supper may be obtained of our worthy host, or of me, on Tuesdays, at 8.30.—T. FAULKNER.

Cobden Angling Society, Kensal-road, W.—I beg to inform members that the annual dinner and distribution of prizes will take place on Thursday, May 18. Will those members and gentlemen who have promised prizes kindly forward the same as early as possible.—T. TWYMAN.

Collingwood Angling Society, The Lord Nelson, Nelson-square, Blackfriars-road, S.E.—Our annual supper and prize distribution takes place next Tuesday, May 2. The chair will be supported by Mr. Jeffreys ("Straw Hat") and Mr. Burrell (South London Press). A host of talent has been provided, so as to make a very successful evening.—W. H. STAFFORD.

Dalston Angling Society, Brownlow Arms, Brownlow-street, Dalston.—Our annual dinner will take place on June 4, at the Black Rabbit, Arundel. Members intending to be present must let the secretary know not later than Tuesday, May 15. The distribution of prizes will take place on May 16. Gentlemen who promised prizes will oblige by forwarding same as soon as convenient. Our return visit, No. 1 Eastern Division, will take place on Monday, May 8. Members are requested to attend on Tuesday next.—S. MALBY.

Dibdin Angling Society, St. Martin's Tavern, Pratt-street, N.W.—Wednesday meeting dull. Supper tickets to hand, which members and friends can purchase at the clubhouse or of secretary; Monday, May 8, at eight

o'clock sharp. Tickets, 2s. 6d. each: prize distribution to follow.—JOHNNY EDWARDS.

Drayton Park Piscatorials, Stanley Arms, Landseer-road, Holloway-road, N.—Our forty-fourth smoker was a grand success. Select company, good harmony, and a pleasant evening.—GREG.

Eagle Angling Society, Red Lion, Tottenham.—The annual general meeting of this society will be held on May 3, when the officers for the ensuing season will be elected. The annual dinner will take place on May 10, Mr. E. T. Elder (president) in the chair.—W. J. PRICE.

Enterprise Angling Society, City Arms, High Cross-road, Tottenham.—On Tuesday, May 2, we held our annual supper and distribution of prizes, when I hope all members and friends will attend.—W. LEFEVRE.

Epsom Angling Society, Wellington Hotel, High-street, Epsom.—The eighth annual dinner will be held on Tuesday evening, May 2. Dinner on table at 6.30.—JAMES P. CHUTER.

Golden Barbel Angling Society, Sir Isaac Newton, Union-street, Middlesex Hospital.—Will members clear books, so that we know how many to order supper for on May 9; also send in names for A.B. tickets.—A. N. ELLINS.

Harcourt Angling Society, Harcourt Arms, Harcourt-street, Marylebone.—Our annual supper and distribution will take place on June 5, when I hope to see all the members present. There will be a limited number of tickets for friends that would like to come to the supper.—A. E. PAYNE.

Hearts of Oak Angling Society, Ye Olde Crown, Brick-lane, Bethnal Green.—Our annual supper takes place on May 29; distribution of prizes the following Monday.—C. SMITH.

Hoxton Brothers' Angling Society, Spread Eagle, Kingsland-road, Shoreditch.—On Tuesday evening next (May 2) our member, Mr. J. Huntley, will hold a concert for the benefit of his son, Mr. H. Huntley, who has been laid up now for nine months; chairman, W. Midson.—JOHNNY.

Islington Brothers' Angling Society, Myddleton Arms, Canonbury-road.—We met on Tuesday last, but so few members present that no business was transacted, but I hope members will attend better on Tuesday next to clear books before the outing, as it takes place on May 14, and I should like to know how many members have friends that would join us on that date; also members and friends who have promised prizes would oblige by forwarding them as early as possible. The distribution of prizes takes place on May 30.—J. H. HERBERT.

Izaak Walton Angling Society, Old King John's Head, Mansfield-street, Kingsland-road.—We compete for a series of special prizes on April 30 at Southend; all competitors to fish from the pier. I again beg to remind the members that quarterly night (and the end of our financial year) occurs on Wednesday next, May 3.—H. B.

Junior Piscatorial Society, Rosemary Branch, Lewisham High-road, S.E.—Our annual dinner will take place on May 11, at the clubhouse. A well arranged musical evening will follow, several of our members, who are well-known local singers, having promised to oblige.—C. R. W.

Jubilee Angling Society, Prince Arthur, Golborne road, North Kensington.—Since my last report we have proposed two new working members. Will members please attend next meeting night to make final arrangements for the annual dinner?—G. BENEC.

Limehouse Piscatorial Society, Silver Tavern, Burdett-road, E.—On April 22 six new members were proposed. Members are particularly requested to attend the next general meeting, to be held on Friday, May 5, when all arrangements for the coming season will be made.—R. J. WELLS.

Lincoln Angling Society, Metropolitan, Winchester-street, Pentonville, N.—I beg to inform members that our general clearing night for past season is fixed for May 10, on which night all members must clear their books up. Supper, May 17. Prize donors please note.—W. WATLING.

Liverpool Angling Association, Bee Hotel, Queen-square.—We held a quarterly meeting on the 13th, at which there was a fair attendance. The chairman of the association, Capt. Macnab, presided, and the business on the agenda paper, under his able and genial guidance, was got through in a satisfactory manner, and, though there was two or three controversial items, all passed off in complete harmony. The minutes of previous meetings were duly confirmed, three new members were enrolled, various subscriptions paid in, the hon. treasurer's quarterly account adopted, a resolution carried by a big majority to continue the tenancy of the sole right of fishing in the reservoir at Pen-y-Cae, limit weight of dace reduced to 2½oz.—in my opinion a retrograde step. Outing fixed for the 27th, and the prizes for same apportioned; and prizes were presented to Messrs. R. Wilson, Jagger, Jefferies, Pierce, and J. Pennington. Mr. Whittington made the very interesting and pleasing announcement that the trout had positively bred in the redds prepared for them at the reservoir, as not only had the youngsters began to rise at the fly, but many of them were taken in the minnow trap. The secretary reported having placed fifteen small jack kindly sent by Sir H. B. Robertson in the water at Knowsley. The proceedings, business-like throughout, were brought to a close by a hearty vote of thanks being unanimously passed to the chairman, hon. treasurer, and secretary.

Liverpool Angling Association, Bee Hotel, Queen's-square.—Angling news is scarce this week, but Mr. Whittington has again had some good trout out of the reservoir. Mr. Pennington reports that in four days' fishing in South Wales, Easter week, he creelied 50lb. of trout, with worm, March Brown, and Light Blue Dnn, besides a quantity of fine chub. This member is very successful in

his outings in the particular water he frequents, and generally manages to find his friends with a good feed of trout.—R. WOODFALL.

North-East Brothers' Angling Society, Star and Garter, Green-street.—Our usual meeting took place last Wednesday evening, when members were glad to see our old friend, Mr. Lamb, back in the chair. On May 11 our seventh annual dinner will take place. Shall be pleased if members will call and settle up on next meeting night, Wednesday, May 3.—G. TAYLOR.

North London Angling Society, Tap House, Holloway-road.—On April 19 the secretary brought forward the balance-sheet, the same being passed as read. After the auditors had given their report thereon it showed that the club is in a sound financial condition, with a balance of close on £30 in hand. The annual dinner and distribution of prizes won during last season takes place on May 10. Mr. J. Pailles will take the chair, being supported by several other gentlemen, who have been donors of prizes for the last eight years.—H. STRETCH.

Original Alexandra Angling Society, The Lamb, Three Colts-lane, opposite Bethnal Green Junction.—On Monday, May 1, the third Bohemian concert will take place at the above, in aid of the A.B.S. The chair will be occupied by Mr. J. Nagle, and we anticipate a grand evening's entertainment.—E. BROCKETT.

Original Clerkenwell Piscatorial Society, Sutton Arms, Great Sutton-street, Goswell-road.—The next return visit on the No. 2 Eastern takes place at the above clubhouse on May 1, when some good talent is promised. On May 7 we have a little spread and distribution of prizes at the White Horse, Bury. Will members please clear the book next meeting night?—A. HILL.

Phoenix Angling Society, The Tavistock, Stibbing-street, N.W.—The annual distribution and supper will take place on Wednesday, May 17, our host catering; the brake outing on the second Sunday of season, so as to give our members a chance of fishing in the Jubilee Nurse competition. The landlord gave us two half-guineas to fish for next season.—R. C.

Prince Albert Angling Society, Prince Albert Hotel, Woodfield-road, Harrow-road, W.—Our smoker in aid of the A.B.S. was a success. The chair was taken by Mr. Chapman, faced by Mr. Staniford. We had some excellent talent. The sum of £1 9s. was added to the funds of that society. During the evening the prizes were presented to the successful members, Mr. W. Fayers and Mr. Staniford being the chief prize winners. The following also took prizes: Messrs. H. Frickes, Derry, Hardcastle, Baverstock, and Breedon. Will members attend on May 4, the meeting being special for alteration of rules?—W. B. F.

Queen's Piscatorials, Queen's Arms, 1A, Chapel-street, Edgware-road, N.W.—On the 18th inst. we made a fresh working member, and on the 25th we made a new working member and another proposed, who will be balloted for on Tuesday next. Any member or friend requiring dinner tickets for May 9 can obtain one at any time at the clubhouse.—GEO. KEENE.

Royal George Angling Society, Queen's Arms, Bateman-street.—Our concert on the Central Association List on April 20 was very well represented, nineteen clubs responding to the roll-call. Our annual supper and distribution takes place on May 17. Tickets can be obtained of the stewards or the secretary. Donors of prizes will greatly oblige by sending them to the clubhouse at their earliest convenience.—G. GIBBONS.

Seymour Brothers' Angling Society, King and Queen, 1, Foley-street, Fitzroy-square, W.—The next return visit on the Central Association of London Anglers will go to the above on May 11, when I hope as many brother anglers as can make it convenient to attend will do so. Our annual supper and distribution of prizes takes place May 16.—W. ALDIS.

South Bermondsey Club Piscatorials' Institute, Rotherhithe New-road.—Our annual dinner takes place on Monday, May 8, and should be pleased to see all members present on Friday next to complete arrangements. Also we, the above, deeply regret to hear of the sad death of Mr. H. Patman, one of the most respected members of the Bermondsey Brothers, and we wish to convey our deep sympathy and condolence to the bereaved family.—J. H. DAVIES.

South London United Anglers' Visiting List.—The members of clubs on the above paid a visit to the Waggoners' A.S., at the Lion, Albert Embankment, on Tuesday evening last. Mr. A. Piolane, of the Walworth Waltonians, occupied the chair. The excellent musical programme was greatly enjoyed. Fourteen clubs responded to the roll-call. Next visit going to the Blackfriars A.S., at The Imperial, Southwark-street, Blackfriars, on Tuesday, May 16. Unfortunately, not one of the officers of this important list were in attendance.

Stratford Angling Society, Dorset Arms, Leyton-road, Stratford New Town, E.—I wish to remind members that Tuesday next, May 9, is quarterly night, when I hope all members will clear the books.—G. F. WEAVER.

Twickenham Piscatorial Society, Black Dog, London-road, Twickenham.—At our meeting on April 25 Mr. Hebblethwaite took the chair. That well-known sportsman, Mr. F. R. A. Parsons, of the Railway Tavern, Twickenham, was elected a member. The first tackle discussion took place, the subject being "Floats." Mr. Ogden Smith exhibited a very large and varied selection. The subject was eventually adjourned until next Tuesday, when will any members who use any unusual sort of float kindly bring a sample with them.—J. M. BROUGHAM.

Victoria Brothers Angling Society, Princess Victoria, Robert-street, Hampstead-road, N.W.—On May 16 we have our annual dinner, trusting we have the pleasure of visiting clubs at our concert afterwards, to commence at 9.30.—W. H. B.

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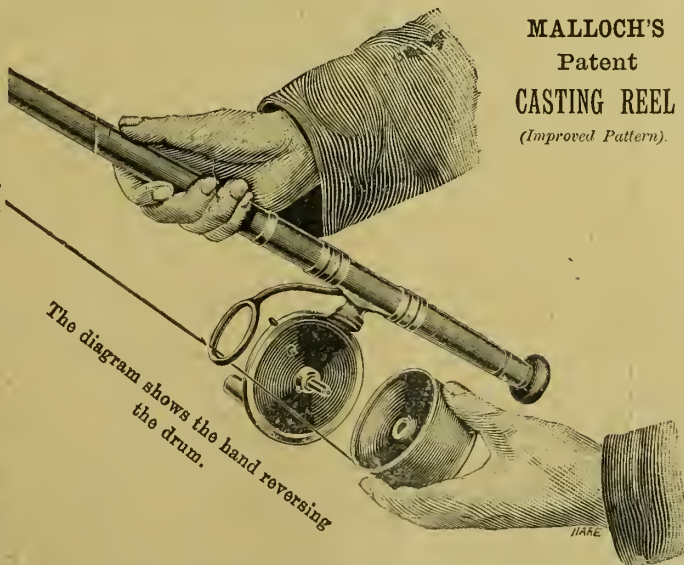
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19, LEICESTER SQUARE, LONDON, W.C.;
And at CHELTENHAM.

Waggoners' Angling Society, White Lion, Albert Embankment.—Our visit took place on Tuesday last on the S.L.U.V.L., and was a grand success. Mr. A. Pioline, of the Walworth Waltonians, ably filled the chair, in the unavoidable absence of Mr. G. H. Shepherd. Fourteen clubs were represented. I wish to tender my sincere thanks to all those gentlemen who favoured us with their company; Mr. Pioline will be remembered by the above for a long time to come. Although the night was a bad one, and other unforeseen circumstances, we had a pleasant evening. Mr. W. Wade was present and did me a favour by calling the roll. Mr. Brown accompanied on the piano.—H. C.

Walham Green and Chelsea Angling Society, Black Bull, Fulham-road, S.W.—On Wednesday last we had a good meeting, and by the dinner committee's report we anticipate a very large muster to our dinner on Wednesday next. Dinner will be on the table at 8 sharp, and all tickets not returned by Sunday night must be paid for, as they will be guaranteed. All our friends and members of other clubs please accept our cordial invitation to our concert after the dinner.—TIDDLER.

Walworth Waltonians Angling Society, St. Paul's Tavern, Westmoreland-road, Walworth, S.E.—Our annual dinner will take place at the clubhouse on Thursday, May 18. All members and invites are requested to take note of the alteration. Some excellent talent has been engaged for the occasion, and we hope to have an enjoyable evening.—W. WRAY.

Wellington Angling Society, Prince George, Hillingdon-street, S.E.—Our annual supper takes place on Friday, May 19, it having been postponed owing to the serious illness of our worthy host. Members will kindly attend in force, as I wish to make all necessary arrangements.—F. WESTOBY.

White Hart Angling Society, The White Hart, Tottenham Hale, N.—Will members and donors of prizes please note that our annual dinner and distribution of prizes takes place at the above on Wednesday, May 10, at 8 p.m. sharp, who will oblige by forwarding them on to me at their earliest convenience on or before that date?

Wimbledon Piscatorials, 28, Alexandra-road.—The annual meeting of this society will be held next Tuesday at headquarters at 9 p.m., when the report and accounts for the past year will be presented, officers appointed for the ensuing season, and the rules revised. A full attendance of members is desired.—HON. SEC.

Woolwich Brothers' Angling Society, Railway Tavern, Plumstead-road, Plumstead.—The annual dinner and distribution will take place on May 18, when we hope to see a good muster of our friends and supporters on that occasion. Will all members please attend the meeting, so as to lighten the work?—T. SMITH.

Yarm Angling Association.—The annual meeting of the above was held on the 20th inst., when the balance-sheet was read, and found to be very satisfactory, showing the club to be in a very good position. Officers were then elected for the year. President, Mr. B. C. Atkinson; treasurer, Mr. W. Elgie; secretary, Mr. R. Robson. Mr. George Ramsey won the prize for the heaviest aggregate weight of fish for the six competitions which were held during the season. Several other matters were discussed, which will be brought up again at the adjourned meeting to be held on the 26th inst.—R. ROBSON.

Ye Olde Clapham Rovers' Angling Club, The Windmill, Clapham Park-road.—We had a good attendance on April 23, the occasion being a selection of music and some very nice singing by our worthy host, Harry Edwards, accompanied by his two sons; Master Jack at the piano. Our next entertainment will be by Mr. Wade, who has kindly offered to give us a lantern lecture on May 9, which we trust will be a success, the object being in aid of the Thames Angling and Preservation Society.—N. LINDEN.

Doffings by the Day.

It is with the greatest regret that I have to record the death of Mr. Harry Patman, which occurred on Sunday morning last (April 23) after an illness, which has practically extended over three years, leaving a widow and seven children to mourn his loss. The funeral will take place on Saturday, April 29, at four o'clock, at Finchley Cemetery. I have fished with Harry in Norfolk and Suffolk, and at various A.B.S. competitions, and he never tired of answering any questions which were put to him to benefit his brother angler. He was one of the most expert roach fishermen of his day, as his club register will testify.

The following extract is from a letter sent to me by Mr. W. J. Wade, of the Central Association, in answer to inquiries for further particulars: "He was for many years permanently identified with every movement likely to benefit the angling cause, being for many years a member of the A.B.S., a society in which he took a deep and lasting interest. It was owing to his efforts that the convalescent home scheme was adopted, the idea and general details of which he worked out to a practical issue. For many years previous, and up to the time of his death, he was an active and useful member of the Central committee, where his wide experience and straightforward and practical character endeared him to all, and made him of the greatest service to the anglers whom he was always pleased to serve. He was a genuine sportsman and a true friend. The Central Association have ordered a wreath to be sent, and the whole of the officers and committee will attend the funeral."

The May Fly is not yet "up," but the May meetings and feasts are very much in evidence. Mr. Arthur

Morton, M.P., is to occupy the chair on May 4 at the sixteenth annual dinner of the United Brothers' A.S. Mr. W. R. Lawes is down for the vice-chair. I can speak from experience as to the enjoyable nights this well-known and well-conducted club arrange. Tickets may be obtained from Mr. H. Tyler (secretary), at headquarters, Druid's Head Tavern, Broadway, Deptford. I understand that this dinner will be a record one. Sorry I cannot be there, as Thursday night is always a busy one with me. I don't know what to say to Mr. Lawes (the moving spirit of the United Brothers) in answer to a very kind invite: "Now, 'Drag,' no excuse this time, but come. We have not given you a long time to think about it and frame delightful excuses." [That's enough, Mr. Lawes; if I run in upon you it will be about 11.30, and you must provide a carriage to get me home. A pleasant evening to you all.]

ON Tuesday, May 9, the first annual dinner of the Thames Re-stocking Association will be held at Carr's Restaurant, Strand. Mr. C. H. Cook ("John Bickerdyke") will occupy the chair. On the same evening the Blackfriars will dine at their headquarters, the Imperial Hotel, Southwark-street, Blackfriars. The chair and vice-chair will be occupied by Messrs. G. H. Shepherd and W. J. Wade. Secretary J. Wheelhouse means the function to be a success. They have a good host and a splendid room, and visitors will find them the best of good company.

ON Tuesday evening next the Collingwood Anglers dine at the Lord Nelson, Nelson-square, Blackfriars-road, S.E. "Straw Hat" (Mr. J. Jeffery) in the chair, supported by Mr. F. Bursill and a host of angling celebrities. The host of this hospitality will see that justice is done to members and visitors.

OUR F. G. ALBUM OF ANGLERS.

No. 40 (New Series).



MR. E. M. MALLETT.

Has been a keen lover of coarse fishing from early youth. An old City of London School boy, he received his first taste of angling delights under the enthusiastic example of one of the masters with whom he resided. For some years he was the hon. sec. of that well-known angling club, The Larkhall, Larkhall-lane, Clapham. He is a zealous member of the British Sea Anglers. When deep sea fishing last August, in the Channel, a few miles off the Lizard, he had the unique experience of catching five sharks. Two of these undesirable gentry were 5ft. long, and caused no small commotion when hauled aboard. Mr. Mallett has made good bags of fish on the Thames, at Kingston, and is very well known in boating circles. For many years he has been a regular visitor to those happy hunting grounds, the Norfolk rivers and broads, and met with great success, notably large perch at Oulton broad, and heavy roach in the Waveney. He is a true sportsman, and has often expressed his regret that large quantities of fish are so thoughtlessly wasted in those waters annually by so-called anglers, who leave them on the banks to rot. The chief offenders are angling parties on wherries and yachts. Mr. Mallett rejoices in many friends, and is what may be truthfully described as a fair all-round man at rowing, swimming, billiards, cricket, &c.

The Limehouse Piscatorials are, I understand, going well and strong. For a comparatively new club they contain an excellent membership, amongst whom are many influential anglers. This is as it should be, but, from what a little bird whispers, its success is due to their hon. sec. and a good committee.

The Wednesday evening meetings of the B.S.A.S. are now held in the York Room at the Holborn Restaurant.

THE Drayton Park Piscatorials' smoker on the 26th was very successful. The room was crowded. Messrs. Joe Wall, J. Matthews, Fred Bangle, Tom Partridge, F. and W. Menage, &c., supplied the harmony. Mr. A. W. Horsey made a capital chairman, supported by several well-known gentlemen, including Messrs. John Lees and W. Harris.

THE paper read before the members and friends of the B.S.A.S. on Wednesday evening last was entitled "Sea Fishing—by a Landsman." A huge pile of books for reference had been sent on to the York Room at the Holborn, and after the introductory pages had been read (in which sea fishing had been carefully avoided), the audience was invited to listen to some of the extracts. But unfortunately the wrong books had been sent on, with the result that on page blank, of book blank, &c., &c., there was nothing to be done but to give them the following:

"How to stock a trout stream"—pnt plenty in and take none out; "How to make Flies, and the absolute necessity of reducing the varieties in existence, and have six standard patterns only;" "Fly Fishing for Mussels;" "Angling for Sturgeon with a Roach-pole;" "Sea Fishing in the American Lakes;" "Legering for Dolphin;" "Artificial Paste for Congers;" "Whiffing for Bass (bottled);" "Live-baiting for Oysters;" "Trolling for Whales;" "Winkles as Bait—boiled or raw?" "Sea Fishing a Fine Art;" and one or two other subjects which will be briefly treated on a future occasion before such another brilliant audience.

THE annual general meeting of the Scottish Trout Anglers' Association (to which the public are specially invited) will take place in the Masonic Hall, Parliament Close, 71, High-street, Perth, on Friday, April 28, at 8 p.m. The Right Honourable the Earl of Mansfield will occupy the chair, and the president of the association (the Right Honourable Sir Herbert Maxwell, Bart., M.P.) will deliver an address in the interests of trout angling. The half-yearly report and the annual balance-sheet will be submitted, and other business, including a proposal to form a district association in Perthshire, will be discussed. The committee hope that a large number of members will find it convenient to be present, and, with a view to the good of trout angling in the county, they would urge upon the anglers of Perth and the surrounding districts (whether members or not) the desirability of attending. The honorary secretary of this society is Mr. Andrew Smith.

THE Pet Dog Show—one of the most fashionable events of the year at the Royal Aquarium—will be held there, for the eighth year in succession, on Tuesday, Wednesday, and Thursday next. The entries, which number nearly 1400—a record entry—embrace every variety of pet dogs, and the exhibitors include a princess and many ladies of title. The unique Aquarium entertainments will proceed as usual, and the Great Fight at 4 and 9 o'clock, daily.

MR. AKERS-DOUGLAS, M.P., First Commissioner of Works, at Whitstable, on Wednesday, referred to the favourable reports by medical inspectors on the Whitstable oyster beds, and said the promised legislation had not been forgotten. The president of the local government board, with a desire to set at rest the fears regarding the eating of oysters, and to protect a *bona fide* industry, was about to introduce a measure providing for the inspection of oyster layings, prohibiting their removal from insanitary grounds, and regulating the importation of foreign oysters from suspected districts.

THE monthly delegate meeting of the Central Association will take place on Monday evening, May 1, at the Bedford Head, Maiden-lane, Covent Garden.

LONDON, Brighton, and South Coast Railway Superintendent (to Carriage Inspector): "Any of the carriages out of order?" "Yes; No. 412 is unfit for service." "Well, use it only for Pulborough after this."

ACCORDING to the *Weekly Press*, Christchurch, New Zealand, of Feb. 22, "Mr. R. Heaton Rhodes fished in the lower reaches of the Ophi, and landed an 11lb. fresh run female trout. He was using a 10oz. Hardy rod, a xxx drawn gut cast, and Red Spinner Fly tied on a No. 1 hook. This is believed to be a record for such light gear. Mr. Nichols, who accompanied him, succeeded in getting the fish into the landing net at the first attempt."

MR. R. J. WELLS, hon. sec. of the Limehouse Piscatorial Society, when sending on his postal order for 10s. 6d. (one year's subscription, post free) to the *Fishing Gazette*, says that they are adding to their numbers rapidly. Many influential residents are joining, and the Limehouse A.S., although comparatively an infant, is going "strong." Success to them!

AN angler generally has a "cast" in his eye.

IN conversation with Mr. Jardine recently, he said: "I took one of my grandsons—a little six-year-old—'tiddler' fishing. He has a terrier dog named Rip. Returning home by a pathway running alongside Tottenham Cemetery, he saw a tombstone with 'R.I.P.' on it. 'Grandpa,' said he, 'a poor little dog is buried there. I wonder if it was like mine?'" DRAGNET.

PISCATORIAL SOCIETY.

THANKS to the inclement weather of Monday, there was but a small attendance of members at the usual weekly gathering, Mr. W. Edmonds presiding. Angling reports showed that the wind, rain, and cold had kept trout down, so that little sport had been obtained on either the Kennet, Moor stream, or Colne. Mr. J. W. Zehnendorf, who had spent two days at Newbury, stated that the Grannom was fairly well up, and for a short time in one particular spot unapproachable except by wading. There was a grand rise of fish. The wind had blown into the eddies one seething mass of living flies an inch thick. He had never seen so many trout taking the "green-tails" on one particular shallow (an impregnable fishing fortress in his case) in all his experience of the Kennet, but, unfortunately, his waders were carelessly stowed away at the Swan, and beyond catching a quantity of exceptionally fine dace (returned) he did nothing. Mr. W. G. Fletcher, who had likewise been to Newbury, also drew a blank, thanks to the rough weather, and Mr. C. H. Bywaters, thanks to a pitiless downpour of rain throughout the day, could not even venture out to fish. The energetic Mr. Harden, however, took a fish of 2lb., and was unfortunate enough to get smashed by two bangers. The chairman mentioned that he had taken on the Wick a curious looking jack, if, indeed, it was *Esolucius* at all. It was absolutely silvery in colour, without a suspicion of gold about it, the fins being tinged with red instead of yellow. If such a thing were possible, he thought it must have been a cross between a jack and a trout. Had the learned curator (Dr. Chas. S. Patterson) been present he might have been able to have pronounced an authoritative opinion upon the point as to whether the fish was a hybrid or not, especially if it had been brought up for inspection. Mr. Frank Ward gave an interesting account of coarse fishing at Harlingham Ferry, on the Trent, though naturally he had not sampled it. Several members had been to the new water at Uxbridge, and some grand trout had been seen on the move towards evening. Mr. R. Bradford, besides indulging in a modest lunch at the Chequers, and a still less ostentatious tea at the keeper's cottage, took a good trout of 1lb. 12oz. out of deep water. Mr. H. A. Rolt also got a smaller fish of 1lb. 4oz. It was mentioned that the best wind for dry fly work was a sou'-wester, and for wet fly fishing a N.W. blow. Mr. H. H. Brown stated that the "locals" would tell them that they never caught fish when there was a down-stream wind. No information was, however, afforded as to the style of angling the aforesaid natives adopted. It goes without saying that they do not fish in the artistic manner the past masters in the Piscatorial Society affect. M. G. E. DE C.

BRITISH SEA ANGLERS' SOCIETY.

THE minutes of the last meeting were read and confirmed. Mr. G. Read Clarke was in the chair. Mr. Parker reported that a pollack was taken at Southsea Pier last week of 3lb. Mr. Preston Gardner, with Mr. Wood, at Newhaven on April 22 and 23 (April 22, five score; April 23, five and a half score), mostly dabs of 9oz., flounders, and plaice; no sport trailing for bass; bait, mussels and lugworm. Mr. Tucker, at Southend, on Monday, four score of small fry, about one score of flounders, weighing up to 1lb., boat fishing. Mr. Hnssey reported catching some dabs at Southend-on-Sea, but they ran small. Mr. G. H. Howard then read a paper entitled "Sea Fishing by a Landsman." M. Henri Viard (of *Le Journal*, Paris), gave some interesting stories of sea fishing. Afterwards an animated discussion took place on trawling and the wholesale destruction by trawlers of immature fish, in which Mr. Tucker, the chairman, Mr. Hnssey, the hon. sec., and others took part, and a remedy was suggested by having a close time for steam trawlers. Will members kindly note that the headquarters of the society are now at the Holborn Restaurant (York Room)? The usual vote of thanks to the chair closed the meeting.

CHARLES S. PATTERSON, Hon. Sec.

THAMES ANGLING PRESERVATION SOCIETY.

THE executive met at the society's office on Tuesday last, and the hon. sec. (Mr. Higgins) laid before the committee the remainder of the correspondence between himself and the Lord Chamberlain respecting the removal of the barren streams between Staines and Teddington Lock. This has been done. Two are attended to by Harris, of Isleham; ten by E. Rosewell, of Halliford; and thirty-eight by the Messrs. Abnett, at Molesey. The birds will be kept off the river until the perch spawn is hatched out. A special vote of thanks was accorded to H. O. O'Hagan, Esq., for his prompt action in removing and housing his ducks during the coarse fish spawning season, as asked by the committee.

ELGIN ANGLING SOCIETY.

ON Monday a grand concert was given at the Blenheim Arms, Blenheim-crescent, Notting Hill, by the host, Mr. Chas. Chaplais. The large room, which was packed by an appreciative and enthusiastic company, was tastefully decorated, and presented a picturesque appearance. Mr. Louis Chaplais, Ben Jonson, Shoe-lane, Fleet-street, ably presided, the vice being occupied by the hon. secretary of the society. Among those present was Mr. Arthur West, of the Lychnobite Angling Society. The programme commenced with a pianoforte solo by Mr. Stanley Marriott, after which Master Guy Chaplais, a prodigy, gave "Across the bridge," receiving vociferous applause. Mr. Harry Morris received an undeniable encore for "Sons of the sea," responding with a parody on the "Wedding bells."

Mr. Harry Paton was very pleasing in his songs "The King's Own" and "Daddy," and Mr. "Wag" Crook, character comedian, was highly successful in "Doing my duty" and "For old times' sake." "Santa Clans," a coon song, given by Mr. Hart, was encored, and was followed by the host with "Fifteen of 'em on the parlour floor," which was loudly applauded, as was also Mr. Fenn Forge's song, "It's the drink," and was compelled to give "St. Sepulchre's bells" before he left the stage. Mr. Leynton was excellent in "Do-ray-me-fa," and by way of an encore gave a capital recitation. Mr. Alec Thomas (*à la* Eugene Stratton) highly amused with "Little Dolly Daydream" and the "Newly married man," his mimicry being of a high order. Mr. Jones was cordially thanked for his exhibition of the gramophone, and a hearty vote of thanks, with musical honours, being accorded the host, a most enjoyable evening was brought to a close with "Auld Lang Syne." The chairman and host have promised two handsome prizes for the best two roach caught during the season.

ANCHOR AND HOPE ANGLING SOCIETY.

THE twenty-fifth annual dinner of the Anchor and Hope Angling Society was held at the Thomas a' Becket, Old Kent Road, on Thursday, April 20th. Mr. T. Crumplen, president of the society, occupied the chair, supported by Mr. W. H. Elsmore, Mr. R. Lawes, Mr. J. Leven, and Mr. W. J. Wade (Secretary of the Central Association).

The chairman, in proposing "The Anchor and Hope Angling Society," said, as their president, he was proud to again occupy the chair at their annual gathering, and congratulated the society on the manner in which they supported the preservation societies, especially the T.A.P.S., which had done, and is still doing, a vast amount of good for the London anglers. He wished the society every success, and hoped they would increase in numbers in the following season.

Mr. F. W. Martin, responding for the society, said they had not been so successful last season as in others, but mentioned a take of five dabs by one of the members (Mr. C. Booth), all of which were over 1lb. each. They had £20 in hand, and were in hopes of having a very good season.

Mr. W. J. Wade, in proposing "the president," said it needed but very few words from him, as they all knew Mr. T. Crumplen ("Old Izaak" of the *People*), and how he had worked for them all in days gone by on the Central and other associations, where he had been associated with him.

Mr. Crumplen, in responding, said he thanked the members for the manner in which they had received him, and should be pleased at any time to come amongst them whenever they desired him.

The musical part of the programme was contributed to by the following gentlemen: Messrs Chas. Steele, Romney, Bert Hope, F. Bowden, Harry Payne, S. T. Crumplen, A. Dewell, Jackson and Chadwick (banjo and mandoline duet), J. Grant jun., J. Bomer, J. P. Boston, and O'Hagan.

The following prizes were offered for the coming season: Mr. T. Crumplen, pair of oil paintings; Mr. W. H. Elsmore, 10s. 6d.; Mr. H. Mallett, sen., £1 1s.; Mr. B. C. Booth, £1 1s.; Mr. F. W. Martin, £1 1s.; Mr. D. Davis, 10s. 6d.; Mr. J. Jones, 10s. 6d.; Mr. W. J. Wade, 10s. 6d.; Mr. C. Watkins, 10s. 6d.; Mr. T. Bowling, 10s. 6d.; Mr. J. Farmer, 10s. 6d.; Mr. G. Puttock, 10s. 6d.; Mr. C. Cannar, 10s. 6d.; Mr. H. Hamilton, 10s. 6d.; Mr. S. Jackson, 10s. 6d.; Mr. J. Leven, 10s. 6d., and Xmas prize; Mr. G. Duck, £1 1s.; Mr. Taylor, 10s. 6d.; Mr. Marchant, 10s. 6d.; Mr. J. Grant, 10s. 6d.; Mr. A. West, prize; Mr. Egby, 10s. 6d.; Mr. H. Mallett, jun., 10s. 6d.

The chairman, in proposing "our host," said he was sure that Mr. Duck had provided a splendid repast, to which ample justice had been done, and he felt sure the members were very pleased. Mr. G. Duck suitably responded.

HERTFORD ANGLING PRESERVATION SOCIETY.

THE annual meeting of this society was held on Monday last at the Station Hotel, Hertford, Mr. W. G. Garratt, president, in the chair. The report referred to the various causes which had been detrimental to the welfare of the society during the past year; the expenses of a law suit, the excessively dry season, and the death of the hon. sec. having seriously affected its position. In consequence the committee had been reluctantly compelled to terminate their tenancy of the subscription water, and retain only those waters rented from the Corporation of Hertford. The balance sheet showed a small deficit which is covered by subscriptions yet due. The report also noted the loss the society had sustained by the sudden decease of the late Dr. Brunton, who had been a member of the committee for some years past, and whose genial presence and sound advice were highly esteemed by all the members. In moving the adoption of the report, Mr. W. Waller, the vice-president, said he had not a pleasant task in asking the members to receive the first report showing a retrograde movement in the affairs of the society; but, although they had to face these difficulties, it was not the intention of the committee to flinch from doing so, but it was their hope that the present year, when the rivers were in a more favourable condition than for some four or five years past, would enable them to again place the society on a firm footing, and carry on the work of preserving and protecting the waters around the borough. He spoke of the wholesale destruction of fish which had been carried on before the formation of the society, when netting was a common thing every day, and of the improved state of affairs at the present time. In allusion to the balance-sheet, he congratulated the members on the fact that, despite an

adverse season, the society was yet in a perfectly solvent state. The resolution, seconded by Sergt. Barrington, was carried *nem con.* The officers for the ensuing year were elected as follows: President, Mr. Wm. Burgess; vice-president, Mr. Wm. Waller; hon. secretary, Mr. John Fairall, Station Hotel, Hertford. A cordial vote of thanks was passed to Mr. Walter Garratt for his services as president during the past four years, also for presiding at that evening's meeting. W. W.

THE LATE SIR ROSE PRICE.

THERE are anglers in many parts of the world, especially in the United States, who will read with sincere regret that Sir Rose Lambert Price, Bart., died in London recently, at the comparatively early age of sixty-two. His life had been a most stirring one, for from the invaluable pages of "Who's Who," it appears that he served as a lieutenant in the Royal Marine Light Infantry on the East Coast of Africa in the suppression of the slave trade, and in India during the Mutiny; was present at the capture of Canton, and with sundry storming parties, in one of which he was shot through the leg; and he took part in the capture of Pekin. It was only last year that I had the pleasure of reviewing Sir Rose's book, entitled "A Summer in the Rockies." He was a true traveller and sportsman, and one of the very first rank with both rod and gun. He was one of the keenest of anglers, and often talked about writing a volume of his fishing experiences. Had he done so, some of his takes would possibly have been regarded with incredulity by some, though they were true enough. He was a fisherman, as he himself stated, from the age of seven, and there were few streams in the world containing trout which he had not fished. Some thirty years ago he was a frequent contributor to the *Field*, and it was in its columns that he wrote a description of sport in the Island of Anticosti, where the bags of trout he and Lady Price made were counted by hundreds. In the strict sense, however, "bag" was a misnomer, for so numerous were the fish, that they had to be eventually creoled in a barrel.—RED SPINNER, in the *Field*.

[We hope shortly to refer to the late Sir Rose Price as an angler.—Ed. F.G.]

Notes from the North.

"WINTER in the lap of May." It has been winter right on since the advent of March, and no mistake; and it looks very wintry-like still—too much so for good sport. It has been a season of north-easters.

Salmon returns are still at a low ebb. The supplies, after threatening to stop entirely, still keep on the low side for an average season, and the gravest fears are now being entertained that it will be a dead failure, on the East Coast at least.

No grilse have as yet made their appearance. They are late, for the pioneers are usually netted about the middle of April; the Dee and Don districts showing the first fruits long before the thick of the summer migration appears on the coast.

There will be some considerable changing of lessees with the advent of May, as the spring season usually ends with April, when the early spring angler departs and the summer angler takes his place. All over sport has been indifferent, not so much from the lack of fish as the lack of weather.

At this season of the year salmon smolts are very thick in the tidal waters, where they congregate from the reaches above, and move up and down with the tide in shoals for a week or so before taking entirely to the briny for the first time. There is a fine show of smolt on the Dee just now.

Smolt are very greedy on the fly, and, yielding to the temptation, two young anglers were up before the sheriff at Aberdeen last week, and mulcted in a considerable sum for their baskets. They pleaded ignorance of the nature of the fish, and were let down more lightly than would otherwise have been the case.

Salmon smolt are darker than those of the sea trout, neater in the head, with large black spots on the cover of the gill, and a marked (or barred) down the whole length of the body from gill to tail. The tail is a little forked. In the sea trout fry again the marks are not so distinct, the head stumper, and the tail square.

Catfish are quite common, but last week a real pussy, by way of a Fraserburgh joke, came under the hammer of the auctioneer there; but when the box was opened puss made a rapid exit, and, pursued by a hundred market cnrs, cleared out of the ring with a vengeance.

This reminds me of an exciting episode I once had with a friendly spaniel. He was very fond of raw fish, and I used to favour him with an occasional parr when spinning for trout. On this occasion he bolted a parr-tail with a flight of double triangles with which I was fishing, and had just laid on the bank while filling my pipe. Donald's futile efforts to rid himself of the hooks with his paw was the first indication that drew my attention to him. Then, fearing a hiding, or from sheer pain, he made off, and before I could rescue my rod and tackle from destruction and relieve him to boot I had a half hon's chase round a ten acre park. He was cured of parr snatching.

Mr. John Stephen will open the Gordon Arms Hotel at Culter in a few days. This is a fine new house in a

new locality on Middle Deeside, and will be a great boon to the thousand and one anglers and cyclists, especially the latter, passing up and down the royal valley of the Dee. Mr. Stephen is well known as an able caterer and a genial host.

Mr. T. Turner Farley creeled a fine fish of 30lb. last week on the Cairnton water. This is the top weight for the season on the Dee. It was got to the Phantom.

Robert Glass, aged ninety-one, an old resident in the village of Kincardine O'Neil, Deeside, died last week. Robert was almost to the very last engaged in making fishing hags for salmon anglers far and near.

Mr. W. L. Calderwood, Inspector of Salmon Fisheries to the Scotch Fishery Board, was in Aberdeen last week, taking evidence on the application to the Lord Advocate for leave to alter the annual close time on the Ythan and Ugie. The inspector heard evidence *pro* and *con.*, and will submit his report to the Crown Office in the course of the next few days.

Mrs. Basset had a fine fish of 7lb. on the Invercauld private water last week, and Mrs. U. Pickering another of 6½lb. on her own water at Kincardine O'Neil.

Mr. Barclay, who is fishing the Glentana waters, has had a unique, and what might be called an iron tackle cabinet made to his order. It is fitted with assorted moveable trays, in which all kinds of tackle may be stored, from the largest phantom to the tiniest salmon fly. Anything can be got at in a moment, and when simply locked up it may be sent to the other end of the world, and yet nothing can get displaced. SPECIAL SCOTCH.

Provincial Notes

FROM BIRMINGHAM AND DISTRICT.

The monthly meeting of the Birmingham Anglers' Benevolent Society was held at the headquarters on Thursday evening, April 20. Mr. T. Coles presided, and Mr. C. White occupied the vice-chair. The meeting was very well attended. The minutes of the past monthly meeting were read and adopted, with the exception of those dealing with the annual contest; these minutes were reconsidered. Through important letters received from the railway companies the former minutes passed were rescinded, and it was decided by a narrow majority to fish the contest in the canal at Fenny Compton on Saturday, July 8, next. The secretary was instructed, in conjunction with Mr. C. White, to make the necessary arrangements with the Great Western Railway Company to run a half-day excursion at a fare of 2s. each, with the usual ten per cent. discount off. A guarantee of 300 to be given to the company. Messrs. Coles and McMullen were elected to act as referees. All future arrangements were left over until the next committee meeting. A grant of one guinea was made to a member of the Highgate Park Society who had fallen into distress. The visiting committee's report was of a very favourable nature, as the visits to the clubs had been the means of making a number of new members. It was decided to visit the Belmont Society, at the White Swan, Legge-street; the Balsall Heath Britannia, at the Old Moseley Arms, Tindall-street; and the Junction Society, at the Junction Inn, Highgate-lane, previous to the next meeting. Previous to the close season coming in some good fish were taken from the canal at Fenny Compton, and I have reason to believe that the coming contest will beat all records, as the canal has a reputation of containing a quantity of good fish over the average weight of canal fish. It has been reported to me that the Black Eagle Society was about to be dissolved; in fact, it was passed at an ordinary meeting by the small majority of two, that such should be the case, but I now learn that a general meeting will be summoned, and an effort will be made to keep the club going, and remove it to a more suitable place of meeting. The Aston Park club have

made an application to again remove to another house; this club seems to be very unfortunate in the selection of their club houses, as this will make the fifth removal since their formation. I hope that the new place of meeting will benefit the club, and place it in a better financial position. The Dudley Society, which have been holding their club in an out-of-the-way place, have at last followed my advice, and intend coming into the centre of the town. With this in view, they have arranged to hold their fixture meeting at one of the best and largest houses in Dudley; they will now get the patronage and support of the influential anglers in the town. The proposed new bye-laws, as required by the Severn Fishery Board, are out, and can be obtained for one penny per copy from Mr. J. Stallard, Pierpoint-street, Worcester. The sub-committee appointed by the Provincial Association to review the new bye-laws have taken them up, and, so far as the new coarse fish laws are concerned, they will be strongly opposed, and the Board of Trade will be made acquainted with the nature of the opposition raised before these notes are in print. In the new bye-laws no close time is fixed for the coarse fish; the only reference made is chiefly as to the means of clearing them out of the river. One of the laws says that nets for taking freshwater fish other than trout or grayling shall not exceed 40yds. in length and 3yds. in depth, &c. This is very good, and no doubt calculated to have the desired effect of soon taking all the coarse fish out of the water.

FROM DERBYSHIRE.

Up to the end of the last week the weather continued very unfavourable for all kinds of angling, as cold, strong, winds from the east persistently prevailed. Even on sheltered and comparatively warm parts of streams, sport was, if any, very poor. With the present week, however, there has come a welcome change. The wind has shifted out of the dreaded east, gentle showers of warm rain have fallen, and the atmosphere is milder and more spring-like. On Monday many anglers journeyed to the streams and commenced work in earnest; and as the conditions of both water and weather have been propitious, very fair sport has been had on most of the rivers. The various open lengths of the Dove have had many anglers upon their banks; and on the lower waters, both fly and bottom fishers have taken numerous nice lots of fish, which are now getting into good condition. On the Dovedale, Milledale, and Beresford-dale waters there has been fairly successful fly-fishing, and decent baskets have been made. Indeed, sport on most parts of the Dove has during the last few days been reasonably satisfactory. On the Wye, in the Milledale district, tolerably good sport has been had, chiefly by visitors from Manchester and its neighbourhood; and on the Mensaldale open and private waters fairly large baskets have been made. The Ashford lengths have also yielded some moderate creels of good-sized fish to local anglers principally. On the Bakewell, Haddon, and Rowsley waters there has been, day by day, about the full number of artificial fly rods allowed, and although no very large baskets are reported, yet sport has been fairly good, and several nice lots of fish have been killed. Visitors to Edale and Ashopton have done well, as a rule, on those romantic mountain streams, the Nowe and Ashopton, and several decent creels have been made there. On others of the smaller streams—notably the Amber, Bentley, and Ecclesbourne—bottom fishing with worms has been very successful in places, and a goodly number of fish have been killed. On the Upper Derwent, between Derwent village, Ashopton, Yorkshire Bridge, and Bamford, anglers have been rather numerous, mostly hailing from Sheffield and its vicinity; and some of them have met with fair success, both by fly and bottom fishing. Fly anglers have made tolerably good creels on the Sickleholme, Hathersage, and Grindleford waters, and sport has been generally satisfactory throughout the Derwent valley. There has been a fair share of visitors to the Chatsworth and Baslow reaches, and several good creels of nice sized fish have been taken, the best sport being had on the lengths running through Chatsworth Park, between the Baslow and Beely bridges.

FROM THE FEN DISTRICT (LINCOLNSHIRE).

Although the weather is still very cold, there have been warm intervals during the past week, and trout anglers have been able to get an hour or two's fly fishing. The

waters are in capital condition, but there has been a scarcity of flies, and aquatic vegetation is also backward. The fish have shown increased activity, especially during the evenings, and those anglers who have operated with the fly have secured several brace of sizeable fish. The majority of sportsmen, however, have wielded the bottom tackle, and this method has accounted for the best baskets. On some streams trout fishing can scarcely be said to have begun; in fact, some enthusiasts have not, owing to the continued cold weather, yet wetted a line.

FROM HULL AND DISTRICT.

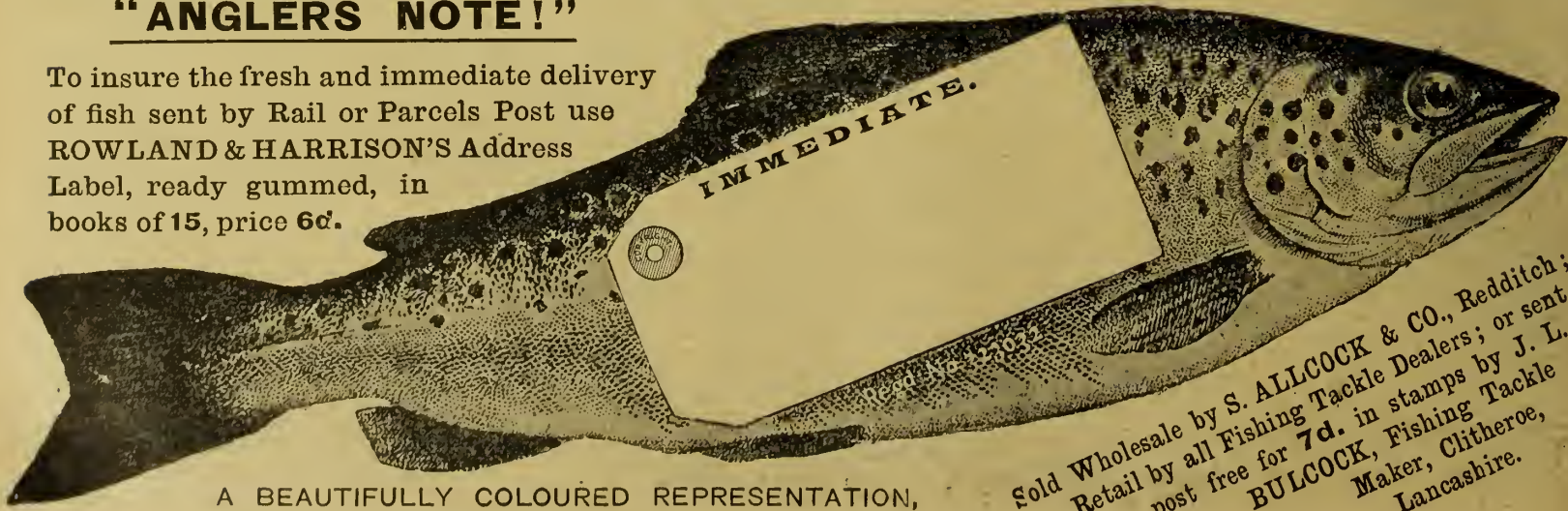
The weather during the past week in this district has not been favourable for successful trout fishing, consequently little has been done; but both the river Hull and tributary streams are in first-class condition either for minnow or fly fishing should milder weather intervene, and several aquatic and other flies are showing themselves on the upper waters, so that the prospects of sport are rather good. Worm fishing for flounders and eels has been practised during the week with a fair amount of success, both in the lower portion of the river and on the Holderness Drains. Several of our local clubs have held their matches on the river. The Red Lion Angling Society fished a match at Grovehill, resulting in Mr. J. Hartley taking the first prize with 1lb. 7½oz.; the next three being taken by Messrs. J. Nicholson, W. Bray, and Rd. Sizer. The Osborne Angling Association also fished their first match of the season at Hull Bridge, Messrs. H. Bulliment, J. Anderson, and H. Quade being the first three prize winners. The George and Dragon Angling Society held their first match on Swinemoor, Messrs. J. P. Sherwood, T. Hales, and T. Watson being the first three amongst the prizes. The members of the River Hull Angling Society have subscribed the nice little sum of £6 12s. 6d. to the widow of a late member of the club (Mrs. H. Ehlers). Mr. Walter Scott, of the Beverley Foresters' Angling Society, held an annual open match on the river at Figham, when seventy-nine competitors entered for the nine prizes offered, which were chiefly won by Hull anglers, Messrs. H. Woolock, G. Armstrong, and R. H. Barlow taking the first three, but the takes of fish were only small. To-day (Saturday) the Victoria A.S. hold their annual match, open to all comers, on the river at Dunswell, and as the river is in fine form in this district for worm fishing, no doubt the competitors will meet with some good sport, especially if the day be fine. There should also be a good muster of anglers, for the prizes are both numerous and well selected. The draw will take place at the Waggon and Horses hostelry at 2.45 p.m. Several nice trout have been taken recently in the havens on the Lincolnshire side of the river Hummer, whilst worm fishing for flounders and eels. Some nice catches of flounders have also been made at both Brough and Hessel Havens during tide time with the black headed worm, using shrimps as ground bait. The Holderness Drains are also providing the match fishers with a fair amount of sport amongst the same kind of fish. The Hull Corporation Employees Angling Society fished their first match at Patrington Haven, resulting in Messrs. C. H. Clarkson, S. Clarkson, and W. Wilkinson taking the first three honours. Messrs. Reckitt's Employees A.S. also fished a match at the same place, Messrs. G. Gledhill, C. Markham, R. Smith, and R. Hun'sman being the first four prize men.

FROM THE LAKE DISTRICT.

Following ten degrees of frost and a fall of snow on April 23, a change for the better took place in the weather early this week, a considerable amount of rain having since fallen. It is yet too early to speak of results as a sequence of this improved state of things, top feed being still conspicuous by its absence on river and lake. There are a considerable number of angling visitors in Cumberland and North Westmorland, and several of these have done better than circumstances would suggest. Some of them speak very favourably of present sport and future prospects, particularly those who have fished Ullswater Lake and the upper waters of the Eamont. Less satisfactory reports come from other quarters of the district, where the fish are said to have deteriorated in condition, owing to the long spell of cold weather. Not much has been done on Windermere, where the trout are still in deep

"ANGLERS NOTE!"

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water. A number of good char have been taken, however, by both professional and amateur fishermen, with plumb lines, amongst the amateurs who have been most successful being Mr. Thorpe, of Windermere, who, in the very early hours of Friday morning, had ten, and on Saturday three of these beautiful and delicious fish. Given warmer weather and a better hatching out of natural flies, anglers are still hopeful of a successful season.

FROM LANCASHIRE.

The Levenshulme Angling Society last week-end received a consignment of very fine tench and rudd, and turned them adrift in order to cross the existing stock in their waters. To-day (Saturday) the executive council of the Northern Anglers' Association meet at Farnworth to dispose of some very important and interesting business, both routine and extraordinary. The St. Helen's anglers have got on good terms with the corporation, and the terms seem to be satisfactory to both parties; at any rate, the fishing in the waters belonging to the corporation are no longer closed, and a limited number of tickets are issued. This is highly gratifying to the anglers of the town. Liverpool anglers are heard from again this week. The association have successfully arranged for Whit-Monday on the Dee. The West Derby have been enjoying themselves at a "smoker" at the Nelson, and are perfecting arrangements for an open event in June, towards the prize list of which a handsome challenge cup, a gold centre silver medal, and silver mounted carvers are already secured. The writer is continually being asked as to suitable places to go to. Try Huntley or Clonbur. At the latter place the fly fisher is having good times. By this time four gillaroo trout will have arrived at Messrs. Cooper's to be set up. They weigh 16lb., and are beauties. At the former place, since the Cruive Dyke was removed, the fishing has improved. Lancastrian fishermen report favourably of the good sport to be obtained on the Deveron. There is free fishing at both these resorts; although the reports from our rivers, the Ribble, Lune, Wyre, and their tributaries, are not exciting, the tenour of the reports speak with hope of the future of all the lot. The Wyre has just received a further lot of the much discussed rainbow trout, and we shall soon know how they thrive. Some late accounts are to hand of stocking in the Crompton Lodge with a nice lot of fish. Another item speaks of a railway company intending to stock and develop a certain water, with a view to passenger traffic in the future.

FROM MANCHESTER.

Stocking is very much in evidence amongst our local clubs at present. The various executives at last have grasped the importance of this department, and are pushing the question with enthusiasm. The Urmston and Flixton Angling Society have recently received and placed in the Flixton reservoirs two consignments of good fish, principally roach, from Litchfieldshire, and weighing from 1lb. to 1½lb., and there are 500 mature perch yet to arrive when ready. Another society very much alive is the Central Angling Society, Openshaw. They have secured two good reservoirs in the district, and have done a lot of stocking in the same. The fish turned in are mostly large ones, and consist of roach, perch, bream, &c., and there is a consignment of trout yet to arrive. They have arranged for contests on June 25, Aug. 27, and Oct. 15, at places to be arranged. They have elected a strong executive, which, led by Mr. Tom Hackett as secretary, can be relied on for business. Two city fishermen on the Dee, at Llangollen, report the water and weather of the past week-end as good, the sport moderate, but the fish small. Only a few brace of sizeable fish paid penalty, but of small and undersized fish plenty were hooked. A member of the Twelve Club, on the 26th, had rather a good day in Derbyshire, taking twelve brace of nice fish. The Moss Side Social Angling Society held an important meeting on the 24th, and transacted a lot of routine business, discussing dates of matches, &c., for the season. The next meeting of the Welcomb Angling Society will be an interesting one. Several papers on fishing will be read, and many more speeches made, and the diversity of opinion and experiences of the veterans of the club will do the novices a deal of good. The Duke of Cambridge Angling Society, at their meeting on the 24th, arranged an interesting programme for the coming season. Matches are to be fished on June 25 and September 3, both at Althorpe. They are making new members each meeting night, but only sportsmen are admitted to the club.

FROM NOTTINGHAM.

Salmon angling has again been impossible on the favourite reaches of the Trent in our district in consequence of the height of the water. Moreover, unfavourable weather has cast a gloom over everything appertaining to the mysteries of the gentle art. Members of the Wellington Society have been privileged to angle on certain preserved streams in Derbyshire, and one or two of the number succeeded in creeling trout. A few brace have also been killed with the bottom bait—worm—on the Dover Beck. Fly fishing opens on the Greet on Monday, and above Southwell there is said to be a plentiful head of fish. Club news is lacking in interest, and things generally just now are extremely quiet.

FROM SHEFFIELD.

A considerable and welcome improvement in the conditions for angling has been apparent during the past week, and the greater portion of the waters in the Sheffield district are now in very good order for fishing. The upper reaches of the Derwent have come in for a good deal of attention, but although the results have not been up to high-water mark, as it were, the sport obtained has been of a fairly satisfactory description. The members of the Hathersage and Chatsworth Clubs have fared very well, several rodsters having been out every day, whilst the takes have comprised a lot of nice fish. Sport is likely

to improve every day, and there are any amount of fish in the Derwent. Bottom anglers have had little to complain of, but, as fishermen are reported to be always grumbling, it is possible they will say that the fish have run too much on the small side. By using worms, dock grubs, and maggots they have obtained some capital sport. In the Matlock district both the free and the private waters have furnished good sport, and just near Ma'lock Dale several good-sized Loch Leven trout have been captured. Pond anglers in Derbyshire are now getting some good sport, especially in the evenings. Reports from the Amber have not been quite so good lately, and the reason for this is that the fish are said to have had such a large supply of natural food, in consequence of the rains washing worms, &c., into the river, that they won't look at the carefully prepared baits of anglers. With maggots, a few of the members of the Sheffield Trout Anglers' Society have caught a small number of trout in the Amber near Wingfield, and dock grubs have also proved to be very attractive. Closer at home there is very little sport to record, with the exception of the Lord Bradfield Reservoir, which has yielded a few decent trout. Nothing much is being done in the Idle, but Retford anglers will pay greater attention to this stream later on.

FROM WORCESTER AND DISTRICT.

Weather has been stormy all through the week, and on two nights we had very heavy rain, and although we have had such cold winds, the vegetable world is full of active life, the fields luxuriant and green. The rivers are in capital condition, but very few anglers have been out. Severn is all but deserted by club anglers, and will be until June 15, when the close season ends. One or two sportsmen have been spinning for trout under the weirs, but without success; but a fine sea trout (3lb. 6oz.) was taken in one of the salmon nets, and its merits were discussed at the dinner table of the Bull's Head Inn, the headquarters of the Worcester Angling Society. A few brace of nice trout were taken in the Teme with worm and fly, Blue Dun, Red Palmer, and Iron Blue killing best. Some of the clubs have also had sport on their rented waters. Mr. Leach, treasurer of the Greenbacks' Club, states that a few days ago he took five brace in their club water, but only creeled one fish, returning all the others to the water to grow larger. He is too good a sportsman to bring an undersized fish away. Messrs. Martin, Perks, and Thrift also had some nice fish from their club water, but they certainly are not in condition yet. Salmon fishing is still bad, and samlets in this part of the Severn unusually scarce.

ANSWERS TO CORRESPONDENTS.

CAN'T CATCH CARP.—We could not give you in a few words all you want to know. Send 1s. for a copy of "Angling and How to Angle" to Sampson Low and Co., St. Dunstan's House, Fetter-lane, E.C., where you will find the information you require.

MAY FLY.—You will find some account of May Fly fishing in the Windrush and Coln in that most delightful book, "A Cotswold Village; or, Country Life and Pursuits in Gloucestershire," by J. A. Gibbs, recently published by Mr. John Murray. We can strongly recommend it as one of the best books about country life, hunting, shooting, fishing, &c., that we have ever read.

H. H. W. asks where lugworms may be obtained at Burnham-on-Crouch on Sundays. Perhaps Mr. Wright, who has taken up his residence there, will kindly answer?

Correspondence

[We do not hold ourselves responsible for the opinions expressed by our Correspondents.]

AN OPTICAL ILLUSION.

DEAR SIR,—Will you or any of your readers kindly tell me, through your columns, whether fish, such as trout, pike, perch, salmon, &c., appear to the eye larger or smaller in the water than when out?—Yours truly,

BRADFORD.

[It all depends on the angle at which you look at them. If you look down at them from some place above the water level they look longer and thinner than they are. If you look at them in a glass tank at an aquarium they look their natural size.—ED.]

SILK FISHING LINES.

SIR,—As all good anglers consult the pages of the *Fishing Gazette* for information bearing on their favourite amusement, perhaps it will not be out of place if an ardent lover of the sport gives a timely word of advice to his "brethren of the angle" on the above subject.

Owing to an extraordinary increased demand for all classes of "raw" silk, the price of all silks suitable for making fishing lines has advanced, within a few months, from twenty to thirty per cent., and is still advancing. Indeed, from all I can learn, owing to the vagaries of fashion, manufacturers are putting their best silk to more profitable uses than making lines, especially as this class of trade has been so much cut up in prices during the last year or two as to be hardly worth catering for. It is therefore most probable that, before long, it will be difficult to procure really pure silk lines except at much higher prices than are now possible.

I am informed by those in the trade that the demand for silk at the present time is much greater than the supply, and is likely to continue so for some time to come.

I think I need say no more, only that "a word to the wise," &c., and you know, sir, that most anglers are wise—or otherwise.—Yours truly,

SPRING TROUT.

MID-TAW TROUT FISHERY.—A CORRECTION.

DEAR SIR,—In the account you kindly give of my fishery in your issue of April 22, the Fox and Hoonds Hotel, at Eggesford, by mistake was printed "Eggesdon." Also, the new "Tor" Railway should read "Toy" Railway.—Yours truly,

R. P. MARSHALL.

FISHING AT COLWYN BAY.

DEAR SIR,—Can you, or any of your numerous correspondents, give me particulars of trout fishing in the neighbourhood of Colwyn Bay, North Wales? I propose spending a fortnight there in June, and being quite a novice, should be very glad of any information as to what flies to use, or if waders are necessary, &c. Thanking you in anticipation.—Yours truly,

J. W. NEWBOULD.

"COOPER'S FANCY."

DEAR SIR,—In your issue of the *Fishing Gazette* April 15, 1899, page 260, Reports from Rivers, Lochs, &c., Wye and Derwent (Derbyshire), correspondent "Dytterel" recommends Cooper's Fancy as a good fly for this month. Can he or any of your readers tell me where the fly may be had? Strange to say, the celebrated Derbyshire fly dressers, Messrs. Foster Brothers, of Ashbourne, Derbyshire, do not know it. I shall be very thankful to anyone for the above information.—Yours truly,

A. ROLAND UTCHEP.

BATS AND THE FLY.

DEAR SIR,—When fishing a considerable tributary of the Boyne last June, I noticed nightly, while brown trout fishing in the evening, that "the bats," which I had last seen was fast and furious, usually commenced about 8.15, and lasted so long as the bats (which were rather large and numerous) remained dormant, but the minute they made their appearance, their flight being almost confined to the course of the river, down went the trout like a stone, and the water, which five minutes before was alive with trout, was now without a sign of life so far as they were concerned, and no fly, natural or artificial, would tempt them to rise.

Can any of your readers, or you, explain this, or state whether fish under these circumstances usually resort to bottom feeding, or are to be considered entirely "off" for the night? It is most disappointing to have one's sport, which prior to the advent of the bats was invariably excellent, thus closed down so rudely long before the fading light would of necessity suggest a wind-up for the day. To my mind there is no doubt about the bats being the cause of the fish ceasing to take the fly, as I paid close attention to the matter.—I am, dear sir, yours faithfully,

J. G. G.

[We never heard of bats putting fish down before, and have often caught trout when the bats were about, and on one or two occasions have hooked bats as well as trout.—ED.]

FISHING IN ULLESWATER.

SIR,—I should be obliged if any of your readers could give me any information as to the fishing in Ulleswater and the river Eamont.

I think of staying at Pooley Bridge at Whitsuntide, and shall be glad to know whether the Eamont can be fished from there, and whose permission is required; also, what flies are suitable for the river and lake, and what licence is necessary.—Yours, &c.,

LEX.

FISHING NEAR EASTBOURNE.

DEAR SIR,—Will you or any of your readers kindly tell me where to go for a week's good genuine fishing (late summer or autumn)? Specimen fish only wanted. Within, say, an hour or two by rail of Eastbourne.—Yours, &c.,

CH. L. MATHEWS.

FISHING IN THE KILLARNEY LAKES.

DEAR SIR,—I see by the *Fishing Gazette*, of April 1, that your correspondent, "Mark Bench," states, under the heading "The Killarney Lakes," that the Killarney Fishery Development Association are a little premature in stating that night lines are abolished here; he also states "that the association has not, so far, succeeded in obtaining the abolition of cross-lines." Kindly permit me to say that both cross lines and night lines are totally abolished in the Killarney Lakes, and the only "fixed engines" that remain are some patent eel traps, which are doing very good work.

It is now unlawful to use a cross line in the lakes; the penalty is, I think, £4; and, as to night lines, there were only two families who used them, and these are employed by two of the principal hotels, who have threatened to dismiss them instantly if found to be using night lines. We have also got the owners of the principal estates to agree to stop anyone who uses a night line from landing on any part of their respective estates. Also, it is illegal to use any fixed engine for the capture of trout or salmon, unless a licence be obtained for it from the district conservators, and the latter can impose a licence which will be prohibitive. In short, we have made it so warm for the few men that fished them that the game isn't worth the candle; also the men themselves are beginning to see that it will pay better not to use them in the long run, and I can confidently assert that the use of cross lines and night lines are totally abolished in Killarney now.

I think that the flies mentioned by "Mark Bench" will hardly be found the most killing here. I may mention that some very decent baskets of trout have been taken on the lakes lately. Mr. J. Couran, of Plympton, Devon, took seven dozen and four in two days. Messrs. Hall and Lambkin, of Cork, were out several days, and got from one and a half dozen to four dozen each day. Mr. R.

Roberts, Killarney, took four dozen on Sunday last, and three dozen and five on Saturday.

Any information that I can give regarding fishing in the district, &c., your readers are most welcome to.—Yours truly,
WILLIAM GRAHAM (Hon. Sec. K.F.D.A.).
Graham's Hotel, The Glebe, Killarney.

FISHING NEAR MALVERN.

DEAR SIR,—I would be grateful if you or any reader of the *Fishing Gazette* would kindly inform me whether salmon or trout fishing can be obtained within a reasonable distance of Malvern, and if so, to whom application should be made.—Yours faithfully,
AFRIDI.

THE HUNGERFORD FISHERY.

DEAR SIR,—Many readers will be pleased to hear of the satisfactory state of the fishery at Hungerford. During the past autumn the shallows were well ploughed and cleaned, the banks have been put in good order, accumulations of mud removed, and the appearance of this fine river at the present time leaves nothing to be desired.

Four hundred two-year-old trout were turned into the lower Dunn water in February, and last week 400 yearling trout were placed on the shallows in the same part of the river. All these fish were of good size and very lively.

War has been waged against the pike during the winter months, and a number of these destructive fish have been killed. The rivers Kennet and Dunn are well stocked with fish, and the prospects for the coming season, which opens on May 1 for trout, are unusually good.

Excellent accommodation can be had at the various hotels, which are within five minutes' walk of the river.

Fishermen wishing to spend a pleasant holiday cannot do better than betake themselves to the ancient town of Hungerford, where they may pursue their favourite sport over four miles of water, and enjoy the charming scenery of the famous Kennet Valley.—Yours truly,
R. H. B.

DO SEVERN SALMON TAKE THE FLY?

DEAR SIR,—I was surprised to see that J. E. Evans says in your correspondence columns that Severn salmon take the fly, especially after your remarks the week before, which I think accurately describe it. I may say that I have fished the Severn, from Newtown to its source, for more than twenty years, and, as you say, it is simply waste of time to fish for salmon there, as during the last eight or ten years on the above stretch of the Severn there has not been ten fish (salmon) killed annually, and some years not more than three or four; and when caught (chiefly in the autumn) they are not worth keeping. Also the fly which is generally used is foul hooking, netting, and dynamite. The minnow is the best bait when there are fish. J. E.'s remarks are misleading, as anyone going to his part of the Severn for salmon would be disappointed.—Yours, &c.,
IRON BLUE.

TROUT FISHING, &c., WANTED.

DEAR SIR,—In reply to "Surgeon's" letter in your issue of April 15, the writer can thoroughly recommend good trout fishing in river Dove. He has always put up at Dovedale Hotel, Thorpe, Derbyshire, the proprietress, Mrs. Grindley, having about five miles of good fishing. The accommodation is good; terms strictly moderate; scenery all that can be desired.—Yours truly,
FLY ROD.

LINES FOR SEA FISHING.

In your issue of Sept. 10 last Mr. Alfred Jardine referred to a new pure silk line, very fine and impervious to sea water. I should feel obliged if Mr. Jardine would say whether the line is yet on the market.

In common with most sea anglers, I have felt the want of a fine, yet strong line for bottom fishing in a fast tide-way, and although interested in the correspondence that has appeared on the subject of wire lines, I am not satisfied that a practical wire line has been found. To be of any real use it should be nearly as flexible as flax. If its freedom from kink and consequent fracture is to depend upon a somewhat elaborate system of pulleys or blocks, it may do for Sunday fishing at Deal, but it won't do for every day, and day after day fishing.—Yours faithfully,
JOHN DORY.

FISHING IN WALES.

DEAR SIR,—I daresay that there are many bracing places where good fishing can be had in May; but if "Surgeon" has not yet visited Dovedale, Mr. Ashbourne, surely he cannot do better than spend his holiday at the Isaak Walton Hotel, and fish the Dove and the Manniford from there.

Lovely scenery, grand air, and the historic and perfect trout stream, would give him everything he could desire; the hospitality and comfort that Mr. Prince, of the Isaak Walton, can, and does provide, is an additional attraction.

Would that I could pay another visit to that charming spot which I have just left.—Yours truly,
D. K. K.

MR. J. BAKER'S PATENT DAPPING FLIES.

DEAR SIR,—In accordance with the wish which you were good enough to express in the *Fishing Gazette*, of the 22nd inst., I have much pleasure in sending you a description of my method of using my patent flies in dapping for trout from the bank in clear water.

I use a rather stiff 11ft. greenheart rod, mounted with snake rings, and having a revolving top ring. A longer rod would be cumbersome amongst trees and bushes, and if shorter it would prevent one from keeping back far enough to be out of sight of the fish, which, I need hardly say, is absolutely necessary. The reel should be a free-running one, with only a slight check, sufficient to keep the line from unwinding of itself, and to give warning should you get caught on any obstruction in stooping

about in the cover. The line should be a slender, smoothly-dressed one. I use a fine, but strong, gnt trace, a little over 2ft. in length, inclusive of the strand to which the fly is attached. At the upper end of the trace, immediately below the loop, I place a small bullet, just heavy enough to draw out line when eased off the reel with the hand. If the day be at all windy a No. 5 shot may be put on about the middle of the trace, to steady it. But a windy day is not good for sport, as the least waving of the line will often scare away an approaching fish, while a ripple on the water will prevent your seeing one take the fly, in which case you will, most probably, fail to hook him.

In moving about from place to place the line is reeled in, so as to bring the bullet up against the top ring, which keeps it from dangling about and ravelling the trace. Then, with only the trace depending from the top of the rod, you are able to poke it through small openings in or between bushes, &c., and if more line be required to let the fly reach the water, the weight of the bullet will, as I have already pointed out, draw it down for you.

It is only in the warm summer months that dapping in this fashion can be practised with success, and it has the advantage of being available when fly-fishing in the ordinary way is out of the question—at least in northern streams. As most anglers well know, the larger trout on hot days seek the shade of overhanging trees and bushes in the still deeps, probably to avoid the sun's rays as well as to pick up the stray grubs and insects which drop from the branches above. A trout will inhabit the same spot for a length of time if not disturbed, sailing up and down in the space of a few yards, near the bank, and sucking in the flies which fall on the water as he goes along. And these are the fellows to which you must devote your attention.

It is not a good plan to drop the fly close in front of a fish; it is apt to scare him, and it is better to let him pass by and have the fly on the water ready for him on his return journey, when he will most likely take it—that is, if you have managed things properly. If he should not, and you have not scared him, try other patterns at intervals till you succeed.

If no fish be visible in a likely spot, the fly may be put on the water nevertheless, and very often a good one, whose presence was unsuspected, will move slowly from under the overhanging bank and take it. The fly must always be kept on the surface of the water, and perfectly still, and the fish, for some reason, take it better wet than dry.

It is advisable to wet the gut trace frequently, as it otherwise becomes dry and brittle from the action of the sun and air upon it.

The excitement and consequent attraction of dapping consists chiefly in your being able to observe all that goes on. You see your fish, in proximity often to a dangerous root or stump, come and take the fly, which he does very leisurely, swimming cautiously up to it, and, failing to detect the counterfeit, taking it quietly into his mouth by a gulp which scarcely disturbs the surface of the water. A gentle strike is then necessary, which requires much judgment, and the right way of doing it can only be acquired by practice. If you operate too soon the fly is snatched away before he has closed his jaws upon it, and if you are a moment too long he will quickly find out the deception and blow it out of his mouth, the ultimate result being that if you have not been careful to strike gently you will find your fly hitched into a branch above your head. Sometimes, however, a fish will dash at the fly with a flop, but they are not often hooked, being "short risers" and coming up generally several inches away from the fly.

There is the other form of dapping, or blow-line fishing, practised on lakes, for which the patent flies should be well adapted. For ordinary dry-fly fishing they would perhaps not answer, as the drag of the line would tend to pull them on to their side.

I have a form of the patent fly intended for dry-fly fishing, but it is yet in its experimental stage and not for sale.—Yours faithfully,
J. BAKER.
Grosmont, Yorks.

FISHING AT MONTREAU, SWITZERLAND.

DEAR SIR,—As I am contemplating a visit to Switzerland in the summer or early autumn, I shall take it as a favour if you or any reader of the *Fishing Gazette* can supply me with information as to the quality of the fishing at Montreaux, on the Lake of Geneva, with particulars as to licences and probable cost, and any other details likely to be of use.—Yours, &c.,
ALPHA.

SALMON IN THE THAMES.

DEAR SIR,—Richard Coxen, fisherman at Twickenham-on-the-Thames, told Francis Francis, of the *Field*, and Thomas Ransom Sachs, that he and three others caught a salmon of 72lb. at Twickenham in 1820. They took it to Mr. Groves in New Bond-street, London, who did not want it; then sold it to Watkins, of New Bond-street, for 8s. 6d. per lb. This was related to us in 1860, when R. Coxen was eighty years of age.

At Laleham the river narrows and is shallower. This part of the Thames, old Fisherman Harris told me, was called "the salmon run," as people used to watch them from the shore when running up. The weirs stopped the supply.—Yours very truly,
T. R. S.

INCREASED RAILWAY PRIVILEGES.

SIR,—Some of your readers will have noticed from the report of the recent annual general meeting of the Anglers' Association, appearing in your issue of the 22nd inst., that at the meeting I submitted and obtained the approval of the association to a petition I had prepared soliciting the L. and N.W. Railway Company to extend the issue of the privilege ticket to stations upon their system from

Willesden Junction, and I now propose canvassing those societies in the western district, who, it is anticipated, will approve of the course I am adopting.

It goes without saying that should my efforts in this direction prove successful, a much needed boon will be conferred upon the large number of fishermen resident in and adjacent to this popular locality.

The company was, I understand, approached some years ago upon this matter, the application then proving abortive; but it occurred to me that if a petition representative of the popular opinion which now obtains in the district were forwarded to them they might, upon this occasion, see fit to grant the concession asked.

In order that the necessary publicity may be given to the movement I crave resource to the correspondence columns of your valuable paper by asking if you will kindly insert this letter in your next issue.

This notification in a paper so well circulated and esteemed amongst anglers in the western district will, I doubt not, be the means of introducing the petition to all who are desirous of supporting it.

I may add that I shall be pleased to attend with the petition the meeting of any society upon being requested by letter to the undermentioned address so to do. Apologising for this trespass upon your valuable space, and thanking you in anticipation, I am, sir, yours obediently,
ALBERT DERRY.

Prince Albert A.S.

BILL FOR ESTABLISHING A CLOSE SEASON FOR TROUT IN SCOTLAND.

SIR,—I see the above Bill was read a second time on the 18th inst. As an angler I am desirous it should become law, and I think some effort should be made by anglers in England to assist to this end. I appeal to all associations and clubs, and ask them to urge upon their representatives in the House the benefits it will confer upon all anglers, and, therefore, the necessity of doing all in their power to get this Bill passed.—Yours truly,
W. A.

NETTING FUND.

DEAR SIR,—Since last report I beg to acknowledge receipt of 13s. from Stepney Angling Society and 5s. Persuasive Angling Society with thanks. I should be glad if those clubs who have not already done so would kindly forward any amounts collected, as it is desirable to get all lists in as soon as possible.—Yours faithfully,
ALEX. WRIGHT (Hon. Treasurer).

THE CAPTURE OF YOUNG TROUT IN THE ITCHEN.

(To the Editor of the Hampshire Chronicle.)

SIR,—At this season of the year, when so many thousands of young trout are lying in every nook and cranny of the river banks, it would be a generous act on the part of all people interested in the well-being of the river (which is, after all, a great attraction for this our ancient city) to examine the bottles, &c., used by juvenile fishermen to contain what they (knowing no better) consider as minnows and tiddlers. Anyone inspecting such bottles will now find scores of baby trout therein. I and sundry other fishermen have turned back hundreds during the last few days.

But I should also ask anyone before turning the little fish back to show the small poachers the difference between baby trout and minnows, &c., and also explain to them that these tiny trout will not live when taken out of the river more than two or three hours. I think they take the trout principally through ignorance, not knowing what they are.

To prosecute children for taking them seems absurd, but a trout is a trout whether large or small, and we cannot hope to keep a stock in the river unless the young fish are protected as well as those of larger growth. I should personally be pleased to visit the Elementary Schools, bringing the little fish, and showing the children the difference between the varieties, if it could be arranged.—I am, &c.,
W. CHALKLEY.

The Square, Winchester.
April 21, 1899.

FISHING IN WATERWORKS RESERVOIRS.

DEAR SIR,—In answer to G. H. Jones (of April 15), I beg to send the following replies to his queries:

1. Name of locality or town?—Liverpool.
2. Is angling permitted in the waterworks reserves?—Yes; in the reservoirs at Rivington.
3. Is a charge made for tickets, and, if so, how much?—Liverpool ratepayers 1s. 6d. per day, all other persons 3s. per day.
- 3a. See above (3).
- 3b. Are tickets issued by the waterworks authority, the landowner, or by the angling association?—By the Liverpool Corporation officials.
4. Are the reservoirs stocked, and how frequently, and by whom?—By the corporation, from the proceeds of the sale of tickets, as occasion requires and permits.
5. Have the local angling association any rights or privileges in the management of the fishing?—No; but the corporation is open to receive and properly consider suggestions.

I have much sympathy with your correspondent, Mr. G. H. Jones, and think that angling facilities should be freely open, under proper regulations, in all corporation waters (especially to the ratepayers, whose money goes to maintain the same) to all persons willing to comply with the necessary regulations, without distinction of class or favour, except the concession to ratepayers, whom, it will be seen, have already provided the waters.—Faithfully yours,
LIVERPOOL RATEPAYER.

Several letters unavoidably held over.

The chapter on salmon fishing is, perhaps, the least enthusiastic in the book; not that Sir Edward is not a keen salmon fisher enough, but there are certain reservations and exceptions which seem to indicate a lesser love than your out and out salmon enthusiast must have. For instance, comparatively little account of autumn as compared with spring salmon fishing is made by him; he is disappointed with the play of salmon after being hooked, at least it is not, he says, what he imagined it would be. "Some day perhaps I may meet with one of those fish to land which one has to spend hours and travel miles in the struggle after it is hooked." I have never yet had a fish in play on a salmon rod for more than half an hour, or landed one more than 200yds. from the place where it was hooked. Then he notes that the element of luck comes into play more in salmon fishing than in other

styles of angling discussed by him. But the fact that Sir Edward admits he has "never been very successful" in salmon fishing may account for the undercurrent of reserve as regards the esteem in which he holds this branch of sport, which is hinted at rather than asserted, in spite of his conventional tributes to "the greatest of all the sports that can be had in fresh water" I think it is a fair deduction from his own pages to say that, while our author admires and likes salmon fishing, he *loves* trout fishing, especially dry-fly fishing. I say especially dry-fly fishing because in his chapter on wet fly fishing—good as it is—there is not quite that devoted whole-hearted ring about it which one finds in almost every line of the first half of the book, and it is just this first half of the book which, for this reason, is of most value and interest. And it is no small tribute to the attractions of our south-country streams that a north-countryman, whose inborn fishing instincts were first awakened on a Northumbrian burn, who has fished for trout and salmon and sea trout in Scotland and Norway; it is no small tribute, I think, to the fascinating power of the dry-fly country to find that in them chiefly lies the *raison d'être* of this delightful book.

It is the fashion with some of our north-country friends, who do not know any better, to picture the dry fly enthusiast as a kneeling and praying devotee, who often fishes on his belly; it is true that occasionally, like the deer stalker, he has to adopt these undignified attitudes. But let this little anecdote mentioned by Sir E. Grey be remembered, since it is told of one of the best and keenest north-country anglers who ever lived—Stewart, author of "The Practical Angler." Stewart said: "He is not worthy of the name of angler who cannot when worm fishing any day in July, when the water is clear, kill from 15lb. to 20lb. weight of trout in any country in the South of Scotland." "But," says Sir Edward, "we are warned to take into account his ideas and habits as to what a "day" meant—a jealous gamekeeper whom he had always beaten described it as "twenty-four hours of creeping and crawling." Before he died Stewart was obliged to lessen his estimate.

There is one point mentioned in the chapters on dry-fly fishing which the editors call attention to in a foot-note, and that is where the author expresses his conviction that trout at times when they rush into a weed bed after being hooked hang on to the weeds with their teeth. The editors say, "It would surely be hard to over-estimate the importance to the angler, and the interest to the naturalist, of this theory of Sir Edward Grey's." Curiously enough, in an article on "Pike Fishing," in the April number of *Harmsworth's Magazine*, published before this work appeared, I had mentioned that Mr. Alfred Jardine and I had on several occasions noticed what we thought were almost convincing proofs that pike when fighting for life will at times take hold of a bunch of weeds with their teeth, but I confess I had never observed or suspected that trout ever do so. It is theory, of course, in both cases, as the evidence of weeds found in their mouths is not even circumstantial evidence that the fish deliberately caught hold of them to prevent being pulled out. Grayling could not if they would act in this way by reason of their small mouths, and yet in many years' experience on the Itchen and Test and other rivers I can safely say that I have lost more grayling than trout from weeding.

Dry-fly anglers should make a note of a dry fly highly praised by Sir E. Grey as great medicine, and one which "it is always worth while to float over an obstinate trout," one which "on many days at all seasons has taken one or two brace of trout, which I am convinced I should not have succeeded in rising with the winged flies." Even on days when his great favourite, a Red Quill, has failed him, he has had good sport with this fly, which for want of other name I shall call

SIR E. GREY'S BLACK HACKLE.

He merely says it is "a plain Black Hackle tied with soft hackles, and on the same sized hooks as the Duns." I wish Sir Edward would tell us who dresses it for him, and if hackled at the shoulder or all down the body, and material of body. He is not a believer in a large variety of flies, and on this point says: "I should be content (exclusive of the May Fly and Sedge Fly, which are for special waters or exceptional occasions) with four

sorts. In May these would be medium coloured Olive Quill Gnat, neither very light nor very dark, and the Iron Blue. In June or end of May a Red Quill becomes the more successful fly, and the fourth is the Black Hackle already mentioned." This is a scanty bill of fare as compared with the ordinary dry-fly angler's list, and I should not like to be restricted to it, though I think we all err on the side of too great a diversity of flies. But what about fishing in the fishing hut and after dinner? If we are reduced to a rule of three or four our fishing confabs will lose three-parts of their attraction. But Sir E. Grey's book will cause a run on Red Quill Gnats this season, for he puts it before his reader as often and as confidently as he evidently does before the trout. On the lower Itchen I have not found the Red Quill so deadly as other patterns of late years, and in looking over my book generally pick out a largish Dark Olive, tied by Mrs. Richardson, with stained gut body in preference, unless the Iron Blue is on, and then Iron Blue they will have.

"Anglers differ as to how late the evening fishing should be prolonged. Night fishing with a large wet fly should not be allowed on good dry-fly water."

Most anglers will agree with this remark, and also that it is fair to fish as long as you can fish a floating fly over rising fish, even if you cannot quite see your fly. "It needs both skill and judgment to put an artificial fly properly over a fish in these conditions, but during this last half hour a skilful angler may expect to get a brace of good trout with a floating Sedge. This is perfectly fair fishing." It is fair fishing, though, as Sir Edward points out, it is not on a par with killing fish by daylight with small fly.

One excellent suggestion of our author I must not forget, and it ought to be printed and stuck up in all angler's fishing quarters, *i.e.*,

"HAVE DINNER, IF POSSIBLE, BETWEEN FIVE AND SIX."

I think this is a splendid idea; it seems to have been rambling in my brain ever since I first fished, and never came to the surface, such is the result of habit. One's usual habit is to have dinner ordered for 7.30 or eight, and to come in done up half an hour late, and then blame it for spoiling the best chance in the whole summer's day. Certainly, dinner at 5.30 or six, fish till dark, then a light supper, and the smoke, *et cetera*, afterwards will be all the more enjoyable and sleep profounder.

I should much like to quote some of Sir E. Grey's accounts of his victories and defeats—especially the latter, for nothing is so consoling as to find that others also occasionally have those spells of ill-luck, losing fish after fish in the most extraordinary manner. There is solid foundation for Rochefoucauld's maxim that human nature finds a secret pleasure in the misfortunes of its friends, especially if they generally get bigger baskets of trout than you do. Also I should like to tell my readers how Sir Edward, deadly as his fly is, feels his rod tremble as his fly nears the spot where the big trout is rising, and how, when he has hooked him, his next feeling is one of downright fear as to where the first rush of the fish will end. One may appear composed enough to an onlooker, but I for one should be very sorry if I found my *sang froid* was not all boiling on such occasions.

On that great point in dry-fly ethics, which I mentioned last week as to when the dry-fly man should fish, I am very glad to see that Sir Edward Grey advocates fishing for a fish which you think will rise, even if you have not seen it do so. One of the daily papers, in noticing his book, said that he was known, after an exciting debate in the House of Commons, to slip off to Hampshire by an early train and be at his political post again the next evening. This is borne out by the useful note on page 49, which tells us that a train "leaves Waterloo for the Itchen and Test either at or just before six o'clock in the morning" *experientia docet*.

And north-country sceptics may note if they please that "the extraordinary fatness to which Test and Itchen trout attain, and the brilliancy of their colour and condition in May, June, and July, surpass anything it has been my good fortune to see amongst river trout, and anything I could have believed if I had fished only on north-country rivers." It is only fair to add he does not think

that "size for size they fight so strongly as the trout in rocky or swifter water."

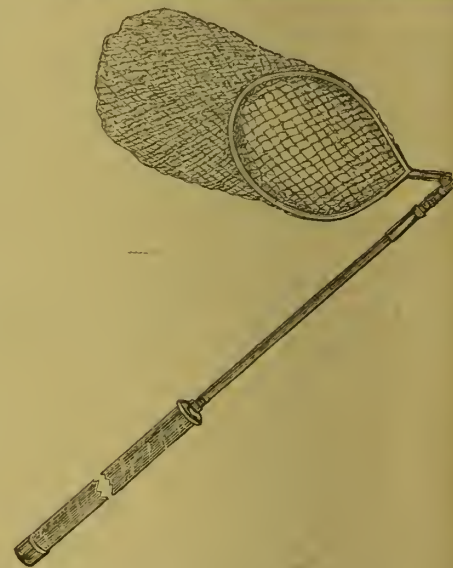
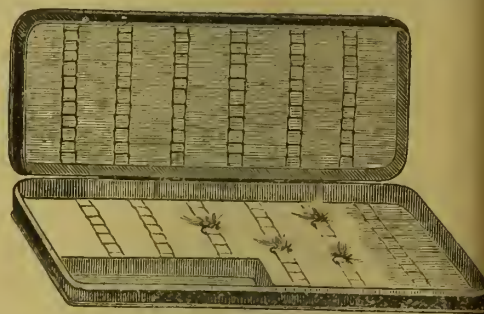
Never have the attractions of south-country trout fishing, the charm of southern streamland scenery and life been more truly described than in the early pages of this work; in this notice of it I have only been able to glance here and there at a few of its pleasant pages, and I can only add that I am quite certain all who may read it through my recommendation will thank me for advising them to do so.

R. B. MARSTON.

EATON AND DELLER'S NEW CATALOGUE.

ALTHOUGH the name of Eaton and Deller has been known in the fishing tackle business for over two centuries it must not be supposed that they are at all old fashioned, as is occasionally the case with old firms. The present proprietors are go ahead, with telephone number and telegraphic address, and their new catalogue is printed nicely on the latest "art" paper, which brings up the cuts well and pleases the eye.

For very many years this firm has been celebrated for its split cane rods; the only thing



against them was their price; now they supply at £3. 10s. what we are assured is practically the same rod as was sold for twice the price some years back. We have examined one of these rods, which has lockfast fittings to the joints, two tops in landing handle, and all the latest *et ceteras*, and it seems to us to be extraordinarily good value for 70s.; for an extra 5s. you can have the same rod with steel centre—if you care to carry a lightning conductor around with you when fishing.

As regards action, Messrs. E. and D. make their split canes stiff as a rule, as most of their customers want them stiff, but they also supply other actions of course.

Their folding telescopic landing net and handle with the fall over knuckle joint is very much the kind of thing described by Sir E. Grey in his charming book on fly fishing as what he thinks the most useful kind of landing net, as the joint is near the net ring. It is made with a hook to hook on to shoulder strap of creel, and also to carry in a sling and ring.

Their special dry-fly box is fitted with felt and a parchment surface with strips of parchment sewn on as illustrated. The method of fixing the fly is to pass the point of the hook

just beyond the harb under the strip of parchment in between the divisions. The fly can easily be removed, yet the hacking of felt underneath is sufficiently elastic to prevent the fly dropping out. This method does not blunt the point of the hook like cork, and obviates the difficulty which occurs in removing a fly from felt. The box is fitted with a small compartment to hold tweezers.

Great attention is given by Messrs. E. and D. to their double-tapered lines for dry-fly fishing, dressed as recommended by Mr. Halford in his "Dry-fly Fishing." More beautiful lines we have never seen, and in practice we find that they wear very well indeed, especially if occasionally "fatted." Major Fisher, author of "Rod and River," speaks most highly of these lines.

In their ehonite winches Messrs. E. and D. have introduced what they call an "adjustable drag."

"We now make these winches with adjustable drag to stiffen or lighten the check at will, to enable the angler to alter the action or strength of check, to match the gut cast and style of rod he may be using without being obliged, as hitherto, to unfasten the front plate and alter the spring of check, which is most inconvenient and risky, and generally results in the screws becoming worn, and the winch working loose somewhere in time."

One sometimes hears complaints of ehonite not standing wear, but anglers forget that there are several different qualities of ehonite, and that the cheap sorts will not stand like the good ones. We have an ehonite reel bought some years before Mr. Kewell left the fishing tackle business he had near the Angel, Islington, and that must be a good many years ago, and it is as good as ever.

Among greenheart fly rods at all prices, Messrs. E. and D. make a feature of one at two guineas with lockfast fittings for dry fly work. They also give special attention to their salmon fly department, and we notice that their list contains the names with sizes and prices (very moderate) of nearly two hundred different patterns.

"GUT TIPPETS" OR "POINTS."

What the dry fly angler longs for is a bit of *finest long undrawn gut* for putting on the end of his cast. According to their list, for we have not yet seen them, Messrs Eaton and Deller will supply a dozen of such points at from 1s. 6d. to 2s. the dozen.

All branches of angling are represented in this catalogue, which is certain to be appreciated by Messrs. E. and D.'s numerous customers. Another year we hope to see a good index added.

RE-STOCKING POSSIBILITIES.

IN addition to the inroads made on the margin of brood fish in our troutling streams by the early salmon angler and the poacher, there is the legitimate tribute to sport, *per se*, to be made good, and the illegitimate tribute paid to pollution to be accounted for and redeemed. The sportsman's tribute is a very heavy one, and it is yearly becoming more and more so. The demand for trout angling quarters is steadily on the increase. At one time only salmon and sea-trout were sought after by anglers from a distance, and the brown trout were undisturbed, save on an off occasion, or by the occasional tourist angler on the search more for health and change than pleasure and sport.

But "old times are changed, old manners gone," and regularly in the months of March, April, and May the trout-anglers come north by the round score, and a regular business has sprung up among hotel-keepers and proprietors of troutling waters in catering to the wants of this distinct class of migratory sportsmen. The earlier parts of the Don, Deveron, Ythan, Ugie, Findhorn, Beaul, and such like northern streams, are examples to hand to which they flock. At this season of the year the trout rise freely to the fly—chiefly the March Brown, although the Hare-Lug, Professor, Grey Quill, Lord Saltoun, and similar lures of the larger ordinary trout-sizes take equally well at times—and afford the very best of sport, although, perhaps, their colour and condition might not please the most fastidious.

These qualities, however, are mending daily as the season advances, and it is quite wonderful how soon a yellow trout of, say, a pound or two, can put on fat, when there is a prolific rise of March Browns on the water. But the baskets then

made are heavy, and this is the main consideration of the early trout angler. March is rather too early for general angling, and, as a rule, the sport then obtained is very indifferent compared with what it is in April and May, especially if the weather be at all genial. Of course, we refer to the very early districts—the lower reaches of such rivers as the Don, Deveron, and Findhorn—and not to the higher parts, or hill streams, where the fish are neither so large, nor so early, although still more prolific.

At one time mine host would have blushed to have made a charge for trout angling on the waters attached to his hotel. He would have deemed himself lucky had he been so fortunate as to have secured the patronage of a couple of gentlemen to stay a night or two at his house, for the sake of their chance custom. Even salmon angling *a galore* could have been obtained on such terms, not so very long ago either; and there are some few spots yet where the custom still prevails, although they are few and far between; and, while a few years back we could have named such quarters by the dozen, on the Dee, Don, Deveron, North and South Esks, as easy as a child running over the alphabet, we would be timorous now about singling out any one particular place worth going to where the daily or the monthly ticket is not in vogue.

The brown trout, that once paid tribute to the local anglers only, has now to suffer the inroads of the sporting stranger as well; and, while the stock might have been quite equal at all times to the demands of the resident sportsman, it is not reasonable to expect that it could withstand the combined attacks of both of them without some extraneous assistance. Trout are neither migratory fish nor fast growers. We do not refer to particular and well favoured districts, where they are hardly ever out of condition, and that not for long, from the abundance of bottom feeding, we speak of the average trout. It is a common enough experience that the first rod over the water has *ceteris paribus*, the best chance, and that when an extra heavy fish is got in a particular "lie," it is usually a season or two before another of the same proportions may be found in the same spot.

When the heavier trout are thus killed off by over-fishing, *i.e.*, more rods than the fishery can reasonably carry, it takes some time, probably a season or two, before the same places can be filled up by the rising generation. This is the tribute the stock pays to sport. Unlike salmon and sea trout "lies," which are replenished with every tide and semi-flood with fresh fish, the trout "lies," once depleted, remain so till the younger race have grown to like proportions, and so filled their progenitors' shoes. Till this takes place the fishery will be barren of heavy fish in proportion as they have been whipped out.

There is not a hotel or other fishery where early trout angling is in demand, but has large possibilities in the way of re-stocking. There are miles and miles of water in almost every river and stream not fully stocked. There are pools and pools which have fallen a prey to the poacher; and there are rivers upon rivers which have been simply over-fished in the eager scramble for sport, and in order to meet the demands which have sprung up on every hand for "Easter Quarters," "Summer Quarters," "Autumn Quarters," north of the border. The City magnate takes a month in the spring-time, the professional man at Easter, the literary and the leisured class whenever it suits them to seek for change and rest. All go in for sport at the waterside. They either do not care for salmon angling and its infinite uncertainties and heavier expenses, or cannot get it if they do care for it; and so a very large proportion of them are quite content with a respectable basket of brown trout. If finnock he within reach, then so much the better; but the finnock season is usually over, and the staple product of the river or stream is brown or yellow trout. These anglers are not usually of the pot-hunting order. They are not consumed with the burning desire to make "record baskets," but are content with one good day's sport in two, and with a few fish of average weights, frequently, rather than one day's abundance followed by weeks of famine.

It is in the highest and best interest of those who cater to this class to see that the stock in the fishery is well maintained. It is to their interest to attract the angler by maintaining the good

name of their fishery, and, if possible, increasing it. The field which re-stocking possibilities presents in this respect is unbounded. If he be a benefactor of his kind, who can make two blades of grass grow where only one existed before, he is as much, if not a greater benefactor, who can get two trout of respectable size to the expectant angler where only one was got before, for a trout is of much more intrinsic value than a blade of grass, even from an economical point of view.

This can be done in fully ninety per cent. of our rivers and streams. There are few public or semi-public fisheries but what might be vastly improved, and made to carry three rods with ease where there is a great difficulty just now of even satisfying one. Proprietors not only of our inland fisheries, but all over where there is a bit of angling water, can vastly improve their fisheries if they care to try. Hotel-keepers can greatly increase their custom, and clear a little over and above their angling rents, if they will only open their eyes to the possibilities that lie before them, and anglers themselves even might, in gratitude for the sport they receive, "put their hand to," and assist in the re-stocking possibility.

Where pollution has reigned supreme, where it has existed at all, restocking will be absolutely necessary. Of course if the cause of the evil be not entirely removed, and the pollution not a thing of the past, restocking would be a dead throwing away of time and money, to say nothing of the foolishness of such a proceeding. But where measures have been taken for the suppression of the polluting fiend, then restocking should be set about in a handsome and generous manner. There is no necessity for waiting a whole generation to see the pools again alive with myriads of rising fish when a show of March Browns make their appearance in an early April or May afternoon. It should be undertaken at once, and it will be the best sign of the general purity of a stream for most purposes when there is a healthy head of fish teeming in its pools and rushes.

We do not wish to enter into the question of whether fry, or yearlings, or two-year-olds, or simply eyed-ova is the best system of restocking. Controversy is not our aim in this instance, neither is it our forte. For all practical purposes eyed-ova is found to be the most economical method of re-stocking northern streams, and as economy plays a conspicuous part in the class of rivers we have been alluding to, that system may be heartily recommended here.

The cost of yearlings is very considerable, and the carriages heavy, to say nothing of the risk involved in the change of temperature and food to so frail *fario*. Eyed-ova, on the other hand, may be had (*S. leuvenensis*) at 7s. 6d. per 1000! Ten thousand would only be a matter of £3 5s.—a mere nothing, even were it only for experimental purposes. They may be laid down in any sheltered burn or stream, on a shingly or sandy bed, if possible covered over with a few branches or a bit of wire netting for protection from wild fowl, and with a steady flow of water they will in due time hatch out. If more elaborate arrangements are at command, by all means let them be employed. G. M.

THE LATE DUKE OF BEAUFORT.

It is with sport that the late Duke of Beaufort's name is most intimately associated. He spent many tens of thousands of pounds, it is said, in maintaining the Badminton Hunt. Although long a martyr to gout, his Grace was scarcely ever known to allow this aggravating complaint to keep him out of the field, where the daring he displayed, even when an old man, was often the cause of envy and wonder. He was all his life a straight rider to hounds, a perfect whip, a good shot, and a successful angler. The Badminton Library, the volumes of which have long since attained to standard eminence, was issued under his editorship.

NEW ZEALAND TROUT.

A HANDSOME trout has been on view at Messrs. Hardy Brothers', 61, Pall Mall, London, this week. The fish was captured by Mr. W. P. Turton in the Rangitata river, in February of this year, and sent over (in ice) in excellent condition. The fish weighed 10½ lb., and was 27 in. in length.

THE GREATEST FISHING AND SHOOTING CLUB IN THE WORLD.

THROUGH the courtesy of the President, Mr. Wm. A. Macleod, we are able to give our readers some account of the Megantic Fish and Game Corporation, unquestionably the largest sporting club of the kind in the world.

The following is a copy of a letter accompanying the Year Book of the Club sent to the Editor of the *F.G.* by Mr. Wm. A. Macleod, to whom our best thanks are due for the loan of some of the very attractive illustrations of scenery, &c., on the club's preserves:

"R. B. MARSTON, ESQ.,
"London, Eng.

"DEAR SIR,—Your letter is before me, and I note with pleasure your interest in the Megantic Club Year Book which I sent you.

"Referring to the size of our club, I believe it to be the largest in this country; it certainly has the largest preserve in this country. To increase in size has not, however, been one of the club's objects, but during the dozen years of its existence it has prospered and been, on the whole, successful. For trout fishing and deer hunting I do not believe it can be surpassed.

"Our annual banquet is to be held at Boston on the 4th of next month, and I know it would give us all very much pleasure if we could have the Editor of the *Fishing Gazette* present on that occasion. If this is not possible, we hope we may have the honour and pleasure at some annual banquet in the future.

"I have for some years taken your interesting paper, getting it through a bookseller here, and always look forward to its receipt with much pleasure. It occurred to me that you might be interested in knowing something of an angling club on this side of the water, and it was that that prompted me to write you and send you a copy of our book. I am very much pleased with the prospect of having a notice of the club, in which many of us are very much interested, appear in such a widely read and highly esteemed paper as the *Fishing Gazette*.

"With best wishes for your continued prosperity.—I am, yours very truly,

"WM. A. MACLEOD, President.

"Boston, U.S.A."

ORIGIN AND OBJECTS OF THE CLUB.

Some ten years ago an enthusiastic sportsman, with a few of his friends, who believed that an ideal hunting ground had been discovered, and that with proper care its attractiveness could be preserved for many future years, decided to form a club with the purpose of acquiring control of this territory, giving fellow-sportsmen an opportunity of enjoying its exceptional privileges, and by proper restrictions preserving the forests and natural beauties, and protecting and propagating the fish and game.

As a result, the Megantic Fish and Game Corporation was organised, and on Feb. 15, 1887, it was incorporated under the Maine laws, and March 26, 1887, a charter was obtained by it from the Province of Quebec.

Since that time the history of the club has been one of progress, acquisition, and success, and the fondest hopes of the founders have been more than realised.

At the present time the club has a membership of 300—the stated limit—and owns and leases a territory comprising 250 square miles, containing three lakes, twenty ponds, six rivers, eight streams, and eight bogs.

It has a large and commodious clubhouse, twenty-three public and fourteen private camps, a fish hatchery, a steam launch, and a large supply of boats and canoes, and by ownership and lease controls a vast preserve, one of the largest in the world, an unbroken wilderness 3000ft. above the sea level, situated in the north-western corner of the State of Maine, and extending over the border into Canada.

The sportsman not only finds an abundance, but also a variety of fish and game to reward his skill, and with the numerous stretches of forest, ponds, and streams at his disposal, the sport never becomes monotonous.

It has ever been, and no doubt will continue to be, the desire of the officers of the club to make the preserve a veritable paradise for sportsmen, and we hope that the unparalleled success which has attended their efforts in the past will be with them in the future.

Altogether the club's preserve extends over about 250 square miles of country partly in the United States and partly in Canada, and its affairs are conducted evidently on the most business-like, and, at the same time, sportsmanlike manner by a board of nineteen directors with a president, two vice-presidents, a treasurer, a clerk of corporation, and an assistant clerk of corporation. The bye-laws and regulations of the club have evidently been draughted with the greatest possible care to ensure the absolute freedom and



MAP OF THE MEGANTIC CLUB PRESERVE.



AT BIG ISLAND POND, MEGANTIC CLUB PRESERVE.



MEGANTIC CLUB RESULTS.



"THE CLUB HOUSE" OF THE MEGANTIC CLUB.

comfort, as far as possible, of the members, and at the same time afford security against outside or inside interference with good order or with the rights acquired by the club. These rules with, of course, some modifications, would be found an admirable basis on which to draw up regulations for any similar community of sportsmen in any part of the world.

THE CLUBHOUSE.

The southern shore of Macannamac Lake is still in its primeval condition. On this shore, in the midst of a tract of wilderness several miles in extent, owned by the club, stands Macannamac Lodge, more familiarly called "The Clubhouse." The main building is a substantial, roomy structure, standing on a point well above the level of the water, and commanding from its broad piazza one of the most charming views of mountains and water. Near by is a commodious boat-house, well supplied with the best boats and canoes, a building containing sleeping accommodations for guides, a refrigerator house sufficiently large for an ample supply of ice, also a kitchen and laundry connecting with the main building. At the left is a shooting gallery, and at no great distance "Sebattis," one of the numerous private camps to be found on the preserve.

The interior of the house betokens comfort and good cheer: An attractive lounging room, provided with books, piano, and a large fireplace artistically designed; a central hallway with another great fireplace, and a large, pleasant dining room well supplied with every requisite.

Above are two chamber floors, with bath rooms and lavatories, and an attic with lockers for members. The sanitary arrangements, water supply, and other essentials are most carefully guarded.

Good trails lead from the clubhouse, affording pleasant walks, and along these in the season a good chance for partridge may be had. Bass are to be had at the clubhouse landing, and Spider river, within easy rowing or paddling distance, is the home of the trout, and also an ideal place for jacking in the hunting season. Deer are everywhere at all seasons.

BIG ISLAND.

In many respects Big Island is unequalled. Its high altitude (between 3000 and 4000ft.), the character of its soil, water, and atmosphere, give it a value as a sanatorium which has only recently been recognised and appreciated. The club owns a fine group of camps situated on a sloping bank at the southern end of the pond, where only a few minutes' walk is required to reach L Pond, and thus to the angler a choice is always offered between the big trout and land-locked salmon in the two and a half miles of water of Big Island Pond and the 3lb. and pound fish which are often taken two or three at a cast from the myriads which fairly crowd the waters of the smaller pond. For trout fishing pure and simple, L Pond and North-west are absolutely unequalled. At Big Island seven members have private camps which vie in luxury and beauty with anything of the kind. A fine hatchery is also located here, for the club does not intend to take any chance of depleting these ponds, but, on the contrary, the supply of fish and fish food has been steadily increasing, so that to-day more and larger trout are to be caught than ever before.

The dining camp is in charge of a thoroughly competent steward and stewardess, and the presence of a cow here, as at the clubhouse and Chain of Ponds Camps, ensures a supply of good milk.

The club employs about twenty ex-

perienced guides, and the following particulars of the expenses of members at the preserve are interesting. The cost of a return ticket from Boston to the preserve is about £2 16s., and from New York about £3 16s. The distance from Boston is 330 miles to Megantic.

EXPENSES AT THE PRESERVE.

The rate for board on the preserve for members and their families will be, this season, 6s. per day each. By "family" is meant females who are members of his household, and his sons under twenty-one years of age.

Members owning camps may board themselves by paying the club 2s. per day for each person, with the understanding that as far as possible supplies shall be bought from the club.

The fare on the club steamer is 1s. for each person, and the members ordering the steamer shall pay for the same whether used or not.

Transportation from Megantic Lake to Spider Lake will be furnished by Mr. George Flint, who has the sole contract with the club for this service. Price, per trunk, 1s.

The price for guides' services is 8s. per day and their board, which is 4s. per day.

The Megantic club offers such attractions to its members in the way of fishing, hunting, and shooting that it is not surprising to hear that its roll of members is full at the present time, and that to obtain entrance to it is not an easy matter. Candidates have first to be carefully examined as to their qualifications and social standing by the committee, and a unanimous vote of all the directors present at which elections take place is necessary.

The capital stock of the corporation is 25,000 dollars (over £5000), divided into 500 shares of fifty dollars (par value) each. Each member is entitled to one share, and one share only. Each member is liable to an annual assessment not exceeding twenty dollars (£4) to meet the current expenses of the club, from which it would appear that the annual expenses in preservation, buildings, boats, &c., range about £1500 or £2000.

Members have the privilege of introducing a guest, and can take their wives or other ladies of their family, and children under sixteen years of age, when visiting the preserve; this is an excellent rule, and it is evident from the illustrations on the year book that many of the lady visitors both shoot and fish.

LIFE AT THE CLUBHOUSE.

Ladies and children, with the requisite heavy baggage, may easily reach the clubhouse, where every accommodation is afforded them, and where, should they not wish to undertake a tramp or rough it in camp, they may remain in the best of care while the head of the family makes an excursion to some distant pond or bog in quest of fish or game. Life at the clubhouse may be varied by visits to points around the lake, either in stanch rowboats manned by careful guides, or in the club steamer, which may always be chartered for this purpose when not on a regular trip. A circuit of the lake in the trim and speedy little steamer on a pleasant day, or by moonlight, is most enjoyable. An exploration of the upper Spider to the trout pools above the head of navigation, where miles of good stream fishing are to be had, a fishing, duck-hunting, or deer-hunting trip in season down the lower Spider to Rush Pond affords a rare treat to the lover of rod, gun, or camera. A stay at the clubhouse, with the pleasant excitement incident upon the arrival or departure of parties with their guides, has whetted your appetite for a taste of real camp life, and you resolve to make a tour of the preserve. You choose to go first to the Chain of Ponds, and at the appointed time you turn your back on the clubhouse, take the trail to the "Chain," and are soon lost to sight in the forest. Unless you are a veteran at following a trail, when you reach the landing at Horseshoe Stream you will have a supreme contempt for the fellow who insists that it is "only ten miles." The three-mile row will rest and refresh you, and your good nature will have returned by the time the "Chain" camps are reached.

The following extracts from the rules regulating fishing on the club's lakes and streams:

FISHING.

Sect. 1. No member shall kill any trout, land-locked salmon, or bass, or other game fish, unless he has good reasons to believe that it will be used for food.

Sect. 2. No member of this club shall kill more than fifty trout or fifteen black bass upon the club preserves in any one day.

Sect. 3. No member of this club shall send or carry away from the club premises more than 15lb. of trout, land-locked salmon, or black bass upon any one visit.

Sect. 4. Trout of less than 6in. in length, and land-locked salmon less than 12in. in length, and black bass less than 1lb. in weight, caught in waters owned or leased by this club, shall be carefully returned to the water as soon as caught. If such fish die, it shall be scored against the member taking the same, and he may reclaim it.

Sect. 5. When members are camped together at any of the lakes or streams, they shall not kill more trout than needed to supply the camp, and they shall see that no fish is wasted or thrown away; at such times, also, when fish are plentiful, members are expected to return to the water, as soon as caught, all fish under ½lb. until they have sufficient for their immediate use, when they shall stop fishing altogether.

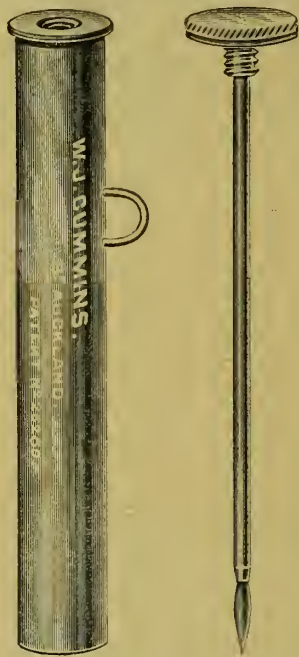
We have great pleasure in being able to place before British sportsmen these particulars of this grand American sporting club, which offers an excellent example of what might be done on the same bold lines but on a smaller scale, say, in Scotland, Ireland, Wales, or other parts of our country.

Long may the Megantic Club flourish!

CUMMINS' PATENT DRY FLY OILER.

MR. W. J. CUMMINS has sent us a neat little brass oil carrier for the use of dry-fly anglers.

Mr. C. claims that his little brass affair is an advance on the glass bottle now so familiar in the dry-fly equipment. Certainly it is stronger, but



if made of stout glass there is very little risk of breakage. One great advantage of glass is that you can see in an instant if you have enough oil in your bottle. In Mr. C.'s you must as it were take soundings by introducing something dry, and noting how deep it goes into the oil. The illustrations show clearly the shape and nature of Mr. Cummins' bottle. He claims for it that it will not leak, and probably it will not if you remember to screw it up well, and that you can carry it in your waistcoat pocket, as it is no larger than a pencil; but we should be sorry to advise an angler to do so, because, although only a trifling matter, still the oil is squeezed out when the lid is screwed down.

If, after actual use for some time, we find that this nice-looking little brass oil holder is a decided improvement on the glass bottle we shall say so, but shall not discard our old and tried glass friend until the brass new one has proved to be superior.

NEARLY LANDED.

DEAR SIR,—I have been very nearly "landed," and am still feeling the effects of the struggle for life and health which lasted in the acute stage nearly three weeks, while the sub-acute stages are still dragging along seven weeks after it! The bait which was nearly fatal cannot be called a fly, was artfully wrapped up, and might have deceived

an older fish. It was of simple contrivance, but of a deadly nature, for it was so arranged that while no self-respecting fish would look long at or wish to put his nose close to it, it might still bring death to any fish incautious enough to linger near it. In short, it gave off a poisonous gas, odourless, tasteless, and colourless, and as it was sure to linger in my favourite haunts, small wonder that it nearly achieved its purpose.

It was all the more a low and unsportsmanlike bait inasmuch as it was most dangerous after sundown, when, the ordinary risks of the day which sporting fish have to run being over, the cool evening draws on, the shadows fall, and sensible fish select their favourite corner in which to rest and meditate before the advent of their dinner, or, as some call it, the evening rise. Day after day and evening after evening my favourite haunts seemed safer and safer during last winter. No nasty men appeared to put in bait of this kind, and although I knew that bait had been put in some two years before, I believed that it was ordinary ground bait, of a wholesome kind, which had been arranged. Of course I had fled while it was being put in, and had only, on my return, noticed signs of men having been disturbing the soil. Alas! for my shortsightedness. Winter was passing, and on occasional mild days a stray gleam of sun would tempt a Dark Olive out—a promise of a glorious time to come. But somehow or other I began to take less interest in such things, and to feel that my condition was not up to what it should be. My colouring began to make a poor show, and once or twice I should not have been surprised had I found strange spots appearing; but they came not, and I put my symptoms down to my needing a little wholesome excitement. On two evenings, therefore, I left my usual haunts, and repaired to a charming place free from weeds and stones, where, on the smoothest part of the bottom of the river, my friends occasionally amused themselves by swimming round each other in perfect time and rhythm, and in cheerful greetings and reminiscences. How such a custom arose I know not, but I have heard that men, too, have a somewhat similar custom, called, I believe, "dancing." I say somewhat similar, for their peculiarly "leggy" movements—though they give them and their opposite sex much pleasure in a heated and dusty and noisy room—cannot be compared to our cool and graceful evolutions. Enough, however, of such an idle contrast, and let me hasten on to describe what befel me. After the first evening at the charming place, to which I have alluded, I felt very queer and out of sorts, and my gills became decidedly painful and somewhat swollen. To counteract this I took a great deal of exercise during the day, and though I felt none the better for it, returned that evening to the assemblage of my friends. The experiment showed me that my diagnosis of my case was incorrect, for still more unfavourable symptoms manifested themselves, and I was forced to leave my usual abode and seek the neighbourhood of another river, the Thames, where many clever healers of my genus are to be found. The cause of my illness was speedily pronounced to be what I had now begun to suspect, and an examination of my home showed how unscrupulously I had been poisoned. As a free and enlightened fish I protest through your columns, Mr. Editor, against the immunity enjoyed by the unscrupulous scoundrels who use this abominable ground bait, and as my protest will, of course, produce no good effect on them, I cling to the hope that your readers will take warning by my sad story, and keep their eyes open day and night lest they fall victims in their turn.

DEAR SIR,—The foregoing extraordinary story came to my hands in a somewhat peculiar way. It was related to me by a very intimate friend, whose looks proclaimed him to be recovering from some serious illness. Can it be that he had assumed the rôle of a talking fish, and that he was telling me of the way in which he had been nearly killed by blood poisoning arising from scandalously bad and scamped drainage work at his own house? Later on he did say something to warrant such a supposition, and hinted at a frightened architect and builder and a dishonest clerk of the works, and an offer to pay anything reasonable. I can't feel quite certain as to how this may be, but have strong suspicions.—Yours faithfully,

BUCKBEAN.

THE COST OF SPORT.*

IN his preface to this volume on "The Cost of Sport," Mr. F. G. Aflalo refers to the extraordinary difficulty which has been experienced in obtaining trustworthy information, and tells us that his aim has been to select a few typical sports, and, with the aid of expert writers, to present some kind of estimate of the average outlays involved in each. The subjects are treated under the following five headings:

1. Shooting and Fishing.
2. Hunting and Racing.
3. Boating and Yachting.
4. Games.
5. Various.

One of the best chapters in the work is that by Mr. G. Teasdale Buckell, editor of *Land and Water*, on "Shooting in the British Islands." In shooting, as in fishing, if you want it cheap, you must be prepared to go a long way for it, and be satisfied with a moderate bag. For instance, Mr. Buckell tells us that the trifling license required to shoot on the Duchy of Cornwall lands enables the holder to shoot at will over the greater part of Dartmoor. Needless to say, that is not a land swarming with game, and the day's bag, consisting on extraordinarily lucky days of a snipe or two, and perhaps a duck or moor part-ridge, can without difficulty be carried by the sportsman himself. But we are not at all sure that wild shooting of this kind is not far more enjoyable than shooting to order over interminable roots. The next class of cheap shooting is that to be had by staying at hotels, but for this to be worth much you ought to be on very friendly terms with the landlord, for, as Mr. Buckell points out, shooting goes by favour in these cases. We had no idea that for £20 you can get a license from the Commissioners of Woods and Forests to shoot over about 50,000 acres of the New Forest. Mr. Buckell also includes fishing, but we fear that is of much less account even than the shooting, which includes woodcock, snipe, and rabbits, and "he who knows his country should not have great difficulty in killing game to a market value equal to the cost of his license."

Mr. Buckell has, of course, much to say on the more expensive classes of shooting, and gives some suggestions on the very important and delicate question of "tips." Although volumes might be written on the immorality of tipping, he would be a very foolish man who expected to enjoy sport of any kind in this country who forgot to "remember the keeper," or others who have an unwritten claim on him for a tip. As to who should be tipped and what should be the amount we do not think, if there is any doubt in the matter, that better advice than that of Mr. Buckell can be given to a stranger in any sporting district, viz., to ascertain what the general practice is.

Chapters on shooting in Scandinavia, India, South Africa, British Columbia, &c., follow, and then one on revolver shooting, by the crack revolver shot, Mr. Walter Winans. From this we learn that the cost of a good revolver varies from £4 10s. to £7 10s., and a weapon costing £85 is nothing but one of £5 or so, "encrusted with ivory and silver," which do not count in the shooting quality. The chief cost, of course, is the ammunition. "A morning's work, practising, say, an hour and a half quick firing (six shots in twelve seconds) at moving targets, will soon get rid of from 200 to 250 cartridges, and those who shoot much in matches may get through from 12,000 to 15,000 cartridges in a year. The cartridges cost about 5s. per 100." It is interesting to note that Mr. Winans' experience with different powders is that whereas nitro, or smokeless powders, wear out a revolver in a year, with black powder a barrel should shoot well for several years.

Coming to the chapters on fishing, it can hardly be said that they are very exhaustive, or likely to be of much use, or that anglers can be advised to give 6s. for this work if they require it only for information about fishing licenses and the cost of fishing, as they can get nearly all that is given here, and a very great deal more, for a shilling or two, in "The Angler's Diary and

Gazetteer," edited by Mr. Irwin E. B. Cox, M.P., in Mr. Watson Lyall's admirable "Guide to Fishing and Shooting in Scotland," and in similar works. Out of twenty-four pages devoted to fishing in the British Islands, seven are devoted to Thames fishing, and seven to Irish loch fishing, both well done by "John Bickerdyke." Salmon fishing has a page, and trout fishing three pages. Norwegian fishing is dealt with at rather more length, and there are a few pages on Indian fishing, tarpon fishing, and a chapter on sea fishing by the editor. If the fishing information had been dealt with in its relative importance, surely we should have had Thames fishing treated in one page, and salmon fishing generally extended to at least seven, instead of one being devoted to salmon, and seven to the Thames.

Since the editor asks for suggestions, we may say that future editions of his, generally speaking, most useful and suggestive work would be improved by giving at the end of each subject a list of the published guides, &c., relating to the subject. We are afraid trout anglers who may be led by Mr. Charles Walker's advice to "look about carefully," as they "may very often get a nice piece of water at an extremely low rent," will wear a good many pairs of boots out before they come across such an extraordinary fishing as he had in 1897 within fifty miles of London, he and a friend killing on it over 300 trout, from ½lb. up to 3lb. They only paid £5 a year for the water, and 10s. a month for a man to look after it.

In the chapter, or rather couple of pages, on tarpon fishing we notice Sir Wm. Hoste and others assure the editor that an ordinary trolling salmon rod, reel, and line answer every purpose, and that being the case it is evidently unnecessary to buy the very expensive outfits indulged in by the Americans. As there are one or two books specially devoted to tarpon fishing they should have been mentioned, and also the proper time of year for this sport, as the season is a short one, and if you go at any other time you might as well stay at home, as the hotels at Jacksonville and Ulyers are closed and no fishing is to be done.

Pages 118 to 134 are occupied with details of cost of sporting licences at home and abroad. Then follow short chapters on hunting and racing, then nearly 100 pages are devoted to boating and yachting—much the most comprehensive and exhaustive section of the work. In the brief notes on cricket it is said that 10,000 cricketers have their names down in the "Candidate's Book," and that most of them will have to wait fifty years for a chance to get into the Middlesex Cricket Club, unless they "wire in and get their names up," as we used to say at school, then they have their election accelerated in proportion to their achievements.

Rule 6 of the famous I. Zingari club is as follows:

"That the entrance fee be nothing, and the annual subscription do not exceed the entrance."

Curling seems to be about the cheapest form of sport dealt with in this book, and we are glad to hear, on the authority of the chaplain of the Royal Caledonian Curling Club, "which regulates the game all over the world," that "the kilt is not indispensable." What a blessed dispensation, seeing that curling is unfashionable when the thermometer shows above freezing point. The cost of a pair of curling stones ranges from 27s. to 57s., while a fancy pair of Crawfordjohn "nuts" may cost £10 or more.

Mr. Garden G. Smith estimates the total outlay on golf in this country as £2,680,000, and this must be a modest estimate, or else golfers are not as other men—at least, not as anglers. It seems the golfer spends on an average only 1s. 6d. a week on "refreshments," which hardly agrees with our limited experience of golf links.

Archery is a delightful sport and splendid exercise, and we often wonder anglers do not use the bow more than they generally do. As that famous archer, Col. Walrond, says: "It is not easy to regard archery as an expensive sport, unless a man has the inclinations of the American gentleman, who, going into a well-known archery store to purchase a sixpenny catalogue, emerged not until he had bought £300 worth of bows and arrows and fishing tackle, and ordered his coat of arms to be put in water colour on his bows, arrows, and pike floats." That touch in water colour

shows archers can draw the long bow almost as well as anglers.

A good index adds greatly to the value of this book as a work of reference, which deserves a place in the sportsman's library. It is very attractively produced, and for a first attempt of the kind it reflects much credit on the editor.

THE SPRING IN NORWAY.

TO-DAY, May 1, salmon angling commences in Norway, but whether upon the very earliest rivers a single fish will be captured is extremely doubtful. The winter has been a long and severe one. Early in October snow began to fall, and it has continued to do so ever since at frequent intervals. At the moment the sun is shining, but for the last two days it has been blowing a gale from the north-east, with heavy snow over the southern and western districts. From the north the accounts are wintry in the extreme. At Tromsø not a speck of bare ground is to be seen. Not for more than thirty years have there been such quantities of snow in Tromsødal, and the farmers dread the results of the tremendous flood, which must come sooner or later. In the great island of Senjen the houses are buried beneath the white masses, which in some places are so deep that they are over the telegraph wires, 15ft. to 20ft. above the ground. In the streets of Hammerfest, and round that evil-smelling little town, there are great drifts, while recent accounts from other districts describe how in many cases people have been obliged to escape through the roofs of their houses in order to avoid starvation, owing to the tremendous fall, and the whale fishers report the polar ice as lying from twelve to fifteen Norwegian miles only off the coast. From the neighbourhood of the Trondhjem Fjord, from Osterdal, and from the west coast cold and inclement weather continues to be reported, together with repeated falls of snow; in many parts there is great want of food for the cattle, and large quantities of hay are being sent north by train and steamer.

The ice on the Bandak Vand has been pretty well broken up, but on the Mjösen the navigation is not yet open, and there are miles of ice upon it still, a couple of feet thick at least. In all probability the angling season will be a good one, as owing to the vast quantities of snow on the fjelds there is sure to be plenty of water, but it is pretty certain to be late, for the spring flood, when it does come, will be very heavy, and the river cannot run into order for some time after its commencement. R.

NEW SERVICE VIA HARWICH AND THE HOOK.

THE Great Eastern Railway Company have introduced yet another improvement into their smart Continental service. By the completion of a short length of new railway around Rotterdam it is no longer necessary for the North German express to touch Amsterdam on its course to the frontier. The change was inaugurated on May Day, and to signalise the event Mr. C. Busk, the Continental traffic manager, took a select party of English gentlemen over for an inspection and a passing sight of Holland, and explained to them the direct advantages which will be conferred upon peoples and towns by the new line which henceforth skirts Rotterdam. The journey to Berlin is shortened by something like twenty-five miles, and a number of Dutch towns between the Hook of Holland and the German frontier will enjoy the facilities of communication which they have long desired.

At Liverpool-street Station there is at the present moment the keenest interest manifested—especially by the morning and evening passengers—in a great electric clock, the largest in the world it is said, suspended from the central transept. The Gothic points of the construction, no less than the commanding size and position, at once arrest attention. The case, with its towers and finials and its columns with carved capitals boldly decorated, weighs between two and three tons; it is entirely of iron and manganese steel, and the clock case is practically an apartment 9ft. square. The four open dials are each 6ft. in diameter, the figures of the hours are about 18in. apart, and of the minutes 3½in. This grand clock is in sympathy with several others working in the same electrical circuit, authoritatively giving them the time of day, and doing the business with absolutely accurate unison. In an office adjoining the main telegraph office is a London Regulation Clock so adjusted that the time-keeping does not vary more than two seconds per week, and for weeks together it has indicated correct Greenwich time to a second. An electrical contact is fixed to the movement of this clock, and every fifteen seconds it transmits an electrical current that moves the hands of all the clocks in unison.

* THE COST OF SPORT. Edited by F. G. Aflalo. London: John Murray.

THE ITCHEN SALMON FISHERY CASE.

THE case of *Montagu v. Gater* recently came before the Court of Appeal, composed of Lords Justices Smith, Collins, and Vaughan-Williams for judgment on the appeal of the plaintiffs, Sir Samuel Montagu and Mr. John E. A. W. Fleming, from a judgment of Mr. Justice Romer in the Chancery Division. The plaintiffs claimed to be the owners of a several fishery for salmon in the River Itchen from Alresford, nine miles from Winchester, down to Itchen Ferry, at Southampton, under a charter of King John in favour of the Bishops of Winchester. The conveyance from the bishop to the plaintiffs' predecessor in title was in 1828. The plaintiff, Sir Samuel Montagu, is the owner of South Stoneham House and Wood Mill, situated at the head of the tidal waters of the Itchen, and also owns the Wood Mill Pool, where for many centuries there has been a valuable salmon catch. About the year 1533 obstructions to the passage of salmon up to Itchen were removed by the Commissioners of Sewers, and salmon became plentiful. Subsequently they decreased, and few seemed to have frequented the non-tidal waters. About the year 1860 there was improved preservation, and in 1863 a salmon pass or ladder was made at Wood Mill, with the result that fish were enabled to ascend into the non-tidal waters. The defendant is the owner of a mill, called West End Mill, and land in South Stoneham, just above Wood Mill, and adjoining the non-tidal part of the river, and claims a right of fishing for salmon as riparian owner. The plaintiffs did not claim to enter the land of the upper riparian owners. The trial before Mr. Justice Romer lasted several days, and in giving judgment his lordship said that though the plaintiff had shown an exclusive right of fishing in the lower reaches of the river, that was to say, in the tidal waters at South Stoneham and Wood Mill Pool, so far as regards the upper and non-tidal reaches of the river adjoining the defendants' land, the plaintiffs had shown nothing more than a paper title to a several fishery for salmon, unsupported by any acts of ownership, and that the defendant had given overwhelming evidence of acts of ownership to defeat the plaintiffs' paper title. He accordingly gave judgment for the defendant, hence the present appeal. Their lordships dismissed the appeal with costs.

FISHING IN THE SEVERN.

ON Monday—before Mr. Justice Darling and Mr. Justice Channell, sitting as a divisional court, in the Queen's Bench Division of the High Court—the case of *Williams v. Humpherson* came on for consideration. Mr. Willis Bund and Mr. A. Graham appeared for the appellant, and Mr. Amplett, Q.C., for the respondent. Mr. Bund said this case raised a question whether the public had a right to fish in a navigable but non-tidal part of the river Severn, and he should submit under the circumstances such a right could not possibly exist in law, and therefore the magistrates had jurisdiction to deal with the case. The respondent was summoned for fishing in a part of the Severn near Shrewsbury, which was a long way above any question of ebb or flow of the tide, but it was navigable. The ownership of the soil under the river was, of course, in the owner of the banks, so the public could not claim any right by prescription. The respondent was found fishing in a part of the Severn which ran through property belonging to Lord Barnard, and the appellant was a member of the Shrewsbury and Shropshire Fishing Association, who leased the rights of fishing and paid a rent. It was contended by the respondent that the river being navigable the fishing rights could not be reserved, and that there was a public right; and, further, that by a local Act of Parliament a right was vested in the public to fish in any part of the river whether tidal or non-tidal, and it was said the public had fished for sixty years in the river there. Further, it was said that as the right claimed by the respondent as one of the public was a *bona-fide* claim, the jurisdiction of the magistrate was ousted. The appellant contended that no such claim was possible, but the magistrates thought it was, and refused to convict, dismissing the information. After argument, Mr. Justice Darling said he thought the appeal must be allowed, and the case go back to the magistrates to convict, because the only point raised by the defendant was that he claimed a right to fish in the Severn, and therefore the magistrates were precluded from dealing with the case. But the claim of right which the respondent made must be a claim that was legally possible, and on the circumstances here he thought it was impossible to set up such a claim. Mr. Justice Channell said the only matter relied on here was the local Act of Parliament, but he thought it was not capable of bearing the construction put forward, that it allowed the public to fish. That being so, there could not possibly be any claim of right, and therefore the appeal must be allowed with costs.

BATH ANGLERS' ASSOCIATION.

THE annual meeting of this flourishing club was held last Tuesday evening, at headquarters, the Full Moon Hotel, Bath, when there was a fairly good attendance of members, among those present being Messrs. L. C. Hare (president), F. C. Fortt (hon. secretary), F. J. Moody (hon. treasurer), F. Pratt, T. G. Brown, M. H. G. Wood ("Spinning Minnow"), F. Goodall, G. Harding, J. Bryant, S. W. Iles, S. Moody, C. Bray, A. G. Cox, G. Dunn, G. Coakley, H. G. Lee, S. Wilkinson, F. Beesley, W. Bryce, Van Gelder, W. Jeff, R. Curtis, A. J. Tanner, &c., &c. The chair was taken by the president, Mr. L. C. Hare, who expressed his pleasure at meeting the members of the association, and congratulated them on the satisfactory condition of the club. The minutes of the

last annual meeting having been read and passed, the hon. sec., Mr. F. C. Fortt, submitted the annual report, which showed that the club was going on most satisfactorily. During the year pumping operations had ceased in the Combe Hay canal, and the committee had deemed it advisable to remove some 4000 fish from the canal, and put them in the society's water at Limpley Stoke. This had entailed considerable expense, such as buying nets, and the wages of the water bailiff and helpers, amounting in the whole to between £7 and £8. Mr. Fortt, during the report, spoke of the poor season they had experienced, from a fisherman's point of view, the first part being so very dry, and during the last the river was almost in continual flood. There had been five angling competitions during the season. He also touched upon the quantity of fish in the Avon that had been poisoned during the very dry weather, and thought it was a matter in which the conservancy board of the Avon, Parrett, and Brue might bestir themselves. Negotiations were also in progress for new water on the Kennet and Avon Canal. The hon. treasurer (Mr. F. J. Moody) then presented the annual statement, which showed that after all ordinary and extraordinary expenses had been paid there was a balance in the bank of £6 0s. 6d. Mr. L. C. Hare was elected president for the ensuing year, Mr. F. C. Fortt re-elected hon. sec., and Mr. F. J. Moody hon. treasurer, and the vice-presidents were re-elected as they stood. The old committee were reappointed en bloc, with the exception of Mr. G. Moody, who did not seek re-election, and whose place was taken by Mr. H. G. Lee. The hon. auditors, Messrs. T. G. Brown and E. W. Wood, were re-elected with thanks for past services. Other matters having been discussed, the meeting closed with a vote of thanks to the chairman, proposed by Mr. T. G. Brown and seconded by Mr. M. H. G. Wood.

SPINNING MINNOW.

NORTHERN ANGLERS' ASSOCIATION.

A MEETING of the executive council was held at Farnworth on Saturday, April 29. Representatives were present from the centres at Manchester, Bolton, Farnworth, Atherton, Wigan, Preston, Blackburn, Oldham, Ashton, Stalybridge, Crewe, and Stockport. Mr. R. Cole, of Crewe, was appointed to the chair in the absence of the president. A report was read of recent storing in the Shropshire Union Canals, and the best thanks of the association were voted to the general manager for his kindly interest in the matter. It was decided that the meetings of the council shall in future be held at the several centres in rotation. It was reported that the Poynton Canal fishing rights had been acquired by the County Palatine Association. A vote of thanks was given to Mr. Furness, the secretary of Stockport Centre, for his trouble in this case. The question of the liability of new members to pay the levy in aid of the coarse fishers' defence fund was raised, and it was agreed upon that every member is this year required to contribute. Gold, gold centre, and silver medals were ordered to be given along with the first three prizes in the grand competition to be held on the Lancaster Canal on June 24. Arrangements for special trains from Manchester, Warrington, and Bolton were confirmed, with facilities from a large number of other towns to join the special trains at the nearest junction. A communication from Warrington Association was read, but deferred to next meeting. The application of Hanley Angling Club was accepted, and the secretary instructed to apply to the railway companies for travelling facilities for the members. The next meeting was fixed to take place at St. Helen's. A vote of thanks was tendered to Farnworth Centre for the substantial lunch provided, and to the chairman for his services.

THOS. W. REDFORD (Hon. Sec.).

NEW CUMNOCK ANGLING ASSOCIATION.

This association held the first competition of the season on April 29, when twenty-four competitors competed for valuable prizes, presented by hon. president (Mr. J. A. Fraser), president (Mr. Wm. Hyslop), Mr. W. R. Downie, and seven prizes given by the association. Reports from the various competitors show that in the early part of the day trout were taking freely, but owing to heavy rain the waters became too muddy and flooded, so that fishing had to be given up. Still some very good baskets were taken, and the winner, Mr. Nisbet, had a beautiful pair of yellow trout, which weighed 4lb. 14½oz.; the best one won special for largest trout. These are the two finest trout that have ever been brought in at any of the association's competitions; both were caught with minnow, and from a pool on the Deuch, near Carsphairn. This competition was for trout only.

The following were the winners in the handicap competition: Messrs. William Nisbet, James Shankland, Archibald Smellie, James Smith, Dugald Gracie, Colin Campbell, William Shankland, Robert Shankland, William Paton, and Richard McSeaphany.

SPECIALS.—Heaviest trout, William Nisbet. Three next best trout, William Nisbet. Six next best trout, James Shankland.

THE sporting estate of Stronelair has been sold by Captain Fraser to Mr. William Ewing Gilmour, Woodbank, Dumbartonshire. The property affords capital sport with grouse and other varieties of Highland game, and several deer are killed every season. There is some loch and stream trout fishing. The shooting lodge, which is situated in a wild and mountainous region, is about twelve miles from Inverfarigaig pier, on the Caledonian Canal. The estate was sold through the agency of Walker, Fraser, and Steele, Land Agents, Glasgow.

AUF WIEDERSEHEN.

AN old song says, "Say *au revoir*, but not good-bye," and an older ballad tells in the most doleful of metres:

"Farewell, farewell, is a lonesome sound
And is oftentimes heard with a sigh;
But give to me that good old word
That comes from the heart, 'good-bye.'"

The time has come for me to say something of this kind, but there is nothing in the French "*au revoir*" or the English "good-bye," which is a corruption of "God he with you," which appeals to me like the German "until we meet again."

There had been a sort of a dream that I should go to take charge of a great trout preserve in Wisconsin. The dream spread out over two years, as dreams always spread, and then somehow it narrowed down to a date. The date was somewhere in the coming June—and things were getting brisk, with some April lectures and a new fish-cultural hook to see through the press; but, when a telegram came with orders to start on April 15, there was no margin. Therefore, all correspondents are hereby notified that my personal address for one year—the contract is for one year only—will be Brule, Douglas County, Wis. This place is in a wilderness, where bears, deer, wild cats, sharp-tailed grouse, and other beasts may polish my bones, but I will go and face the sharp tails of the grouse, and between dropping a line to the trout, may drop a few lines to *Forest and Stream*. So—*auf wiedersehen*. —FRED MATHER, in *Forest and Stream*.

We wish Mr. Mather success in his new home and duties.—ED. F. G.]

REPORTS FROM RIVERS, LOCHS, &c.

ENGLISH AND WELSH REPORTS.

Lower Thames.—GENERAL REMARKS.—Amid the gloom of the past week, in regard to the barren results in trout fishing, the beautiful valley of the Thames has been getting into its best form, and it is hoped, with the chance of a mild change in the weather and a better condition of water, the trout anglers in the midst of such lovely scenery will be more successful in the landing of some good fish. In my old working days I used to enjoy a run down the river at this time of the year, the starting point being nine o'clock at Staines Bridge, and it was a grand sight to witness the striking change in Nature, with the new foliage and the melodious notes of the winged minstrels in the air, occasionally relieved by the striking voice of the cuckoo and the warbling of the nightingale. With such splendid surroundings, and the hearty welcome I always received from the anglers I met here and there, my visits were made the most pleasant and profitable, as I frequently added the name of a new subscriber to the funds of the society. I may be allowed to add my frequent visits down the river very often gave evidence of a pecuniary increase to the funds, and if the late head river keeper, Abraham Stroud, was living, he would be ready to testify to these gratifying results, as he was generally my attendant in these practical visits, and was as much gratified as myself in such encouraging proofs, and facts can never be construed into any other meaning. It was on one of these visits I met my good old friend Mr. Alfred Jardine, and landed his first guinea as a member of the society whilst he was fishing with one of the best fishermen, Mr. Alfred Stroud, near the bridge at Chertsey, and the friendship of both angler and fisherman still exists. I may here mention it was entirely through the influence of Mr. Alfred Jardine that the late Mr. Thomas Spreckley became attached to the T.A.P.S., and all anglers know the immense value that introduction gave to the work of Thames preservation. I regret the obituary of last week records the sudden death of an old friend and supporter of the society, Mr. John Elsdon, who, during my secretaryship, was always ready to give me support in all matters connected with the society. In the river trips I could always reckon upon his taking a considerable number of tickets, and also at the annual and other banquets, and where a guarantee was necessary he and his son Charles gave me a free hand. May they both rest in peace.—B.

Thames (Datchet).—Trout fishing here very unsuccessful so far, but I think I know more about where to drop on a fish or two than when I wrote last, but a day out under present conditions is terribly monotonous; a fish is never to be seen moving till it is nearly dark, then there is not much time left to fish. I was out on Tuesday all day; Mr. Gent had a bait taken off by a fish just the last thing; simultaneously we saw fish moving everywhere all over; in five minutes I caught a little fish six inches long, whipping for bleak. Mr. Rubenstein found a large jack when his houseboat dead, I should think it weighed 20lb.—G. LUMSDEN.

(Eton).—Sport with the trout still continues to be very slow. Several anglers have been out every day for the last week, the only one meeting a fish being Mr. Charles Harris, of Eton, on the 30th, weight 5½lb. This fish was in poor condition, and should have turned the scale easily at 7lb. It was exactly 24in. long. I have been out every morning and evening, but have only seen three fish on the move. Jack, as usual at this season, worry you. I took four in twenty minutes, on the 23rd, at Windsor Weir.—CECIL HOWLETT.

(Hampton Court).—William Milbourne, writing on Tuesday morning, says: "Owing to the cold winds there has not been anything done in the way of trout. There has been a few baits taken, whilst fishing for them, which were all returned." It is hoped the really summer weather of Tuesday will continue, and then the

anglers will be tempted to come and try for them, and that is what the fishermen want.—B.

—(**Hampton Wick**).—Head river keeper William Douglas reports from his visits on the river: "I have not heard of any trout having been taken. I have seen several on the move in different portions of the river. There has been and still is a quantity of perch spawn, the principal portion being in the back water at Walton, which has been covered over with wire netting, and pegged down with stakes and laced with wire. The roach are also coming on for spawning. The water is in good condition."—B.

—(**Shepperton**).—It does not appear that last week was altogether a blank as regards the trout, as I received a letter on Monday last from Mr. George Rosewell, of Shepperton, as follows: "Mr. W. H. Blyth, fishing with me on Thursday, caught a beautiful trout, it was a female fish, weighing 7½ lb., which had gone to be put up in a glass case. I was out again on Saturday with a client who missed three good fish. They came so short that they were not properly hooked, so you see if anglers will only come, there are some trout yet left for them. The fish which Mr. Blyth caught last Thursday measured 27 in. in length."—B.

—(**Com. Leach, &c., East Gloucestershire**).—Heavy and continuous rain for some days have put a good head of water on these trout streams and improved the trout fishers' prospects. The trout rise freely on warm days about noon, and again about four and six o'clock. Saw several Brown Alders on the 2nd inst. This is unusually early for these streams, as this fly is not generally up before May 10 or 12. Some trout have already been taken on this deadly fly. Dng some May Fly larvae on Wednesday, and found them in a very forward state, some of the wings being already formed, and I should not be surprised, if the weather keeps fine, that the Green Drake is up by about Whitsuntide in some parts. Several rods have been out on hotel waters, but the weather has been had for the fly fisher, being at times very rough and hoisterous. Mr. John Barton has been fishing the Fifield waters, on the Leach, and Dr. Lockwood and friends have been out at Little Faringdon. Rods have also been on the Lechlade Mill waters with sport.—PAN.

—(**Dareath (Horton Kirby, Farningham, &c.)**).—The river is clear again and quite low, so that it would take a lot of rain to bring another flood, and anglers may safely expect a fishable river on Saturday, and the dry fly will have a chance. The cold north-east wind is against sport at the present time, and but little has been done, though we had genial weather at the beginning of the week. The flies to try are Iron Blue or Olive Dun.—J. P. T.

—(**Dart (Totnes and District)**).—Fishing has produced only fair sport this week. The best take is a couple of dozen by Mr. Pershouse, of Torquay, who is an expert angler. Tuesday was a good day for fishing, but evening angling with the natural minnow has been responsible for a few takes. Mr. A. M. Champenowne, of Hood Manor, has killed some nice trout on his own water at Dartington; and Mr. Stiff, of Dartington Hall, has been doing a little on the moor, where the anglers are very numerous. A few sea trout, locally known as truff, were creelred near Buckfastleigh. Small creels of trout have been made by Messrs. Revell, H. T. Distin, E. Ackrell, E. Distin, H. Full, and others, the best flies being the Small Midget, Blue Upright, Edmonds Palmer, and Red Spinner. The Rev. C. Forster killed a couple of salmon at Holne Chase, the weights being 18 lb. and 14 lb. respectively. A recent haul by the nets at Totnes Weir included a 27-pounder.—DEVONIAN.

—(**Derwent (Malton, Yorks.)**).—The river is in excellent condition for fishing; a good flow of water and a nice colour.—H.

—(**Devonshire Streams**).—The best report of the week is from the Okehampton district, where Mr. George James and two other rods were fortunate enough in creeling over 200 trout in the river below the town. The rivers being in good order after the rains, fishing has been fairly satisfactory, and no doubt peal will soon be running freely. Some have been seen in the Upper Lyd and Tavy, trouting in the former being excellent just now. Fish are plentiful, and a successful season is anticipated. Many streams, however, are troubled with otters, among others being the Lyd and Dart. The Avon (Brent) is not doing well up to the present, and little fishing has been done. A few salmon were creelred in the North Devon streams, Judge Belford getting a 12½-pounder recently, and his son a fine fish of 22 lb. The Blue flies have been killing on the Otter, and also the Olive Dun.—DEVONIAN.

—(**Dove and Tributaries**).—Sport has been pretty fair considering the backward state of the season. Several nice dishes of trout have been taken with the minnow mostly. The Iron Blue has been also taken freely by both trout and grayling. The latter, of course, are out of season, and have to be returned.—D. AND W. H. FOSTER.

—(**Esk (Whitby)**).—Since last report this river has been in poor condition for angling, the adverse weather, together with the small muddy freshes which have swept the river making angling operations practically impossible. Notwithstanding these conditions many anglers have been out, but the only catch reported is that by Dr. Dreaper, of Grosmont, which consisted of six and a half brace. The river at the time of writing is rather better in condition. Much smelt is reported in the tideway.—J. JACKSON.

—(**Exe and Canal (Exeter)**).—Weather is somewhat more springlike, but still far from salubrious. The north-easter is too much with us for perfect spring trouting, and, generally speaking, baskets have been of the light order. Among these anglers who have had the best takes are: Capt. Cooke, Messrs. Baker, Cummings, Hall, Snell, Taylor, &c., some of the trout running exceptionally fine and in good condition. Flies doing well at present are: Blue and Olive Duns, Iron Blue, Blue Upright, and Californian. All that is needful now to put the fish in

pink of condition and ensure good sport is a settled spell of warm weather. River is running in fair volume.—RED PALMER.

—(**Fen District (South Lincs. and Cambs.)**).—The weather generally, for the fly fisher, is improving. Although we have had gleams of sunshine, nights have, as a rule, been cold, and aquatic life is not active. Now May has come in we should quickly have a change. What sport is noticed has been obtained more from bottom fishing than the orthodox method. Dock grubs are still the best.—LIMPET.

—(**Idle District (North Notts.)**).—Many gentlemen who affect trout fishing have, owing to the unsatisfactory weather, failed as yet to wet a line. Now May has arrived surely we shall have an improvement. We hear of a few captures on the forest side, but they are by no means worth recording. The best waters in this district did not as a rule open before Monday. We ought, therefore, soon to be getting news. Woods and hedges are now coming into leaf, and we shall soon have the Hawthorn and other flies out in force. Cowdung flies are about the only lad flies to be seen.—L.

—(**Lake Vyrnwy (N. Wales)**).—The weather has been variable, some days very fair, and bad occasionally. On the whole the baskets made during the week have been very good. On the 26th, thirty-six fish, weighing 20 lb. 7 oz. Capt. Garnett made the best basket with fifteen, 8 lb. 8 oz.; Sir T. Hughes killed nine, 5 lb. 10 oz.; Rev. Cheshire, four, 2 lb. 8 oz.; Mr. Densham, three, 1 lb. 12 oz.; and Messrs. Hart and Caley, five, 2 lb. 10 oz. On the 27th, fifty-seven fish, weighing 33 lb. 11 oz. Messrs. Hart and Caley killed ten, 6 lb.; Mr. R. L. Garnett made the best basket with eleven, 6 lb. 3 oz.; Rev. Cheshire, nine, 5 lb. 10 oz.; Sir T. Hughes, eight, 5 lb. 3 oz.; Mr. Densham, five, 2 lb. 12 oz.; Capt. Webb, 2 lb. 14 oz.; and Capt. Garnett, eight, 5 lb. 8 oz. On the 28th, fifty fish, weighing 26 lb. 8 oz. Rev. Gregorie made the best basket with ten fish, 6 lb.; Capt. Garnett, eight, 5 lb. 8 oz.; Mr. Crowther, six, 3 lb. 10 oz.; Mr. Densham, five, 2 lb. 10 oz.; Mr. R. L. Garnett, four, 2 lb. 12 oz.; and Mr. Jackson, two, 1 lb. 4 oz. The 29th was very wet and stormy, and there were only two boats out. Mr. Crowther killed nine, 4 lb. 10 oz.; and Sir T. Hughes, four, 2 lb. 6 oz. On May 1 forty-eight fish were killed, weighing 28 lb. 13 oz. Capt. Garnett made the best basket with twelve fish, 6 lb. 8 oz.; Rev. Burnside and Miss Watson both killed six each, 3 lb. 4 oz.; Mr. Jackson and Mr. Crowther both had five fish each, 3 lb. 2 oz.; Capt. Webb killed four, 3 lb. 3 oz.; Dr. Rutherford, four, 2 lb. 12 oz.; Rev. Cheshire, three, 1 lb. 10 oz.; Mr. R. L. Garnett, three, 2 lb. 10 oz. On May 2 the fishing was exceptionally good. Ninety-five fish, weighing 53 lb. 12 oz., were killed. Mr. R. L. Garnett made the best basket with sixteen, 9 lb. 5 oz.; Mr. Crowther was second with twelve, 7 lb. 2 oz.; Capt. Garnett, nine, 4 lb. 10 oz.; Mr. Jackson, eight, 4 lb. 6 oz.; Miss Roydon and Mr. Watson, eight, 4 lb. 5 oz.; Mr. O'Hanlon, seven, 3 lb. 10 oz.; Rev. Burnside, seven, 4 lb. 4 oz.; Rev. Cheshire, seven, 4 lb. 4 oz.; Mr. Chamberlin, five, 2 lb. 14 oz.; Mr. Palairat, five, 3 lb. 6 oz.; Mr. Shaw, five, 2 lb. 10 oz.; Mr. Lycett, four, 2 lb. 6 oz.; and Mr. R. B. Chamberlin, two, 1 lb. 4 oz. The river fishing has been exceedingly good, the best baskets being forty fish on April 26; the same angler took twenty-three fish on April 28, and twenty-four fish on May 1.—LONGDRIFT.

—(**Lark (Icklingham and Lackford)**).—During the last week or so it has been too cold for the trout to feed, so anglers have been turning their attention to the pike, there being no close time for them in this stream on account of the trout. Messrs. Major, Hancock, and Skinner Brothers have again been killing down the pike, taking nine one day, largest 4½ lb.—A. E. KEMP.

—(**Lea**).—Once again anglers are enabled to pursue that game-fighting and nicely-shaped fish, the Lea trout. The season re-opened on Monday, and there were many anglers out in the Hertford district. Anglers were also in evidence at Ware, St. Margaret's, Rye House, and other resorts. The water was in splendid condition, and in the Hertford district a number of trout—twelve altogether, it is reported—were secured. The heaviest one, of 3 lb. 14 oz., was landed at Folley Bridge. Mr. Steinhart landed a brace of trout, the best 1 lb. 9 oz. He returned the smaller fish, which was not quite 12 in. A local angler took the 3 lb. 14 oz. fish. On a tributary of the river four brace of trout fell to two rods near Hertford. On the main river, Mr. A. E. Jackson rose a number of trout while spinning, but all appeared to come short at the bait. Between the Ware Town Bridge and the Boom several fine trout—one estimated to scale 7 lb.—have been seen on the move, but down to the time of dispatching this report I had heard of no captures being effected. Below Hardmead Lock several good trout have been noted feeding, and at the mouth of the old Lea, at St. Margaret's, anglers should fish the water carefully. Another nice bit of water is that between Rye House Bridge and the big bend. Both Dohbs (Hoddesdon) and Carthage (Broxbourne) weirs should yield sport among the trout, but since the season opened anglers have had to contend against cold winds, which, as in the case of the Thames trout, have kept the fish down. I would recommend anglers to try a natural minnow or gudgeon on spinning tackle, or, better still, at the home of a big fish, a bleak on line gut live bait tackle. Anglers should get well out, and let the bleak "work" at or just under the surface. From the way some of the trout in the Lea have been scattering the small fry lately they should be attracted by either a live bleak, small dace, gudgeon, or minnow; the tackle should be as fine as possible, and half a beer-bottle cork, pared to shape, will suffice for a float. Pel fishing also opened on Monday.—IZAAB WALTON.

—(**Lugg and Arrow (Leominster)**).—Both these noted trout streams are running clear and a nice level, and in good order for fishing. The weather has been fairly

good, but rain and east winds on Wednesday will be against good sport being had. Before Wednesday there had been a fair number of anglers out, and the fish have been rising well, and have taken Blue Dun, Brown Spinner, Red Spinner, Yellow Dun, Cowdung, and Iron Blue, and some very nice trout landed. Sport will be slow until there is a clearing up of the weather. At present it is more like February than May. The Pinsley is clear and in good fishing order.—GWYNNE.

—(**Lugg, Arrow, and Pinsley (Kingsland)**).—Rivers in good order, but weather so changeable no reliance. Yesterday, May 2, a perfect May day; to-day, or rather this morning, wind N.E.; just fit for February. Changes are sudden and unlooked for. The Yellow Dun is out and the Alder is sure to appear in a few days.—R. T. WILLIAMS.

—(**Nene (Peterborough)**).—At the annual meeting of the Nene Angling Club for the Northampton district, it was decided that the club should become affiliated to the Provincial Angling Association, the object of which is to obtain a reduction of train fares for anglers. With regard to eel fishing, a new rule was made for the months of May and June, so that there is no time limit as before.—E. A. S.

—(**North Staffordshire Rivers**).—Angling conditions are very good throughout this district. The occasional rains tend to keep the streams well supplied with water, and fish are feeding on most days on surface food. Flies which have proved killers are Hare's Ear Dun, Blue Dun, Dark Olive, Cowdung, and Coachman. A very nice hag was made by Mr. Morewood on the Blythe. A few trout fell to my own rod on the same river. Mr. Hitchings took fish up to nearly a pound weight on the Team. Mr. Stonehewer got one of 2½ lb. from the Churnt, and on the upper reaches of the Dove the dark Blue Dun has done some execution.—F. W. DALE.

—(**Onny and Plowda Waters (Craven Arms)**).—Weather fine. Wind north. Water in fine condition. On Saturday Mr. J. M. Etches caught in the club water nine and a half brace of trout. The hotel water is in excellent order and affords some good sport, several trout having been taken during the past week.—TRUTH.

—(**Otter (Budleigh Salterton)**).—At present time of reporting, May 3rd, the river is in perfect condition for fly fishing, but as the barometer is falling, rain may be expected. The best rise is in the forenoon between 10.30 and twelve, when the Blue and Red Quills, Olive Duns, and "Middle Blues" (as they are locally called) are effective flies. If the evening is calm and fine, the trout rise to Midge between 5 and 7 p.m. Yesterday at 5 p.m. a few good fish fell to Flight's Fancy on the water at Ottery St. Mary. A rod on Mr. Rolle's water also took three brace of handsome trout.—HERON.

—(**Ouse (Denver)**).—The close time is being well observed in this locality, and appearances indicate good sport for the coming season. In the meantime several attempts have been made to secure some of the sea trout, which I hear are numerous and pressing up the tidal waters, though I am unable to learn that any have been actually landed. At the end of last week a local man, spinning off the piers of the sluice, had hold of a good fish, but broke away. The sluice-keeper told me on Saturday, that from observation he had kept, the trout are about in abundance, some of them being very fine fish. Water in capital condition, and running freely; weather rather unsettled, bitterly cold but bright and fairly dry.—WATER WAGTAIL.

—(**Plymouth**).—The rivers are all run down to summer level, and some nice baskets of trout have been taken on Walkham and Meavy. I hear there are some fresh run peal up the Tavy. The list of edible fish for month are sturgeon, salmon, peal, trout, dory, sead, mackerel, thorn-back, conger, eel, bass, surmullet, lance, pollack, hake, atherine (smelt), wrasses, turbot, hhill.—WILLIAM HEARDER.

—(**Severn, Vyrnwy, Tanat, and Cain (Llanymynech)**).—Although the weather during the past week has been all that could be desired for angling purposes, yet sport has been very limited in all these rivers, and very few trout have been captured, and these of rather below the average size. One very remarkable thing, and which is very freely commented on by anglers, is the extraordinary scarcity of samlets—the young salmon—which years ago were a positive nuisance to trout fishers at this period of the year, it being nothing unusual to hook two or three of them at every cast. At present they are only conspicuous by their absence in all these rivers, which is another proof—if more proofs were needed—of the scarcity of salmon in this neighbourhood. Pike fishing is the only successful form of angling at present pursued here; and on Tuesday last a gentleman from Oldham, whilst angling in the Vyrnwy, near Pen-is-erllan Ford, a short distance below Llansantffraid Bridge, captured three very fine specimens of these river poachers, one of which weighed over 16 lb., and all were in splendid condition for the time of year. One or two others have also been taken, but they are still much too plentiful in the Severn and Vyrnwy.—VYRNWY.

—(**Sussex Streams and Rivers**).—Angling has not been very successful during the week. A few roach and small chub have been taken from the Ouse, and small trout from the tributaries. Several brace of trout have been caught in the back streams of the Adur, but nothing over 12 oz. A nice fish of 2 lb. 10 oz. was taken from the Rother, on Monday, with spinning minnow; and some smaller fish with worm. Smelt have given sport in Chichester Harbour, from six to fifteen dozen have been taken by a single rod pitemostering with ragworm.—GEORGE F. SALTER.

—(**Teifi (Carmarthen, Cardiganshire)**).—Fishing exceedingly good just now. A great many large baskets of trout caught during the past week, also a couple of fine salmon.—H.

Teme (Ludlow).—The Teme in this district is still running clear and a nice level, and has been refreshed with some very nice showers of rain. The weather has been suitable for anglers to get out, and the fish have been more on the move, and have taken the fly well. There have been a good few rods out, and the best flies are the Blue Dun, Stone Fly, Cowdung, Iron Blue, Red Spinner, Yellow Dun, and Little Brown. To-day (Wednesday) wind got into east, and bad for sport. Worm fishing has been good, the fish being well on the feed. The minnow has been tried by a few anglers, but up to the present sport has been rather quiet. Fishing on Saturday with the Blue Dun and Stone Fly, landed six good trout, averaging 3lb. each. On Monday an angler with the worm took four trout, 3lb. each. With Cowdung and Red Spinner a nice lot of fish were taken near the Castle. In the water below Ludlow there has been some good sport, and some fine trout landed. Warm weather is wanted, and then there would be some good baskets of fish landed. The Onny, Corve, Clun, and Ledwyche are all running clear, and a nice level and in good order. With the worm, in the Corve some good lots of fish have been landed, and sport should be good.—S. LUDLOW.

Teme (Tenbury).—The water in this part is running clear, and a nice level, and in capital order for fishing. The weather has been changeable, with storms of rain, then bright sunshine, and then dull cold east winds have been rather against good sport being had. The fish have been rising well during the warm days, and taking fly well, and a fair number of anglers have been out. Sport has not been good, but some very nice sized trout have been landed, and there is every prospect of some good fish being taken in this part if the weather would only settle fine.—WORCESTER.

Torcross Ley.—This well-known fishing resort is giving some good sport just now. Mr. J. Lane has had some good sport with paste, rudd fishing. He has taken several 2lb. and 2½lb. each. Mr. George Vincent, from Clapham, had a few days from March 30, and had good catches, his largest rudd was 2lb. 2oz. He had several over 1½lb. This week the sport is just as good. You can get to Torcross by coach via Dartmouth, or from Kingsbridge, both of which are on the G.W. railway. Coaches run daily, and there is a first-class hotel with very moderate charges; there is no charge for fishing. Charges inclusive 8s. 6d. per day. Billiards, golf, tennis and quoits. Write W. Vickery for particulars.

Usk (Abergavenny).—River has been in good order, and anglers have been successful. Mr. Pritchard, Angel Hotel, especially so, having taken two fish in one day weighing 13½lb. and 23½lb. Mr. Poulett has caught several salmon and baskets of trout; other gentlemen have also had good sport. It is sad to record the death of a young lad aged fifteen years who went to fish, having only taken his licence that day (Thursday April 27th). It is evident that he has been drowned, as his cap was found in the water far below where he is supposed to have fallen in. The body has not yet been found, although a lot of searches have tried their best in that direction. Great credit is due to Mr. Cashel (water bailiff), also Mr. Edgar Morgan and Mr. P. Barber, who with a boat and poles searched the pools for about two miles or more on Sunday last. Great sympathy is felt for the boy's family. (Mr. T. Williams of Llanfoist is the unhappy father).—E. DELAFIELD.

Witham, &c. (Mid-Lincolnshire).—Anglers will now be stirring themselves in the trout districts. May opened cold and showery, but surely we shall soon have a change. Vegetation and spring blossoms are showing themselves, and a fair quantity of flies are seen in the sunshine when we have it. From the Wold district we hear of a few captures, but these chiefly with grub or worm. Cow Dung flies are out in force, and these, with the early imitations, should prove effective. Water there is in fine trim. Round about Grantham also things are improving, and anglers should be having better luck on the upper waters of the Witham. Becks in that direction are in satisfactory trim.—LUCY.

Wye and Derwent (Derbyshire).—During the past week the weather has been very changeable, and has caused angling to be very uncertain. A number of anglers have been out on the Wye, and on some days have done fairly well; and on another day very poor sport, when a cold north-east wind has prevailed, and rain fallen in torrents at intervals. The Derwent has also had a fair number of rods, both fly fishermen and bottom anglers as well. On the upper reaches of this river, Hathersage and Chatsworth Fisheries, a few nice baskets have been obtained; but there is still room for improvement in fly fishing. The Darley Dale Club's portion of the Derwent has yielded a few brace of nice trout. Mr. Browne on three occasions took one and a half brace each day. The Matlock and Cromford Angling Association's water has yielded the best fish. A member fishing near the weir, Matlock Dale, landed one brace of trout, which turned the scale at 3lb., several others obtaining a few nice fish from this water. On Friday two gentlemen from Nottingham, fishing on the Lovers' Walk side of the Derwent, landed four brace, one of these 2½lb., the lot weighing 8½lb. Mr. King on Monday night, from his balcony, has again taken a very pretty Loch Leven trout. Several nice trout have also been taken with the fly below Cromford. This well-stocked part of the Derwent promises well for this season. The prospect for the next few days is good, as the water is now in order for the fly. Olive Dun, Ash Dun, Cooper's Fancy, Grannom Sand Fly, and Claret Bumbles will be found useful.—DOTTRELL.

Yore, Swale, Wharfe, Nidd, &c. (Yorkshire).—The promise of springlike weather we had for a day or two last week was not maintained. April left us with three degrees of frost and a covering of snow on the higher range of hills. This was followed by rain, and May Day was as wretched and unlike the proverbial one on which the maidens were supposed to go out and bathe their faces

in the dew to increase their beauty, and add to their charms; and since then the weather has been on the whole far more like March than May, the winds from the north and north-east, with a thunderstorm now and again, being doubtless the cause of a falling off in sport with the fly. Some good dishes have, however, fallen to the share of several anglers in the Upper Yore, &c. I hear visitors staying at the Crown have done well, principally with the minnow and running worm. Sport has not been good in the river between Bainbridge and Middleham, or in the Cover, few anglers getting anything like a good basket. From Masham, Mr. W. Jackson, nephew of the late J. Jackson, of "Practical Angler" fame, writes me that only moderate dishes have been made, although the water has been in good trim. Little has been done in the upper Swale, the fish there being still backward in point of condition, and not many anglers out in consequence of the ungenial weather. The most killing flies have been the Woodcock, and Orange, and Brown Owl. As far as the tributaries of the river are concerned, fair sport has been had in the Bedale Beck and Ellerbeck, a Northallerton angler getting an exceptionally fine basket of twenty-two trout; Mr. J. Dobbin has also done well with the March Brown and Blue Dun flies. At Newton-le-Willows Sergt. Brown has had fair sport, a remark applying to several members of the Black Ox Club who have fished the Codbeck. Several anglers did well up the Wharfe at the week end, and dishes from twelve to fourteen fish were made at Collingham on Saturday, and again on Monday. William Richardson has done well on the Ilkley Club waters with the minnow, and Mr. Leach with the fly; and on another reach of the river I hear of a big catch with the fly, eight of the trout weighing nearly as many pounds. Capt. Binney, of H.M.S. *Galatea*, has had good sport in the Dove. So has Mr. D. Storr, of Kirby Moorside, he one day getting ten trout, weighing over 5lb., with the natural minnow. Another gentleman caught eight fish with the Phantom minnow. Mr. J. C. Frank, of Kirby Moorside, writes me that the River Dove Angling Association is doing well. They do not intend to overcrowd the fishing, but tickets for the day will be issued in limited numbers at the usual charges during this season at 2s. 6d., and minnow fishing will not be discontinued. Bottom fishing, however, is restricted to the lower beats after Oct. 1. Full particulars of this water will be found in the new edition of "Jackson's Practical Fly Fisher" price 7s. 6d., and intending visitors should put themselves in communication with the hon. secretary, J. C. Frank, Esq., the Bank, Kirby Moorside. As I close this letter all the Yorkshire rivers are in good order for angling, and J. Blades writes some heavy baskets of trout were caught with the minnow on the Upper Yore yesterday, and that the best flies for that district are the Brown Owl, Woodcock, and Orange and Waterhen Bloat.—J. E. MILLER, Northern Anglers' Depot, 19, New Station-street, Leeds.

By TELEGRAPH.—All the Yorkshire rivers are now in a fine trim for fly fishing, but the north-east wind is bitterly cold, and the natural flies that should be plentiful at this time of the year are still very scarce. A change in the wind is all that is required for good sport. Some good dishes of trout were caught yesterday with the natural minnow fished on Ariel tackle.—J. E. MILLER, Northern Anglers' Depot, 19, New Station-street, Leeds.

SCOTCH REPORTS.

Border Esk and Liddle.—The weather is still unsettled in Eskdale and Liddlesdale, and rain has been falling at intervals, causing the waters to rise considerably. Bait fishing commenced this week, and a good many rods have been out all along both rivers. The prospects of sport are now fairly good, as sea trout are showing themselves in the lower reaches, and catches in the Solway are improving daily. In the lower reaches several clean new-run sea trout have been caught below Longtown by some anglers from Carlisle, while Mr. Mason, Rockliffe, had a beauty in the Metal Bridge water. A Longtown angler also caught one below the bridge. Two have been got in the Netherby water. Another angler, a visitor, had a run with a salmon at Lynefoot, but lost it, much to his grief. One has been got in the Willow Pool. Not much has been done in the Canonbie water as yet with the exception of a few takes of yellow trout, which now show a great improvement. Several rods have been out in the Langholm water, and have done well with yellow trout, most having been got with fly. Some of the local anglers have done fairly well with brown trout in the Ewes, which is a handy stream for Langholm anglers, and also for visitors to the "Muckle toon." Some small baskets have been got in the Broomholm water below Skipper's Bridge, and an odd yellow trout has been taken from the Tarras. The weather is cold, and sea trout will hardly rise to the fly to any extent ere a fortnight elapses. Fishing in the upper reaches of the Liddle, between Newcastleton and Kershope Foot, Mr. Lawson, Edinburgh, had two and a half dozen yellow trout; Mr. Boaz, Edinburgh, had a basket of three dozen; Mr. Oliver had two dozen below Hermitage; Mr. F. Armstrong had two dozen below Newcastleton. In the lower reaches below Penton, Mr. J. Graham, Canonbie, and Mr. Ballantyne have made good baskets. Several anglers have also done well in the Inch and Damfoot pools. There has been little done either in the Willow or Cauldron pools, the commencement of the Double water. At time of writing both Esk and Liddle are in fairly good angling trim. Mr. Fasson, staying at the Eskdale Temperance Hotel, Langholm, has had good baskets of yellow trout in Esk, Liddle, Tarras, and Ewes. Mr. Thompson had close on 4lb. yellow trout. Mr. McMillan had a nice basket. The following have had fair baskets: Messrs. D. McDougal, T. Aitken, C. Roe, and W. Harkness. Mr. Ross had two dozen at a morning's fishing. On Monday Mr. McKune

had a basket of twenty-six yellow trout in Canonbie water. Water running high; weather still cold.—GILNOCKIE.

Breadalbane Arms Hotel (Aberfeldy).—Mr. Sturrock, of London, fishing the above water, caught, on April 28, six trout, 4½lb.; on May 2, seven trout, 4½lb.

Carron (Easter Ross, Ardgay, N.B.).—The weather has been most unfavourable, and though a great number of rods were out sport has been poor. On 25th ult., Mr. Marcus landed two salmon, of 9lb. and 11lb., on the Balnagown Arms Hotel water. On 29th, Dr. Eley landed an 8-pounder; and on Tuesday this week, Mr. Boosey and party, from Balnagown Arms, caught a nice trout and a salmon of 6½lb. on Invercharron water. The nettings on the Kyle of Sutherland are still rather unproductive.

Deveron (Banffshire).—Although rain fell heavily of late, this river has been in pretty good condition, a fine black water running. Anglers have been enjoying fair trout fishing. On the Cornicaugh section Mr. P. H. Latham and party continue to have good sport. On the Marnock and Auchingoul sections Mr. H. B. Leatham and Mr. C. A. Leatham are also enjoying good sport. A few fish have been got by the nets on the river during the night, but there is comparatively little doing by the fishermen during the day. Owing to the leaders not being out on the sea over Sunday, the previous day being too stormy, there was a fair yield of salmon on Monday; in fact, the best that has been since the opening of the fishings. On Monday a box weighing over 2cwt., and on Tuesday one weighing 1cwt. were consigned to the market. The salmon are of fair size and good quality. No grilse have as yet been reported in this district, but we hear of a couple having been captured in the nets at Portsoy, about seven miles west of the Deveron.—H. W.

Isle.—It is now over a fortnight since the angling season opened on the Isle and the Forfarshire streams, but there have not been any baskets worthy of record got. For the last six weeks the weather has generally been of a wintry character. Snowstorms have been frequent, and winter has literally been carried into the lap of May. The wind, which has generally been cold, dry, and biting, has been persistently either from the north or east; and there has been little of insect life showing. On Wednesday Mr. and Mrs. Tate, Allerton Beeches, Liverpool, fished Auchintaple Pond; but the weather was too cold and clear for good angling.—JAS. GAIR.

Lochleven (Kinross).—The weather of the past week has been of a very wintry nature. On Monday there was quite a snowstorm, and on Saturday it was blowing a gale from the north-east, and very little was then done with the rod. With the exception, however, of Saturday, and despite the very cold weather, anglers have been getting splendid sport, and so far as our knowledge goes, the best on record here at this season. The Perthshire Club, with sixteen rods, creoled one hundred and fifty-four trout, which weighed 103lb. 7oz. The first prize was gained by Mr. W. McNicol, who had twenty-eight trout, 18lb. 8oz. Second, Mr. S. Steel, sixteen trout, 10lb. 1oz. Taird, Mr. A. Steel, fifteen trout, 9lb. 12oz. The other clubs which competed and were less successful were: Edinburgh, Cockburn, Glasgow, Wellshot, Kelvin-side Academicals, and Midlothian. The following were the private anglers and amongst others: Capt. Henderson, Dr. Allum, Messrs. Wells, MacKay, Durward Lely and son, G. G. Donald, G. Ross, Young, Brown, Macdonald, Dodds, Dixon, Fleming, Stewart, D. Macpharlane, Thomson and son, Webster, Marshall, Stenhouse, Heaton, Lister, Lumsden, Carr, Miller, Bennet, D. Stewart, J. McIntosh, W. Morton. During April there were caught with the rod 1534 trout, 1112½lb. This shows a catch of twelve trout per boat compared with nine trout in April last year, though more fish were captured by a considerably larger number of boats. All the fish last month, with a very few exceptions, were killed with fly.—ROBERT LAING.

Loch Tay (Killin, N.B.).—April 26, Miss Berger killed a nice salmon, 17lb. 23th, Mr. Steel, one, 19lb. May 1, Mr. Thompson, one, 23lb. 2nd, Mr. Dymond, one, 17lb.—H. J. MAISSEY.

Lyon (Fortingall Hotel, Glen Lyon, Perthshire).—Gentleman fishing from the hotel (Mr. Stewart) landed a beautiful salmon on May 2, weight 26lb. River in ply.—PAUL MACPHAIL.

Naver (Bettyhill, via Thurso, N.B.).—Owing to the sad death of Mr. George D. Stibbard, Syre Lodge, and of 23, Stanhope-gardens, Queen's Gate, London, whose remains were removed southwards last week, only two or three anglers have been out. On 24th, Major Burnell Milnes, Dalvina Lodge, landed a salmon on No. 2; and on 25th, one on No. 3. On 26th, Mr. Oats caught two salmon on No. 2. On 27th the same angler had two on Nos. 2 and 3, and Mr. Blood, Skilpeck Lodge, one on No. 1. Mr. Oats was out on 28th, and got three salmon on Beat No. 1; and on 29th, two on Nos. 1 and 2.—B.

North-East of Scotland.—Sport has been fairly rife on all sections of the Dee during the past week. With settled weather, salmon angling would now be at its best. A fresh head of fish came away with the recent floods, and these are being got freely on some of the lower beats. Small flies are now the order of the day. On the Braemar section, Major Shut had one of 6lb., on the Crathie water; Mr. Harris, two, of 7lb. and 23lb., on the Invercauld private water; while Mr. Linnbeck had also two, of 6lb. and 5lb. On the Cambus O'May section, Mrs. Johnston had a nice salmon of 19lb.; while Mr. Griffith had two, of 8lb. and 10lb., on the hotel water; and Mr. Wignelan, one of 9lb., on the Monaltrie water. On the Glentworth waters, Mr. Barclay had five fish from 5½lb. up to 17lb.; Mr. Laming, one of 8½lb.; Miss Hibbert, two, 8½lb. and 5½lb.; and Mr. Farrar, three, of 5½lb., 8lb., and 8½lb. Sport has also been good on the Aboyne waters, Capt. Scott creeling

three on Huntly Arms water, of 7½lb., 16lb., and 8lb.; Mr. Crawshaw, five, of 7lb., 9lb., 8lb., 7lb., and 9lb.; and Dr. Murray, two, of 7½lb. and 7lb. On Saturday, Mr. Farrar had two, of 8lb. and 10lb., on the Glen water; and Mr. Laming, two, of 7lb. and 9lb. On the Kincardine O'Neil section sport has been quite rife, and prospects bright. On Dess water, Mr. Davidson, jun., of Inchmarlo, creoled one of 6lb.; John Harper, two, of 8lb. and 19lb.; Capt. Staition, five, of 6lb., 6½lb., 7lb., 7½lb., and 8lb.; and Harper, two, of 8lb. and 9lb. On Carlogie water, Mr. J. C. Haslam had one of 7lb. On Ballergie water, Mr. L. H. Craike had one of 6lb., one of 2½lb., two, of 6½lb. and 7lb., and one of 8½lb. On Borrowstone water, the Earl Lisburn creoled one of 7½lb. On Upper Blackhall water, Mr. Davies landed two, of 7½lb. each, four, scaling 6lb., 6lb., 7½lb., and 19lb., while he had five for previous week, of 6lb., 7lb., 9lb., 15lb., and 19lb. Mr. Lawrence, on Commonly water, creoled three, of 8lb., 8lb., and 21lb., two, of 7lb. and 8lb., and one of 7lb. On Cairnton, Mr. Farley had good sport. On Durris water, Mr. Baird and party creoled two fish daily on an average. On the Crathes waters, Caird (keeper) had one of 17lb. On Park, Mr. Fench had three of average weights, and Capt. McLean, five, of 8lb., 9lb., 12lb., 15lb., and 18lb., being the captain's second best week since the opening. On the Kingansie and Culter sections an occasional fish is being got.—G. M.

South of Scotland.—We have still cold weather over the south of Scotland, which is retarding sport in the rivers of the district. Practically there have been no spring salmon in the Solway nets for a week, and the season has proved about the worst ever known in the frith. The following are the reports from the different waters of the Solway and district: **THE ANNAN.**—A few sea trout are now ascending this river. There was a flood on Tuesday, as also on Saturday. With the water in good order for fish running on Sunday, a few sea trout would get up while the nets were off for the weekly close. The keeper Dalziel had one sea trout in the Hoddum Castle water, and the keeper Macdonald is said to have landed one in the Monnt Annan portion last week. Mr. Hullett killed one in the Wamphray portion with fly. The sea trout are not running in heavy weights yet. Some good baskets of yellow trout have been taken in the higher waters with fly and worm. Mr. W. A. Bell-Irving has had some very fair sport with fly among the yellow trout on his private water of the Milk. In the Four Towns water Mr. McLean killed a spring salmon of 16½lb. with fly. Considerable doubt is being expressed about these spring fish, many anglers being of opinion that mistakes are made between well-mended kelts and real spring fish. **THE NITH.**—Angling has been very quiet on the lower portion. In the Mid-Nithsdale waters a few yellow trout have been caught in the Duke of Buccleuch's stretch below Thornhill Bridge, and also in the Scanr water. In the Clenden and Cairn a number of rods have been out, and some fair sport obtained on favorable days with fly and worm. At the time of writing the waters are in the best of order. **THE GALLOWAY RIVERS.**—Very little has been done in the rivers of this district. A number of rods have been out on the higher portions of the Ken, and small baskets of yellow trout caught. Nothing is reported from the Dee of Kirkcudbrightshire, the Fleet of Gatehouse, and the Urr of Dalbeattie. **AYRSHIRE LOCHS.**—Not much is being done on the lochs of Doon and Finlas. There has been no rise of fly yet, and trout have not been taking at all well. **THE SOLWAY DERWENT.**—Much melted snow is in the waters, and trout have not been rising well on the Cockermouth, Derwent, and the Cocker. Mr. B. Hewitt, on Saturday, had a nice basket of burn trout in the Cocker with the worm; Mr. J. Soulsby also caught a dozen, with the worm, in the same river. Mr. Matty Thompson had several nice fishings of yellow trout, with the fly, on the Derwent and Cocker; Mr. J. Grave killed seventeen nice trout; Mr. W. Jackson was another of the successful anglers. Mr. Tom Moore fished Isle Hall water and had a good basket of fish, one of his trout weighing 2½lb. On Wednesday, Dr. Braithwaite had a capital basket of eighteen; and a friend along with him—a rare hand with the fly rod—killed a basket of thirty. Mr. A. Coleman killed a dozen in the Calder water. Mr. John Quyle, of Eben-side, caught a dozen in the Ehen with worm, one of his trout weighing 1½lb. At the time of writing all the rivers are in excellent order for trout fishing. The Annan Fishery Board have given instructions to the water bailiffs to net the Annan for pike and coarse fish.—HEATHERBELL.

Spey.—Although behind the average for April, angling somewhat improved during the month by comparison with March. One beat yielded five salmon in one day, from 12lb. to 25lb., and another six. The finnock fishing has been only indifferent this year, but sea trout are promising pretty well. Seaward from Craigellachie there has been some good brown trout fishing, but higher up the river it has hardly commenced. Mr. McCornodale has arrived at Tulchan Lodge for the spring fishing. The unsettled weather continues to tell against the net fishing on the coast. In the Findhorn district salmon netting results are still far from satisfactory. Finnerock and sea trout angling have been fair in the lower waters, and the brown trout angling very encouraging. Last week, on the Carron House water of the Spey, Mr. Grant killed two salmon, of 9lb. and 16lb. respectively; and on the Knockando House water Mr. Shand, fisherman, had one of 7lb.; while one of 9lb. was also killed on the Laggan section.—J. M.

Tweed, Teviot, and other Border Rivers.—The conditions generally for ten days back, until Monday and Tuesday of this week, were certainly most unfavourable for both trout and salmon angling, owing to the stormy weather and the disturbed state of the rivers. Last week, on the Tweed in the Kelso district, Mr. T. Marriis, Worksop, fishing with trout fly tackle, hooked and

successfully landed a very nice 7lb. clean run fish. The same gentleman has also had baskets of from 6lb. up to 12lb. and 14lb. of trout on the Tweed alone. The only other captures of salmon recorded since my last notes were two fish killed by Capt. French, Tillmouth Park, on the Tweed, the weights of which were respectively 8lb. and 9½lb. On Monday we had a very heavy downpour of rain, which lasted from early morning till evening, but this did not deter some enthusiasts from trying their hand with fly, and baskets of from 2lb. upwards were got during the day. Towards evening the river came down in a 2ft. flood, but this very quickly subsided, and on Tuesday many anglers were out, and met with good success. On the Tweed, on Monday, Mr. John Thompson had a splendid basket of 15lb., some of his trout being from 1lb. up to about 2lb. each. On Tuesday, Mr. J. Stewart had 12lb. on the same river; while Mr. Charles Farquharson, Kelso, had a basket of four trout, which drew the scale at 4½lb., these being got with minnow. Mr. George Thomson, Kelso, has had takes of from 6lb., 8lb., and 10lb. On the Eden a few nice baskets have also been killed. Mr. A. Steel, jun., on Monday had 8lb., on Tuesday, 10lb., and on Wednesday he had again 8lb. In the Galashiels district of the Tweed some capital sport has also been had with trout. Angling in the Mertoun water last week, one Galashiels angler had twenty-two trout and two grayling, total weight 16lb.; another day he had thirty trout, weighing 18lb.; besides which he has had dishes of 8lb., 12lb., and 14lb. Angling competitions are now going ahead all over the Borderland. On Saturday, the Greenlaw Club (Berwickshire) had its spring competition on the Black Adder and tributaries. Only five baskets were shown. The two heaviest baskets were, by the rules of the club, deterred from taking the highest places in the competition. The same day, the Preston (Berwickshire) Club held their first competition for the season on the Whitadder, when there was a fairly good show of baskets at weighing time, some of the best dishes being got on the upper reaches of the river. The Tweed net salmon fishing, both on the sea coast, at the mouth of the river, and in the Tweed itself, has shown just the slightest improvement during the week. Salmon are rather more plentiful, but trout do not come in such numbers as could be wished for.—MAXWHEEL.

IRISH REPORTS.

Bann.—This river is toning down and trout are disposed to rise better. I understand that when the lease of the three miles stretch of water between Portna and Movagh, held by the Bann Angling Club, expires it is the intention of the Foyle and Bann Fishery Company to open it to licenced anglers. It is one of the best bits of water in the north of Ireland.—J. A. B.

Belfast.—Trouting on the dams was but middling in the past week, owing to the cold, chilly winds. Fishing the Cludy—a small mountain stream near here—on Friday, Sergt. Eagleson, Sergt. Aiken, and Sergt. Livingstone killed a dozen trout each; and Messrs. Thomas Magee, Mr. Barry, and James A. Barlowe had some success. The previous day a local man killed on this stream fifty-four trout, which weighed 20½lb.—one of the best bags made here for years—all on the fly.—J. A. B.

Boyle.—Since last report we had only five days' fishing weather, and any who got out on these days had very good sport, especially on Lough Gara and Moylurg. Mr. J. Callaghan, fishing Moylurg on 26th, got twelve trout; and on 27th he got twenty, which weighed 11lb. Moylurg trout, as a rule, average ½lb. Mr. Fenwick, on Gara, April 27, killed six beautiful trout. Mr. Cosgrove, in four days' fishing on Gara, killed sixteen trout, one 6lb., two 5lb. each, two 4lb. each, six 2lb. each, one 1½lb., and four 1lb. each. On 28th, Mr. Fenwick killed seven trout on Gara; and Mr. Thornboro four good trout, four pike, and one perch. 29th, Mr. Fenwick got six trout on Gara. 30th, Mr. Poole killed five trout on Gara, and Mr. J. Callaghan one good trout on Gara. May 1, Mr. J. Callaghan, on Gara, three trout; and on May 2 he got three, largest 3lb. May 2, Mr. Jones killed two on Gara, largest 4lb. The rise of May Fly, I believe, will be a bit later, on account of the lakes getting up about 6in. Still, we are looking forward to have the dapping about 16th.—GEORGE TAYLOR.

Caragh Lake (Caragh).—Fishing since last report has been very good. Mr. and Mrs. Bagshaw, 27th, some good trout, one over 2lb. weight; 28th, one and a half dozen; 29th, four dozen and two; 30th, one and a half dozen, and Mr. Woodhouse, one dozen and three; 1st May, Mrs. Bagshaw, two dozen. Some other anglers have had some good baskets, trout running to a large size. All these anglers are staying at the Southern Hotel.—G. C.

Cork Rivers.—All the Cork rivers open for angling have yielded better sport since last report, but at time of writing matters are not getting on quite as well, owing to an absence of favourable winds.—T. J. D.

Corrib (co. Galway).—The Corrib was much disturbed lately by wind and rain—so much that angling was interrupted for several days. Since last report, Major-General Dashwood killed three fish; Mr. Lydons, five; Mr. Townsend, two; and some other fish were killed.—J. A. B.

Cummeragh and Inney.—Sport has been very dull at salmon on the Cummeragh, though the fish were present in good numbers in the deeper pools. Only two salmon were had here last week, viz., one of 9lb. and one of 7½lb. Trout fishing has been up to the usual standard on the Cummeragh, and very good on the Inney, both at sea and brown trout.—T. J. D.

Erne (Ballyshannon and Belleek).—This river is now in fine order for both salmon and trout fishing, and a number of anglers are arriving from England to try their luck on it this week.—M. ROGAN AND SONS.

Imperial and Royal Hotels Private Waters (Ballina).—I am glad to say that there is every prospect

of good fishing both on lake and river; the first run of grilse have come into the river, and there has been a number of them taken in the nets. I would recommend anglers to pay a visit to Ballina now. The gentlemen staying at Gortnorabbey have made some good baskets of salmon, trout, and pike. On April 27 Mr. Little made a nice basket of trout, the largest weighing 3½lb. and 2½lb.; on the following day he killed a nice salmon. On the 29th, Mr. Pye killed two pike, one weighing 24lb. and the other 12lb. Mr. Macaulay also made a small basket of trout.—THE MANAGER.

Kerry Rivers.—Sport has improved on the majority of the Kerry rivers open for angling, though it still cannot be considered good on any water, as far as salmon are concerned. Sea trout are arriving in average numbers in the principal rivers, in the Caragh, Cahercween, Sneem, and Waterville districts.—T. J. D.

Kilmarney.—Sport has been generally of a very dull description in the salmon angling department, while in that of trouting matters have been in a satisfactory condition both on lake and river. On the mountain lakes sport has been brisk.—T. J. D.

Lee (co. Cork).—River has been in excellent fishing order for past week. The following have been successful: On Ashton Fishery, O. L. Evans, 10lb. 9½lb., 9½lb., 9lb., 5lb. On Lee Mount, Mr. T. Crawshaw, 7½lb.; Miss Stansfeld, 7½lb., 7½lb.; Mr. S. Haynes, 9½lb., 5½lb. On Fargns, Mr. Troyte, 6lb. On Castlelynn, Mr. J. O'Brien, 8lb. Capt. de Montmorency, 10lb. On Oak Grove, H. E. Stanley, 9lb., 8lb.—W. HAYNES AND SON.

Lough Conn (Cloughans).—Dr. Carpenter, in eleven days, got ten salmon, average 11lb.; also a large trout, 9lb., together with some handsome baskets of trout, smallest 1½lb.; got also a jack of 12lb. Mr. H. J. Browne got some very nice trout from 1½lb. to 3lb. Mr. McNabb got a handsome basket of trout. Mr. Allen, in a few days, got fourteen trout, average 1lb. Good prospects for coming week.—TOM CLARKE.

Lough Currane (Waterville, co. Kerry).—Sport has improved somewhat at salmon, and continues good at brown trout. No sea trout have yet been had by anglers, though many are supposed to have arrived already. Several good salmon have been taken.—T. J. D.

Lough Melvin.—The weather was moderate during the past week, and sport somewhat improved. The following are the particulars: Colonel R. B. Wilson took one salmon of 9½lb. on 29th ult.; General Jackson took one salmon of 9lb. on 28th ult.; Mr. A. L. Pike took one salmon of 8lb. on 26th ult.; Mr. Mahon took one salmon of 11lb. on 30th ult.; Mr. J. Humphrey took one salmon of 8½lb. on 29th ult.; Mr. J. Slavin took one salmon of 7½lb. on 1st inst.; and Mr. J. Henderson took another of 8lb. on same day. The weather is fine at time of writing, and prospects of sport for next week and Whitsuntide is looking very promising. Trouting continued excellent on the lake since last report, and again numerous baskets of gillaroo and brown trout were taken, averaging in weight from 7½lb. to 13½lb., the latter being the heaviest basket of trout taken since last report. A few trout (*Salmo ferax*), weighing 3½lb., 3lb., and 2½lb., were also taken trolling. Amongst the most successful trout anglers were the Rev. Wm. Verner, Messrs. P. Grimes, J. Timoney, Wm. Neely, W. King, Edwards, R. H. Reid, and W. H. Woods.—M. ROGAN AND SONS.

Lough Melvin (Lower Reaches, Kinlough End).—Notwithstanding the weighty rainfalls and slightly discoloured waters, fair sport was had in all-round angling departments. On April 25 Mr. H. Grant had a salmon 9½lb., and on the 27th one of 11lb. Mr. Hagan also had one of 10½lb., and on the 29th a brown trout, 4½lb. Amongst the trout Messrs. Gore, Rushey, Johnston, Bracken, and Jones had good baskets daily. Now is the best time for intending anglers to this lake.—P. GALLAGHER.

Moy Hotel Private Waters (Ballina).—Water in splendid order; south winds; a good run of spring fish on the river, the nets and weir doing well. Mr. W. C. Wilson rose a few fish on Monday. There were a few grilse got in the nets during the week. Mr. Schrop got some trout on the lough on Sunday. Trout fishers at Rangary Lodge doing well.—JOHN DEVERS.

Moy (Loughs Conn and Cullen).—Cold north wind here, and fish not taking well. There are now quite a number of fish to be seen in the lower pools. Dr. Bates, one salmon, 11lb., one grilse, 2½lb.; Mr. C. Hamilton, one salmon, 13lb. Some grilse have been got in the salmon nets. The lough is still too high for good sport. Mr. Mantion and friend had thirteen trout in three days; Mr. Gosswell had ten trout in three days; Mr. W. Roberts and friend had eighteen trout in four days. All the trout averaged over 1lb. Few jack have been got, largest 8lb.—PAT HEARNES.

Shannon and Lough Derg (Killaloe).—This week, on Parteen reach, below Killaloe, where the broad river sweeps down the rocky pavement, Mr. R. G. Twiss's fisherman, Wm. Barry, killed with rod a magnificent freshly-run salmon, weighing 42½lb. The grand fish was taken on a Killock, and gave over an hour's intensely exciting play. For a great, big, lordly springer commend me to Mr. Twiss's Parteen beat, particularly when the water is high, which it is at present. Salmon fishing on the preserves below the bridge almost nil this week, owing to high water. Mr. W. A. H. Martin landed on Mr. W. Young's fishery, which he has rented for the season, a fish of 11lb. Above the bridge three or four salmon have been taken. With the appearance of the Stone or Cinnamon fly, trout fishing on the streams will improve.—S. J. HURLEY.

Shannon (Castleconnell).—With the arrival of May the weather has become very mild, and now matters piscatorial have assumed a more cheerful aspect. On Doonass, Mr. G. C. Williams killed, 26th, one salmon, 14lb.; May 1, one salmon, 12lb. On Prospect, Mr. H. Chapman killed, 26th, one salmon, 15lb.; May 2, one salmon, 12lb.

On Hermitage, Mr. F. Cooper killed two salmon, 11½lb., 27½lb., on 28th. On Woodlands, Major C. H. Newington killed one salmon, 10lb., May 2. On the Erinagh water the fishermen killed one salmon, 12½lb., on May 1.—J. ENRIGHT AND SON.

Tyrone Rivers.—The Blackwater and Ballinderry are in fair order for fly fishing, though on both trouting was but middling this week. A Newtonstewart correspondent reports favourably as to sport on the Mourne. At the end of next month salmon may be expected in the Mourne.—J. A. B.

Upper Lakes (Waterville, co. Kerry).—Sport continues good on all the above waters at brown trout, but no sea trout have been taken since last report.—T. J. D.

Angling Fixtures.

May 7.
Original Clerkenwell: Distribution.

May 8.
Albion Brothers: A.B.S. concert.
Amicable Waltonians: A.B.S. concert.
Dalston: Visit.

Dibdin: Dinner and distribution.
Friendship: T.A.P.S. concert.
Globe: Supper and distribution.
South Bermondsey Piscatorial: Annual dinner.

May 9.
Blackfriars: Supper.
Cheltenham: Dinner.
Firm and True: Concert and distribution.
Golden Barbel: Supper and distribution.
Holloway: Annual dinner.
Queen's Piscatorial: Dinner.
Thames Re-stocking Association: Dinner.
Ye Olde Clapham Rovers: Lantern lecture.

May 10.
Allason United: Annual dinner.
Battersea Piscatorial: Annual dinner.
Clapham Strollers: Annual dinner and concert.
Eagle: Annual dinner.
North London: Annual dinner and distribution.
Westminster: Distribution and concert.
White Hart: Annual dinner.

May 11.
Junior Piscatorial: Annual dinner.
North-East Brothers: Annual dinner.
Peckham Brothers: Annual dinner.
Richmond: Supper and distribution.

May 12.
A.B.S.: Committee meeting.

May 14.—Islington Brothers: Brake outing.
" 15.—Clapham Junction: Dinner and distribution.
" 15.—Clissold: Supper and distribution.
" 15.—Prince of Wales: Distribution.
" 16.—Alma: Annual supper.
" 16.—Battersea Friendly: Annual dinner.
" 16.—Blackfriars: Visit.
" 16.—Gresham: Paper by Mr. F. Goodwin.
" 16.—Seymour Brothers: Supper and distribution.
" 16.—Waggoners: Distribution.
" 17.—Amicable Brothers: Supper.
" 17.—Anchor and Hope: Supper and distribution.
" 17.—Boston: Benefit entertainment.
" 17.—Cambridge Heath Brothers: Distribution.
" 17.—Islington: Annual supper.
" 17.—Lincoln: Supper.
" 17.—Phoenix: Supper and distribution.
" 17.—Royal George: Supper and distribution.
" 17.—Victoria Brothers: Annual dinner.
" 17.—West Ham Brothers: Supper.
" 18.—Bloomsbury Brothers: Annual dinner.
" 18.—Cobden: Dinner and distribution.
" 18.—Duke of Norfolk: Dinner and distribution.
" 18.—St. Albans: Annual dinner.
" 18.—Walworth Waltonians: Annual dinner.
" 18.—Woolwich Brothers: Annual dinner.
" 19.—Wellington: Annual supper.
" 29.—Hearts of Oak: Annual supper.
" 30.—Islington Brothers: Distribution.
" 30.—Izaak Walton: Sea fishing outing.
" 31.—Crown and Buckland: Distribution.

Reports from Clubs

We beg to remind Secretaries that their Reports must reach us not later than **SIX o'clock on Thursday Evening.** Address "Editor, FISHING GAZETTE, St. Dunstan's House, Fetter-Lane, London," marked "CLUB REPORT" outside envelope.

Anglers' Association.—The monthly finance committee will meet on Monday evening next, May 8, at 7.30, and the general committee at 8.30.—R. GHURNEY.

Anglers' Benevolent Society.—Since my last report I beg to acknowledge with thanks the receipt of 12s. 6d. Original Clerkenwell, £2 16s. 3d. Original Alexandra Angling Societies donation boxes. At the last committee meeting two applications were entertained, and £16 granted. The next committee meeting will take place on Friday, May 12, at 8.30, at the Foresters' Hall, Clerkenwell-road. Subscriptions are now due.—R. GHURNEY.

Anglers' Association (No. 1 Eastern District) Visiting List.—The next return visit will be to the Dalston A.S., Brownlow Arms, Brownlow-street, Dalston, on Monday next, May 8, when I hope to see a good meeting.—G. MANNING.

Anglers' Association (No. 2 District) Visiting List.—A most successful visit on the above list took place on May 1 to the Original Clerkenwell Piscatorial, when the following seventeen societies were represented: Amicable Waltonians, Brothers Well Met, Convivial, Crown and Buckland, North London, Original Clerkenwell, Wenlock, Hoxton Brothers, West Green, Phoenix, Dalston, Wellington, Forest Piscatorial, North Lambeth, Camden, Globe, and Allason United Brothers A.S. Mr. Bouffler, of the Phoenix, was chairman, and Mr. Hill, secretary of the Original Clerkenwell, vice. At 11 p.m. the roll was called, and their A.B. box contained 12s. 6d. Harmony followed. Next visit and date later.—BEN ABRAHAMS.

Albion Brothers' Angling Society, The Frampton Arms, Well-street, Hackney.—Our concert in aid of the A.B.S. is postponed on account of the Dalston A.S. return visit being on the same date, and I hope brothers will not forget to give them a look in on Monday.—C. KING.

Allason United Brothers' Angling Society, Duke of Sussex, Uxbridge-street, Notting Hill Gate, W.—Tickets for our ninth annual dinner are being issued. The secretary will receive all prize money, &c., up to and including May 10. But cash must be paid before 8 p.m. on May 10. Mr. A. R. Mathews has consented to take the chair, and Mr. Wilson, of Fitzroy-square, is the caterer. The secretary produced list of winners of past season, and was correct. I tender thanks to Mr. Glaisher, bookseller, High-street, Notting Hill, for his prize, a 21s. book of the Thames, which I, your humble, won. We also tender thanks for prizes in to the various donors. Messrs. C. Wells and Otter Wheeler had flat fish on April 30, the latter thirty-six good-sized flounders and some eel pout.—P.S.—The 25lb. pike caught by our member, Mr. Wells, is preserved with great credit to Mr. Anstiss, and is on view at 25, Silver-street, Notting Hill Gate.—BEN ABRAHAMS.

Amicable Brothers' Angling Society, Bald-faced Stag, Worship-street, Finsbury.—We had a good meeting last Wednesday, when some very good business was got through. Our 45th annual supper takes place on Wednesday, May 17, distribution on Wednesday, June 14.—G. HAYNES.

Amicable Waltonian Angling Society, The Fox and French Horn, Clerkenwell Green.—A well attended meeting of the above took place on May 3, and some important business was transacted, and six more prizes added to the already long list, there now being forty-six prizes already promised for the coming season, and we have a lot more to add to it yet. Mr. Hender was elected a working member. Will members please note that a special meeting is called for May 24. The delegates' report from the central was well received, and a vote of thanks passed for same. I hope brother anglers will not forget our smoker on Monday next, May 8, for the A.B.S. I shall have plenty of talent, and Mr. W. J. Wade, and most of the prominent members of the angling world, will be present. Tickets have been sent round to most of the clubs, but any club not receiving same will please take this as an invite. The members desire to express their deep sympathy with the widow of the late Harry Patman in the sad loss she has sustained in the death of her husband, and express their desire to respond to any appeal that may be made on her behalf.—G. MERRY.

Anchor and Hope Angling Society, Duke of Kent, Old Kent-road, S.E.—Our annual distribution of prizes will take place at the clubhouse on Wednesday, May 17, when a leg of mutton supper will be placed on the table at 8 p.m. sharp. Mr. J. Bomer was elected an honorary member, and Mr. W. Marchant was proposed as a working member.—F. W. MARTIN.

Battersea Friendly Angling Society, Queen's Hotel, Queen's-road, Battersea, S.W.—I should feel obliged if gentlemen who have promised prizes would kindly forward them by Tuesday next if possible. Will all members please attend next Tuesday? Final arrangements for dinner, &c., on 16th inst. Some capital talent coming; anticipate a grand success. Brother anglers and friends very welcome.—A. JENKINS.

Battersea Piscatorial, Lord Ranelagh, Verona-street, Battersea.—Since my last report we have had much pleasure in nominating two new members. Will members please note that all tickets not returned by May 7 will be considered as sold? Donors of prizes will oblige by letting the secretary have them by same date. Our second annual dinner takes place on May 10 at 8.30 p.m. sharp. Will secretaries please note change of address?—T. TRINGHAM.

Blackfriars Angling Society, The Imperial, Southwark-street, S.E.—Our meeting of members on Wednesday was a record. I am pleased to say we have started making new members for ensuing season, this being our last night of the old season's contributions. Mr. C. Stump was proposed as a working member. We shall be pleased to welcome brother anglers and friends at our supper or concert on Tuesday, May 9, which promises to be a record night for the Blackfriars. I will thank gentlemen for an early attendance. Supper at 8 p.m. Mr. G. H. Shepherd chair; and Mr. W. J. Wade and a host of talent will be present.—J. WHEELHOUSE.

Bloomsbury Brothers' Angling Society, Rose and Crown, Broad-street, Bloomsbury.—An adjourned special general meeting will be held on May 7, at 8 p.m. sharp, when all members are particularly requested to attend. The twenty-seventh annual supper takes place on Thursday, May 18, on which occasion the chair will be occupied by Mr. R. Lummes, supported by Mr. J. Pailles. Will members and friends who have promised prizes kindly forward the same as soon as possible, and oblige?—T. PATERNOSTER.

Bostonian Angling Society, Dalby Tavern, Dalby-street, Prince of Wales-road, Kentish Town.—On Wednes-

day, May 17, at 8.30 p.m., Messrs. Taylor, Ward, and Jones will give a lantern entertainment (comic only), the proceeds of which will be for the benefit of the widow of our late esteemed member, Mr. H. Patman. All angling friends are requested to attend. On April 27 Mr. Rundell captured a nice trout of 7lb. 10oz. Our annual dinner and distribution of prizes on Wednesday, June 7.—J. H.

Brompton Angling Society Doileys Arms, Marlborough-road, S.W.—On April 26 (quarterly night) the usual business, viz., election of officers, took place. Our esteemed member, Mr. W. H. Barber, who was absent through illness, was again elected chairman. Members are requested to attend on Wednesday, May 10, when important business will be brought on, one of the items being Mr. Couper's proposed cnp.—C. ASHLEY.

Brunswick Brothers' Angling Society, Cherry Tree, Brunswick-road, Bromley-by-Bow, E.—Our annual dinner and prize distribution will take place at the above on Tuesday, June 6. Will members clear the books as soon as possible, so that we may know how many to provide for? A smoking concert for the benefit of our brother member, G. Foster, better known as "Old Uncle" (who has been in ill-health some time), will be held on Tuesday, June 13, when we trust all friends and members will rally round, and give him a bumper benefit. Members are requested to attend next meeting, viz., Tuesday.—F. RANDALL.

Bungay Chaucer Angling Society.—The annual prize distribution and smoking concert was held at the King's Head Hotel, Bungay, on April 26. The president, Mr. R. C. Clay, presided, and presented the prizes for the past season. Some very good catches of roach have been taken during the year, the largest fish being 2lb. 3oz. The prize offered by the president for the largest pike taken was won by Mr. W. Cubitt. A very enjoyable evening was spent.—F. PRESTON.

Camden Angling Society, The Locomotive, James-street, High-street, Camden Town, N.W.—I must remind members last Wednesday, May 3, was half-yearly night. Our supper and distribution of prizes is fixed for June 7. I hope members will turn up next Wednesday, as we have some important business to transact.—E. BOXALL.

Clapham Junction Angling Society, The Clarence, Winstanley-road, Clapham Junction, S.W.—Our dinner and distribution of prizes will take place on Monday, May 15, at 8.30; tickets, 2s. 6d. each. All unsold tickets to be returned by May 10, or will be considered sold. Our balance-sheet was accepted as read. I am very pleased to say that this society is in a good sound financial position. I shall esteem it a favour if donors of prizes will kindly forward on same as soon as possible.—G. T. JAMESON.

Clapham Strollers' Angling Society, Alexandra Hotel, Clapham Common, S.W.—Tickets are going well for our dinner and concert on Wednesday, May 10, at 7.45. Mr. E. Loyd will occupy the chair, and amongst others who have consented to contribute towards the harmony of the evening are Messrs. R. Richardson, F. Woods, J. Darney, F. Finch, "Chivers and Martin" A. Cave, F. Alberts, J. McMahon, W. Owers, &c. Mr. Wade has also promised to put in an appearance. Lists of tickets must be handed in on May 7.—S. VIOLET.

Clissold Angling Society, The Cricketers, Northwold-road, Stoke Newington, N.—Our supper takes place on May 15, and distribution of prizes. All members are requested to give in prizes by Tuesday next. Tickets for supper to be obtained at clubhouse.—F. FAULKNER.

Crown and Buckland Piscatorial Society, Middlesex Arms, 35, Clerkenwell-green, E.C.—On May 3 Mr. Richardson and H. Wright audited the accounts of the society, when everything was found perfectly correct, and the balance sheet duly passed. It will be read to the members at the annual general meeting on May 17. The distribution of prizes will take place on May 31. Mr. A. E. France, the ex-champion long distance swimmer, will occupy the chair on that evening.—G. H. FRANKLIN.

Dalston Angling Society, Brownlow Arms, Brownlow-street, Dalston.—On May 2 there was a full attendance, when all arrangements were made for our annual dinner, which will take place on June 4, at the Black Rabbit, Arundel. Members intending to be present must let the secretary know not later than Tuesday, May 9. We also voted 5s. towards the netting fund. Societies please note that our return visit takes place on Monday, May 8; all anglers and friends will meet with a hearty welcome.—S. MALBY.

Dibdin Angling Society, St. Martin's Tavern, Pratt-street, N.W.—Wednesday meeting quite chirpy; nothing of any great importance except supper, for which we hope to have Mr. Ball (Conservative Association) in the chair, assisted by our president, Mr. W. Clatworthy. Tickets 2s. 6d. to members and friends.—J. EDWARDS.

Duke of Norfolk Angling Society, The Apollo, All Saints'-road, Westbourne Park.—Our annual dinner and distribution of prizes takes place on Thursday, May 18. All prize givers please send them soon as possible.—W. JENKINS.

Eagle Angling Society, Red Lion, Tottenham.—The annual dinner of this society will take place on Wednesday next, at the Red Lion, at 8 p.m., Mr. E. T. Elder (president) in the chair, when we hope as many members and friends as possible will attend. The annual general meeting has been adjourned to the 17th inst., when the officers for ensuing season will be elected.—W. J. PRICE.

Firm and True Angling Society, Prince Regent, Beresford-street, Walworth.—On May 9 we hold our annual concert and distribution of prizes. We have some good talent for this occasion, and I hope to see many old friends to support us on this occasion, it being the last time I shall be acting as secretary, as I am resigning the secretaryship.—T. ROSSER.

Forest Gate Piscatorials. Forest Gate Hotel, Godwin-road, Forest Gate, E.—At our annual general meeting on April 26 it was decided to abolish gross weight club prizes, and sizes of all fish were considerably increased, from 2in. to 3in. over Lea standard in some cases. As the balance-sheet shows a decent amount to start the new season I hope members will attend on the 10th inst. to arrange prizes, &c.—H. F. C.

Friendship Angling Society, King's Arms, Mitobel-street, St. Lukes.—On May 8 a smoking concert will be held for the benefit of the Thames preservation fund, on which occasion Mr. W. J. Wade, secretary of the Central Association, will occupy the chair; vice, Mr. C. Watling, Great Northern Brothers. I hope they will be well supported from clubs. Pianist, Mr. F. Morley.—J. LEVINE.

Globe Angling Society, Earl Russel, Isledon-road, N.—We hold our twentieth annual supper and prize distribution on May 8. Supper served at 8.30 sharp. Donors of prizes will greatly aid the distribution by handing them to the secretary on May 7.—W. LAWRENCE.

Golden Barbel Angling Society, Sir Isaac Newton, Union-street, Middlesex Hospital.—Members can clear books and get supper tickets from Mr. King up to May 7. Supper at eight o'clock sharp. I hope to see a good room full of the angling fraternity, who will be made welcome.—A. W. ELLINS.

Hearts of Oak Angling Society, Ye Olde Crown, Brick-lane, Bethnal Green.—Our annual supper takes place on May 29. I hope members will attend next Wednesday for special business.—C. SMITH.

Harcourt Angling Society, Harcourt Arms, Harcourt-street, Marylebone.—A general meeting called for next Monday evening, as a lot of business has to be transacted, also the names to be taken for the supper, which takes place on June 5.—A. E. PAYNE.

Holloway Angling Society, Holloway Station Hotel, 295, Holloway-road, N.—We had a well attended meeting on Wednesday last, and final arrangements were made for our annual dinner, which takes place on Tuesday, May 9, Mr. F. Clay in the chair, and Mr. E. Steinhart in the vice. Mr. J. Johnson has charge of the musical portion, and has arranged a well varied programme. Tickets are going well, and a successful evening is assured. The trout season has not opened too well, one brace only having been hooked, they having fallen to the rod of Mr. Steinhart. One weighed 1lb. 9oz., and the other 1lb.—A. CLAYTON.

Islington Brothers' Angling Society, Myddleton Arms, Canonbury-road.—Will members kindly note that next Tuesday will be the last night to settle who is going with us to the outing to Parndon on May 14, as the books must be clear? The prizes are not coming in very fast.—J. H. HERBERT.

Jubilee Angling Society, Prince Arthur, Golborne road, North Kensington.—Since my last report we have had very fair meetings. We have finally arranged, instead of a supper, to have a smoking concert and distribution of prizes on June 5 in aid of the A.B., trusting the various clubs will give us their kind support on that occasion.—G. BENCE.

Limehouse Piscatorial Society, Silver Tavern, Brdett-road, E.—This society is now considering the desirability of renting a private water, and all members are asked to attend the meeting house on Friday next to receive particulars of the same.—R. J. WELLS.

Lincoln Angling Society, Metropolitan, Winchester-street, Pentonville, N.—I hope to see a good muster of members on Wednesday next, that being general clearing night of season. Supper, May 17. Members who have promised prizes will oblige by forwarding same at their earliest convenience.—W. WATLING.

Liverpool Angling Association, Bee Hotel, Queen-square.—In consequence of close time fishing for coarse fish is almost a dead letter, many anglers religiously observing the regulations of the Freshwater Fisheries Act very strictly. Many fishermen may not, however, be aware of the exemptions provided by the Act, the main one being that these fish may legally be taken during the above period providing the permission of the owner of the fish or the boards of conservators has been given. This is the case with the river Vyrnwy, which is simply full of pike, perch, chub, roach, dace, &c., and it is for the protection of trout that this course has been adopted. Grayling are also looked upon as enemies to the prosperity of trout, and so there may also be taken and kept. The principal prize at our last week's outing was won by Mr. T. White with trout, but they were in very bad condition, looking simply like pieces of stick, so emaciated were they.—R. WOOLFALL.

Liverpool East End Angling Association, Court House Hotel, Commutation-row.—A few members of the association during the past week have been doing good work at Bromborough, on the waters rented by the association, in placing close on 200 fish in the ponds. The pavilion also has undergone an overhauling by a practical man, a member who has the best thanks of the members. Mr. J. Parks, whilst fishing in Montgomeryshire, took a grand basket of trout, weighing about 15lb. Members and correspondents please note change of secretary's address from 47 to 19, Melrose-road, Kirkdale, Liverpool.—JAMES REYNOLDS.

Original Alexandra Angling Society, The Lamb, Three Colts-lane, opposite Bethnal Green Junction.—Our A.B.S. concert was a great success, the room being filled, and the sum of £2 16s. 3d. found in the box. I beg to thank those who attended and contributed to the harmony, which was kept going till closing time. Our annual dinner will take place next month.—G. BARRS.

Original Clerkenwell Piscatorial Society, Sutton Arms, Great Sutton-street, Goswell-road.—On May 1 seventeen clubs were represented, when some good talent was provided by the following artistes: Messrs.

Broughton, W. Stretch (North London), W. Bavin (Phoenix), Booth, Freeman, and Isaacs (Original Clerkenwell), Canton, Ilamblerton, and a host of others. Mr. B. Abrahams also spoke on behalf of the Anglers' Benevolent.—A. HILL.

Peckham Brothers' Angling Society, Windsor Castle, Cator-street, Sumner-road, Peckham.—A special meeting will be held on May 7. I trust every member will be present, and that members and friends will not forget our annual dinner on May 11. The president, Mr. H. E. Reed, will be in the chair, and Mr. Harold Coleman in the vice-chair.—GEO. ETHERINGTON.

Phoenix Angling Society, The Tavistock, Stibington-street, N.W.—Members and friends who are coming to our annual dinner and prize distribution on May 17, please let me know by May 13. There is a little business to settle before that, so members are requested to show up next week.—R. C.

Prince of Wales' Angling Society, Windsor Castle, Church-street, Edgware-road.—Our annual prize distribution takes place on May 15, thus giving donors of prizes time to forward the same on or before that date. As the programme is rather long, business will be started at 8.30 sharp. Members of the different angling societies will be welcomed on that evening by W. B.

Queen's Piscatorials, Queen's Arms, 1A, Chapel-street, Edgware-road, N.W.—On the 2nd inst. we had a very good muster of members, when the final arrangements for our annual dinner and distribution of prizes, to take place on Tuesday, the 9th inst., were completed. We made three more new members, in fact the few vacancies are expected to be taken up in the course of the next two weeks; then the club reaches its limit of members.—GEO. KEENE.

Richmond Angling Society, Sun Inn, Park-shot, Kew Foot-road, Richmond-on-Thames.—The third annual supper and distribution of prizes of the above society takes place on Thursday evening, May 11, at eight o'clock.—H. E. GAYNOR.

St. Alban's Angling Society, Rising Sun, Prince's-road, Kennington.—Our annual dinner will take place on Thursday, May 18. Will members please attend next Wednesday to make final arrangements and settle all prizes.—W. A.

St. Thomas's Angling Society, Spread Eagle, Stangate-street, Lambeth, S.E.—Our annual dinner and outing will take place on June 4 at the White Hart Hotel, Arundel. We meet at the club house next Wednesday to discuss further arrangements. Will members please attend? Will gentlemen who have promised prizes to the club please forward them on for distribution on June 4.—G. G.

South Bermondsey Club Piscatorials Institute, Rotherhithe New-road.—Our annual dinner and concert takes place next Monday at 8 o'clock sharp in the hall of the above institute, and should be pleased to meet all members on Friday night, May 5, 9 o'clock, to settle and make complete arrangements. Any member who is unable to attend on Friday I hope he will be on the spot in good time on Monday without fail. We have a good programme arranged.—J. H. DAVIES.

South London United Anglers' Visiting List.—The next visit on the above list will take place on Tuesday, May 16, at the Blackfriars A.S., The Imperial, Southwark-street.—ALF. PAINTER.

Sundial Angling Society, Plough and Harrow, King-street, Hammersmith.—On our last meeting Messrs. Dearing and Staniford, of the Prince Albert Angling Society, attended to present a petition for the purpose of trying to get the railway company at Willesden Junction to issue privilege tickets. Members are requested to attend next Wednesday night to sign same.—C. E. LOCK.

Waggoners' Angling Society, White Lion, Albert Embankment.—We had a fair meeting on the 2nd, Mr. H. Walton in the chair. Members please notice the books must be cleared by May 9. The distribution takes place on May 16. All those gentlemen who have promised prizes and not yet forwarded them on, if they will do so by that date I shall be extremely obliged.—H. C.

Walworth Waltonians Angling Society, St. Paul's Tavern, Westmoreland-road, Walworth, S.E.—Our annual dinner, which promises to be a great success, takes place on Thursday, May 18. Mr. G. H. Shepherd, of the Bermondsey Brothers A.S., has promised to take the chair, and with a host of good talent, including Mr. Norton Greenop and troupe, we hope to spend a very enjoyable evening. Members please apply for tickets at once.—W. WRAY.

West Ham Brothers' Angling Society, Coach and Horses, The Grove, Stratford.—We have a supper on May 17, at 7.30 p.m. Tickets to be had of the secretary or of Mr. F. Homer. All applications to be made as early as possible. The club meeting to take place the week following. The annual prizes to be paid on the supper night.—R. LOWTHER.

West London Angling Club, Dartmouth Castle, Hammersmith.—A large muster of members were present at our last meeting. The prize committee made their final awards for the past season, the following members being winners: Messrs. C. Martin, C. J. Carter, G. Ramsay, W. Cox, sen., W. Cox, jun., J. J. Hunter, E.

A MAN HUNT IN LONDON.—One of the most desperate criminals in London—a notorious housebreaker—has just been captured. He was surprised, breaking into a large house in Bermondsey, but for the moment escaped. The police were, however, in hot pursuit, and when brought to bay the man drew a revolver, but Police Constable Jones pluckily closed with the ruffian, and with assistance effected a capture. The constable risked his life, and we rightly call him a hero, but how many of us, by inattention to our health, needlessly risk our lives every day! Let us be wise in time, and with the aid of Holloway's Pills we can regain our health when we are out of sorts.

Coomes, W. Warrington, A. Peart, and W. Weeden. We have arranged for our annual dinner to take place on Thursday, June 8, at the clubhouse. Our auditors are desirous of making out the balance-sheet, so I must ask members to pay in their subscriptions and donations without further delay, to clear the books for the past season.—J. J. HUNTER.

Westminster Angling Society, The Telegraph, Regency-street, S.W.—The members of the above society hold their annual concert on Wednesday, May 10, at the above address, when the year's prizes will be distributed. All friends and brother anglers will receive a warm welcome.—S. J. H.

Wimbledon Piscatorials, 28, Alexandra-road.—The annual meeting of this society was held at the Alexandra Hotel, Wimbledon, on Tuesday evening, Mr. H. A. Rolt presiding. The report for the past season, together with the accounts duly audited, were presented and passed. The report gives a *résumé* of an exceedingly satisfactory year's work, special stress being laid upon the fact that thanks to the abolition of gross weight prizes members have aimed at securing quality rather than quantity in their various fishing excursions. Many specimens had been creel-d during the season—pike, chub, perch, tench, dace, roach, and grayling. Nearly £20 was distributed in prizes, besides rods, wickets, &c., given in kind. After allowing for these, and paying for the private water of the club, a small balance is left in hand to be carried forward to next year. The officers for 1899-1900 were elected as under: President, Mr. Walter Dowson, S.C.C.; hon. treasurer, Mr. H. A. Rolt; hon. sec., Mr. S. Peskett; committee, Messrs. J. Furnage, F. J. Rolt, F. J. Bovie, H. W. Lawrence, H. Golding, and S. Thain. Several alterations were made in the rules, the most important being that a member in order to claim a prize must attend four weekly meetings in each quarter. The society now numbers fifty members, honorary and ordinary.—HON. REPORTER.

Yarm Angling Association.—The adjourned general meeting was held at the Crown Hotel on April 26, when a strong committee was elected. It was decided to hold a competition on Whit Monday in the river Leven.—R. ROBSON.

Stokings by the Way.

A COMMITTEE is being formed by brother anglers of the late Harry Patman to consider the best means to benefit his widow and children, his long illness having exhausted all his savings.

ON Wednesday, May 17, at 8.30 p.m., Messrs. Tayler, Ward, and Jones will give a lantern entertainment, the proceeds of which will be for the benefit of the widow and children of the late Harry Patman. The entertainment will be held at the club house of the Bostonians, Dalby Tavern, Dalby-street, Prince of Wales's-road, Kentish Town. Mr. Patman was a member of the Bostonians, and the club earnestly invite the attendance of all who can make it convenient to attend in this good cause.

THE most successful pet dog show which has drawn fashionable London to the Royal Aquarium during the past week is to be followed by the eleventh annual show of fox terriers, organised by the London Fox Terrier Club, next Tuesday, Wednesday, and Thursday. It will be a fine display of both smooth and wire haired terriers, and the dogs will be drawn from the best kennels of the kingdom. The present strong programme at the Aquarium will proceed without interruption.

A CORRESPONDENT writes from Wales as follows: "At the last meeting of the Severn Fishery Board, held on April 20, it was reported that samlets (young salmon) were very plentiful in all the tributaries of the Severn. This is altogether contrary to the experience of all the local trout anglers, who are congratulating themselves on the absence of what they term 'those little pests,' which years ago caused them no end of trouble to unhook and return to the water, and it was not at all unusual to land one on every fly at every cast. This is not very consoling to salmon anglers, but facts are stubborn things."

THE same correspondent continues: "In the neighbourhood of Llanymynech the cuckoo has been seen and heard for some days, and swallows are seen in large numbers near the Vyrnwy. Mr. Buckley's otter hounds had some good sport in the Cain, near Llanantiffraid, on Wednesday last. Rook shooting will commence next week, and promises abundance of that sport, which, when practised with rifles, is grand practice for amateur riflemen, and can be pursued without danger, excepting to the rooks."

MR. MARLOW, the owner of the theatre at Southend, has purchased the Alexandra Hotel—a house at which many fishing visitors stay when in that town—and will be pleased to welcome angling friends.

"Do you have to be examined by a doctor before you join a cyclist's club?" "No; afterwards."

THE fifth annual dinner of the Collingwood Angling Society was held on Tuesday evening, May 2. "Straw Hat" was announced to preside, but Mr. J. F. Bursill (of the *South London Press*) was asked to take the chair—which he did right royally. After a capital dinner, which reflected great credit upon the caterers, the cloth was cleared, "The Queen" toasted, and harmony com-

mened. Amongst those who assisted were Mr. Norris, in an excellent selection on the English concertina; Mr. Botten (1st Life Guards), some selections on the clarinet; Messrs Rosser, Stump, Ashet, and Master Norris a clever and amusing stump speech. During the evening it was announced that through pressure of business Mr. E. Roberts was obliged to resign the presidency of the club, and Mr. J. Jeffery ("Straw Hat") was unanimously elected to that position. The new president then sang them what he termed a "sleepy" song, the rendering of which ought to have sent the audience to sleep, but they could not sleep for laughing.

THE tables were strewn with many handsome and valuable prizes, which were graciously presented by the chairman, the total value of which was £30 7s. Surely a splendid list for so young a club! The chief prize winners were Messrs. Downs, W. Beames, Ball, Jarrett, F. Beames, Turner, Ford, Francis, Aaron, Ash, Sorge, and Boyd. Mr. Greg was heartily thanked for his photograph of the club, and "Dragnet" was elected a life honorary member. The toast of "The Collingwood A.S." was responded to by Mr. Poole (treasurer), who announced that the club was in an exceedingly flourishing condition. The hon. sec. (Mr. W. H. Stafford) also made some excellent allusions to the working of the club. The healths of "The Host and Hostess" were drunk with musical honours, and the singing of the National Anthem closed a very pleasant evening.

MR. GEORGE MERRY, the hard-working secretary of the Amicable Waltonians, announces a smoking concert for Monday evening, May 8, in aid of the A.B.S. He has some first-rate talent, and some of the best known London anglers will be present. May the A.B.S. funds be greatly augmented!

TUESDAY will be a busy day. The Thames Re-stocking Dinner at Carr's Restaurant (Mr. Cook in the chair); the Holloway A.S., annual dinner (Mr. Frank Clay in the chair); the Blackfriars annual dinner at the Imperial Hotel (Mr. G. H. Shepherd in the chair); the Queen's Piscatorialists, dinner; the Golden Barbel, supper; and the Cheltenham, dinner. I am in receipt of pressing invites for the first three enumerated, and wish I could be present at them all—but we shall see!

"A PAINFUL sensation," says the *Western Mail*, "was caused in the vestibule of the Cardiff Town Hall a couple of days ago. Alderman Ebenezer Beavan and Councillor Waring were evidently waiting for somebody, and, getting tired, the teetotal alderman said to the hall porter, 'Look here, Green, if Councillor Chapple comes tell him we have stepped across to the Rising Sun.' Green turned red, a well known solicitor gasped and clutched an iron-monger for support, a hoy from the town clerk's office gave a shout and ran off to tell his chief, a lady guardian turned pale and angrily hurried away to see Mr. Lewis Williams, a cabman laughed loudly and exclaimed, 'Didn't I tell you that all these 'ere teetotal blokes is alike; but Ebenezer cert'nly heats the bloomin' lot to go for a swig in hopen daylight like this ere.' Thns are the reputations of good men hemirched. For Mr. Beavan and Mr. Waring are members of the parks committee, and as they are just now taking very keen interest in the fish hatchery question they were paying a visit to the remarkable trout pond which Mr. Manders has at the Rising Sun."

WRITING from Cardiff, Mr. A. E. Armstrong says: "Dear 'Drag,'—A very pleasant function occurred on Monday, May 1. Miss Mander, Watkin Shirley, Gray, and self spawned some trout from Llsivane reservoir last year, and succeeded in bringing up 7,000 very nice fish at our little hatchery. The water was kindly given us by the Cardiff Corporation. At 1.30, on the above date, carriages were waiting at the Town Hall, and we proceeded to Llsivane with Mr. Alderman David Jones and Mr. Councillor Waring. The fish were sent in large milk cans; a place had previously been made so that they could be easily turned in from the platform. Mr. Alderman David Jones, who, by the bye, is chairman of the Cardiff waterworks, emptied the contents of the cans into the reservoirs amidst cheers from the spectators. After the ceremony he entertained us to a champagne luncheon in the committee-room, overlooking Llamshen reservoir, which is a most magnificent sheet of water, and contains trout up to 6lb. or 7lb.

"MR. COUNCILLOR WARING is fighting very hard indeed to get a hatchery for the corporation at Roath Park. He, indeed, deserves many thanks from the anglers in South Wales. A committee meeting has been specially convened for the purpose, and I have not the slightest doubt he will carry his proposition, i.e., for a hatchery capable of rearing 100,000 ova, and an aquarium. I will let you know how we get on. I should much like to see you here with rod and line. I have no doubt I could find you plenty of sport, with a little *trutta* fishing thrown in. Kind regards and tight lines."

A CURIOUS incident is reported from the Inney (North Cornwall). Some days since Mr. H. Greenwood hooked a fine trout, but the fish succeeded in breaking away with a couple of flies and part of a collar. This week the same rod, fishing within a short distance of the same spot, had, curiously enough, a bite from, and was able to land, the trout that had gone off with his tackle. The fish had a Red Palmer and several feet of gut attached to it, and rose well to the Red Palmer with which it was taken.

MR. HOWES (of Barton Mills) tells me that the cold weather of late has not been favourable for trout fishing. However, a London angler recently had a nice 3-pounder and several small jack; the jack were taken spinning with gudgeon.

THE little fishers in the Regent's Canal have some strange catches. A small hoy, while fishing for minnows with a penny net, recovered the body of an infant, for which he was awarded 5s. at the inquest.

A CORRESPONDENT (who vouches for its authenticity), sends the following: "Walking by the side of the Blackwater, in Ireland, I came up to a man fishing for salmon. As I stood watching, the fisher's line suddenly went swish! At the same time the fisher called out to me 'I'm in him,' and began walking backwards out of the water towards me. It was some distance from me to the fisher, as the shore so very gradually shelved down from shallow to deep water. As the fisher came up to me he said to me, 'If you have never seen a salmon walk out of a river, I will show you how I make them walk out here. I never use a gaff, and I have fished here for years.' Well, he kept walking backwards, and, true enough, the salmon's back became visible in the shallow water. The fisher kept talking: 'You see,' he said, 'as I keep the line taut the fish feels pain, and naturally gives to the pull of the line. Now, you see, the water is so shallow that he can't keep upright, so he is lying on his side, and as he wriggles and flops on his side, he naturally wriggles and flops till now, you see, he is 3ft. out of the water, on the shore. Lend me your walking stick,' and with the stick the fisher gave the fish a smack on the head. 'Now you have seen a salmon walk out of the water.' 'And a grand sight, too,' I said; that was the first word I had spoken. The salmon weighed 18lb.

THE LIFE-SAVERS.

TWO MEN IN THE LIFE-SAVING SERVICE.

When the Lord breathes his wrath above the bosom of the waters,

When the rollers are a-poundin' on the shore,
When the mariner's a-thinkin' of his wife and sons and daughters.

And the little home he'll maybe see no more;
When the bars are white and yeasty, and the shoals are all a-frothin'.

When the wild no'theaster's cuttin' like a knife,
Through the seethin' roar and screech he's patrollin' on the beach—

The Gov'ment's hired man for savin' life.

He's struggling with the gusts that strike and bruise him like a hammer,

He's fightin' and that stings like swarmin' hees,
He's list'nin' through the whirlwind and the thunder and the clamour—

A list'nin' for the signal from the seas.
He's breakin' ribs and muscles launchin' lifeboats in the surges,

He's drippin' wet and chilled in every bone,
He's bringin' men from death back ter flesh and blood and breath,

And he never stops ter think about his own.

He's pullin' at an oar that is freezin' ter his fingers,
He's a-clingin' in the riggin' of a wreck,
He knows destruction's nearer every minute that he lingers,

But it don't appear ter worry him a speck.
He's draggin' dragged corpses from the clutches of the combers—

The kind of job a common chap 'ould shirk—
But he takes 'em from the wave and he fits 'em fer the grave,

And he thinks it's all included in his work.

He is rigger, rower, swimmer, sailor, doctor, undertaker,

And he's good at every one of 'em the same,
And he risks his life fer others in the quicksand and the breaker,

And a thousand wives and mothers bless his name.
He's a angel dressed in oilskins, he's a saint in a 'sou'wester,'

He's as plucky as they make, or ever can,
He's a hero horn and hred, but he hasn't swelled his head.
And he's jett the U.S. Gov'ment's hired man.

JOE LINCOLN, in *American F.G.*

A DISTINGUISHED Scandinavian naturalist, named Dahl, noted for his advocacy of the Darwinian theory of evolution, caught a herring, and resolved to use the fish to prove the truth of the doctrine of evolution. So he shut the herring up in an aquarium, and gradually diminished the supply of water. What did the herring do? Die? No. It simply contradicted the popular notion that a fish out of water is the most disconcerted thing in existence, by becoming metamorphosed into an amphibious animal. Delighted with his success, Professor Dahl next placed the fish on the dry ground, and began to give it food which no fish had ever before eaten. Yet this wonderful herring not only ate the food gladly, but, Oliver like, called for more.

ONE more experiment, argued Mr. Dahl, and the truth of evolution is proved; but while he is preparing to elevate the herring to a still higher plane of animal life, a terrible thing happened. The fish, which was allowed to wander where it pleased, happened to stray over a wooden bridge, the planks of which were not very close together, and in stepping from one plank to another it missed its footing, and fell into the water. All searching was in vain. Gone

for ever was that highly educated herring. The process of evolution had probably unsuited it for its quondam native element. It couldn't withstand the suffocating rush of waters, and—alas, was drowned. A herring in its time plays many parts, but, truly, the most wonderful of all is Dahl's herring. Make no error. Kippers are cheap, and this Scandinavian bloater—I mean "sojer"—will be lamented and praised by a scientific posterity, who—prefer a fresh herring for breakfast.

HE was a great hulking blackguard, charged before the magistrate with assaulting his wife with a poker. The poor woman had been half killed, but, with true feminine perversity, begged hard for him. "Do let him off, your worship, he was not always like this; there was happy times once, when he only used to bit me with his fist!"

MANKIND ARE ALL FISH.

A CORRESPONDENT sends the following lines, copied from "The Angler's Manual," dated 1810, to the *Yorkshire Weekly Post*:

Mankind are all fish, and I'll lay you a bet
I prove that they all will come into the net.
The lawyer's a shark, and they who in shoals
Run into his jaws must be flats or poor soles.
The lobster's a turncoat, the slugard a snail,
The curate a shrimp, and the vicar a whale.
The soldier's a sword-fish; the critic a carp,
That delights in the mud, and, tho' wary, bites sharp.
The heir is a gold fish, but turns to a gull.
True lovers are oysters, both silent and dull.
The poets are spawn, and are scarce worth a drag.
Young misses are mackerel, all caught by red rag.
Their swains, altho' sly fish, do frequently feel
That a fair and fresh mackerel will turn to an eel.
A rake's a dorado, persisting and rude;
A beauty's a flying fish, always pursued.
Thns, by hook or by crook they are all to be caught,
Nay, some wise ones have said they are all to be hought—
Some at high, some at low, some at fair market price,
From a farthing per pound to a guinea a slice.

THE melting of the great Russian rivers, ice-bound during the winter, have resulted in sturgeon making their way into the North Sea, and thence to fishmongers' slabs. One has been landed at Yarmouth by a trawler belonging to Messrs. Hewett and Company, and a very fine specimen at Boston by the *Collingwood*. The latter was 8ft. long and 4ft. in girth, weighing a couple of hundredweight. It was bought for five guineas.

A VERY interesting article from the pen of an old contributor ("Noss Mayo") appeared in the *Western Morning News* of April 24. It is entitled "Cornish Fresh Water Fishings." He has also been selected by the United Devon Association to describe in their forthcoming book the whole of the Devon freshwater fishings.

I HAVE received from Mr. Charles Hussey specimens of his new series of photographs of "Sea Fishing and Sea Fishermen." Perhaps the best of the prints sent is a fine study of a grand old man, "Seventy Years a Fisherman," but "When the Tide is Low," "Boiling Cutch," "On the Look Out," and many others run it very close. The subjects have been carefully chosen, and both in feeling and treatment are most artistic. The printing process employed is a new, or, perhaps more properly speaking, a modification of an old one, and the colour, a warm sepia, suits the subjects admirably. Of course, in Mr. Hussey's experienced hands the photographic technique leaves nothing to be desired, and he is to be congratulated on having found such admirable "food" for his camera. The pictures, I learn, are soon to be published.

THE new "fish cure" for chest on the lungs and other pulmonary complaints is inexpressibly nasty. According to the *Daily Mail* it consists in making a big hole in the body of a whale and thrusting the patient into it. He remains in this for some time. It is called a "fish cure" on the *lucus a non lucendo* principle I suppose, as everybody knows a whale is not a fish. What is to be done when no whales are to hand, or, in the words of the *garçon*, when "whales is horf, sir?"

"A HERTFORDSHIRE farmer who had been much annoyed by the trespassing of his neighbours' cattle, mended the hreaches in his fence, and put up a board, on which was the inscription: *Notice*.—Any man or woman's cow found trespassing on this farm will have his or her tail cut off as the case may be." I think I must get Daisy to parse this for me.

MAN (to angler): "Have you caught anything, guv'nor?" Angler: "Of couis? not! I'm not a fisherman; I'm an angler."

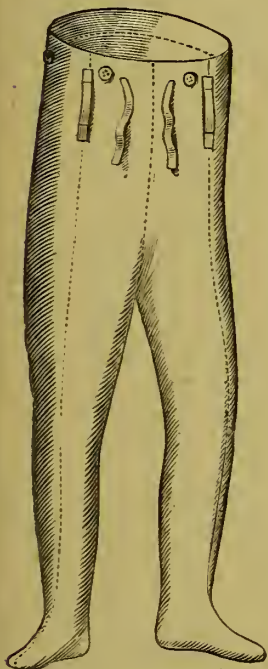
"ARE you going to publish a Sunday edition of the *Fishing Gazette*?" I hope not. Write to the Editor. Last week it was stated that the very large number of flies in existence is very bewildering, especially to those who cannot quite distinguish between Corrixy and Ephemery. I suggested naming six, but have decided to have seven—one for each day in the week. The "Monday" fly down to "Saturday" fly—and for Sunday the "Money" fly. Next week I will give a few extracts from my new book (nearly all sold), and instructions as to how to make the "Money" fly.

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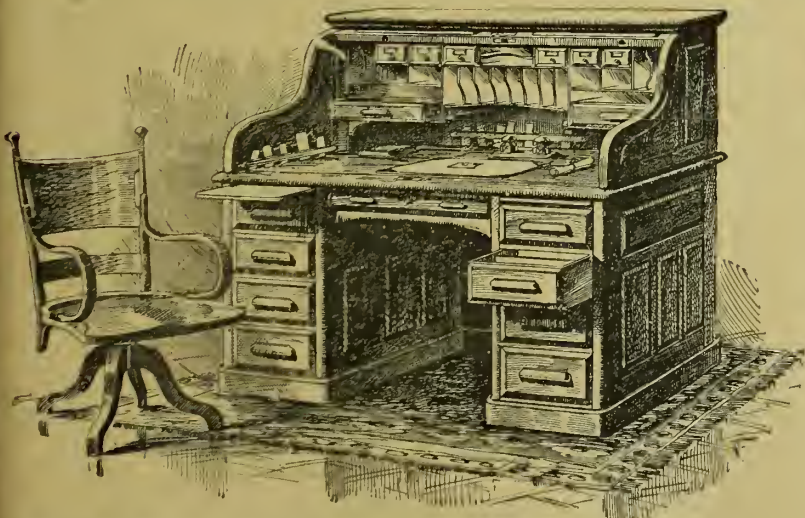
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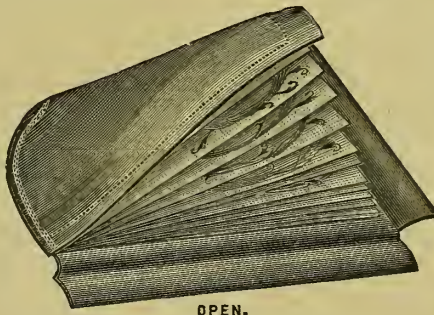
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PISCATORIAL SOCIETY.

MATTERS promised to be somewhat tame on Monday, when the usual weekly meeting was held. Mr. R. Clay was in the chair, but most of the members were away fishing the Kennet, May 1 being the opening day for certain portions of it. Later on in the evening Dr. P. D. Head (who arrived from the South of England with two salmon, caught in the Avon) gave an interesting account of the stroke of luck he had experienced in getting hold of the fish. Both were fresh run, and weighed respectively on the scales of the society 26lb. 8oz. and 25lb. 8oz. Dr. Head was unprepared for salmon fishing, but procured a whippy grilse rod. He used an exceptionally fine running line, backed by a roach line on a Nottingham winch. It is needless to state that the captor had more than an exciting quarter of an hour with the fish. The bigger one did exactly as it liked, Dr. Head having to follow it 200yds. downstream. Over half an hour elapsed ere it was gaffed by the gillie. Dr. Head, it goes without saying, must have exercised consummate skill, and had a good slice of fortune thrown in in lending the brace of fine fish on the slender tackle employed. Needless to add that he received the warmest congratulations of his fellows upon his "bag." Mr. E. T. D. Chambers, the well-known author of "Quebec, Canada," sent over from Col. Haggard, a member of the society, two specimens of the Onananche, one having been caught by the gallant colonel himself, and the other by the forwarder of the fish. An explanatory letter accompanied the unique specimens, from which it was gathered that the Onananche was the fresh water salmon of Lake St. John, Canada. It was their great game fish, and was ranked by many sportsmen between salmon and trout. Col. Haggard thinks from their external appearance and manner that they are identical with the Scotch sea trout, *Salmo trutta*. Many Americans, and some Canadians, called them land-locked salmon. They certainly were not these, but a fresh water salmon. Mr. Chambers thought they might be the original type of *Salmo salar*, which, unlike the ordinary specimens, had never been to sea, but were content to maintain their fresh water habitat instead of becoming anadromous, and growing large and coarse upon the flesh pots of the briny deep. Structurally they were identical with the *Salmo salar*. Mr. Chambers enclosed a pamphlet on "The Philology of the Onananche," which will be handed over, with the specimens, to the curator, Mr. C. S. Patterson, to report upon. Later on they will be properly cased and hung in the club-room. A vote of thanks was passed to Mr. Chambers and Col. Haggard for their kindness in thinking of the society, and forwarding such rare (in England) fish for the inspection of the members of the society.

M. G. E. DE C.

GRESHAM ANGLING SOCIETY.

At the ordinary meeting Mr. J. P. Connellan occupied the chair. One of the members had succeeded in netting out thirty-four and a half brace of trout from some water at Chesham, and transferring them to our own waters, the heaviest fish going well over 3lb. Another member has kindly consented to present 100 two-year-old trout for this water, and the heartiest thanks of the society were accorded these two gentlemen. Mr. Emery (who was unable to attend the annual dinner) was then presented with the challenge shield and medal for specimen trout, won during 1898. Mr. Wright was nominated to again represent the society at Loch Leven this year, but he will gladly give way to any member who is desirous of going. Mr. Emery reported one brace of trout (returned); Mr. Buckingham, one brace (one returned), with Alder; Mr. Thonger, three brace of trout (all returned); Mr. Close, one trout (returned); Mr. Connellan, two trout (returned), Soldier Palmer; Mr. Hicks, one brace of trout, heaviest 1½lb.; Mr. Gill, one trout. All these fish were taken from our water at Chesham. Five new members were proposed, and a quantity of other business got through. The usual toasts and vote of thanks to the chairman concluded the proceedings. Mr. E. F. Goodwin will read a paper before the society on Tuesday, May 9, entitled "Roach Fishing."

ALEX. WRIGHT, Hon. Sec.

RUBBER RINGS FOR ROD BUTT.

SIR,—I notice in the *Field* of the 22nd inst. that you suggest that a tiny ring should be whipped to the handle of the rod butt for securing the fly. Now, I have often found that, especially on wet days, the reel line twists round the butt and then fouls this little ring. A far better plan is to slip on to the butt, just below the handle and above the reel, a small red rubber ring into which, on shifting quarters, the point of the hook is inserted. These rubber rings are neither expensive nor hard to procure, as they are simply extracted from a soda water bottle with a button hook. This little dodge, which I picked up from a very crafty angler in the north years ago, has been a genuine boon to me, and perhaps it might be the same to others (barring the soda water man).

Flyfishers' Club. H. C. B. (in the *Field*).
[This indiarubber ring also serves another purpose; it prevents rain drops from descending.—Ed. *Field*.]

LECHLADE.—Mr. Wentworth Sturgeon has been fishing the St. John's Bridge and Buscot Weirs for trout, but owing to the cold winds only succeeded in capturing several jack—one scaling 6½lb., a most beautifully marked fish—all of which were duly returned unharmed to their native waters. Mr. Sturgeon has purchased the site of the old St. John's Priory, hard by the Trent Inn, which originally belonged to Henry de Ferrers, the first Lord of the Manor of Lechlade, temp. 1080, from whom Mr. Sturgeon is descended. We understand that an attempt will be made in the autumn to excavate the whole of the site so as to determine the exact position of the various buildings.

BRITISH SEA ANGLERS' SOCIETY.

The usual weekly meeting was held at the York Room, Holborn Restaurant, on Wednesday, May 3, at 8 p.m., Mr. C. O. Minchin in the chair. Mr. Graham reported some sport with small plaice at Southend.

The chairman reported fishing at Newhaven April 23, but had little sport owing to heavy weather. On April 29, accompanied by Mr. Preston Gardner, fished the dah ground, taking eight score of fair dahs. He reported that a porpoise swallowed all his apparatus, and went away with it.

Mr. Tucker brought up three specimens of flatfish, samples of a catch sold to-day in Shadwell Market. The chairman pointed out that the great steam trawling corporations were all powerful, and that every channel for agitation was being closed, and that the duty of members was to huttonhole Members of Parliament and point out that the food supply of the people was in peril.

The hon. sec. suggested that not only the Members of Parliament, but also the professional hecklers should be primed and tutored on the subject.

Messrs. Clarke, Simcox, Browning, and others took part. Mr. Preston Gardner reported fishing with Mr. Minchin at Newhaven during heavy tides, and found that he could fish quite close to the boat with much less lead.

Mr. Gardner reported that on Friday last a bass of 10lb. 2oz. was taken in a net at Newhaven, which showed that these fish were making an early appearance.

The hon. sec. read an interesting letter from Mr. W. C. Willcocks concerning sea fishing at Schull, West of Ireland. The usual vote of thanks to the chair closed the meeting.

CHARLES S. PATTERSON, Hon. Sec.

THE SCOTTISH TROUT ANGLERS' ASSOCIATION.

OBJECTS.

The association shall use every endeavour to have a Bill passed, by which a close-time for yellow trout shall be enacted for Scotland.

The association shall use its influence to have the existing law affecting trout fishing duly enforced.

The association may take cognisance of cases of pollution of rivers and lochs, by bringing these under the notice of the Government, the County Councils, Local Government Board, and other responsible officials.

The association shall have power, by lease or arrangement, to increase the area of fishing water available to the public.

For the promotion of social intercourse among anglers, and to assist in carrying out the objects of the association, clubs may be formed in connection with it in the different angling centres, said clubs to acquire suitable premises for their own use, and, upon certain terms, for the use of the association.

EXTRACTS FROM THE REPORT FOR HALF-YEAR ENDING 28TH APRIL 1899.

On the 28th April the association will have completed the first year of its existence, and the support extended to it is very gratifying to the committee of management. The year has been marked by an almost unprecedented activity in the interests of angling on the part of associations, clubs, and individuals, and the committee believe that the series of public meetings held under the auspices of the association has conducted to that end in no small degree.

HALF-YEARLY MEETING.

The first half-yearly meeting of the association was held in Dundee on Tuesday, 13th December, when Lord Provost M'Grady presided, and was accompanied to the platform by a large number of anglers representing Edinburgh, Glasgow, Perthshire, Forfarshire, Fifeshire, and south of Scotland. The half-yearly report was submitted and unanimously adopted, and a number of useful and interesting addresses were delivered. The following resolution was carried with enthusiasm: "That this meeting of anglers assembled in Dundee is of opinion that it is absolutely necessary that a close-time for trout should be enacted for Scotland, and would respectfully urge on Her Majesty's Government the desirability of supporting a measure having this object in view in the coming session of Parliament."

CLOSE-TIME BILL.

The Secretary for Scotland (Lord Balfour of Burleigh) has in the present session introduced a close-time Bill. On 18th April it passed its second reading in the House of Lords without opposition. It provides as follows: "From and after the passing of this Act, between the 15th day of October in any year and the 28th day of February in the year following, both inclusive, there shall be an annual close-time for trout in Scotland, during which it shall not be lawful, except as hereinafter specified, for any person to (a) fish for or take common trout (*Salmo fario*) in any river, water, or loch in Scotland by net, rod, line, or otherwise; (b) have possession of such trout; (c) expose such trout for sale; and any person who shall so fish for, or take, or possess, or expose for sale such trout at any time within the said dates, shall forfeit and pay a sum not exceeding £5 for every such offence."

The committee of management have fully considered the provisions of the Bill. They are of opinion that the period of close-time proposed is a fair and reasonable one in the circumstances, and that to fix one period for the whole of Scotland is better than to leave the period to be fixed by the different County Councils. They would like to see the Bill strengthened in one or two respects, and they are communicating with the proper parties as to this; but they recognise that to have the principle of a close-time established by law is the all-important point, and they would urge the anglers of Scotland to support it by every

means in their power. If the Bill gets that support there is every prospect of its becoming law at an early date.

SALMON-ROE APPEAL.

This appeal to the Court of Justiciary was taken by one of the men convicted of illegal fishing at the instance of the Cnpar District (see last report). The committee of management resolved to take the matter up, and the case came on in February.

On the whole matter the conviction was sustained, and the appellant was found liable in seven guineas of expenses.

MEMBERSHIP.

The membership has increased, and now stands at about 800. There is no reason, however, why it should not be more than doubled during the next year. The committee will be very glad of the assistance of members in making the association known, and the secretary will send circulars explanatory of its objects to all who will undertake to dispose of them to angling friends. A very large membership is imperative if trout angling in Scotland is to have the attention for which it calls.

HERBERT MAXWELL, President.
ANDREW SMITH, Hon. Secretary.

THE CUSTOMS FUND.

Mr. FRANCIS GEORGE HEATH, well known in literary circles, and vice-chairman of the Civil Service Deferred Pay Executive Committee, is again a candidate—in a contest now proceeding in the Customs Department of the United Kingdom—for the directorate of the Customs Fund, a position he has previously held for eight years. Mr. Heath is a Civil servant of thirty-seven years' standing.

Notes from the North.

The spring season is over. As far as the netter is concerned, it has been the greatest failure on record. However, it is a far cry to Aug. 26, and probably the summer and early autumn may redeem the spring season from the total failure it has been on the east and north coasts of Scotland up till now.

The Tay Syndicate are not likely to get rich on their venture on the Tay and Earn. Their first essay at the improvement of the fisheries on Tay and tributaries, on a gigantic scale, has thus been made under the very worst conditions possible. They may have calculated on a poor season, but not so meagre returns as are now to hand. Only 1800 fish to meet the expenses of 100 hands! Barely working expenses.

Mrs. Johnstone had a very nice fish of 19½lb. on the Camhus O'May Dee water, on April 23, Miss Hibbert had two on Glentana, and Miss Pickering one on Kincardine.

Mr. James G. Orr, Aberdeen, has taken the Kincardine-Dee water, for the month of May, from Mrs. Pickering. Mr. Orr is a keen golfer, and one of the crack players of the Balgowrie Club.

Mr. George D. Stihhard will be much missed in the Strathnaver district, where he died recently at his country residence, Syre Lodge. He was not only a keen angler, but an open-handed generous gentleman to boot.

Cruden Bay Hotel is now becoming the angling centre we predicted for it a year or so ago. The Ugie is only a cross country drive of eight miles, by a fine road rich in local associations and not uninteresting scenery, while the Ythan may be reached by train. Both streams are about the pick in the north for a basket of brown trout, from May 15 to June 15, when the fish are most greedy on the fly.

In spite of the variable weather, good baskets of trout are being made whenever there is a blink of sunshine. The Brechin club were out all over the Forfarshire streams last week and better weights were recorded than has been the case for some years.

The salmon anglers on the middle and upper Dee waters are in better luck than they have been since the opening; and the amount of sport, although not brilliant anywhere, is considerable and pretty general all over.

Harbour Commissioner Copland—a member of the Dee Fishery Board—is strongly against extending the open time in the Ythan district. Anglers would then have an extra fortnight after the Dee, Don, Tay, and Spey, and all other rivers were closed (except the Tweed), on the Ugie, and Ythan, and Cruden Burn, should the new law be sanctioned. Those who know these parts best say that this is just what is wanted. It is the only time of the year that there is any salmon angling to be got, while the sea-trout are univalued anywhere for size and quality.

"The King Memorial Fund" has been closed at the magnificent sum of £1494, and the widow of the constable shot by poacher Harry McCullam in the wilds of Strathspey will, in future, have an annuity of £45, plus £15 from the police fund, and a free house from Lady Seafield for herself and family.

The memorial from anglers in Aberdeen anent tidal fishing for finnock was before the council on Tuesday, and remitted to the Bills and Law Committee.

The first annual meeting of the Scottish Trout Anglers' Association was held in Perth on Friday last, Lord Mansfield presiding. Sir Herbert Maxwell and other leading anglers near at hand were on the platform. There was a full meeting of the local fraternity, and the leading officials of the association were all present. After the Secretary for Scotland's Close Time Bill had been formally approved of and agreed to support, arrangements were made for forming a local branch of the association for Perth and district.

The mail steamer St. Ola, while making a passage from Stromness to Seapa, in the Orkney Islands, ran into a whale, stem on, and nearly cut the monster in two. Having the mails on board the captain could do nothing to secure his prize, but as the whale was mortally hurt its carcass will be found in a day or so.

SPECIAL SCOTCH.

Provincial Notes

FROM BIRMINGHAM AND DISTRICT.

Our clubs are taking advantage of the quiet time which prevails during the close season to make the necessary arrangements for their annual contests and other important matters concerning the welfare of their members by the time that the season opens. With this in view, I hear that a number of our clubs are arranging for contests to be held at the end of the close season, and also making the necessary arrangements for their annual contests. The large Rose and Crown Society have concluded their arrangements, with the exception of fixing a place to hold a contest on June 25. Several places have been mentioned, but as the club wish to fish the opening contest in a river, and so as not to injure the mowing grass, they have decided to allow the selection of a place to stand over for a while. Bredon has been mentioned, but I do not think they will be able to bring off their contest here upon the date mentioned. Mr. H. Hodgetts, the host of the clubhouse, is again to the fore with his usual liberality. He is going to give twelve dinner and twelve tea services of different patterns to be competed for. The All Saints' Club have also made arrangements to fish a contest at the opening of the season. Last year Mr. J. Green, the host of the clubhouse, gave a gold watch and chain valued at £15 for the opening contest; this year the same gentleman will give a new chainless bicycle to be competed for. It is to be hoped that this valuable prize will be competed for on better sportsmanlike lines, as last year all sizes of fish were weighed-in, and the action of the members was very strongly commented upon in club circles. I hope a better feeling will exist this season, and a standard weight be fixed. Several of our clubs have a number of prizes left over from last year, which will be competed for as soon as the season opens. The Tenhy Piscatorialists held their annual dinner on Saturday evening last, when a large number of the members sat down to a first-class repast provided by host Cottrell. After the cloth was drawn, the members were entertained by vocal and instrumental selections, which was very well received and much appreciated. The Vine Unity have at last succeeded in acquiring a stretch of the river Trent at Hamstall Redware. By those who have been appointed to visit the water they say that it is very good, and some of the swims are as good as any on the river. None of the members will be allowed to fish during the close season. The All Saints' Club have just acquired the Broadwaters Pools, which are near to Kidderminster. The close season is to be observed, and the rent paid for the privilege of fishing is £28 per annum. Mr. Page, the secretary of the Lamp Society, informs me that they cleared over £11 at their concert in aid of the challenge cup fund. This sum is to be augmented in order to obtain a cup worthy of the society. This club continues to make members very fast, as an inducement is offered by the host and president in the shape of a silver watch and chain for the member introducing the most members by the end of the year. We are having more settled weather, and as a consequence our members are having better sport. Some very nice trout have been taken from the Teme by the Hearts of Oak members. Mr. A. Randall took one on Monday last over 2lb. In another column will be found, no doubt, the reports of two important cases concerning the fishing rights of the river Severn, which I enclose for publication.

FROM DERBYSHIRE.

The fishing streams have been, and are, in as good condition as can reasonably be desired, and sport on most of them has, on the whole, been satisfactory, as well to fly as to bottom fishers and trollers, who have been fairly numerous on most of the rivers. Natural flies are more in evidence, and fish at times are rising tolerably freely in places, but in that respect there is room for improvement. There has been about an average number of fly men on the several lengths of the Wye, some of whom have met with fair success on the Blackwell Mill and Millersdale reaches; and on the Monsaldale waters, both open and private, some excellent creels have been made. Fly anglers have also done well between Newbridge, Ashford-in-the-Water, and Holme, where nice lots of fish have been taken, some of large size. There has been nearly the full number of permitted rods on the Bake-well, Haddon, and Rowsley lengths, and several very fair baskets have been made there during the week, the fish being all of good size. On the romantic mountain stream the Goyt, near Buxton, there has been some pretty sport, and some nice creels have fallen to a few favoured anglers between the Clough Head, Goyts Bridge, and Feruilee. The various lengths of the Dove have had their share of

visitors—fly and bottom fishers, and trollers, many of whom have done fairly well. Some good baskets have been made on the Dovedale waters, and several nice lots of fish have been killed on the higher reaches of Milldale, Beresford, and Hartington. On the adjoining river, Manifold, several anglers have had good sport, and some decent creels have been made in various parts of the charming valley, on days when the water has not been too low, as is often the case in places. Fly and bottom fishing and trolling have been generally good on most parts of the Derwent. On the upper reaches from Derwent Chapel Bridge down to Bamford there have been several good lots of fish taken; and on the Derwent valley lengths, between Sickleholme, Hathersage, Grindleford, and Calver there has been some very satisfactory sport, and good creels as a rule have been made on these reaches. The Chatsworth and Baslow waters have had a fair number of visitors, some of whom have, with artificial flies, fared very well, and have killed a goodly number of nice sized fish. Bottom anglers and trollers have also met with success—where permitted. Between Rowsley and Belper anglers of most kinds have been numerous, and, as a rule, they have had fair sport. Killing flies have, among others, been the Claret, Bumble, Olive, Ash, Whirling Dun, Furnace, and Black Gnat.

FROM THE FEN DISTRICT (LINCOLNSHIRE).

Although there has been almost an entire absence of sun since my last notes were despatched, the weather has been warmer, and the development of insect life has been considerably enhanced. For the time of year, however, there is a far less number of flies on the water than is usual, and fly fishermen can scarcely be said to have commenced operations. Those who have yet prosecuted this method of angling have found trout most active in the evenings. The majority of anglers, however, continue to wield the bottom tackle, and several nice dishes of trout have been accounted for with the use of the worm. The reports from most streams show that an all-round improvement has taken place during the past few days. The occasional rains have done much towards keeping the streams in good condition, and all that is wanted now to ensure successful sport is a spell of warm weather.

FROM HULL AND DISTRICT.

The river Hull and its tributary streams are in very fair condition in the upper waters for either fly or minnow fishing, so likewise are the famous Driffield trout streams, where, on the opening day of the Driffield Anglers' Club, some very good fish were creeled, and in splendid condition, the best take being four and a half brace. The prospects of a good season on these streams is very promising, and on the river it is likely to be much better than last, and a few very good fish have already been met with, and during the past week, although the weather has not been very favourable, a few nice fish have been taken in various parts, and in the neighbourhood of Arran, Mr. W. Downsworth, a member of the Victoria Angling Society, caught one with worm that scaled 1lb. 12oz.; another is reported from Beverley Beck and that weighed close upon 2lb. The Driffield Hearts of Oaks Angling Club will fish their second match of the season on the river on the celebrated Minto Flatts stretch, where recently some very good catches of flounders have been made; in fact, this favourite resort seems to be at present the best fishing ground on the river for this class of angling. The Duke of York Angling Society fished their first match at Grovehill, resulting in the first three prize winners turning up in Messrs. G. Spence, C. North, and G. Stroud. On Saturday last the first of our big local events took place on the river at Dunsell, being the annual opening angling match of the Victoria Angling Society, which was fished in very inclement weather, resulting in rather poor catches of fish, for out of the 160 competitors only about one half of them caught fish, the first four prize winners being Little Bob, with 13oz.; J. Nightingale, 12½oz.; G. Ogram, 12oz.; and J. Forsey, 11½oz., the sixteenth and last prize winner, Mr. M. Wilkinson, only having 6oz. to his credit. The prizes were distributed at the White Horse Hotel, on Monday evening, a smoking concert following. The Kingston A.S. fished their first match on the river at Hull Bridge, and did fairly well, Mr. C. Singleton taking the first prize with 2lb. 2½oz., Mr. G. Hall, the second, 1lb. 11½oz., and Mr. G. Gower, third, with 1lb. 7½oz.

FROM THE LAKE DISTRICT.

The "merrie month o' May" was ushered in on Monday with about as miserable a day as any experienced during the past season. Cold rain fell in torrents, high rivers being the result. Fishing cannot be described as up to the mark for the time of year, although an improvement is reported from some parts of the district. The lakes are affording best sport to those using natural or artificial minnow; the weather is still too cold for fly fishing to meet with much encouragement. Many anglers on Derwent-water have secured fairly good baskets during the past few days, trout being in good condition, and running up to 2½lb. in weight. Among the most successful have been Messrs Lowther, Hill, Crosthwaite, Denwood, Spark, Wilkinson, Coulson, Hodgson, Henderson, and others. A few good fish have also been taken on different lengths of the river Derwent (mostly with worm), notably one secured by a youth named Plaskett; on the Keswick portion Messrs Grave, Waite, Coward, Hogg, and Moffat have been amongst the most successful during the past week. Although a few fish are being obtained on the Kent after the frequent freshes, the season so far must be written as disappointing, and the same remark applies generally to most other rivers in the district.

FROM LANCASHIRE.

The executive council of the Northern Anglers' Association met at Farnworth, last Saturday, and disposed of a lot of business of a routine character. Additional items of interest were the levy of 3d. per member, and the rules

and regulations to govern their All-England Match in June. The first match of the Openshaw, Bradford, and Clayton Angling Society is fixed to take place at Althorpe; and the first contest of the Openshaw Central Angling Society at Torkey. Both are important events. The officials responsible for the management of the Crompton Lodges Fishery at Moses' Gate and Farnworth have recently turned into those waters several thousands of coarse fish—roach, perch, gugeon, bream, and tench. Not content with these efforts, they are preparing for an elaborate attack on a water from which they expect to get tons of fish to store their own reserves. The East End Association, Liverpool, have opened another branch—this time at Everton—which will receive the fostering attention of Mr. Naylor. At their last meeting they had a paper on Wyresdale Fishery by the chairman. The Centrals in this city have arranged a match for May 17, trout only to count. The Nelsons', also of this city, report progress with their match to open the season. Some of the Liverpool Association have been doing good things in the Dee. Messrs. T. White, R. Wilson, Jefferies, Jagger, and Laycock are all in evidence with fairly good baskets of fish from waters visited. River reports show some little improvement, the Ribble being more favourable for sport has induced a larger number of rods to go out, and they have secured better sport. The rise of fish is also better, but at noon principally is the improvement noticed. The Wyre is reported as a good fly water, especially in the higher reaches, where better baskets are reported, and the rise of fish is also better.

FROM MANCHESTER.

On the 2nd the Welcomb Angling Society, Hulme, had an enjoyable evening. After disposing of routine and general business, the members had the pleasure of listening to an able essay on roach fishing, by the hon. sec., Mr. F. W. Garner. Then followed a most exhaustive essay by Mr. George Wyche on "the best style of fishing in the Worsley Canal Fishery." The next meeting of the board of management of the Worsley Canal Fishery is called for the 12th, to dispose of the ordinary agenda and other business if necessary; the meeting is called for 6.30. The last meeting of the old Standard Angling Society was an important one, and dealt with several items of interest. Only one competition will be held during 1899, but that will consist of four meetings, the first at Chester (June 18), the second at Macclesfield (July 16), the third at Staines (Aug. 27), and the fourth to be arranged for. The Brothers Bethell, from Pendleton, have for some days been enjoying good sport in the Severn, at Ardbeen, averaging about 9lb. per rod each day. The latest club to be added to our local list is located at Weashe, with headquarters at the Swan Hotel. The number of members is to be limited to twenty-five. The responsibilities of hon. sec. are entrusted to Mr. W. Burrowl, of 332, Eccles New-road, Weashe. The May meeting of the County Palatine Angling Association is noted for the 11th, at the headquarters of the Merry Anglers.

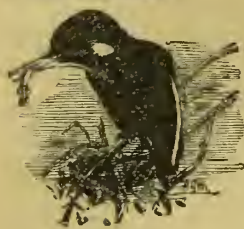
FROM NOTTINGHAM.

Angling news is again extremely scarce. The Trent has receded, but the waters have been too high for successful rod fishing amongst salmon at King's Mills and Shardlow. Reports are still current as to the goodly numbers of large fish showing below the ferry at the former place. Trout fishers have patronised parts of the Dover Beck and Greet, but the capture of few fish is to hand. Sport, however, will improve as more settled weather sets in. On the night of April 27 the Nottingham Wellington Society held its annual meeting at headquarters, under the presidency of Mr. W. Gaskell. Members mustered in considerable forces, and business of exceptional interest was transacted. Mr. Harry Spray, the enterprising hon. secretary, submitted the customary financial statements, which showed a balance in hand of about £60. The society's gold medals for the year were won, that for barbel, by Mr. F. W. K. Wallis; that for chub, by Mr. S. Wallis; and that for perch, by Mr. H. Spray. The perch, in fact, carried off the president's medal for the best specimen fish of the season weighed-in. A long discussion ensued as to stocking the society's waters at Shardlow with trout. Various species were suggested, and scientific opinion on the suitability of the stretch (there can be no doubt about this) were invited. The waters teem with gravels, and there is no reason why an experiment should not be tried with, say, a batch of two-year-olds of the old Thames stock. But are there any hatcheries on the banks of the Thames in which Thames trout are bred and reared? The meeting had not thrashed out the subject—a wide and varied one—when the closing hour had arrived. Possibly experts will discuss the matter through your correspondence columns; at any rate, trout bred in the Trent have occasionally been caught at Shardlow and on other sections of the river.

FROM SHEFFIELD.

The weather during the past week has not been all that could be desired, and until it settles down to a warm spell anglers will not go out in any large number. Locally some fairly satisfactory sport has been forthcoming in the Loxley, which appears to have ousted the Sheaf from the position of first favourite. The fish have been of a moderate size, ranging from 6oz. up to nearly 1lb. Trout fishing commenced generally in the Damflash Reservoir on Monday, although a few tickets had been issued during the previous month. The weather was, however, too cold and unsettled on Monday for sport to be good; but anglers are looking forward with pleasurable anxiety to catching some of the big trout that are known to be there. The season also opened on Monday in the waters at Agden, and a few anglers accounted for a small number of roach, but none of them ran to any size. Subscribers to the Hollow Meadows Reservoirs

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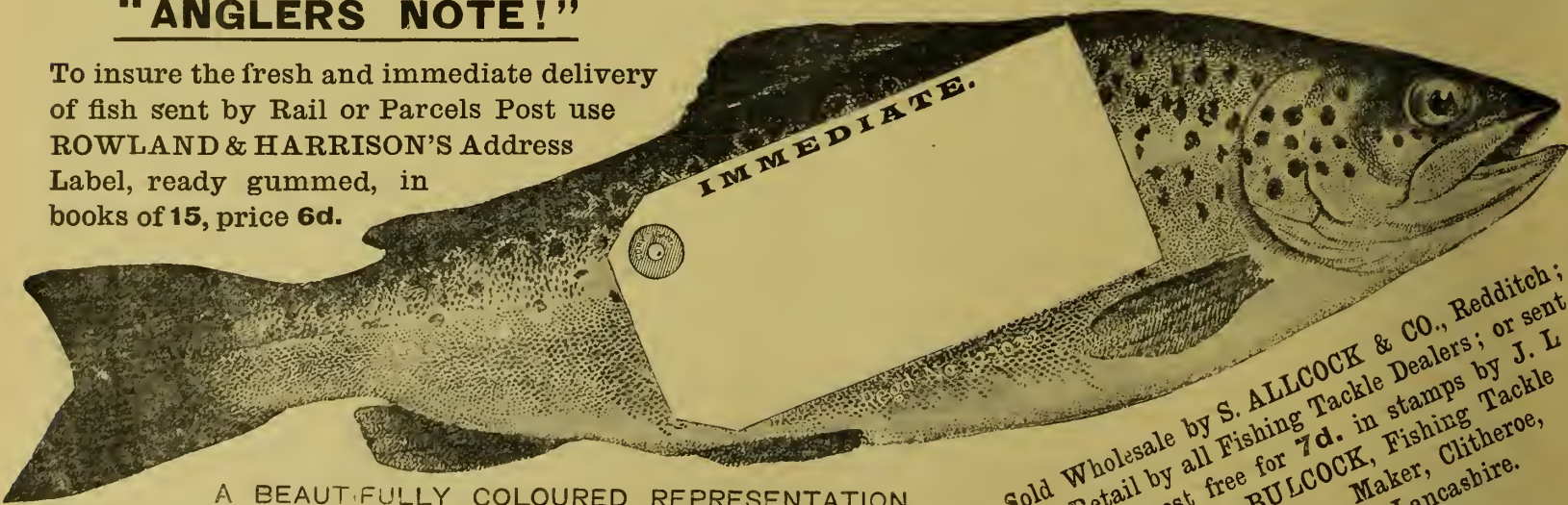
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And at CHELTENHAM.

were also able to cast their flies for the first time on Monday, but here, too, everything was against a favourable opening to the season. Recent operations in the Amherst have been, generally speaking, of a pleasing character, and the river has now nearly almost recovered from the effects of the floods. Bottom anglers have accounted for a few nice fish on the Mill Pool, near Wingfield, whilst fishermen who hail from the immediate neighbourhood have caught a few good-sized trout, dock grubs having been the successful bait. In the Sheaf the open waters have yielded little recreation, but some of the private stretches of water have furnished capital sport, a number of fine conditioned heavy trout having been grassed. Visitors to the various places on the Derwent have, now and again, found a little fishing, but sport will not get into first-class order until the weather gets a little warmer. At Cromford and Matlock Bridge bottom fishing has been resorted to, and with worms a goodly number of nice fish have been killed.

FROM WORCESTER AND DISTRICT.

The weather all the week has been fairly good for angling, some days beautifully fine and warm, and a lot more flies have been seen on the water. The rivers Teme and Severn are in capital order, and sport has been better all round. Some nice trout were taken in the Teme at several fishing resorts with the worm and the fly, and on Tuesday the Blue Dun, Iron Blue, Stone Fly, and Brown Palmer all killed, and one angler did well with the Red Spinner alone. Several large chub were also taken with the fly and a brace of fine grayling, but they were returned to the water. The taking of several salmon trout in the Severn last week indeed some of our anglers to try for more, and under the weirs and other parts of the river they could be seen industrially plying the minnow, fly, and worm, but I have not heard of another being taken. As we have no water bailiff in the Worcester district, there are a multitude of men fishing for coarse fish, and taking a great quantity of roach, which are now on the spawning beds, and in a condition quite unfit for human food. Two club members have been reported for the like offence, and their case will be investigated by the district committee. If proved they forfeit all privileges and membership of their respective clubs. The several club waters have been sparingly fished during the week, and have satisfied their members, who have every reason to expect capital sport in the future. Salmon fishing shows but little improvement; the take of fish during the week was very small indeed, and there is little chance of improvement unless there should be another rise in the river.

FROM YORK AND DISTRICT.

For a fortnight or more anglers have enjoyed lively sport in the Codbeck, in Thirsk district, good panniers having been taken away. The constant freshes have beautifully tinged the water. Thanks to the Thirsk and Sowerby Angling Society, the Codbeck contains an excellent supply of trout, stocks of fresh young troutlets having been placed in the stream regularly for some years past. Among the most recent, and the heaviest catches have been those of Wm. Burton, in the deeps in the vicinity of North Kilvington, five and a half brace of grand young fish being taken with paste in one trip; and Mr Geo. Hodgson, two and a half brace, caught in the same neighbourhood. Mr. Geo. Dodsworth, of Sowerby, appears to have obtained the premier baskets so far this season. On one occasion he took four brace of fine fish, averaging 1lb. each, with the worm; and on another occasion, a grand one, scaling 2½lb., with a small gudgeon. Mr. Geo. Hudson, of Thirsk, banked a big fish with the spin minnow in the Flats. Mr. Joe Bulwer, of the King's Head Hotel, Thirsk, whose back premises overlook the waters of the dam, caught a grand Codbeck trout, weighing close upon 1½lb., with the worm, and also two medium sized specimens of the "brook" species, with the same bait, while fishing on the landing-stage which overlooks the water. Mr. J. W. Wright, of Thirsk, has experienced fair sport in the water north of the town, having taken two very fine fish at one outing. Mr. Robt. Bolton, Greyhound Hotel, Thirsk, has had average sport. Good reports have been received from the Wharfe, Yore, Swale, Nidd, Derwent, and Esk, which are in good trim for fly fishing. One of the most reliable casts for May on these rivers consists of the Orange Partridge (tail fly), Toulst Bloa, Knotted Midge, and Lime Watchet (droppers).

NEW PISCATORIAL PATENTS.

THE following particulars are compiled by Messrs. Hughes and Yonng, Patent Agents, 55 and 56, Chancery-lane, London, W.C.

- 26,478. Trawling. Patentees: T. F. Adamson, of Exchange-buildings, Tyne Dock, and E. Clarke, of Wadham-terrace, South Shields, both in Durham. The usual otter-board is replaced by a frame in which an iron-shod pulley is mounted. This frame, which may be either one or two sided, is fitted with shackles for the attachment of the net ropes. One or more smaller wheels may be fitted to assist in keeping the arrangement upright.
- 27,169. Fishing. Patentees: Messrs. J. E. Martin, Exchange-square, Glasgow, and H. L. Bellasis, Aboyne, Aberdeenshire, N.B., relate to fly-hooks and tackle cases. A frame with a strip of cork at the top, and a strip of rubber across the back, is placed inside a case with hinged lid. The hooks are stuck into the cork, while each piece of gut is carried around the bottom of the frame, and secured in a slit cut in the rubber.

ANSWERS TO CORRESPONDENTS.

JOHN R. DEWEY.—There is one mile of free fishing, says the "Anglers' Diary," on the Otter, at Rudleigh, and several miles of fishing can be had by staying at the Rolle Hotel, which has one transferable ticket. Write J. H. Mortimer, proprietor.

W. SMITH (North Walsham).—The Miller's Thumb is only another name for the Bullhead.

T. A.—Ruislip Reservoir is now preserved by a club with a limited number of members (annual subscribers only).

Correspondence

[We do not hold ourselves responsible for the opinions expressed by our Correspondents.]

FISHING AT COLWYN BAY.

DEAR SIR,—Your correspondent ("Newbold") must not expect anything very good in this part, but he will find some fair stream and lake fishing. Waders are useful for the rivers Elwy, Conway, &c., and the various blues, browns, &c., are useful flies.—Yours truly,

J. H. ASTLEY.

LARGE PIKE AND PERCH FISHING IN IRELAND WANTED.

DEAR SIR,—I shall feel greatly obliged if you or any of the readers of your admirable paper can inform me as to the best month for summer or autumn mixed fishing in Ireland, also as to where the best sport may be found, preferably large pike or perch, if fishing for such is of any use during the summer months. At the same time if anyone can tell me where good, comfortable, and cheap accommodation can be found, I shall be much obliged.

One hears great accounts of the large pike taken in Lough Derg, but, perhaps, out of the numbers of your readers, some can be found who know of waters giving better results.

An idea of the probable cost of a fortnight's fishing holiday in the place recommended would prove very useful. Wishing you and your paper every success.—Yours truly,

PIKE.

TROUT FISHING IN IRELAND AND NORWAY.

DEAR SIR,—Will you or any of your readers kindly inform me where I can get some fair trout fishing in Ireland (not Donegal) in August, also fair quarters and estimate of weekly cost? I should also like some information about trout fishing in Norway in August (not Eide or Vik).—Yours truly,

PEDAGOGUE.

THINGS BELATED AND OTHERWISE.

DEAR SIR,—In a few short weeks, many readers of the *Fishing Gazette*, both in this and the neighbouring island, will be foregathering amicably on the shores of some of the lakes of the latter country, intent on the "dap." I hope to be there myself this year, and if I do not think it will be done by other and more capable hands, shall be happy, with your permission, to supply a short account of how the lake fishes. What lake it may be, I do not yet know. Last year Mr. Pine placed us all under a great obligation by favouring us with a most interesting account of his splendid sport on Lough Derg, and it is to be hoped his example will be followed this season by some of those who try their luck on Irish waters. In Shakespeare we are made to laugh at the boy who, having found a bird's nest, showed it to a comrade, with the usual consequences; but it seems to me that there is seldom any good reason for one who finds a good thing in Ireland in the way of dapping to keep it to himself. Dapping never did or will spoil the fishing of any water in Ireland, and it is surely the fear of such a result which alone justifies an angler in keeping a good thing in fishing, which he has chanced upon, dark. The extent of dapping water is so large that all the potential dappers of the kingdom have boat room on it, and to spare, and interfere as little with each other's sport as if each one were on a river to one's self. Still less is the head of fish likely to be reduced by dapping. To begin with, dapping only lasts a brief three weeks or so at the best, and within dates practically the same all over the country; and this, coupled with the important fact that adverse weather is absolutely fatal to sport, gives the fish great law. And it always keeps many would-be dappers from crossing the channel. Neither will the Brahmins of the dry-fly cult be seen there, no matter how heavy our baskets may be. Then, when the dapping is over, solitude falls upon our lakes once more, for it is only by dapping that we can do much with the trout on most of our larger lakes. To sum up, then, dapping is cramped with such limitations that, on the whole it is far from being destructive, and on many waters it is the only way one can get a trout at all. Therefore, I would plead for the dapping enthusiasts, and say, let the dapping resources of our Irish waters be made known to all men, and if it be their pleasure, why, let 'em all come! There is room and fish to spare for all. Arrow is a good dapping lake. Erne was good in my time, fifteen years ago, but I have seen nothing in the *Fishing Gazette* about them for a long time. Mr. Thomas keeps us posted in what the Westmeath lakes are doing and no one need be ignorant of what Derg is like after Mr. Pine's report of last season, but there is still room for further information on the subject from other parts of the island.

From the dap to the May Fly is a very short step. The vulgar derivation of his alternative name always seemed to me very far-fetched, for he is neither green exactly, nor does he cock or, rather, furl his whiskers in

the least like a drake, though it does seem playing it hard on the poor insect to invert the usual order of things in his case, and actually name him after the dressing used in imitating him. In my boyhood in Ireland I sometimes heard the Grey Drake or perfect insect called a May, but with that exception I have never heard any name other than Drake or May Fly applied to this insect, though doubtless there are other local names used for it in some places. By the way, the dapper invariably rejects the Mag in favour of the Green Drake, the earlier sub-imago stage of the winged fly. In some parts of Great Britain other flies which kill well and appear about that month are called May Flies, but it is singular to find this done even in Ireland, where the genuine insect so abounds, and still more when we find it done on the very shores of Lough Derg itself. I was astonished one or two seasons ago to find the anglers at Killaloe calling a certain flat-winged evening fly, which abounds there and on other parts of the Shannon, the May Fly. In other places it is known as the Wall Fly, and is deadly for dapping. In shape it is a Stone Fly in miniature, but just the colour of the moth that flits about the candle flame. The colour is uniform, but on Lough Ree, higher up the Shannon, we have an insect more resembling him at first glance, but the wing is more showy, the thorax brown, and the abdomen deep green. If known to the fly tier, I must say that I don't know the names of either of these flies, scientific or angling, for surely no one ever ordered a dozen "wall flies"; but I should not be surprised if the presence of these latter explain those myriads of caddis in the lough which I, in my simplicity, took for the embryo Drake. By the way, I was greatly relieved to find that I had not to accept these caddis for Stone Fly, for they were literally crawling over the stony bottom in myriads, whereas our season's crop of Stone Fly can only be counted by hundreds or so. We call the Stone Fly a mullah (no relation of the Mad Mullah), and he is good for the dap, especially late in the evening and towards the close of the Drake season. But they are very hard to be got in any quantity.

I have recently been reading much about the larval existence of the May Fly, which was new and interesting to me. The larva, it appears, is a great bark burrower, but likes to be near the surface. This is obviously a river observation. In our Irish lakes, with shallow gravelly edges, it is not easy to see how the little creature can quite do this, but no doubt he does the best he can under the circumstances. He is certainly seen to rise alike from the deepest and shallowest parts of the lake. The winged insects couple in the perfect or imago state, but I have frequently seen the male imago pursue and apparently couple with the newly-risen imperfect insect that came fluttering across the track of the "dancers," who are always perfect insects. But the effort may have been futile.

Thanks to the many learned contributors to the pages of the *Fishing Gazette*, we are all happy in the knowledge that, according to Ælian the Macedonians fished for trout in the second century with a Soldier Palmer. But please don't fail to remark that it was a dry fly. It was "floated gently down the stream." It is sincerely to be hoped that this will save blood and temper when a certain club in London take up the question of ascertaining who the inventor of the dry fly really was, preparatory to erecting him in gold on the Embankment. As well hope to erect a statue of the genuine architect of Stonehenge.

I wish someone would kindly tell me what a "Highland river" is. What are its characteristic features? Not every river found in the Highlands is a Highland river. So, at least, I am given to understand.

There are "dampers" for the casting line (collar) going, which some of us no doubt have seen or used. I don't much care for them, but then I invariably mount my cast before starting so long as I know the water I am for; and dampers necessarily keep the gut in such small coils that now and then the flies get tangled in each other or in the gut when I am undoing the collar. But my fingers are all thumbs. And the smaller the coils the more tedious the operation of getting the cast to work perfectly straight, though if it be really wet it comes straight very soon. However, I prefer to coil it round my cap or hat to any other plan. But, then, be sure to wrap a thin slip of tweed or flannel round the cap over the cast, taking care that everything is quite covered so that no light gets at the gut. The coils are then so large that the cast is quite straight when removed. Then let it play submerged in the shallow margin for two or three minutes, and there you are. I once knew a purist who always wrung out his cap band in a bucket of water before putting it on, till I suggested to him that to do the thing really effectively he should also wring out his cap as well, as only in this way could he make sure of the under surface of the gut being moist.

No fish eat salmon or trout ova. At least, this is my method of expressing scepticism or suggesting examination of a subject. By "eating ova" we mean destroying the hopeful promise of the harvest, and if the ova eaten is not and cannot be such hopeful promise, then I maintain there is no eating of ova properly so called, and so understood by the man in the street. Now I beg to assert that such ova is already wasted and lost to us for ever, so that the eating of it by fish does not matter a pin's point. No fish root up and devour the ova planted and covered by the spawner, but only that washed away, and that must perish in any case. Neither do spawn eaters so disturb or embarrass spawners as to ever cause any miscarriage of spawning operations in any way whatsoever. If all this is true the ova eater is a perfectly harmless creature, though much maligned by many, like other innocents.—Yours truly,

MONA.

P.S.—I have recently seen a word or two about the prospects of the coming dapping season about Boyle in the *F. G.*, and am grateful for it.

COOPER'S FANCY.

DEAR SIR,—Mr. A. Roland Upcher can obtain Cooper's Fancy from Mr. F. W. Dale, fly dresser, 85, Stafford-street, Hanley, Staff.—Yours truly, R. WOOLLEY.
Tubbury, Staff.

DEAR SIR,—Enclosed I have pleasure in sending you a sample of the fly you inquire about in to-days *Fishing Gazette* (Cooper's Fancy). I have used the fly at various periods, and have found it do best during the latter half of the fishing season. I shall be pleased to supply them at 1s. 6d. per dozen if you are ordering.—Yours faithfully, F. W. DALE.

The Anglers' Depot, 85, Stafford street, Hanley,
[Mr. Dale makes lovely dry flies. This pattern looks killing.—Ed.]

DEAR SIR,—In reply to your correspondent, A. Roland Upcher, as to where the above fly may be obtained, if he will write Mr. H. Cooper, Matlock, Bath, he will get them, either dressed on gut or eyed hooks. It is a certain killer throughout the season both on the Derbyshire, Yorkshire, and Westmorland streams.—Yours faithfully, DOTTEREL.

TROUT FISHING.

DEAR SIR,—I am anxious to hear of some fishing quarters where I could go for a week or two in June with my wife, who is rather an invalid, and cannot walk very far.

We should be glad to find a quiet, comfortable inn (we don't care how humble if clean), where fairly good sport and fine scenery are combined, and where the water is close at hand. Lake fishing preferred, but if a stream also, within short distance, so much the better. Fish not to average less than three or four to the pound.

Perhaps some good brother of the rod can kindly direct me to such a spot; if so, I shall feel very grateful. Some years back I stayed at Taly-lyn, near Dolgelly. Can some fisherman who knows this lake tell me if the fishing is now as good as it used to be, and if so, would June be a good time there, or would it be full late?—Yours faithfully, J. T.

SILK FISHING LINES.

DEAR SIR,—Under this heading "Spring Trout" explains that through the increase in price of raw silk, it is possible the quality and present prices of silk fishing lines will not be maintained.

We beg to inform anglers generally that we have a stock in hand which will enable us to meet any demands that may occur, and supply the same quality and at the same prices as heretofore.—Yours faithfully, F. H. C.
(Pro. A. Carter & Co.)

THE CONTINUED POLLUTION OF THE RIVER AXE.

DEAR SIR,—Will you kindly insert the enclosed paragraph re pollution in the *Fishing Gazette*, as it may encourage others? We have stirred and stirred up the farmers, anglers, &c., until the County Council have taken the matter up:

"After a protracted delay the Sanitary Committee of the Somerset County Council are bringing pressure to bear on the polluters of the Axe. Now is the time for the angling fraternity to strengthen the hands of the County Council by all legitimate means in their power. It has been observed that quantities of polluted matter are being continually and wilfully discharged into the Axe at night. This wily move, however, may be easily checked by taking samples of the water at night, in the presence of witnesses, sealing the contents of the vessels, and forwarding them to the Clerk of the Council at Frome. We are told by the Bard of Avon that "There is a tide in the affairs of men which, taken at the flood, leads on to fortune." Will the long-suffering dwellers in the basin of the Axe realise the fact that this is the time of their visitation, and will they unite to strike a blow at the common foe? Some splendid work has been done by the Weston-super-Mare Angling Association in the shape of re-stocking the ponds, but it must not be forgotten that these will only supply a limited amount of sport, and that the real goal of the angler is the Axe! Westonsians, too, should bear in mind that they are interested in this matter. Until quite recently the followers of the gentle art have had few inducements offered to them to visit the Brighton of the West, but with a good trout stream at Bleadon the case would be altered. A larger influx of piscatorial visitors might reasonably be expected, and the town would generally benefit thereby. It therefore becomes an imperative duty on the part of all interested in the welfare of Weston-super-Mare to prevent as far as possible the pollution of the Axe."

I notice in that admirable article "On and Off" that the writer says he never knew a Sheffield angler catch a roach with a worm in the Witham or adjacent drains. Nor have I, but the Sheffield men do not know everything about the Lincolnshire waters, and many cannot use paste at all, as they cast their maggots over head, as if fly fishing, and say paste whips off. Also they leave off fishing before the local (Lincoln men) commence. These wait about a fortnight after their "trips," and until the enormous quantity of ground bait has disappeared, and then commence; and the fish are fat. With other local men, in October and November, when the Witham was in flood, I have caught roach two at a time, with worms in the side streams, particularly in Sincil dyke and Barling's river. Also I have fished against many men who were using creed wheat, and I have done just as well, and many times better, with good white or yellow paste. I lived in Lincolnshire seventeen years, and so am in a position to see for myself.—Yours truly, J. J. MUGRAVE.
Weston-super-Mare A.A.

SALE OF PRESERVED BAIT (FRESHWATER FISH) FORBIDDEN BY THE FRESHWATER FISHERIES ACT (ENGLAND AND WALES) DURING THE FENCE MONTHS.

MESSRS. WM. BARTLETT AND SONS, of Abbey Mills, Redditch, have sent us some correspondence on the subject of sale of preserved freshwater fish as bait.

Of course the clerk of the Fishmongers' Company is perfectly correct in saying that the sale of freshwater fish, whether alive or dead, whether as bait or for scientific purposes, is illegal under clause 4 of section 11 of the Freshwater Fisheries Acts of 1878 and 1884. Anyone convicted of selling is liable to a fine not exceeding 40s. So that we advise all who do not want to be fined to sell preserved sprats or smelts during the close months. We do not see why the law should not be altered so as to admit of the sale of preserved freshwater fish as bait, except that it is a small matter and *de minimis non curat lex*. It is hardly likely anybody would kipper a ton or two of chub or bream in order to sell it as food under pretext that it was "bait."

Here is a copy of the correspondence:

Messrs. Wm. Bartlett and Sons,
11-12, Goldsmith-street,
Wood-street, E.C. March 30, 1899.

DEAR SIR,—In reply to your inquiry of yesterday, by the Freshwater Fisheries' Act, 1878, any person is at liberty to take freshwater fish for use as bait; but, on the other hand, if you will refer to clause 11, sub-section 4, you will see that if any person during the close season buys, sells, or exposes for sale, or has in his possession for sale, any freshwater fish, he is liable to a heavy fine. It is clear, therefore, that the exemption only relates to an angler, but traffic of any description whatever in freshwater fish during the close season is absolutely prohibited.—Yours faithfully, J. WRENCH TOWSE, C.B.

Copy of letter sent to the secretary of the Fishmongers' Company, Fishmongers' Hall, London, E.C., April 17, 1899.

DEAR SIR,—Our London house have forwarded us your letter to them of the 30th ult. We note what you say re the Freshwater Fisheries' Act of 1878. We would, however, venture to point out to you that we cannot think the Act meant to apply to freshwater fish preserved in solution, and simply sold as baits for fishing purposes.

It seems absurd, and when the Act was framed this evidently was not contemplated in any way. With regard to the exposure of freshwater fish for sale, we would point out that gold fish are openly sold every day of the week in London without this being called in question. Surely if this is allowed, freshwater fish preserved for the purpose as noted above in our letter should be allowed to be sold. We shall be much obliged if you will reconsider this matter, and let us have your opinion at once, as it is inconvenient to many of our customers not to be able to obtain supplies of bait.—Yours faithfully,

(Signed) WM. BARTLETT AND SONS.

Messrs. Wm. Bartlett and Sons, April 19, 1899.
Abbey Mills, Redditch.

DEAR SIR,—I have received your letter of the 17th inst. I must refer you to my letter of the 30th ult., to your London house, and regret I can give no other reply.—Yours faithfully, J. WRENCH TOWSE.

ULLSWATER AND THE EAMONT.

SIR,—A correspondent asks in last week's *Fishing Gazette* for information as to the fishing in Ullswater and the river Eamont. As to the lake, there are several private fisheries, and inquiry should be made on the spot as to local rights, &c. Notwithstanding the unfavourable weather so far this season, some good takes of trout have been obtained. The fish run from about three to the lb. up to 1lb., 2lb., or 3lb. in weight, and occasionally even heavier trout are taken. The most popular flies are the March Brown, Steel's Fancy, Dark Snipe, and Broughton Point, with the Brackenlock, Grey and Green Drakes, and the Butcher, in season and according to the nature of the weather. The river Eamont flows from the lake, and may be fished from Pooley Bridge. Some of the best water is in the hands of the Yorkshire Angling Association, who keep their own watcher. Almost any of the regulation flies are suitable on this river, perhaps the best of all being the smaller sizes of the Carlisle Bulldog, the Silver and Blue Doctors, Silver Grey, and Jock Scott. Whittitude should prove a favourable time for sport on both river and lake. Cost of licence, trout, 2s. 6d.—Yours, &c., LAKELANDER.

DEE-CARROG.

DEAR SIR,—The river has been in good volume for some time, and has afforded more than usual sport to anglers.

One day recently two Liverpool clerical friends, staying for a short outing at the Grouse Hotel, had an exceptionally good time of it. They found the fish well on the feed, and in a few hours succeeded in landing sixteen trout and six grayling, the total weight being 9½lbs. I have heard that several others were also very successful during the week. In the course of my twenty-five or twenty-six years' unbroken weekly reading of the always interesting *Fishing Gazette*, I have frequently seen such enquiries as "Where can I get fairly good trout fishing at a moderate charge." To those who may now be contemplating an angling trip, and are undecided where to go, I would strongly advise a visit to the Welsh Dee. Unfortunately, this fine river for several years has never been reported in the *Gazette*, and its advantages, I fear, except to locals, are comparatively unknown. Like all other waters, the fishing is, of course, uncertain, but if catching fish is not all-important, and health is a desideratum, I know of no place where the angler will be so likely to enjoy a reasonable amount of both.

The valley of the Dee is noted for its invigorating air and splendid scenery. For many miles above Llangollen its basin does not exceed half a mile in width. Everywhere nature is now rapidly asserting itself, as seen in the daily increasing freshness of hedgerow and coppice, and a month hence the beautifully wooded slopes of the river will be clothed in rich foliage of the most delicate and lovely shades of green intermixed here and there with the pinky white blossom of the wild cherry, whilst on its banks the unfolding fronds of ferns and primroses galore emit an agreeable fragrance, and the air is filled with the melody of blackbird, thrush, and other songsters that here abound and find a perfect sanctuary. The River Dee Fishery extends from Carrog past the town of Corwen to the village of Cynwyd, a distance of six miles, and with the exception of about half a mile on one side, is fishable from both banks. Tickets are issued at 1s. 6d. daily, 6s. per week, 21s. the season. Good hotel accommodation can be obtained at Cynwyd, Corwen, and Carrog. At the Grouse in the latter village, through which the river flows, I have stayed very often during many years both for trout and salmon fishing, and can confidently recommend anyone giving the fishery a trial to visit this well-known anglers' inn, which, under its present proprietors, Mr. and Mrs. Wilcox, will be found to maintain its old reputation for comfort and good cheer.—Yours, &c.,
AN OLD DEE ANGLER.

LOUGH DERG, KILLALOE.

DEAR SIR,—Kindly allow me to answer, through the medium of the *Fishing Gazette*, several letters which I have received from English anglers, readers of your paper, asking information regarding the trout fishing on Lough Derg during the Green Drake season; also when the fly puts in an appearance, &c.

In years past the lake fishing used to open about May 20, and continue to June 15. For the last few seasons, however, the Green Drake has come "up" earlier. Last May (1898) the pretty Ephemeræ were about in large numbers on the 9th, and in two days after (the 11th) one boat, two rods, killed in a few hours 22lb. of fine brown and gillaroo trout. If the weather should be genial I should say that the approaching season will open about May 12. Grilse fishing begins last week in May.

If any readers of the *Fishing Gazette* contemplate coming over here this month or next after the lake trout I could give them salmon, grilse, and trout fishing on a river beat about a mile in extent. Nothing to surpass it for trout and grilse on the Shannon; exclusive right.

I shall, of course, as usual, be happy to afford to any of your subscribers who may write to me full information as to quarters, fishermen, tackle, route from England, &c.—Yours faithfully, S. J. HURLEY.

Abbey View, Killaloe, co. Clare,
Ireland.

THE NORTH-EAST COAST.

SIR,—I see in the *Fishing Gazette* that one of your correspondents wants to see some report from the north-east coast.

Well, the state of affairs is most deplorable, so much so that it is almost unbelievable. If there is not an absolute dearth of fish, there is something not very unlike it. At Eyemouth, where there is a most industrious, and, until recent times, a very prosperous class of fishermen, there has been a public meeting concerning the poverty of the small fishing town, owing to the havoc made by the steam trawlers.

At Birmmouthe, Berwick, Spittal, and other places it is all the same.

In fact, from Flamborough Head to John o'Groats it is poverty, misery, and consequent degradation, all owing to the steam trawlers. At Aberdeen there is now a strong force of Shields, Hull, Grimsby, and Sunderland trawlers. Why are they there? Trawlers do not travel further than is necessary for supplies. The fact is, the North Sea is used up, or why do these mischievous craft betake themselves to Iceland at great cost and risk? Large quantities of fish are landed at Aberdeen, true enough; but where is it caught?

Large quantities used to be landed at Shields, Sunderland, and Hartlepool, but where do you see those landings now? The Parliamentary Inquiry 1878, and the Royal Commission of 1881, were abundantly warned of what was taking place, and as to what would result from the wholesale destruction of the steam trawlers, but no efficient remedy was given; and it seems to us that nothing but an absolute dearth of fish will bring the nation to their senses. With a greatly improved set of appliances both by trawlers and linesmen, fish grows scarcer and scarcer. You can have no cheap supplies of fish under such an inherently rotten system of going on.

No wonder trawlers have to go further and further afield, and even then come in light, because the method is contrary to all good judgment, and is simply preposterous.

First we are told man cannot deplete the sea, then that there is too much general fishing, that a vast amount of damage is done by catching small fry.

Now, if this absurd and quite contrary to fact statement had any bottom, what would it matter when, where, or how the fish were caught?

When trawlers and linesmen are agreed as to this depletion, and their creditors have "to whistle for their money," what is the use of any individual—no matter how eminently placed—trying to set "Humpty Dumpty up again?"

The thing cannot be done. We of the coast are not to be caught with chaff. Some newspaper editors of inland town may be so deluded, but not us; "the proof of the pudding" is too patent for there to be any room for any doubt of this most unfortunate and most-to-be-deplored condition of our fishing population.—I remain, yours truly, JOSEPH HILLS,
Berwick-on-Tweed.

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NOTICE.

THE FISHING GAZETTE is published every Saturday, and can be obtained at Messrs. W. H. Smith and Son's Railway Bookstalls and of the principal Newsagents and Fishing Tackle Dealers in London and the Provinces.

Communications relating to the Literary Department, Fishing Tackle for Notice, Books for Review, &c., should be addressed to R. B. MARSTON, Editor of the FISHING GAZETTE, St. Dunstan's House, Fetter-lane, London.

Correspondents are requested to write on one side of the paper only, and give their real names and addresses, not necessarily as signatures to their letters, but as a guarantee of good faith. Unless this rule be adhered to no notice will be taken of such communications.

Terms of Subscription.

The GAZETTE can be had by sending Postal Order or Stamps to Messrs. Sampson Low, Marston and Co., Limited, the Proprietors, St. Dunstan's House, Fetter-lane, London, to whom all money payments should be made.

For One Year, post free to any part of Great Britain and Ireland	10s. 6d.
Months ditto	5s. 4d.
Six Months ditto	2s. 8d.
To America and the Continent, annual subscription, including postage	12s. 6d.

Scale of Charges for Advertisements.

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TELEPHONE, No. 83 Holborn.

The Fishing Gazette

WITH WHICH IS INCORPORATED

ANGLING AND CLUB GOSSIP.

SATURDAY, MAY 13TH, 1899.

THE "EXACT SHADE OF COLOUR THEORY" IN ARTIFICIAL FLY FISHING.

ONE of the greatest charms of angling is that it offers such an infinite variety of subjects on which anglers can agree, and do agree to differ. We find this fact exemplified through all the literature of angling, and from the earliest mention of anything in the shape of an artificial fly down to the latest and most scientific treatise on the subject, the colour question has ever been to the front. The majority of anglers, like Charles Cotton, prefer to have a long list of artificial flies, most carefully dressed, to represent not only the size and shape, but also the colour of the natural flies, and not only the colour, but the exact shade of colour. Cotton, in speaking of the contents of his dubbing bag, says: "But let me tell you there are some colours that are very hard to be got," and that there are scarce any that he could afford to lose, or would not miss some time in the year if he did lose. A hundred years after "The Compleat Angler" was published, one editor of it puts a footnote to the effect that experience has proved that three or four sorts of flies will serve throughout every season of the year. "Some hold (like Sir Edward Grey in 1899) a trout is not very

curious about his flies, nor the seasons of them," and he tells of an experienced artist who "angled very successfully with May Fly in August."

Taking down almost haphazard from the shelf another book on fly fishing, we find that accomplished angler, Edward Chitty, Barrister, writing about sixty years ago, thinks three or four different patterns of flies are enough for the salmon angler (like Sir Herbert Maxwell in 1899), and yet says that "with trout you must be exact (more or less) as to colour."

And one might go on quoting page after page from different writers on this colour question, but my object in referring to it is to call attention to the admirable essay on the subject by Mr. B. W. Smurthwaite, included by Mr. Halford in the new and cheaper edition of his "Dry Fly Fishing." The case for the believer in "exact shade and colour" theory has never been so strenuously and uncompromisingly set forth before, and a perusal of Mr. Smurthwaite's essay will confirm in their opinions that large majority of anglers who hold that the more closely your artificial fly imitates the fly the trout or grayling are taking the better is your chance of success. This exact imitation theory applies, of course, only to those occasions when the fish are taking only one kind of natural fly, selecting that and letting all flies and other insects pass unheeded. If they are feeding promiscuously, taking everything that comes over them, as is very often the case—usually the case in my experience—then the question whether you should use a Red or a Blue or an Olive or a Grey Quill Gnat is not half so important as how you use it. If the trout or grayling are feeding steadily, and you cannot be sure what they are taking, when you do get one follow Cotton's advice, bend a stalk of grass, push it down the throat a little way, turn it half round, and draw it out, and some of the recently swallowed flies, which are still in the throat of the fish, will generally be brought to light, and you get proof positive about the fly which is being taken; whereas, if you cut the fish open and examine the contents of its stomach you can only get a general idea of what the fish has been taking probably hours before it began rising at the particular fly you wish to identify. As Mr. Halford says:

"The contents of the stomach of a fish almost invariably comprise many different species of the same genus, or many varieties of the same species. Insects belonging to different families, or even different orders, are often side by side. The larvæ and nymphæ closely packed together in the gullet and stomach are, when separated and examined, found to differ in colour from the palest primrose to the deepest olive, and from a light buff to a deep chocolate brown."

For this reason, and without wishing to be dogmatic, I confess I cannot see much good for the fly fisher in the certainly unpleasant work of making autopsies of fish—for practical fly fishing purposes it is as vain a superstition as was the practice of consulting the smoking entrails of the sacrifice in vogue among the ancient Greeks and Romans.

But does not Mr. Smurthwaite push the exact imitation theory a little too far in practice when he attributes fish "rising short" to the fact that the angler is using an imitation which is so nearly like the natural in colour that he cannot tell the difference, except with a magnifying glass? So that if the magnifying glass shows that out of the various shades of olives in your book you have selected one which is so near the colour of the natural that only the glass shows the difference, yet because of that difference the fish "comes short." But the colour of the natural flies in the same hatch varies slightly in shade. While fully believing that you should study the general colour and shade of the fly the fish are taking, if they are showing any special preference, I cannot believe that trout on a gloomy day will come short at a fly because it is the "invisible to the naked eye" part of a shade too light or too dark. But I quite agree with the statement that the Little Marryat perhaps will kill when the Ginger Quill or Flight's Fancy will not, and *vice versa*. You can pick any of the three flies named out of your book on a dark day without hesitation.

Mr. Smurthwaite asks some enterprising member of the Fly Fishers' Club to name, say, twenty different shades of flies by reference to the colour of natural objects; but does he mean twenty different shades of one colour? He wants a standard of shades of colour by which one can

order flies, I presume. But even for salmon flies we have not got this yet, although Mr. Kelson has advocated it for many years past. I have often thought that the colours and shades of colour, given by Messrs. Aspinall with their lists, and to be seen in most oil and colour shops, would be very useful as a standard for salmon anglers, and possibly trout also.

Cotton gives as a deadly March fly the Hawthorn Fly, dressed with an "absolute black" dubbing, mixed with eight or ten hairs of "Isabella" coloured mohair, and wings of a bright mallard feather. Isabella colour was so called after the Infanta Isabella, daughter of Philip the Second of Spain, and wife of the Archduke Albert. It seems her husband was besieging Ostend in 1602, and she made a pious vow that she would never change her clothes until Ostend was taken. "Contrary to expectation," as the story says, "it was three years before the place was reduced in which time her highness's linen had acquired the above mentioned hue," viz., "a kind of whitish yellow, or, as some say, buff colour a little soiled." I fear Mr. Smurthwaite will not accept "Isabella" as a sufficiently definite shade!

I was never quite sure what natural fly Cotton's great Whirling Dun was intended to represent. By a note in the edition of Walton now before me (over a hundred years old), I find it is intended for one of the big sedges. "This is a killing fly, and is to be seen rising out of the sedges in most trout rivers late in the evening, seldom before sunset, and continues on the water till midnight or after. It is found most of the warm months, but kills chiefly in a blustering warm evening, from the middle of May to the end of July," and a "variation" of Cotton's dressing is given which would certainly kill well.

"Ash colour" frequently occurs in Cotton's fly dressing descriptions. "Blea" is another well known north country term in connection with trout flies. The learned Mr. Ray, in his "Philosophical Letters," published in 1718, says blea signifies a colour resembling that of a mole's back, which has a bluish gloss—black and blue. Another peculiar north country term is "watchet," i.e., "colour cœruleus albicans," pale or sky blue. "Sheep's russet," "flame-coloured calf," obtained, according to Cotton, by using the hair from an abortive calf, taken out of a skinner's lime pit, "which the lime will turn to be so bright as to shine like gold." Fancy the expression on Messrs. Farlow's face if they got an order to dress a fly with body of abortive calf; or to dress a Brown Ant with "light barge-sail, seal's fur, and brown bear's hair" body, or a Grey Midge with the "down of a sad grey cat."

I think there can be no doubt our fly fishing ancestors took infinite pains to obtain materials in order to carry out the "exact imitation theory," and undoubtedly a great many of their forgotten materials would still be found useful.

R. B. MARSTON.

THE PISCATORIAL SOCIETY'S NEW WATER.

THE Piscatorial Society may deem itself exceptionally fortunate in having leased for the space of one-and-twenty years, should it be minded to hold it so long, one of the most prolific portions of the famous Colne which it is possible to obtain at the present day. Everyone who has anything to do with providing private water for the use of the members of angling societies knows the ever increasing difficulty there is of happening upon really good all-round fishing anywhere near London. This difficulty becomes each year intensified, for the rapid growth of wielders of the rod, and the eagerness there is to snap up any likely piece of river that may be in the market, has had the effect of rendering comparatively small strips of water veritable gold mines to the owners of the meadows adjoining. Water which a short time ago could have been had for the proverbial mere song, cannot be secured nowadays under rentals which are prohibitory except to influential societies or wealthy men. The Piscatorials, therefore, I repeat, have every reason to be satisfied with the last venture of the executive. They have an excellent fishery, and this will become more valuable in years to come, in view of the methodical re-stocking which will naturally

go on every season, in order to keep it not only up to high water-mark but even beyond that point. In fact, already some 400 large chub, roach, tench, bream, and perch have been placed in the new water, and additions to the stock of trout it holds will in due time be made.

The extent of the water is about a mile and a half, and both sides are included in the lease. It is known by the name of "The Weir Fishery," and is only an hour's journey distant from Paddington. A leisurely walk of ten minutes from Uxbridge railway station will land the visitor at the keeper's cottage, charmingly situated at one end of the preserve. The advantage the stretch possesses over many fisheries is that it is not only particularly well stocked with coarse fish, but holds a good supply of trout, both large and small, distributed pretty evenly over the water. In the beginning of the year splendid bags of roach were made by members who tried it, and a few heavy chub were taken into the bargain. It is well known that tench over 2lb. in weight, large bream, and good perch are to be had, and since the trout season opened, despite the adverse climatic conditions which have obtained, fish up to nearly 3lb. have been creel'd with the wet fly.

The Piscatorial section of the water commences at what is called the High Bridge, opposite to a picturesque hostelry designated the Swan and Bottle. Looking down stream, one sees an almost straight run of magnificent broad shallow water, fringed on one side with overhanging trees, a rareholt for trout, chub, and dace. This is a quarter of a mile in length, and has, for the most part, a gravelly bottom. At the end of this shallow the river divides itself into two portions, the shape of the stream viewed from the aforesaid High Bridge being very much like the letter "Y." The left offshoot reaches to Upper Colham Mill, and in high coloured water should fish well, although when the water is at its normal height it is too "thin" and bright for anything but fly fishing, and even this will only prove remunerative when the mill below is running. As the latter is approached, deeper water is found, and 'cute fishermen should discover a spot or two where tench may be tried for with every prospect of success. If one would walk quietly down the sides of this particular part on a summer evening or early morning, and listen attentively, one would be sure to hear the peculiar sucking sound, if I may term it, emitted by feeding tench, which will serve as a certain guide to their whereabouts.

Following the right half of the "Y," deep holes with intervening shallows will be observed down to the weir, and in this stretch, above all others, big coarse fish have their quarters. There are swims suitable for every kind of angling—long and tight corking, ledgering, and the ordinary float fishing. Chub haunts abound, and there is more than one bream hole where, before the society took over the preserve, large takes of the "bellows" were made.

Crossing over the water by the weir bridge, one enters the inside of the "Y," and here will be found some of the finest swims in the river. It would not be difficult to ear-mark or locate them on paper, but those members who have ferreted them out would hardly thank me for giving away what they have been at trouble and pains to unearth.

Below the weir the fishing extends as far as the gate entering the garden attached to the keeper's cottage. The rushing, foamy water holds good trout, which, of course, work up from the water below, and, from information I have been able to glean, barbel are likely to be had here in due season. It will require, however, a skilful hand to pilot a 3lb. trout safely into the net if the fish should happen to bolt down stream on being hooked, for a few yards from the gallery is the celebrated fishing hut erected upon piles in the centre of the run. Some of the members think that this delightful harbour of refuge, or "palace," as it has been termed, might, with advantage to the trout fisher, have found a place elsewhere, but on this point opinions are divided, and when anglers differ who shall decide?

Lastly, there is the mill tail itself, which, when live-baiting and spinning are permitted, should yield heavy fish. The best wind, it may be stated in parenthesis, for dry-fly work is a south-westerly one, and for down stream fishing with the wet fly a nor'-wester.

It will be seen from the necessarily brief sketch

above that the characteristics of the fishing are broad shallows and moderately deep holes. There will always be a stream running, although in exceptionally dry seasons the current will be somewhat affected. Yet, if the proprietor of the Upper Colham Mill keeps his water back to get a head on, there must be a certain volume, in fact, more, going over the little weir itself. There is an amplitude of cover, especially at the top portion of the river, and as to fish, as one member peculiarly competent to judge put it, the river is "alive" with them. In short, the Piscatorial Society possesses as fine a piece of water as one could wish to have, and Messrs. R. C. Blundell and E. Foreman, who, with untiring energy and infinite trouble, were mainly instrumental in carrying the matter through, have for their reward the intense satisfaction of knowing that they have been able to satisfy the most exigent members of a society, in the success and prosperity of which they have ever evinced the keenest and most absorbing interest.

THE CHIEF.

AN OLD TICKET FOR FLANDER'S WEIR FISHERY.

THE Flander's Weir Fishery fifty years and more ago used to be famous among Lea anglers,



and is often referred to in books on angling. The interesting copy of an old annual subscription ticket for this fishery is from an impression of the original engraved plate now in the possession of Mr. Andrew Tuer of the *Leadenhall Press*.

THE TROUTING SEASON PROPER.

THERE is practically no particular time of the angling year set apart for brown trout fishing in Scotland, but there are times when the fish are in better condition than at others, and times when they rise more greedily to the fly. So much depends on the locality and local surroundings that these times vary even in the same stream. Thus an angler may commence on the lower waters of the Don, Deveron, Ythan, and Beaulieu, and make heavy baskets of well-conditioned fish in April, and, when he has exhausted the lower parts, make tracks for the mid waters in May, where the fish are not so highly favoured, and so on into the higher reaches. The brown trout season proper in Scotland comes in between the early finnock in March and April, and the grilse and sea trout season in June and July. April and May are the two best months of the year for making the heaviest baskets of trout. The fish are then ravenously on the feed, especially during the first few days of the advent of genial weather, when the fly first comes on the water. The streams are not then too clear nor too small, as

they are later on, and anything in the shape of a fly, from what will be used for grilse and salmon later on to the ordinary sizes, will be snapped at as soon as it alights.

There is nothing more delightful than a day among the yellow trout, as they are more familiarly called in the North of Scotland, during the first weeks of the season. With a medium sized water, a gentle breeze, a genial temperature to bring up the fly, a double-handed 13ft. or 14ft. trouting rod, and such a stream as the Ythan, Ugie, Deveron, or Findhorn presents, the angler must be hard to please indeed, or else a pure out and out duffer, who does not extract the acme of sport and the highest ecstasy of pleasure under such conditions.

One does not need to wade nor to practise dry-fly or upstream fishing. Nothing half so arduous. Leave that till June, July, and August, when the streams have run down to vanishing point, the fish have gone off the fly, and a basket can only be made under a blistering sun, worming upstream or parr-tailing the rapids. Casting from the bank, and well back, if possible, although it is not necessary to be over particular at this time, with about ten or a dozen yards of line at most, often less, the flight falls slantingly across the stream, and before it has been swung round by the current there is a gobble, the fly is sucked down, and the game begins. The first off go usually shows the mettle and proportions of the quarry. If it be a small fish, it is usually reeled in *volens*; and if lost in the process there is no heartburning over the matter, as it will now have a chance to grow bigger, which is all the better for the good of the stream. But anything of the nature of a ½-pounder or over is handled more carefully, according to the record it can command per scale avoirdupois, as may be calculated by the strain with which it bores up and across the pool, the pull it has on the rod, and the amount of fight it shows. Then it is treated with rising respect. Rising by leaps and bounds, between the time when first its silvered broadside flashes in the water, after the first struggles are over, and that exciting interval of doubt and fear and joy when it lies a shivering silvery beauty safe on the bank.

The little double hook is a terror to the very early trout. There is no getting away from the hold when once the points are embedded in the tissue of the jaw, lip, or tongue. They are all the rage in big, heavy waters, but as the season advances the small double gives place to a smaller single iron. With a flight of March Brown, Grey Quill, Professor, Lord Saltoun, or Red Mallard—three to the flight—and such like, dressed on the smallest single irons, we have more confidence of a better basket than with the same hooks on double irons.

Bar easterly winds, the trouting season has been a good one, and the baskets presently being obtained are very satisfactory indeed. Twenty-five trout, weighing 12½lb., is by no means a bad basket, and is about the average which has been made in spite of the somewhat hard conditions of overnight frosts, blistering sunlight, and easterly winds. The heaviest basket this season was sixty fish, weighing 45lb., with several over 2lb., made on the Don and on waters preserved, but not otherwise encouraged.

When we say "preserved," we mean preserved as far as ordinary watching by the gamekeepers on the estate are concerned, otherwise the preserving does not amount to much, and the assistance in the way of re-stocking nil.

Among the best trouting streams in the north just now may be mentioned the tributaries of the Tay, the South and North Esks (Forfarshire), Dee (lower waters), Don (right up to Alford), Ythan, Ugie, Deveron, Spey (lower waters), Lossie, Findhorn (very early river), Nairn, Ness (parts of), Beaulieu, Connors, and Sutherland lochs, where the fish are just beginning to fatten, and where the prospects of a really good season are fairly bright.

G. M.

APPEARANCE OF THE MAY FLY.

ALREADY we have reports of the appearance of the May Fly, the first early specimens—Uhlans of the great army—on some of the Irish waters. We shall be obliged to any of our readers who will send us word when the fly appears in their districts.

THE THAMES AS A SALMON RIVER.

SIR HERBERT MAXWELL'S articles, recently printed in the *Pall Mall Gazette*, will have been read with the greatest interest by all classes of the community. It is not only the angler who desires to see salmon in the Thames; the mere fact of such a re-stocking proving successful would be the most convincing evidence of the improved condition of the river, and would be the finishing touch to the great work of purification undertaken by the late Metropolitan Board of Works some fifteen years ago, and put into successful operation in 1889. But our sympathy with Sir Herbert Maxwell's wishes must not blind us to facts; and in the articles alluded to Sir Herbert appears to have allowed his desires to outweigh his judicial instincts. More particularly in dealing with some statements made by myself he fails to see the true point of my argument, and even, of course unwittingly, attributes to me opinions to which I have never given expression. Thus, he says that I deny that any improvement has taken place since 1894 in the quality of the effluent discharged from the metropolitan outfalls; but reference to my remarks, as quoted by Mr. R. B. Marston in his article in the April number of the *Nineteenth Century Review*, will show that I did not allude to the effluent at all, but to the condition of the river itself within the limits of what I have called "the zone of maximum impurity." I stated that until 1897, when my personal connection with the question of Thames purification ceased, there had been no alteration of the condition as shown in a report made to the main drainage committee of the London County Council by its then chemist, Mr. W. J. Dibdin, in 1894; and further added that I had no reason to think that any decided improvement had taken place during the last two years. I may say that for several years it was part of my duty to inspect and examine the river between, generally speaking, Charing Cross and Erith, samples being taken at regular points throughout the journey, and submitted to analysis with a view to determining the amount of dissolved oxygen and of sea water present. A great improvement was observed after the opening of the precipitation works at Barking and Crossness, but the improvement then shown has gone no further. The river has proved itself capable of dealing with the sewage of the metropolis, minus the suspended solids, without causing a nuisance or reproducing the shocking condition which obtained in, say, 1884 and 1887. In so far the scheme of purification has been perfectly successful; but there is a very wide difference between this balancing of the opposing forces of pollution and purification and the absolute cleansing of the river by the removal of all sewage matter. The effluents from Barking and Crossness are only sewage from which the greater proportion of the suspended or floating solids has been removed. Sir Herbert Maxwell quotes fourteen analyses made by Mr. Groves, the chemist to the Thames Conservancy, in support of his contention regarding the improvement in the quality of the effluent. As already pointed out, I had said nothing on this head; but I do say now that no such improvement has taken place, or can take place so long as the present system is at work. It was designed to cure a certain evil, viz., the deposition of sewage sludge in the river, and the consequent foul state of the water in the summer time. It has effected that object, but more it is unable to do. Again, Mr. Groves' remarks as to the effluent being "fair," "good," &c., must be taken as applying to an effluent discharging, as this does, into a large body of tidal water which cannot under any circumstances be used for domestic purposes. Not one of the effluents shown in the quoted table would be passed as satisfactory if the point of discharge were above lock, and none would be permitted by, say, the Mersey and Irwell Joint Committee or the Ribble authorities. But, passing from these few analyses, from 1890 to 1897 I made personally, or was responsible for, an analysis of the average crude sewage, average effluent, and the river at high and low water daily. Speaking from this exceptionally large experience, I say that the outfalls at Barking and Crossness never discharge an effluent which can be called

good or satisfactory, except under the special conditions already referred to. Every day some two hundred million gallons of clarified sewage are discharged into the Thames. When the tides are making from neaps to springs, in summer, the water over Teddington weir being greatly reduced, the daily increase in the volume of water between Crossness and London so much exceeds the daily inflow of upland water that the sewage effluent is carried steadily upwards day by day. This is the chief cause of the existence of the foul belt, and in dry weather this cause would not be removed even if the London water companies drew no water whatever from the Thames. And further, Mr. Groves' analyses do not help Sir H. Maxwell's argument; but, on the contrary, plainly show that no alteration has taken place.

The actual condition of the water of the river Thames off both outfalls at high and low water could, no doubt, be readily ascertained by making application to the London County Council, who have such samples collected and analysed daily. The same authority would, doubtless, furnish the Thames Salmon Association with particulars regarding the aëration of the water between Crossness and London Bridge, a factor which is determined by the council's chemist each week.

I do not think the cases of the smelt and the salmon are parallel. The smelt is distinctly a foul feeder, and, according to John Bickerdyke, should, as a rule, be looked for in the immediate neighbourhood of a sewage outfall. Since it possesses such predilections, it is only reasonable to suppose that Nature has fitted it for the purpose, and enabled it to flourish in water which is to a considerable extent deprived of its oxygen.

We can, however, go beyond the smelt, and deal with fish which have great power of survival in polluted waters, viz., roach and dace. Fish of these kinds were kept in a large aquarium, with a constant though small flow of fresh water; and to this aquarium daily portions of Barking effluent were added. Determinations of the oxygen held in solution were frequently made, and it was found that fish perished whenever the proportion of effluent was sufficiently large to reduce the percentage of aëration much below fifty. In other words, when the actual amount of dissolved oxygen did not exceed about one cubic inch per gallon the fish were suffocated. And during the summer months the aëration of the river water between Barking and Greenwich is, as a general rule, far below this standard. A casual sample drawn from the river shows nothing; it may appear clear and bright, and in every way desirable. The only real test is to determine the quantity of oxygen dissolved in a number of samples taken a few feet below the surface.

In conclusion, will Sir Herbert Maxwell permit me to call attention to an obvious error in his statement regarding the quantity of sea salt present at London Bridge? The 22 per cent. relates to sea water. GEORGE THUDICHUM.

"O WAD SOME POW'R THE GIFTIE GIE US," &c.

MADAME MAJAWI to her daughter Phillis B.: "Yes, Phil, dear, I have no great objection to your marrying Bob; he is a good enough lad in many ways, but he, like many men and women that go a-fishing are undoubtedly crackpots. Your father must have been bitten by a fish. If you are unfortunate enough to be bitten by a dog it sometimes brings on hydrophobia, and I say it must be the same with men who go a-fishing. I only exempt the poor men who have to get their living by it, for at times theirs must be dreadful work. Your father was a great angler. It seems very curious to me these men always call themselves great. The late Mr. B. was anything but great; he would fussick and fidget for hours over anything connected with his favourite sport, but he had about as small a mind as any man I have ever spoken to, he never troubled himself about anything outside of it, and as for driving in a nail or chopping a bit of wood, fixing a curtain pole, or any useful household work, he would leave it to me, and delicately tell me he was not brought up a carpenter. Then, dear, directly after our honeymoon was over, off he used to go for a day or two at a time, and when he did come back he

was full of (no, not whiskey, although anglers do drink a lot at times, wetting every fish they catch for luck, as they tell me) tales about a Miss C. or Mrs. C., of the Eel Pot Hotel; not that I cared one jot, for Fred was always a bit of a flirt, and his being away gave me the chance of inviting your grandmother and your aunt to tea. Every Saturday, winter or summer, saw him on the war-path. Out of bed he would bundle, then go down to the kitchen to make up his bait, then without any breakfast rush off to catch the first train. Our landlord used to say 'What a crackpot the man must be to get up at 5 a.m. such a morning as this; why, it was sleeting, after a sharp frost last night; he must be mad.' Yes, and I remember even in the sixties he came home eleven times in succession without catching a fish, but he was at it again the next week as soon as the shop was closed, or earlier if he could get away. Snow, frost, or fog did not matter to him or to his friend B. W. He was another great angler, but I never heard of him bringing home a single fish (at least, what I should call a fish) worth cooking, and that, I feel sure, was not caught by B. W. He took it far too quietly. I know him; he would have made more fuss about it, like he does when he catches a few small things no bigger than sprats, and takes some prize with them, although his wife says it costs three times as much in railway fares and other expenses as the prize is worth. Now, what men can see in pulling out poor little things, or bringing home fish you can't eat, puzzles me; or where the sport comes in, for I guess the greatest angler of the lot could not catch fish were they not hungry. Sport, indeed; much these crackpots have to be proud of!

"Then there was old Mr. F., in whose service your Aunt Sarah was. Mr. F. was a great trout and salmon catcher. He used to worrit your aunt's life out. He would persist in coming down at unexpected times into her kitchen, bringing some long, wet, dirty, drab things, with feet to them, to dry at the fire. He called them his waders. They were like the dress the man used when he went down in the tank diving at the Polytechnic, only without the head-piece; and was not the old crackpot particular about drying them himself rather, after the cook once splashed them all over with fat. Your aunt says you should have heard how the old beauty carried on; swore they were spoilt, and would cost him over £2 for another pair. Serve him right, I say, for going into the kitchen. One day he asked old Jim, their odd man, to fill them with water, to see if they leaked; so Jim hung them up in the scullery, and had nearly finished filling them, when bang! went something. The stout cord had broken with a loud snap, and down they came, knocking the poor old fellow over and drenching him. At first they were inclined to laugh at the plight the poor old chap was in; but the laugh soon changed to black looks, for the water poured in the kitchen, and a nice job they had to sop it up. Drat his drabbity old things, it gave poor old Jim the rheumatics for a month, to say nothing of the fright. When Mr. F. was not in the kitchen, he was always wanting buttons sewn on or bits of tape stitched on for him. 'Sarah, will you do this? Sarah, please do that?' Your aunt did not so much mind doing little jobs for him, but drew the line at being jawed at. She jumped up one day to answer the door, and stuck her needle in a pair of his fishing things. She was sewing some buttons on for him. You should have heard him. It was not so much what he said, but the nasty way in which he said it. So it ended by both girls giving the old crackpot a month's notice.

"Do you remember that nice young man that occupied our top back room, I think most of the time you were away at Annie's; but you saw him once or twice, if you remember. He was a nice looking man, gentlemanly, and used to wear his hair long, like poets often do. My word, he could talk. Talk about a magpie, it wasn't in it with him. Such beautiful words he always used; he ought to have been a preacher. I could not understand one half of them. Your brother used to say, 'Neither does he, mother; he only uses hard words to puzzle you, or to cover up a weak idea.' But as to fishing, it was all business with him; not pleasure. I never knew him to go fishing on a Sunday. Bob used to say, 'I don't blame him if he can sneak a day off in the week.

He claimed to be a fisherman; so I must dub him crackpot in spite of his wonderful tongue. Fishing is only an excuse with some men. I know one man who only goes a-fishing to get a bit more brass (i.e., money, as the song says); but he is another that can talk. Your father and I travelled with him one day to A—. He never once left off chattering on angling or showing us how it was done the whole 112 miles. Then he laid down in the bottom of the carriage, coming back, to show your dad how to peg for bream. If he was a crackpot he was a good old gentleman, and a good friend to your father. I have often wondered why anglers are such excitable men. One very bad specimen was old J.; he was a great Lea angler. Many times has your father made us laugh by his description of the excitable state he would get in, especially if anyone was watching him play a fish, as they call it; but why call it play when it means death to the poor thing I can't imagine. Once J. was playing a big jack. 'Keep out of the way; stand further back, can't you; keep off my line. There, he is gone; no, he is still on. Oh! he is a beauty, over 20lb. Get the gaff; now I have him. No, he is off again; don't touch the line. Now, then, wait a moment until I tell you.' At last it was got out of the water, when J. danced and capered about the bank like the madman he was. They then all adjourned to the Pig and Whistle to wet it once more for luck and to weigh the fish; it scaled 15lb. A short time after this a number of anglers were down overnight; J. was one of them. When in the bedroom several began skylarking, most of them having had as much ale as they could carry. At last, the play was of a rough character. All of a sudden J. jumped out of bed, calling out he was killed. One of the crackpots had accidentally cut J.'s head open with the glass water-bottle; the moment he saw blood he nearly fainted, and screamed out 'Send for my wife, send for my wife; I am a dead man!' A telegram was at once dispatched to London, and down it brought Mrs. J. next morning in a terrible fright. She rushed upstairs, calling out 'Where is my J., is he dead?' but she was quickly satisfied otherwise, for her husband, with his head bandaged up with a towel, sat up laughing in bed as she flew into the room, and into his arms. There was great joy for a time; then she let him have a bit of her mind for being such a fool for frightening her. Your father used to describe these tales with a great number of adjectives, which I purposely leave out. Why so many anglers use such bad language, especially on the river bank, I can't make out; it is a great pity. I wonder the A.A.'s don't bring it before all the clubs, and fine them. The money collected to go to the benevolent fund. And now, dear Phillis, I hope I have said enough to prevent you marrying an angler; what with their disregard for truth, their fidgety, fussicking ways, and their drinking propensities, I feel sure that they are nearly all madmen, and ought to be avoided." "MARJORIE B."

A JULY EVENING BY A WELSH RIVER.

LAST summer I chanced to have an evening to spare while staying at St. Asaph on business, and, passing over the town bridge, it struck me that one might as well learn something of the fishing. Looking up my "Angler's Diary," I found that it read as follows:—

"St. Asaph (Flint). L. and N.W.R. Clwyd; salmon, trout; preserved for some distance by landlord of hotel. (c.s.) Elwy; salmon, trout. (c.s.) Helyg, 5m. E. Lakes, Junction Pond, Helyg, 5m. E. Hotel: Plough. (See Rhyl, Llanfair-Talhaiarn)"

Off I went to the Plough Hotel and asked about the fishing. "Oh," said they, "you must see Tom Deed, the watcher." On asking directions, I was told to "go down the road and ask anybody." This direction worked admirably, and on calling at Deed's cottage, I found him preparing to go his evening round. He told me of an old weir existing about five miles up the Elwy, at Bont-Newydd, which, though provided with a salmon pass, let but very few fish get above. The water being dead low and bright, I decided to go up and take a picture of the fish pass for the benefit of the *Fishing Gazette* readers; so, strapping my

camera on my shoulders, I volunteered to bear the keeper company. Those who know Wales will appreciate that walk; on we went, up hills and down dales, but climbing slowly higher and higher, till at last we stood overlooking the river at the mill. We got down to the bank, and gradually worked along up stream, scaring by our presence a few large trout which were lying under the overhanging bank. At one place this bank was at least ten feet above the river, and, peeping over under the shadow of a tree trunk, the keeper pointed out one of the finest Welsh brown trout that I have ever seen, sheltering himself under an almost submerged tree trunk. As we were peering into the water, Deed noticed a little place where the bark had been freshly knocked off the root of the tree, and jumped down to investigate this recent trace of the poacher's hob-nailed boot. He quickly reappeared, bringing with him a six-foot gaff stick, which the owner had hidden in a rat hole in the bank for future use. This was returned to its hiding place so as not to create alarm, Deed vowing to come along later and catch the offender *in flagrante delicto*. The snatching of trout and salmon is the favourite poaching method in N. Wales, and constant practice has made the average poacher very clever at it. Crouching down, half sheltered between the tree trunks and the bank in the half light, great execution can be done, even in almost still water, by the clever snatcher. Our watcher, however,

the lower 2ft., and the second pocket is of the same faulty shape. Their extreme shortness—4ft. and 5ft. respectively—thus convert them into perfect salmon traps, into which if the fish leap they rarely leave, save and except at the end of the snatcher's gaff, a result not expected by the original designers. Needless to say the fish rarely use the centre portion, but prefer the shelves at the sides, where, however, they are more exposed to snatchers, and require to negotiate the double shelves practically in one rush. Of these shelves, the edges being the shortest and shallowest portion, and the top ledge being only 4½ft. wide in the centre, it follows that though the fish negotiate the two lower, they rarely ascend the third, but are tumbled back repeatedly while attempting this obstacle. Here the salmon poacher lies in wait, gaff in hand, and hoicks out the fish. The consequence of this state of affairs is twofold: firstly, instead of helping the fish, it offers facilities to the poacher, and prevents the stocking of the upper waters, eminently suited to breed young salmon, and at the same time drives the fish into small tributary rivulets below—only in existence during freshes—where the adults fall a prey to man, and the eggs perish from want of moisture. Owing to the upper riparian owners not taking an interest in the fisheries, the conservators are hampered by want of funds, hence the Clwyd and the Elwy boast only two watchers for about fifty miles of patrol ground. While the heavy floods



THE FISH PASS AT BONT-NEWYDD ON THE ELWY, N. WALES.

was satisfied that the last comer had not been successful, as he had left no trace of scales behind him, a trade mark which, he told me, might generally be looked for.

The weir was reached about 7 p.m., and two or three exposures were made on it. By the illustration given it will be seen that the river watcher's statements had not been exaggerated.

Built of cement at an expense of over £800, it stretches across the river, covering twenty-seven paces from side to side. It is built (as is shown) in three tiers or terraces, with a central series of three pockets and two lateral wings. These lateral wings have the shelves raised—the first from the bottom 3½ft., the second 2½ft., while the sill or top is an inch or two shallower than the second; the distance between the first and second shelves is two yards, and the greatest depth of the second shelf is 4½ft. The total height of the weir is 8½ft.

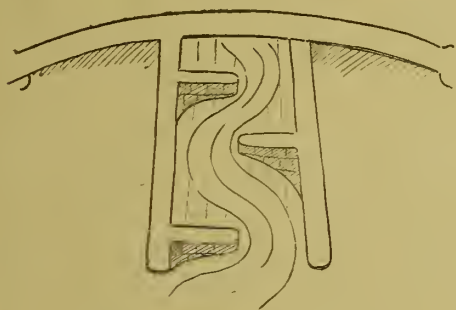
The middle portion, which was intended for a fish pass, is about 6½ft. wide, and is divided into three pockets by two cement partitions; these pockets, which lie at a somewhat lower level than the corresponding shelves of the wings, are practically the same length as the shelves, being 4ft., 5ft., and 9ft. in total length from before backwards. As has been said, the bottoms of these pockets have not been built up, so that the greatest depth of the top pocket is on the upper end 3½ft., and at

are on, the rest of the river must be abandoned; this weir requires watching night and day. It appeared to me that the expenditure of a little money applied to filling in the centre boxes and cutting alternate sides from the centre partitions would really convert the supposed fish pass into an actual one, and probably save a fine salmon river for anglers of moderate means.

This finished fish pass would appear as follows, and the direct force of current would be broken by the projections, and the fish permitted to swim up. The structure of the wings would be left unaltered, and would, indeed, be of benefit, as they prevent the centre being attacked by poachers. I am informed by experts that the bottom could be levelled and the partitions cut for a sum of less than £60, and the benefits apparently would be enormous. On the way back from this evidence of misguided energy, we walked along the river, and saw, over and over again, the trout shooting out of sight at our approach. One needs but reflect that Stewart's book was written for rivers of this type, and the full truth of the importance of up-stream fishing is borne in upon one with renewed significance.

As we approached one pool we found an enthusiast trying the trout in the darkening shades, with but little success. If one had had a fly rod and the dry-fly box, I am inclined to

think that a Black Gnat fished dry would have killed one or two good fish which apparently scorned the wet flies put over them, but seemed to rise with unflinching vigour at every floating particle that passed over them. One fish in a nice quiet pool rose three or four times at a piece of black twig flitted on to the water, but finally, disgusted by the character of the quarry, subsided into quiescence. I have often thought that in fine water the arrival of three or four flies of different colours on the surface of absolutely unruffled water, which flies immediately sink, would alarm even less nervous fish than trout, and would be quite as likely to lead to flight as feeding. On then we



PLAN OF WEIR AS ALTERED.

went on our way, and a little farther down stream startled an otter from its rest on the opposite bank, whence it plunged into the river and made off. This is a famous river for otters, the hounds having killed one of 28lb. weight last season. Crossing the river by means of a tree suspended by two chains and a guide-line, we walked over on to the road, and I arrived back at St. Asaph, having covered eleven or twelve miles, seen some good fish, and investigated a river which I hope to fish when the back-end comes, and those curses of the rodsman, "the nets," are off. My readers will notice that the close season for rods on the Clwyd and Elwy begins Nov. 15 to May 15 for salmon, and Oct. 2 to Feb. 28 for trout. NEMO.

TWO AIDS TO PEACEFUL ANGLING.

THE Thames fisherman, whether he pursues his sport from boat or bank, has often to take exception to the puffing, screeching steam launch, with its siren and its wash, the first deafening the angler, and the second upsetting his swim, and occasionally himself, both mentally and bodily. The bitter cry of the unfortunate fisher has frequently been found amongst the correspondence columns of the *Fishing Gazette*, and has occasionally found its way into the general Press. At last, however, a brighter day seems to be about to dawn. The Automatic Launch Company, who have acquired the English rights for the Escher Wyss motor, are about to introduce their vessels upon the Thames, which are claimed as being a great advance upon the present vessels. The system used is not the explosive principle now in general use, but may be briefly described as a petrol-vaporising process by means of heat, that is to say, the motive power is supplied by the expansion of petrol instead of water. By the courtesy of the company, a representative of the *Fishing Gazette*, on May 9, was enabled to make a practical trial of the new system. The launch *Sparklet* was run from Taplow to Marlow and back with ease and comfort to all on board. Three great advantages to the angler were noticed during the trip: The first was that the launch was built to be driven at no higher speed than eight miles an hour, while at this rate but little wash was caused. Secondly, when passing fishing punts the machinery was easily stopped, and the vessel slipped past with but little disturbance to the occupants. Thirdly, there was no waste of any kind to pollute the stream, the condensed petroleum going back into the tanks after vaporisation, and the sole consumption being the petroleum burnt for fuel, which gives no waste, and but very little smell. The company are offering these vessels for sale in this country at a very moderate price, and expect them to compete very successfully not only with the other petroleum launches, but also with the electric launches now so popular on the Thames. The low cost for working (2s. per hour for fuel,

and the ease with which the machinery is controlled by amateurs, make the launch suitable for many purposes for which other types are hardly fitted; while the fact that twenty-four hours' supply of petrol can be carried in the forward tanks, secure from all chance of explosion, apparently would make the vessel suitable for prolonged excursions, such as sea fishing trips. We are informed that many of the launches of the German Navy are now fitted with the Escher Wyss motor. *En passant*, it may be said that during this launch trial we were introduced to another boon to anglers, namely, the "Sparklet" system, by which, through the medium of a special bottle, and some small cartridges of compressed carbonic acid gas, every angler becomes his own soda water manufacturer. The bottle is filled with water or any similar fluid, and the gas is forced in by a simple mechanism, which the inventors claim is safe, of course with ordinary care. As far as information serves, it is understood that the resulting aerated fluid may be afterwards weakened with some alcoholic beverage.

MESSRS. A. CARTER AND CO.'S NEW CATALOGUE.

WE so recently as the time of the Fisheries Exhibition noticed the novelties of Messrs. A. Carter and Co., of 137, St. John Street-road, that it is not necessary to refer to them again at any length, but we must inform our readers that this firm, which has been established over two centuries, is now publishing a new and very handy catalogue, full of illustrations of all kinds of tackle, &c., at the very moderate prices for which Messrs. Carter have so long been famous.

STEEL TUBES FOR SPLIT CANE ROD CENTRES.

They now inform us that, after several years' experiments at a cost of hundreds of pounds, they are at last enabled to put on the market their patent tubular steel centre, the advantages of which are numerous. They say: "By the introduction of a thin tube of finely tempered spring steel, instead of the solid steel wire formerly in use, we are enabled to produce a rod very much lighter, but with an enormous increase of power, and at prices which will compare favourably with other makers charges for the old form of rod."

Their 12s. 6d. greenheart fly rods are thus described: "9ft. to 12ft., with two tops and cork handle, brazed and winch fitted, with rust-proof snake rings, well balanced and finished, with spear and division bag." They call this a "second quality," but assure us the wood is well seasoned, and, that being so, they are wonderful rods at the price.

For one of their salmon fishing customers, Mr. L. Graham Clarke, of Rhayader, Wales, they make a salmon rod called the "Glanrhos," made of greenheart throughout, two tops, double cork handle, double brazed in German silver, snake rings, universal winch fittings, fitted with patent pneumatic button; 16ft., 35s.; 17ft., 37s. 6d.; 18ft., 40s.

"We advise the 16ft., as being sufficiently strong for ordinary fishing, the 17ft. and 18ft. for heavy work where fish run large. This build of rod is made from best wood procurable."

They quote this letter from Mr. Clarke:

"Rhayader, Wales.
"DEAR SIRS,—I am sending you the 16ft. 'Glanrhos' rod to-day by rail; please make me two more like it. The rod is an extraordinarily powerful one for its size, and with a No. 3 line I can switch almost as far with it as I could with my big 20ft., and its lightness renders salmon fishing from a toil to a pleasure. I killed two fish yesterday (the last day of the season) with it in a very heavy stream—the river being almost in flood, and they seemed to have no chance with me; the little rod held them like a bit of wire. I simply lugged them out. I was surprised what a pressure I could put on in so heavy a water.—Yours faithfully,
"L. GRAHAM CLARKE."

If a pike angler is in any doubt as to the best kind of rod for the purpose, he cannot possibly do better than try the "Jardine Pike Rod," made from instructions given by Mr. Alfred Jardine. It is a powerful, light rod of mottled cane, with hollow butt; and often as we have fished with Mr. Jardine, we never remember his using a rod of greenheart, or, indeed, anything but bamboo cane for pike fishing.

Having so favourably noticed Messrs. Carter and Co.'s novelties and specialities, we are really

at loss to pick out much that deserves special notice in this list, which contains such a great variety, and at such moderate prices. What we can strongly advise Messrs. Carter to do another year is to add a good index, and place it at the beginning of the list; then you see at once where to look for what you want, and where hundreds of different things are priced it is not easy to find what you want without a guide to the page it is on.

TO THOSE WHO WANT TROUT FISHING IN NORWAY.

THOSE in want of trout fishing in Norway this season—many have already made their arrangements, of course—should make a note of the advertisement which Messrs. J. A. Lumley and Co., 34, St. James's-street, London, have in our columns this week. It was at our special request that they made a feature of trout fishings to let in Norway, and Mr. James Dowell, the courteous manager of their fishing department, will give all information in his power.

MIXED BEETLES, LADYBIRDS, &c., FOR DRY-FLY FISHING.

VERY nicely tied patterns for dry-fly fishing have reached us from that very clever fly maker, Miss E. A. Ellis, of 13, Danby-terrace, Exmouth. Since "Black Beetle's" articles in our columns, there has been some demand for good imitations on 00 and 0 eyed hooks of wee beetles. Miss Ellis sends us some Black Beetles, White Beetles, Green Beetles, and Ladybirds, and we can confidently recommend any dry-fly anglers to send Miss Ellis a trial order for her mixed beetles. They very fairly represent many of the little beggars which creep up your legs or down your waders when you are fishing, especially when having lunch or a smoke in the long grass near the water's edge.

Her single wing floating flies, at 2s., and double ditto, at 2s. 6d., are very good killers, and wear well, her Coachman, Badger Hackle, Red Quill, and Peacock Fly, are particularly good, as also are her May Flies, in all shades and in various patterns, from 3s. to 4s. per dozen. Her rubber bodied Mays, at 4s. a dozen, in all shades of wing, look most deadly. We have killed many a good trout and grayling with Miss Ellis's flies in past years, and can with confidence recommend her work. She copies patterns very carefully, and can supply the standard favourites not only for our waters, but also for those of North America.

But her novelties this season are the mixed pickles—we mean beetles—and if you try the beetles you are sure to want some May Flies, Red Quills, &c.

IN THE TASMANIAN BUSH.

IN the vast tracts of country "down below," where the steam engine has as yet made but little progress, a drive or ride of thirty miles is looked upon as an ordinary occurrence of every-day life. A short stay in the colonies had soon led me to be of one mind with the inhabitants on this point, so the prospect of some good sport with rainbow trout was quite sufficient attraction to counterbalance the trouble of a long drive to the home, or, rather, river of their adoption. Now, the rainbow trout in Tasmania are very exclusive, and evidently do not care to associate with their less gaudy coloured kinsmen, the brown trout, for after being turned out of the New Norfolk Fisheries, where they were hatched and brought up, they made off up the Derwent, till they reached the Russells Falls river, which stream they invaded and took possession of, to the exclusion of all other fish. The best reach of this river is about twenty miles from New Norfolk, a place which I had selected as my headquarters from which to make fishing excursions to the neighbouring rivers and streams. New Norfolk, a straggling village on the banks of the Derwent, some fifteen miles from Hobart, can be reached either by train or by a small steamer. Amongst many other attractions, it possesses that of a charming inn, quite one of the most comfortable houses in the colony, kept by an old Yorkshire-

man. There is an air of the old country about this hostelry, which stands perched on the hillside, with its old fashioned garden at the back stretching down to the river, where the willows overhang the still deep waters, and through the hot summer days shelter the big trout from the scorching rays of the tropical sun. The remembrance of that garden brings back visions of trees laden with ripe and luscious fruit, and flowers of gorgeous hue;

A garden where wonderful
Gold apples grow,

Strawberries, too, and raspberries, cherries, gooseberries, mulberries, and apricots, all ripe and ready to be plucked by such as wander therein.

But put off dull sloth, and let us flee from the flesh-pots of Egypt. So one gloriously hot morning early in January the ancient flea-bitten mare was harnessed to the somewhat more ancient buggy, "impedimenta" for a camp were piled up behind, and we started on our way to the Russells Falls river. "We" consisted of myself, Bob, son of mine host of the inn, and my fox terrier, one of the gamest little dogs ever bred, always ready to face anything, be it cat, dog, iguana, porcupine, or kangaroo. *Requiescat in pace*, for I fear that ere now she may have tried conclusions with a snake, and come off second best. Such, unfortunately, is the fate of many a plucky dog in Australia.

Our road lay northwards along the valley of the Derwent, past hop gardens and orchards, till we left the Salmon ponds behind us, and reached a more open country, cleared and fenced off into large paddocks for the purpose of raising sheep. Just a few words as to these Salmon ponds. About thirty years ago the Tasmanian Government started a fishery near New Norfolk for the purpose of hatching and raising the imported ova of salmon and trout. Unluckily, success has not attended the culture of salmon, but the trout have thrived so wondrous well that the rivers and lakes in the colony are now stocked with fish numerous and large enough to satisfy the most fastidious angler.

Jogging along the dusty road we overtook a wayfarer on foot. He proved to be an engineer, and therefore, needless to say, a Scotchman, and gladly availed himself of our offer of a lift. Thanks be to thee, my worthy friend, in that thou didst with many a good story beguile the weariness of the way, and cause us to forget, for a while at least, the heat and that thirst which is ever wont to attack the traveller most fiercely when he is farthest removed from all means of satisfactorily quenching the same.

At Glenora, a small hamlet twelve miles distant from New Norfolk, which boasts a railway station, the terminus of this section of the line, we parted with our passenger and our thirst, and not long afterwards were driving through the bush. After resting a short time for lunch we set off again, and a few miles further on reached the Russells Falls river. Turning sharp off to the left, we quitted the main road, and, pursuing our way along a bush track on the right-hand side of the stream, presently came upon a couple of men, one of whom was fishing. The angler volunteered the information that he had caught more than ten brace of fish, ranging from $\frac{1}{2}$ lb. to 1 lb. in weight; this was good news, but a glance at his bag made me entertain a slight doubt as to the accuracy of his statement. Subsequent events confirmed my first opinion of the man; poor fellow, he suffered from an enlarged imagination, and told me stories which not even Jonah's whale could have swallowed. However, we learnt from him that we had still several miles to drive before we could reach our proposed camping ground, and so left him.

We were now in a thickly wooded valley, covered for the most part with gum trees, but the track being fairly good, in less than an hour we were busy setting up our tent in a small clearing in the forest, not far from the river.

After a scanty meal we hastened to the river-side, for the shades of night were falling fast, and twilight does not last long in these southern lands. There were one or two beautiful little pools just near the camp, and the fish rose freely till the last streak of light suddenly disappeared from the western sky, and darkness settled down over forest and river. The short half hour's port had resulted in the capture of eight nice

fish, weighing together about 6 lb. Finding our way back to camp by the light of the fire which we had lit in front of the tent, we made a good supper, and then

Never before had our tobacco

Such a sweet and pleasant flavour.

But we've soon knocked the ashes out of our pipes, as we were tired after the day's long journey, and smoking could not be allowed inside the tent, amongst the piles of dry bracken upon which we were to sleep.

Although the night was warm we found it expedient to wrap our rugs closely round us, choosing rather to undergo the discomforts of too much heat than the attacks of that pest of all warm countries, the mosquito. Just one glance outside before we turn over to sleep. Through the open flap of the tent the camp fire burns brightly, casting a lurid glare upon the bare trunks of the gum trees near at hand, which stand out like gaunt sentinels against the dark gloom of the forest beyond; there is the ancient one munching away at her hay, and whisking her tail to keep off the flies, and—and—we are off into the land of dreams.

Strange creatures crowd around me as I sleep, monster trout come crawling up from the river, and stand outside the tent, open-mouthed, and ready to devour us. The scene changes: the night wind whistles in my ears as I ride at headlong pace through the forest, silk hatted and frock coated, on the back of a huge kangaroo, on and on till, *οἶμοι τελῶμαι*, I find myself still pursuing my mad career down Bond-street, in broad daylight, but now only clad in a suit of pyjamas. There is a policeman on horseback in hot pursuit, under his helmet I recognise the features of the German Emperor, and he is riding the ancient one. There is no hope of escape, for the season is at its height, and lower down the street there is a block in the traffic; but my kangaroo will not be caught, taking one mighty bound, he rises like a bird on the wing, over carriages, cabs, omnibuses—and the scene changes again: a vision of dark brown eyes, and sweet kissable lips, belonging to—but, gracious Tommy, what is that; is it another fantasy of my dreams? No, this is reality, and we both start up from our sleep, to hear the echo of a mighty noise resounding through the stillness of the night. Bob has an explanation—a gale of wind has sprung up whilst we were asleep, and blown down some rotten old tree. The fire was very low, so I crawled out and threw on some more logs; the ancient one was still there, so evidently Kaiser Wilhelm had no further need of her services. Then back to bed, to be roused up again, after what appeared to be only a few minutes' sleep, by the voice of my henchman, informing me that it was nearly six o'clock. He was already preparing breakfast, so I had to bestir myself, and by half-past six we were making our way upstream in the hope that the early grasshopper might catch the fish. But it was only a half-hearted sort of a hope. Experience had taught me that so long as the cold mist hung over the river good sport could not be expected. In the daylight we were able to get a better view of our surroundings. The valley, which at this point was scarcely a quarter of a mile in breadth, was covered with forest, save where the river, wandering along its rocky channel, crept close under the shelter of the high cliffs, which barred all means of access from the north. At last, towards eleven o'clock, the mist passed off, and the sun burst through the clouds, beating down upon us with all the glorious heat of the southern summer. Then the fish began to feed, and for the next hour or more the sport was all that could be desired, considering the low state of the water. These trout were quite the gamest that I have ever met with, one in particular I remember. Whilst wading upstream I made a cast into a small pool lying close under the farther bank. Scarcely had the grasshopper touched the water before there was a rush, and off dashed Master Trout downstream, taking out some fifteen yards of line; then, with a sudden leap like a young salmon, he came clear out of the water, nearly striking himself against the trunk of a fallen tree which lay stretched across the river. He scaled a good pound, but his first rush had led me to expect a much larger fish.

On returning to camp shortly after twelve o'clock we were astonished to find another buggy

drawn up in front of our tent, and "the ancient one" hobnobbing with two strange ponies. Presently the owner appeared, gingerly picking his way across the rickety footbridge which spanned the stream just opposite our camp. Having introduced himself as a doctor from Melbourne, he informed us that he had driven over from Hamilton, a village some twenty miles distant, to see the falls from which our river takes its name. He was not an angler, and he seemed so impressed by the fact that he was a medical man and a resident of Melbourne, that he could talk of nothing else. We were rather amused with him, for he evidently mistook me for a native of the colony, and was quite patronising; had he been fond of quoting the classics, doubtless he would have adapted *Non cuius homini continjūt adire Corinthum* to his own beloved town. We helped him harness his ponies, and could hardly refrain from laughing as he drove off, his last words being an invitation to call upon him if ever we went over to Melbourne. I was half inclined to call him back and ask him that question so familiar to all who have visited Sydney: Have you seen our harbour? But this to a citizen of Melbourne would have been like holding a red rag to a bull, and might have led to a long discourse on the superiority of Melbourne, for there is much rivalry between these two cities.

After lunch, as the fish were not rising, we decided to pay a visit to the falls. Crossing the river and following a track through the scrub, it appeared as if some magician's wand had cast a spell upon us and wafted us into fairyland. No sound disturbed the silence of the glen, save the soft music of the babbling brook and the murmur of the distant fall; stray shafts of sunshine piercing through the thick canopy of the tree ferns graceful foliage fell on soft banks of bright hued moss and clustering maidenhair. We clambered up the steep hillside, and all around there was the same rich growth of ferns and moss. Above us towered the dark steep cliff over whose side came tiny streams of water tumbling down on to the broad platform of rock on which we stood, and then over into the glen below.

Later in the evening we fished the lower reaches of the river, but without much success, and soon after sunset we turned in. During such periods of the night as were not occupied in repelling the attacks of the mosquitos, we got what sleep we could, but though we fought well and long, our faces were a pretty sight when morning dawned. Then, after holding a council of war, it was decided to strike camp, and the "ancient one" was soon trotting along with her nose towards home. The sun was fast sinking towards the west, and a rich purple atmosphere lay spread over hillside and valley as we drove back into New Norfolk. Mine host came out to welcome us with true Yorkshire hospitality, whilst his good wife bore off our creels in triumph; but, alas, her joy was soon turned into grief, the fish when unpacked were found to be unfit for food, owing to the jolting and intense heat which they had suffered on the journey home. A. H.

AN UNEXPECTED HAUL.

I WAS staying in a cottage overlooking the picturesque and sporting river Lynn, having taken a shooting in that neighbourhood. I and a friend were one evening chatting over our pipes about the beautiful scenery in the surrounding district, when suddenly an idea struck me. Why not have a ride through it? So I said to him, "Look here, old chap, I have to go Plymouth on business, why not ride all the way with me, I'll give you a mount?" The result of our conversation was, that after breakfast on the following morning we started off to Barnstaple, and arrived there in plenty of time for dinner, putting up at a good old-fashioned inn in the centre of the town. The next day we rode to Exeter, a distance of about twenty miles, and the day after to Torquay. At the latter place we stayed for a day or two, so gave our horses a rest, and chartered the little 15-ton yacht the *Lapwing*, belonging to a well-known and genial boatman, to sail across to Brixham, that quaint old fishing village on the opposite side of Torbay. My friend, who was a skilful fly fisherman, said: "I don't mind coming for a sail, but when you get me in the

boat don't expect me to try my hand at sea fishing, I know the game too well. You get a wretched little mud worm for bait, stick it on a hook, and after throwing the line over the side of the boat you haul it up every two or three minutes just to see if the bait is still on. At the end of a day of this sort of amusement, if you are very lucky, you may perhaps have caught two or three dabs not quite as big as the original bait, which day's sport is immediately chronicled in the local papers as an inducement to other enthusiastic sportsmen to try their luck." So it was understood that we were to *sail*, not to fish. Hardly had we got clear of the harbour when Brown, the boatman, said "Would you gentlemen care to fish to-day? I have plenty of tackle and bait on board." "No," shouted my friend, looking at me with a stony glare, as much as to say, "Is this a put up job?" "No, thank you," said I, in a meek voice; "the fact is, we are rather afraid of the motion of the boat when not under canvas." This was, perhaps, a slight prevarication of the truth, considering that I generally spent several months of the year on the sea and had never yet suffered from *mal-de-mer*. After a pleasant sail we arrived at Brixham, and were much interested in the curious old town and its countless fishing boats in the harbour. In the afternoon, having seen all there was to be seen, we re-embarked, and set sail for Torquay. When we were about three-quarters of the way across the bay one of the boatmen touched his comrade on the arm and said, "Tom, look at that small boat there, they seem to be catching a lot of fish!" We all looked in that direction, and sure enough two figures in a boat were catching fish as fast as they could throw their lines out. "By George," cried Tom, "we are in for a shoal of mackerel. Now, gentlemen, this is a

chance you won't get every day; do let us throw out our lines." And I, turning to my friend, said, "Oh! do let us have a try for a quarter of an hour; we've got plenty of time." To which he grumpily replied, "Oh! all right; I don't mind." And in a couple of minutes four lines were over the side of the boat; and in as many seconds four lines were being hauled up, all with fish on. This continued for fully an hour, until our arms simply ached. I forget exactly what the catch was, but it was something more than a hundredweight; and would have been still greater if we had not been obliged to return to keep an appointment, much to our own and the boatmen's disgust. That evening, over a fragrant weed, my friend owned that sea fishing was not so bad after all, and said he wouldn't mind having sport like that every day.

P. H. BEWICKE.

WIMBLEDON LAKE.

PAST AND PRESENT.

WHEN to the sessions of sweet silent thought I summon up remembrance of things past, it verily seems but yesterday that I commenced my piscatorial education more than thirty-five years since, by acting as a very youthful gillie to a noted fly fisher of the old school, when residing on the banks of the lovely Wandle. This was, of course, long before the Wimbledon Urban District Council and the Croydon Sanitary Authority combined, were permitted to establish sewage farms contiguous to that once famous stream, and pour into it yearly, hundreds of thousands of gallons of effluent, a proceeding which has ruined the trout fishing from the Merton Flour Mills, down through Earlsfield to the Thames. On the sides of the Wandle, I, an

eager and willing pupil, received my first lessons in angling at the hands of as ardent a disciple of Walton as ever breathed.

At the age of ten, Wimbledon claimed me as a resident—not the Wimbledon of to-day with nearly 40,000 inhabitants, but a quiet little village with a population of between 5000 and 6000 souls. Here it was, when undergoing the scholastic training deemed necessary to fit me for a commercial life, I made my first acquaintance with Wimbledon Lake.

At this time (it was in the early sixties), the Mansion known as Wimbledon Park House, with some hundreds of acres of land, and the lake referred to, was the abode of the late Mr. J. A. Beaumont. That gentleman purchased it in 1846, but did not take up his residence there until fourteen years later. The grounds, glass-houses, and orangeries, were the admiration of all—in fact, the great Sir Joseph Paxton began life here as under-gardener to his brother, who had charge of them. Overlooking the park from the terraces, views of wide extent, and of surpassing beauty were enjoyed. But now, alas! the estate, or the greater portion of it, has been cut up for building purposes; residences have been erected on portions of the property, and indeed, while the ornamental sheet of water naturally remains where it was in the olden days, the famous walks and many of the landscapes have been for ever blotted out.

At the period alluded to, the lake was the happy hunting-ground of the very few anglers who lived in Wimbledon. Mr. Beaumont was held in high esteem in the parish, and, being an angler himself, never refused permission to residents to fish it. Indeed, he kept a huge galley punt on the water, and many a gay and merry party have I seen on board intent on beguiling to their doom some of the fine roach with which the lake literally swarmed. It was no uncommon event for a single fisherman to catch a hundred good fish between 5 o'clock and dark, in the summer months. The butler of the establishment would, when the family were dining out, frequently make for a fancied spot of his near the boathouse at the shallow end, where there was then 3ft. or 4ft. of water (instead of the mudbank and mass of sedges, as now), with a pail in his hand, which he often half-filled with roach before he gave up. I have frequently creeled dozens at a visit, and on one never-to-be-forgotten blazing hot day in July, I had 150 fish. This take is vividly impressed upon my memory, by reason of a little adventure I had on that particular outing. I was leaning over the bank to lay an eel-line; but, unfortunately, over-balanced, and went head first into the water. I had on a pair of cricketing trousers, straw hat, and light jacket, and the condition I was in when I was dragged out of the water by a fellow angler can be better imagined than described.

I remember, too, that there was a wonderful rise of May-fly on the lake, and by creeping down behind some sedges and dapping with the live insect I have had good sport when the fly was up.

Later on, as my knowledge became more profound I tackled the carp, and many mornings, ere Aurora peeped, have I wended my way to the banks of the lake, returning home to breakfast with a brace of three or four pounders in my basket. My record take was three fish, one being an eight-pounder. One old angler who was a frequent visitor, had a strange way of fishing. He used a long rod, and, as presumably "fattening" the line to induce flotation was unknown to him, he fastened three or four pieces of cork on the running line to keep it on the surface of the water, and facilitate striking at a distance.

Bream were fairly plentiful, too, as on one occasion in later years my brother, fishing with two hooks, had a fish on each! The brace was eventually landed by means of a pail by keeper Day, and weighed 3lb. and 4lb. respectively.

As time rolled on, the property changed hands, but still sport, especially with carp, was good. An old retired Major—Seppings by name—was to be seen almost every day (Sundays excepted), carp fishing by the round sluice, under a willow tree long since cut down, at the deep end of the lake, and many a heavy fish rewarded that gallant officer, for his skill and patience.

BIRTH.—At Surrey Lodge, Denmark-hill, S.E., on May 11, the wife of R. B. Marston, of a son.

[3]



WIRE V. HEMP OR FLAX.

But now, *Omnia mutantur, nos et mutamur in illis*. The glory of Wimbledon Lake has—temporarily only, let it be hoped—departed. In place of a beautifully kept expanse of water, in which it was a real pleasure to angle, what do we find; or, rather, what was found throughout last summer and autumn, and for several years previous thereto? The whole surface of the lake, with the exception of a small open space at the top end of it, was covered with aquatic vegetation which had been allowed to increase and multiply virtually unchecked for years. A few years ago, a fair piece by the keeper's cottage was kept clear, but each season this has been encroached upon by the ever-expanding weed growth. When first I recollect "carp corner," it was a charming nook, 3ft., if not more, in depth, and an overflow at the end. This has given way to an inextricable mass of sedges and mud. The angling fraternity in general were freely allowed to fish in the lake, on payment of 1s. a day for one rod, for some years previous to 1898, but sport, for the most part, was confined to "tin plates," as the diminutive bream caught were dubbed. Still, now and then, good bream and carp were landed. But with regard to the latter, where one fish was brought safely to bank, a dozen escaped, owing principally to the hopeless task of trying to extract them from the banks of weeds into which they would rush when hooked. A few roach were often taken, and in the winter, when the green stuff had decayed somewhat, pike were creel in numbers. But the lake, in the opinion of many, prior to the formation of the Sports Club, Limited, which took over the water last year, has been rapidly deteriorating as an angling resort, not in consequence of the dearth of fish, but simply purely and entirely through the impossibility of fishing in beds of weeds for them. Rumour has it, however, that the newly established club will devote a good deal of attention to cleaning and mudding the lake, but to perform the work in a thorough manner (it has not been cleaned out for, I think I can safely say, over thirty years), would entail the expenditure of a considerable sum of money. Yet I am perfectly convinced that if it were restored to a fishable condition, the cost of this very necessary operation would be soon recouped. The club would naturally obtain a large accession of members to its ranks, and would, at the same time, earn the thanks and gratitude of every true sportsman—especially of those anglers whose delight it has ever been to cast a line on thirty acres of the loveliest water one can possibly find anywhere near the great and growing metropolis. H. A. ROIT.

A NIGHT IN A MACKEREL BOAT.

ALL through the Easter holidays we had strong winds and rough seas, so that fishing was almost impossible, and on those few occasions when we were able to try for them the fish were conspicuous by their absence. But in the Scillies there is always some pleasant method of passing the time, and some fresh beauties of nature to be discovered, so what with wandering into the flower fields to help pick the blooms, tying them into bunches, and watching the men packing them for market, or climbing steep rocks after sea birds' eggs, or bunting among the seaweed for the humble winkle (which, by the bye, is larger and finer than that we are accustomed to see in London), the time passed all too quickly, and as I wanted to spend two days with my Newlyn friends I had to leave Scilly at 9.30 on the morning of Thursday, April 6. We had a strong head wind, and the Lyonesse dipped her nose into the waves or rolled from side to side as though she enjoyed getting as much of the sea on board as she could carry. I need not say the passengers did not share her enjoyment, for we got pretty wet and could not walk about with any comfort on her slippery decks. We left Scilly in a fog, but we soon left that behind us, and when we came in sight of the Wolf we could plainly see the breakers dashing against it, and the spray from them almost hiding the lighthouse. We passed several fishing boats riding at their nets and some, evidently not liking the look of the weather, making for harbour. Off the Long ships we saw a small tug making very heavy weather, but bravely putting and puffing away on some business which evidently brooked no delay; even from the deck of our steamer we frequently lost sight of it, and we none of us envied her crew, who were evidently having a very damp time of it. We soon lost sight even of her funnel, and gladly welcomed the familiar landmarks as they came into view one after the other, the Land's End being followed by the Logan Rock, Lamana Cove, Mouse-hole, and Newlyn, and finally Penzance Pierhead, where we gladly disembarked and went our several ways. After dinner at Penzance I walked over to Newlyn to arrange for a night on one of the mackerel boats, but as the weather was looking so dirty it was arranged that I should

defer my trip till the next day. I passed the afternoon very pleasantly watching the boats coming in and being fixed to their moorings, or the salesmen selling the fish as they were brought ashore; then, as the shades of night were falling, and I had promised my fisher friends to be round in good time in the morning, I bade them "good night" and made my way to Penzance, and as I was very tired went early to bed, but not to sleep, for the noise of the wind, which was blowing a gale, kept me awake, and I could not help feeling thankful that I was safe in bed instead of passing the night in a mackerel boat. After an early breakfast I returned to Newlyn to see how my friends had fared, and found this usually quiet and happy village the scene of terrible distress and excitement. No less than fourteen boats had broken out of the harbour during the night, taking their moorings with them; none knew what had become of them, or of three men who had gone with them; but one thing was certain, that most, if not all, of the boats which had been blown out of the harbour would be lost, and their owners ruined. The catastrophe had occurred at the end of a long and trying winter, and just at the commencement of the fishing season, so it was no wonder that some of the poor fellows were almost heart-broken, and could scarcely trust themselves to speak of the ruin which had so suddenly overtaken themselves and their families; but the anxiety about the fate of the three men who had been on board the boats swallowed up every other feeling. As the day wore on reports began to come in. The first news was that one of the boats with a man aboard had run safely into Marazion Harbour; then, from Porth Leven, that a boat had been driven ashore there with a man on board. The fishermen, seeing her coming in, joined hands and went into the water up to their necks, then, as she struck, called on the man to jump, and catching him, pulled him ashore. Two men saved, but no news of the third. Then from Frab Sands, from Mullion, from Prussia Cove came reports thick and fast of boats ashore and broken up nets and gear destroyed, until the number totalled ten. Nothing could be ascertained of the other three, but after a week the third man telegraphed from Gravesend that he was safe, and his boat has been towed into Brixham by a trawler from that harbour. The remaining two boats probably sank, for nothing has been seen or heard of them. The Newlyn men alone lost in this one night £4000 worth of boats and gear, and later in the day the east country boats began to come in with a tale of disaster and loss of life. Two boats were sailing together near the Long ships, when the lights of one of them disappeared, and eight men found a watery grave. Another boat reported seeing a large steamer go down without being able to do anything to save those on board; and a steamer came in reporting the loss of her captain, mate, and three of the crew washed overboard. Truly never before had such a black Friday been known in Newlyn. Besides the loss of life, the east country boats lost nets, &c., of the value of £20,000. Altogether the loss to the fishermen of the west and east country will not be much under £30,000. The Lord Mayor of London has opened a fund for these distressed fishermen, and I hope all sea anglers will give their mite to assist those who have suffered so much through this terrible night on their mackerel boats. W. J. SIMPSON LADELL.

REPORTS FROM RIVERS, LOCHS, &c.

ENGLISH AND WELSH REPORTS.

Lower Thames.—GENERAL REMARKS.—It is now just twenty years since the committee of the Thames Angling Preservation Society raised the question in regard to the trout fishing season, in making an alteration as to its time of commencement from the 26th day of January to the 1st day of April, and would then assimilate with the new rules of the upper portion of the river above the City Stone at Staines, which had then passed into the hands of the Board of Thames Conservancy, and this proceeding on the part of the T.A.P.S. was successfully recognised by the conservators. There were other important alterations at that time suggested by the committee: the abolition of snatching fish as both cruel and unsportsmanlike, and the laying of night lines, through which many of the best trout in the river were taken—both of which at that time were practised to a considerable and lamentable extent—and, from the weighty evidence that was collected, left no doubt in the minds of the conservators that it was absolutely necessary to make additional bye-laws to regard them as illegal and punishable offences. I am sure Mr. Alfred Nuthall, who was then on the committee, and took an active part in the work, will endorse my remark; they were two of the greatest evils that ever existed on the Thames, and no one was more delighted than himself when the new bye laws were approved by Her Majesty in Council at the court at Balmoral on the 28th day of October, 1879.—B.

—(**Datchet**).—The trout seem to be moving a bit better at last. Had a fine fish on Monday evening, 6h. On Tuesday I was out a couple of hours, between nine and eleven, saw several more, lost one of them. Wednesday morning I saw one or two more. I have not been out of sight of the landing here since I wrote last. I hope to be among them this week if they continue to move. I know where there are some, if I can get time or anyone turns up. LATER.—Since writing I have been out with Mr. J. C. Tryon, who caught a lovely game fish of nearly 5lb.—G. LUMSDEN.

—(**Hampton**).—The customary netting of the cutting in Platts Egrot, at Hampton, took place on Wednesday afternoon, under the superintendence of head river keeper William Douglas, of the T.A.P.S., out of which were taken a good four bushels of fish, nearly all perch, up to

2lb. each, a carp of 3lb., and a few pike up to 6lb. All the perch are reported as having spawned, and the cutting is going to be filled in. Mr. Benn, boatbuilder, kindly lent a punt, and greatly helped in the removal of the fish into the river.—B.

—(**Hampton Court**).—William Milbourne, writing on Tuesday, says: "There has not been anything done but one small trout weighing 1lb. 12oz., that was caught by Mr. Gunn at the weir. The last few days the trout have been showing well, and the water in good condition, but no one comes to try for them." I am afraid the trout fishers are not so numerous as in days gone by, as the fishermen generally remark, "There are plenty of trout to be taken if the anglers will only put in an appearance."—B.

—(**Shepperton**).—George Rosewell, writing on Monday, says: "Had two more fish, bringing my total up to five this season; not so bad, after all. You see, I only wanted patrons, and I could find the whereabouts of the trout for them. Mr. R. Coles had a nice one of 3½lb., and Mr. Atwood one of 6lb. If we could only get warmer nights there would be some good ones taken."—B.

—(**Sunbury**).—Messrs. T. and A. Stroud kindly inform me that Mr. Brooks, fishing from one of their punts, creel a nice trout of 5½lb.—B.

—(**Teddington**).—Mr. Gunston, of the Twickenham Piscatorial Society, fishing with John Johnson, of Kingston, on Friday last, caught a nice trout of 3½lb.; and the same fisherman, the following day, with another gentleman, who lost a larger fish.—B.

Ancholme District.—The continued cold weather retards the hatching of aquatic flies, and the season is very late. We usually have the Hawthorn Fly by now, but none are yet in evidence. One basket of ten nice trout was taken during the week. The largest fish was 1½lb.—THOMAS FORD (Caistor).

Cornish Streams.—The rivers are all very low, and perfectly clear. Few anglers have been out within the past few days. Mr. C. Vyvyan got twenty-one and twenty-three trout on separate days, on the De Lank stream; and another rod got thirty-eight on the Ruthern, the heaviest 2lb. Peal are not beginning to run yet, although in the Tavy one was caught a week ago. Heavy rain is much wanted.—BODMIN.

Cray.—There is more water in this little river this season, and the fish were rising fairly this afternoon. I had a lot of small fish (chiefly on Red Quill Gnat), but had to put most of them back. The large fish will not rise much in this stream.—J. P. T.

Darent (Farningham, South Darent, &c.)—At last the fish are beginning to rise regularly, though only for a few minutes at a time. I watched them the other evening taking little duns in quite the old-fashioned way, but no one put a fly over them. The few fish that were taken had been chiefly victims to wet fly. Prospects, however, are now fairly good, though water is still scarce, and likely to remain so, in spite of all the rain we have had this spring. Best fly, Red Quill Gnat.—J. P. T.

Dart (Totnes and District).—The best sport with trout has been obtained in the evenings with the natural minnow. Dr. Norman, of Paignton, has had a couple of dozen, and Mr. Persbonse, of Torquay, who has been fishing near Streteford, has killed a similar number on some days. On Monday evening W. L. P. Horswell creel a dozen, and Messrs. H. T. Distin and E. Distin basketed a few brace of nice fish; Mr. H. Full killing nine. Small creels have also been made by Messrs. E. Ackrell, M. Revell, T. Browne, and others, but others are very prevalent, and interfere with sport. Peal, truff, and salmon are scarce, although a few salmon were killed on the moor last week. The Rev. C. Rickards, of Princetown, landed one with Childer's fly, and Mr. Martin secured a 17½-pounder and one of 14½lb. with a Durbam Ranger. After the natural minnow, flies used are Edmond's Palmer, Blue and Yellow Body, Olive Dan, and Black Midge.—DEVONIAN.

Devonshire Streams.—The streams have decreased in volume, and need rain again, although the recent spate did a lot of good. Trouting is not productive of anything like large baskets, the fish lying more in the stickles, but the best takes are about twelve brace. Sport has not been quite so good in the district; around the southern border, where bright coloured flies take well in the pools, and Grannom, Stone, or Blue Upright are also used. The Avon, Dart, and southern streams are quiet, and visitors are not yet numerous on the former, although the waters on Dartmoor are too freely patronised to allow of much good individual sport. Takes of salmon are few and far between. Mr. C. Beresford killed one on the Torridge at Bean, and Mr. C. Pearson added a 20-pounder to his list, the fish being landed at Hele. The Blue Upright and Red Spinner are killing flies for trout.—DEVONIAN.

Esk (Whitby).—Sport has been much improved on this river during the past week, though the majority of takes have been effected in the small streams. On the association water, Mr. J. W. Nicholson has landed five brace; whilst Dr. English has landed five brace also. On the other portion of the river the catches recorded are: Mr. T. Gray, seven brace; Mr. T. Stanforth, six brace; Mr. A. Stanforth, eight brace; Mr. J. Gidden, seven brace; Mr. R. Saddler, eight brace; Capt. Long, three brace. With the continuance of favourable conditions better sport is anticipated. At present the association water is not much fished by enthusiasts, the lower water being probably more remunerative.—J. JACKSON.

Exe and Canal (Exeter).—Fair weather has prevailed during this past week, but wind still hngs the easterly country, to the intense disgust of fly fishermen of course, whose bags generally have not been heavy. Surgeon-Major Barrington, whilst spinning for salmon near Thorverton, killed a fine pike of 17½lb.; and Mr. J. A. Kelley secured another of 7lb. and a brace of perch, 1½lb. and 1lb. Pike fishermen proper will, of course, term

this "unsportsmanlike," but as these fish are denizens of a high class trout preserve, they, in common with perch, are given scant consideration. It is very regrettable, from a sporting point of view, that these fish frequently thrive best where not wanted.—RED PALMER.

Fen District (South Lincs. and Cambs.).—Better things are noticed in the trout fishing district, owing to the warmer weather. But it is some years since we had such poor weather up to the middle of May. Fly fishing is really very poor, scarcely anything but land flies are to be seen, and trout are only rising in the evening. I hear it is likely that the Peterborough anglers will have during the summer an accession to their ranks. Sheffield anglers have been applying for permission to fish their waters on the Nene, and the Peterborough Association have determined to admit them on the same terms as local members.—LIMPET.

Idle District (North Notts.).—Trout fishing is still very quiet on the Idle, Rytton, and other waters running north. But the waters running south to the Trent have had fair patronage from their members. Captures, however, are not of much account. Among the best items noticed is the capture of a trout at Blyth, on the Rytton, scaling 2½lb. Several other fish of a goodly size have come from the same locality. Odd fish are also got from the Idle, bottom fishing in the deep waters between Retford and Maltersay.—L.

Lake Vyrnwy (N. Wales).—During the week 270 fish were killed on the lake, the total weight being 167lb. 11oz. The weather has been against big baskets, as the wind has been keeping between N. and N.E. On the 3rd, seventy-three fish weighed 43lb. 10oz. Capt. Garnett made the best basket with eighteen fish, 10lb. 10oz.; Mr. Chambers killed eleven, 5lb. 9oz.; Mr. Isaac, eight, 5lb. 4oz.; Capt. F. H. Garnett, six, 3lb. 8oz.; Mr. Paliaret, five, 2lb. 14oz.; Mr. Jackson, five, 3lb. 10oz.; and the Rev. Cheshire, five, 2lb. 10oz. The remaining baskets contained less than five each. On the 4th, fifty-one fish scaled 32lb. 10oz. Rev. Burnside made the best basket with ten, 6lb. 4oz.; Mr. Lyett was second with eight, 4lb. 5oz.; Mr. Chambers next with six, 3lb. 8oz.; Mr. Jackson, five, 3lb. 5oz. On the 5th, forty-five fish were taken weighing 26lb. 11oz. Rev. Burnside killed eleven, 6lb. 4oz.; Capt. F. H. Garnett, nine, 5lb. 8oz.; Mr. Henty, nine, 5lb. 14oz.; Capt. Garnett, seven, 4lb. 10oz.; and Mr. Chambers, eight, 4lb. 5oz. On the 6th, forty fish weighed 25lb. 13oz. Mr. Isaac killed twelve, 7lb. 2oz.; Capt. Garnett, 6lb. 6oz.; Mr. Chambers, six, 4lb. 10oz.; and Mr. Paliaret, five, 3lb. 6oz. On the 8th, thirty-three fish weighed 21lb. 4oz. Mr. Henty killed seven, 4lb. 2oz.; Mr. Gee, six, 4lb. 14oz.; Mr. Isaac, five, 2lb. 13oz.; Mr. R. L. Garnett, four, 2lb. 8oz.; Mr. Jackson, four, 2lb. 13oz.; and Mr. Shaw, three, 1lb. 12oz. On the 9th (a bitterly cold day) only twenty-eight fish were killed, weighing 18lb. 4oz. Capt. Garnett creel ten, 6lb. 10oz.; Mr. Jackson, six, 3lb. 12oz.; Mr. R. L. Garnett, four, 2lb. 12oz.; Mr. Henty, three, 2lb. 10oz.; Mr. Shaw, three, 2lb. 10oz.; and Col. Doncaster, two, 1lb. 2oz. The fishing on the rivers has been exceptionally good, the best baskets of the week being made by Rev. Cheshire, who killed forty fish on the 5th.—LONGDRIFT.

Lark (Ecklingham and Lackford).—The cold north-east wind prevailing during the past week has been against trout fishing. I can only hear of two small fish being taken, by Mr. H. Mayhew and Mr. L. F. Best. Mr. A. J. Harvey, out on the 4th, secured two pike. Nice rain here to-day (Tuesday), with warmer wind, which I trust will improve sport.—A. E. KEMP.

Lea and Tributaries.—The Lea is in pretty fair order, and anglers are only waiting for warm weather to do execution among the trout. Cold nights and unfavourable winds have during the past week militated against success among these fish. Mr. Chapman is credited with four trout, weighing 7½lb., secured from the Hertford district, and here Mr. Tehbunt has taken a trout, and other anglers are reported to have had fish. Last week's 3lb. 14oz. trout was landed by Mr. Savage. Up to the time of writing I cannot hear of any trout captures at either Ware or St. Margaret's, and reports (as far as trout are concerned) bring no good news from Rye House, Hoddessden, or Broxbourne. A trout of 2lb. and a pike of about 4½lb. have been found floating dead in the river at Ware—it is to be hoped, not the result of pollution. There have been some pike and perch caught here and returned by trout anglers. The Beane is low but fresh, and has yielded some nice trout in the Hertford district. A boy named Currell has secured a brace and a half, including a fish of 3lb. 9oz.; and Mr. C. Mead, in two outings, has landed two and a half brace, the best fish 2lb. 3oz. and 1lb. 10oz. In Oram's water (Hertford), Mr. W. Garratt has killed a trout of 2lb. 8oz. Trout should now be met with among the trout in the Rib, Amwell Magna, Ash, &c.—ISAAC WALTON.

Lugg and Arrow (Leominster).—Both these noted streams are now running clear and a nice level, and in good order for fishing. The weather has turned from cold, with east winds, to fine, and Wednesday was one of the first days of summer. The cold weather was against fishing, but a few showers of rain have brought the fish to rise well, and they are now well on the feed, and are taking Yellow Dun, Blue Dun, and Coch-y-Bondhu, and the Alder Fly may be expected any day. A few rods have been out, but there has been no good dishes of fish landed. By the end of the week there is every possibility of good sport. The Pinsley is now clear and in good order.—GWYNNE.

Lugg, Arrow, and Pinsley (Kingsland).—Rivers are in capital trim, yet sport has not been up to the average for time of year, in fact, quite the reverse. Tuesday, 9th inst., we had a few hours' gentle rain, which has certainly improved conditions, and if the wind would only shift from the neighbourhood of N.E.

prospects would mend at once. Fish are backward in condition. Alder is just coming out. Yellow Dun, Rusty Blue, Stone, Iron Blue, Hardy Brown, and Grey and Red Spinners are all on the water, though not nearly in as great quantity as usual.—R. T. WILLIAMS.

Nene (Peterborough).—I am pleased to be able to announce that it has been decided to cut the weeds in the river for the "summer swims" from Woodstone Stannch to the Thicket, the cost being borne by the Peterborough Angling Association. A deputation of the Sheffield Angling Association has waited upon the secretary of the Peterborough Association, and made an offer of £6 per annum for their members to be allowed to fish in the Peterborough Society's water, which was declined, as it was pointed out that some thousands of Sheffielders might avail themselves of the fishing if it were accepted. It was decided that the Sheffielders could only fish in the waters of the association by paying the same fees as the ordinary members.—E. A. S.

Plymouth.—I have just returned from a three weeks' trip on the moor. On the whole the weather was not very good for fishing. There were one or two days, however, after rain that afforded good sport. The Meavy, Walkham, Tavy, and the Dart have all been in flood, and the peal have had a good chance of running up the rivers. I noticed in the Devonport beat a great number of caddis fly. On Wednesday the beat was run off, and in the small pools several of these caddis worms could be seen. In fact, I noticed more than one leave the shell, and come to the surface fluttering its wings. This explodes the idea that we do not get the May Fly here. Burnaton Reservoir is finished and full of water. It certainly looks a fine piece of water. It is about one and a half miles long, about one mile wide, and the deepest spot is 77ft. We shall have some good sport there in time to come, and with proper care it should bring in a good revenue.—WILLIAM HEARDER.

Severn, Vyrnwy, Tanat, and Cain (Llanymynech).—Up to the commencement of the present week the wind has blown raw and cold, persistently from the north-east or east, but on Tuesday a very welcome change set in, heralded by frequent peals of thunder, and since that time the weather has been all that could be desired from an angling point of view, as many flies are now on the water, and the trout are now rising freely, so that good bags are being made on all these rivers, and more especially on the Tanat and Cain. Anglers have also had a good time in the neighbourhood of Ardlean, about three miles from Llanymynech, on the Welshpool-road, where several fair sized pike have been taken from the canal, and also some nice eels, which were highly prized by their captors—gentlemen from the neighbourhood of Manchester. Mr. Edmund Buckley's other hounds have had capital sport in this neighbourhood. On Tuesday, meeting at the mouth of the Tanat, they had an hour's first-class excitement, and killed an otter which weighed 19lb. On Wednesday, on the same river, above Pen-y-bont Bridge, they also captured a large male otter, which turned the scale at 22lb., after a long chase, in the presence of a large number of ladies and gentlemen, and in splendid weather.—VYRNWY.

Slapton, South Devon (Royal Sands Hotel).—Fishing on the Slapton Ley, a lady in one boat ran thirty pike and caught twenty; a gentleman in another boat ran twelve and caught eleven; the third boat ran eleven and caught nine. On Wednesday, up to luncheon time, nine pike were caught.—J. C.

Sussex Rivers and Chichester Harbour.—With fine weather, streams and rivers are on the bright side, and dace fishing on the Ouse has not been a success. A bag of nine fish was taken by a Lewes angler, and others have taken from five to seven fish. The average has been 5oz., and the leading flies Wickham, Red Palmer, and Coachman. A few trout have been taken at Bolney, where a few fish may always be found. From the main river—the Ouse—in the upper reaches trout up to 1½lb. have been secured with minnow, and from the tributaries from four to six brace a day, principally with worm. A short rod and strong tackle is imperative, as the roots and sunken timber allow of no play. The tributaries of the Adur have yielded a few trout. One fish of 2lb. was taken recently from a culvert near Beeding with maiden loch; and, with permission, a few nice fish may be taken in this locality. The scenery on the Rother is now well worth a visit to the artist angler, and good trout are to be had, although few and far between. A brace of fish, weighing together 2lb. 10oz., were taken on Monday with minnow, and a heavier fish lost. Smelt fishing in Chichester Harbour has not been so prolific. From four to nine dozen have been taken per tide with rsgworm. Chichester Canal is teeming with all kinds of fish. Roach are somewhat late in spawning. Carp of 14lb. may be seen in the basin and under the bridges.—GEORGE F. SALTER.

Taff (Llandowor, Carmarthenshire).—Good sport is being had with trout, and some nice baskets taken during the past few days. The water continues in good order.—H.

Taw (North Devon).—Since my last, when the rain raised the waters, I heard of some nice takes of trout, but the frosty nights and east wind has caused the rivers to run down almost to summer level. Rain is wanted seriously. Salmon fishing is a complete failure. On my road to Exeter, Saturday, travelling with fishermen going back, the rivers were our attraction, and for forty miles I only saw one gentleman fishing, and I heard he took nothing; the rivers were too low and bright. Should rain come now that the weather is warmer some nice catches will be had.—RUSTY GAME.

Teifi (Llandysil, South Wales).—River in good condition, and good baskets of trout have been caught this last week from 10lb. to 3½lb. Six salmon also taken from 10lb. to 18lb. by local fishermen and visitors.—S.

Teme (Ludlow).—The Teme in this part is still running clear and a nice level, and in good order for fishing. The weather up to Wednesday has been very cold, and with easterly winds prevailing, and has been against good sport. There has been a good few rods out, but the fish have not been rising well. On Tuesday rain fell in this part and refreshed the river, and on Wednesday the weather changed warm and like summer, and the fish were rising well at the fly. The best flies to use are the Blue Dun, Iron Blue, Cowdung, Yellow Dun, Stone Fly, and Coch-y-bondhu. Worm fishing has been tried in the deep water with good success. Minnow fishing has met with but little success. In the water below Ludford there has been several gentlemen out, who have taken some very nice trout with Yellow Dun and Coch-y-bondhu, but no large baskets have been landed. With the worm, on Monday evening and Tuesday, good trout were landed. On Wednesday morning a nice lot of trout were caught with the Yellow Dun. The Ony, Corve, Cynn, and Ledwyche, are all running clear and a nice level, and sport in them has been better since Monday, and some nice sized fish taken, and the prospects for sport are good.—S. LUDLOW.

Teme (Tenbury).—In this district the water is now gone down, and is running clear and a nice level, and in capital order for angling. The weather has not been favourable for anglers to get out, with the east winds, but the fish have been rising during the middle of the day. Rain has been had in the district, which has refreshed the river, and to-day (Wednesday) the weather has taken up fine and warm, and after the rain the fish have been rising better, and there is now every prospect of some good sport being had. The best flies will be the Yellow Dun, Coch-y-bondhu, Blue Dun, and Red Spinner.—WORCESTER.

Usk (Abergavenny).—Water at present low and clear. There is a nice overcast to-day, and trout ought to move. Have not heard of any salmon being taken recently. The lad's body, of which I reported last week, has not yet been found, although Supt. Matthew Williams and W. Gale, water bailiff, and others are doing all in their power to find it. It would be great satisfaction to the parents if the body was recovered, as the suspense must be very trying to them. A Mrs. Morgan has been missing since Sunday last; her cloak and hat have been found on the bank of the river by a man named Connelly. It is surmised that she has drowned herself. Searchers with drags have been busy up till to-day (Tuesday), but with no effect.—E. DELAFIELD.

Usk and Tributaries (Senny Bridge).—Rivers at present are very clear, and are getting low again. The trout now are beginning to rise better in the evening. Mr. Gerald Eden managed to catch a basket of 5lb. last Saturday with the fly. It seems a general complaint here that there are not so many flies on the water this season as usual.—PONTSENY.

Witham, &c. (Mid-Lincolnshire).—Reports of sport in north Lincolnshire are very scarce. Even the fine weather of last week had not made much impression, according to the reports to hand. Vegetation is putting out vigorously, and but for the cold nights that have pretty generally prevailed we should have had here this a plentiful supply of flies of different kinds. As yet land flies are about the only ones to be seen, and trout are only rising towards sundown. Captures are very poor, and mostly with worm and grub.—LUCI.

Wye and Derwent (Derbyshire).—These rivers are in order for fly fishing, but no very heavy creels have been obtained owing, it is thought, to a cold north-east wind that has prevailed. A fair number of anglers have been out on the Wye, and a few nice trout have been taken, but not with satisfactory results for this time of the year, as the Yellow Sally is just making its appearance, and fly fishermen all know how eager trout are after this fly. The Hathersage and Chatsworth fisheries have had about an average number of rods, but reports are that the best baskets have not exceeded more than four or five brace. The Darley Dale Club's water has only had a few anglers during the past week, with only moderate success. Mr. Brown, on the lower reaches of this club's portion of the Derwent, has landed several brace of trout fishing with worm. The Matlock and Cromford Angling Association's water, Matlock Dale, has yielded some nice trout. Mr. E. H. Maule, on Tuesday, took a brace or two from this part of the Derwent with minnow; also on Monday, below Cromford, this gentleman landed three brace with Cooper's Farcy.—DOTTEREL.

Yore, Swale, Wharfe, Nidd, &c. (Yorkshire).—There has been a falling off in sport this week. The frosty nights and brilliant days which prevailed from Friday until Monday caused our rivers to fall down very much, and most of them are now quite at summer level, and in the upper reaches are very bright, consequently only expert anglers can kill trout, and their takes are very poor. The few fish caught in the Yore have been taken with the natural minnow, fished on fine Ariel tackle in the rough streams. I have also heard of the capture of a nice dish or two of trout with the Stone Fly Creeper. As an instance of the late season, I may say I saw a large flock of fieldfares on my way to the Yore to-day. I never observed the fieldfare in the second week in May before. Reports from the waters of the Hawes Angling Association and the Wensleydale Angling Association are "poor sport generally," and it will not improve until after a fresher row. The Aire is getting low in the upper waters. The cold winds have been against sport in the Esk, one of the most successful anglers since the season opened being Dr. Dreaper, of Grosmont, who I knew as a keen hand on the Yore a few years ago. From Scarborough comes the news that the corporation are going to add 500 more tench, and a like number of perch, to the stock of fish in the mere, and that the water in the upper Derwent, Scalby and Burniston Beck, is running clear. The season so far has not

been good, and anglers up the Wharfe and Nidd are now looking for a fresher to improve matters. I hear Mr. Riley Fortune had good sport on the Yore last Saturday, getting twenty-one trout with the worm in two hours' fishing. But the best panner I have heard of this season is the one made by J. W. Lodge, Esq., of the Rookery, Bishopdale, in his own water, the Bishopdale Beck. He killed in two days ninety-six trout with the Orange Partridge hackle. Good baskets have been scarce on the Wharfe. Mr. Leech has, however, had a good day or two on the Ilkley length, and this water shows good returns so far this season. The club has a vacancy for one more member, and I shall be glad to give full particulars to anyone requiring good and select fishing. Mr. Mitchell has had fair sport on the Nidd, and reports a good rise of the Dark Wabset and Yellow Legged Bloa, but all the Niddersdale anglers are now complaining of low and clear water, bright sun, and cold north-east winds. The fishing in the Roundhay Park lakes, a boon to the Leeds anglers, has been fairly good this season. Some pike have been killed containing rainbows, and the Leeds Amalgamation must rid the water of these pests if the trout fishing is to be kept up. I hear some of the Northallerton anglers have had good sport in the Codbeck, the Rev. D. Jacob, Chaplain to H.M. Prison, being very successful. Some good dishes of trout have also been caught in the Bedale Beck, in the Constable Burton water, by Mr. Elliott and others.—JOHN E. MILLER, Northern Anglers' Depot, 19, New Station-street, Leeds.

BY TELEGRAPH.—Considering low and bright water, some of the Yoredale anglers have been doing better than could be expected. Although there is yet a scarcity of natural flies, I found the Gravel Bed Fly, the Blue Midge of Jackson, well on yesterday; also Red Clock Bloas are few and far between, also the browns. Mr. Willis, Carperby, on Saturday killed fourteen nice trout with Dotted and Yellow, and on Tuesday thirty, all with Blue Dun and Snipe and Purple. Yesterday Mr. Kilburn had eighteen nice fish, caught with Grouse and Purple and Pout Bloa; Mr. Skidmore, Askrigg, had fair sport; Mr. Sadler caught a trout of 1½lb. below Aysgarth. Sport in Lake Semerwater, Mr. Wetherald getting thirty-seven trout in one day's fishing. It is raining heavily. This will freshen Yorkshire rivers and bring warmer weather. Prospects next week good.—J. E. MILLER, Northern Anglers' Depot, 19, New Station-street, Leeds.

SCOTCH REPORTS.

Carron (Easter Ross, Ardgay, N.B.).—The weather has been most unfavourable, nevertheless the following sport has been got: On Tuesday, last week, Mr. Thorn, Bainsgown Arms Hotel, landed a salmon of 8lb. and a trout of 1lb. On Wednesday, Mr. Boosey, London, was out from the hotel, and caught a 10lb. salmon; and Mr. Thorn, an 11-pounder. On Saturday, Mr. Boosey landed one of 8lb. They were all caught on Dnie and Invercharon waters.—B.

Deveron (Banffshire).—Last week this river was in fair fishing condition, the weather proving better, the frost not being so keen in the early mornings. Owing to the long continued drought, the water is getting limited in volume, which in a small stream like the Deveron checks the running of fish. On the Blairmore water, on the 2nd inst., Mr. A. Gauld, the keeper, had a new run fish of 7½lb.—the first of the season. On the 5th inst., on the Marnoch section, Mr. H. B. Leatham killed a salmon of 7lb.; and on the same day Mr. Walker, keeper, on the Corniehaugh section, landed four salmon, scaling 6lb., 7lb., 9½lb., and 10½lb. The yield from the net fishings on the river was from one to three fish daily, the average weight of which would be 8lb., the heaviest being 10lb. In the middle of last week the net fishermen caught a grilse—the first taken from the river this season—it scaled 2½lb. Last year it was the 13th of the month before they made their appearance in the river. A grilse of similar weight was also got in a bag net on the coast. At the various stations the yield was much like that of the previous week, half a dozen salmon being the highest number got at any of the stations. Now that grilse are coming on it is expected that the fishings both in the river and sea will improve. For the week ending Tuesday four boxes of fish were consigned to the markets; two less than that of the corresponding week last year.—H. W.

Loch Katrine (Stronachlachar Hotel).—Out from Stronachlachar Hotel, on Friday, Mr. C. McIntyre caught twelve trout; Mr. Neale Thomson, fishing Loch Chon, caught five trout. On Saturday, Mr. C. McIntyre caught eight; and Mr. Neale Thomson, six. On Monday, Mr. Neale Thomson had a fine basket of thirteen trout (heaviest, 1lb. 7oz.); Major White, four trout.—H. M.

Lochleven (Kinross).—The weather has been too clear for sport during the past week, and there has been a considerable falling off in the number of trout captured since Thursday last week, though that day produced the heaviest yield of the season, viz., 433 trout to forty-three rods; the most successful anglers then being Mr. R. P. Wilson, Mar Rinch, who had forty-eight trout, 30lb.; and Mr. Gray, Edinburgh, who creeled forty trout, 23lb. Of nine clubs which competed the most successful was the Kinross Club, the catch to twenty-one rods being 194 trout, 102lb. 12oz. The heaviest prize basket was got by Mr. J. Fortune at that competition, and contained twenty-four which weighed 10lb. 11oz. Mr. G. Davies captured the heaviest trout. A competition was held by the Northumberland Club, at which nine members took part. Their catch was only twenty-nine trout, 15½lb. Mr. Vaughan secured first prize with eight. With a steadily falling barometer the ensuing week promises to afford the angler better sport. The brightness prevented fly fishing, and minnow has been the principal mode of capture. Most of the boats are already engaged for next week, and with

moist and milder weather, heavy catches should be got.—ROBERT LAING.

Loch Ness (Foyers Hotel), N.B.—The trout fishing on Loch Mhor was opened, with very good results, on April 27, by the Rev. T. J. Yarde, Chudleigh, who on the first day's fishing with fly had a chude of forty-one very fine trout, weighing 25lb. On Monday, May 1, the same gentleman killed eight trout, 7½lb.; Tuesday, fourteen trout, 9lb.; Wednesday, four trout, 4lb.; on Friday he again had forty-one trout, weighing 27lb.; on Saturday, five trout, 4lb. Taking into consideration the bright sunshine and easterly winds, the loch has given great satisfaction, and holds out promise of excellent sport this season.—S. TILSTON.

Loch Tay (Killin, N.B.).—April 29, Mr. Dymond killed a fine salmon of 14lb. May 1, Mr. Thomson, one, 23lb.; 2nd, Mr. Dymond, one, 17lb.; 3rd, Mr. Thomson, one, 16lb.; and Mr. Dymond, two, 15lb. and 16lb.; 8th, Mr. J. Trevor Davies, one, 16lb.—H. J. MAISEY.

Lyon (Portingall Hotel, Glen Lyon, Perthshire).—A gentleman fishing from the hotel (Mr. Stewart) landed a beautiful salmon, weight 16lb., on May 6. River in ply. Many salmon to be seen.—PAUL MACPHAIL.

Naver (Bettyhill, via Thurso, N.B.).—The weather has been too bright for angling, and river rather low. On Monday week Mr. Oats, Dalvina Lodge, landed four salmon on beats 2 and 3. On Tuesday the same angler had one on No. 1. On Wednesday, Major Burnell Milnes, Dalvina Lodge, caught a salmon on No. 2; Mr. Oats, one on No. 3; Mr. Blood, Skelpick Lodge, two on No. 1; Master Gill, Syre Lodge, one on No. 4; Mr. Gill, one on No. 5; and Mr. Anderson, Syre Lodge, one on No. 6. On Thursday, the Skelpick Lodge rods caught three salmon on beats 2 and 3. On Friday, Mr. Gill, Syre Lodge, had one on No. 1; Mr. Lawrence, Skelpick Lodge, two on No. 2; and Master Gill, one on No. 6. On Saturday, Mr. Gill had one on No. 2, and Mr. Lawrence one on No. 3, which made a total of twenty-one salmon for the week.—B.

North-East of Scotland.—Sport is steadily improving, and particularly so on the middle and upper waters of the Dee, Spey, &c. Bar the easterly winds angling conditions could not be better. The coast fishing is still in a backward condition generally, and very few grilse are as yet making their appearance. A genial shower would do a vast amount of good. On the Braemar waters Mr. Granville Farquhar had four fish on the Invercauld reach on Friday, scaling 6½lb., 7½lb., 8lb., and 16lb., and one on Saturday of 6lb. On Tuesday he had another of 14lb.; while Mr. Page had two of 6lb. each; and Mr. Farquhar one of 5lb. Her Majesty the Queen is due at Balmoral on the 27th, meantime the royal keepers are getting one or two fish daily. On the Ballater waters, Mr. Griffith, Mr. Wigelow, and others have had one or two fish daily. On the Crathie section, Major Shnt creeled one of 6lb. On the Glentana waters, last week, Mr. Barclay creeled four fish, scaling 4lb., 12lb., 12½lb., and 14lb., six, of 4½lb., 5lb., 5½lb., 6lb., 7lb., and 15½lb., four, of 5½lb., 6lb., 14½lb., and 26lb., and so on daily for the week; while Mr. Laming had one of 6½lb., three, of 6½lb., 7lb., and 16lb., two of 7½lb. each; and Mr. Farrer, two, of 8lb. and 5lb., one of 7½lb., one of 7lb.; and Major Scott, two, of 6lb. and 7lb. On the Huntley Arms waters, Dr. Lewis, last week, had six fish, scaling 8lb., 7lb., 6lb., 8lb., 6lb., and 11lb.; Mr. Younger, one of 8lb.; Mr. Whitelaw, four, of 6lb., 13lb., 9lb., and 7lb.; Mr. McNeil, one of 13lb.; Mr. Fife-Jameson one of 5lb.; and Mr. Allan, four, of 5lb., 6lb., 6lb., and 8lb. On the Dees water, Major Davidson and friends landed six, scaling from 6lb. to 8½lb. On the Lodge water, Mr. James G. Orr had two, of 6lb. and 8lb. On Carlogie water, Mr. Wm. Monk-Gould landed two, of 6lb. and 12lb.; while Lord Lisburn had one on Borrowstone of 8lb., and Lord Garrioch, one of 10½lb. on the same beat. On the Ballorie section, John Sherit creeled one of 7lb., while Sandy Ross had two on Commonly water of 6lb. and 7lb. On the Woodend water, Mr. John Mortimer landed six of average weights, while Mr. Davies had several on the Upper Blackhall section. Sport improving steadily. On the Don good baskets of yellow trout were made, all to the fly. On the Ythan, Mr. G. M. Mackay, Aberdeen, had a basket of 16lb. on Saturday, on Ellon Castle waters, three of them over 1½lb., while Mr. Shepherd, Aberdeen, had a salmon of 9lb.; and eleven trout on Monday. On the upper waters Mr. Gordon had a salmon of 14lb. On the Ugie anglers had very good sport, several coming from the Cruden Bay Hotel. On the Deveron splendid baskets of trout are being made, and on Tuesday, Gould, keeper, had a fine fish of 7½lb. on Blairmore water.—G. M.

Shin (Inveran, N.B.).—Since last reported the sport by anglers from Sutherland Arms Hotel has been as follows: On 24th ult., Mr. Evans, one salmon, 20lb.; Mr. Jackson, two, 8lb. and 9lb.; and Mrs. Farrer, one of 8lb. On 25th, Mr. Johnson landed a 5-pounder; and Mr. Evans one of 18lb. On 26th, Mr. Evans caught one of 8lb. On 28th, Mr. Johnson grassed a 6-pounder; and on 29th, Miss Evans one of 10lb. On 1st inst., Sir John Ferguson Davie, Bart., of Creedy, Devonshire, got a salmon of 9lb. On 2nd, Sir John landed an 18-pounder; and Sir John Shelley, Bart., of Michaelgrove, Sussex, two, of 12lb. and 6lb. On 3rd, Sir John Ferguson Davie landed one of 9lb. Rest of the week blank. River too low and weather too bright.—B.

South of Scotland.—The Border rivers have been low and clear since Saturday—out of order for salmon fishing, but in nice ply for trout. The spring salmon fishing is ended, and there will be little done in the way of salmon fishing until the back-end of summer. Taken all over, the spring angling was a huge failure in this part of the country. Sea trout will take the place of salmon in June. By the end of that month the herling will be making their appearance, the best of all trout fishing on

the Border streams. During July, herling run up the Annan, Esk, Frith, and Galloway rivers in thousands. On the lower waters of the two former rivers the sport is good on favourable days. Anglers on the Borders have been greatly troubled by cold east winds during the day and snaps of frost in the early mornings. There has been no fly on the water to speak of for the past ten days, and trout have not been taking well. On the Annan not much has been done during the week. Fishing in the Luce part of Mount Annan water on Friday, Mr. Thorburn killed a clean run spring salmon of 9lb. on a Brown Turkey Fly. Mr. Thorburn also had a few yellow trout. The Rev. Mr. Coleby took about thirty yellow trout, but returned all but eight, owing to the trout being under condition. They were all taken with fly. Mr. Pasley Dirom's keeper killed two sea trout in the Mount Annan water, and one or two others have been caught during the past week. In the Solway Derwent around Cokermouth the cold east winds have kept the trout off the rise; nevertheless, some anglers had fair sport for an hour or two among yellow trout. The best baskets during the past week have been with worm bait. Mr. John Soulsby had a dozen yellow trout on the Derwent with worm; Mr. R. F. Brown and Mr. J. Parkin had nice baskets on the Cocker; Mr. J. Soulsby caught ten at another outing. Mr. Jas. Grave, Mr. Bowe, Mr. D. Pearson, Mr. Cooper, and Mr. Burn had fair sport last week. In the Galloway waters nothing comes to hand worth reporting this week. On the Dench of Carsphairn several anglers did fairly well among yellow trout, one gentleman killing two of fully 2lb. each. On the Ayrshire lochs and rivers sport has been very poor of late on the rivers, and little has been done since the last floods. A number of rods have been out on Loch Doon and Finlas. Nothing reaches me as to the results of the week.—HEATHER-BELL.

Tongue Hotel Waters.—Some excellent sport has been got on the Kyle since last reported. On April 27, the Rev. Mr. Mackay, Pitlochry, had six trout, weighing 9lb. On May 1, the same gentleman had five trout, 8lb. On the 2nd he had five fish, 9lb. On the 4th, Mr. Macinnes had two trout, 4½lb., heaviest 3½lb. On the 5th, Mr. Michell, Devon, had six trout, weighing 12lb., heaviest 3½lb. On the 6th, Master A. Mackay, Pitlochry, had five fish, weighing 14lb., heaviest 4½lb.—J. W. MACINNES.

Tweed, Teviot, and other Border Rivers.—Matters piscatorially in the Borderland have been fairly good during the past week, so far as trout angling is concerned, but as for salmon angling, that sport is just about as nearly as possible a "gone coon" (as the Yankees say). On all the famed waters in the Kelso district, and on some of those both above and below, not a single fish has been killed during the past ten days. The rivers are running in good full order, and the weather has also been favourable, but still no fish have been got, much to the surprise of many anglers, who have tried their luck on various of the fastnesses. The seeming want of salmon in the once famed stock-producing river (the Tweed) is now setting angling men to seriously meditating; and the query, "Where are all the fish gone now that need long ago to come up our river?" will take some explaining away. Trout fishers, however, have done fairly well as a rule, and one or two more fortunate than others have killed some large baskets. On the Tweed, on Wednesday last, Mr. James Steel, fishmonger, Kelso, fishing with fly and minnow, had nineteen beautiful trout, which drew the scale at 14½lb.; the next day, on the same river, in three hours' fishing, he had 5½lb.; on the former occasion one of Mr. Steel's trout just touched the beam at 2lb. 5oz., while three or four were fully 1lb. each. In his second day's fishing he killed a trout of 1lb. 2oz., and a grayling of 1½lb. On the same river, Mr. William Mercer, Kelso, has had baskets of 7lb., 9lb., and 10lb., and on the Teviot he had on Monday a very fine dish of 12lb. with worm—clear-water worm fishing. Mr. J. Stewart has also had takes of from 3lb. up to 5lb. and 6lb.; Mr. J. T. Thompson, Newcastle, on the Teviot, 6½lb. on Monday; Mr. James Arnall, 4½lb.; and Mr. Thomas Gregson, 6lb. All these baskets were killed with fly, the Greenwell and Partridge Spider (yellow body) being plentiful, and giving better feeding to the speckled beauties. Prospects for the net angling season are now looking somewhat brighter, more fish being got all over, and prices are now down to 2s. 3d. for both salmon and trout.—MAXWHEEL.

IRISH REPORTS.

Ballina (Imperial and Royal Hotel, Private Water, and Gortnorabbey Hotel, Lough Conn).—The weather has not been at all favourable for angling either on river or lake for the past week, but I am glad to state that it has now turned favourable, and I can now, with some confidence, recommend anglers to pay us a visit. Mr. MacNab killed one salmon, on Thursday, weighing 9lb., and two on Saturday, weighing 7lb. and 12lb. respectively. I have not heard of any other sport been had.—MANAGER.

Ballina (Private Waters, Moy Hotel).—Water in good order; south winds. Nets and weir doing well. Fair show of fish on the private waters. Some grilse have been taken in the nets, showing an early run. On the whole, prospects of fishing fair. There was three fish taken on the lough, one on Friday and two on Saturday. Mr. Schroop lost one on May 7, and rose another. Trout fishers at Runagry Lodge doing well.—JOHN DEVERNS.

Bann.—The frost at night for the past week has caused this river to fall about 12in., and many of the trout casts have been reduced to angling order. The temperature of the water has been too low for any of the Sedges to come to the surface yet. The local anglers are taking a few of the large trout off the banks. Mr. Robert Elder had two trout on the 6th, 1½lb. and 2lb. each, and one of 2½lb. on

the 8th. Good sport is expected in the coming week.—DANIEL O'FEE.

Belfast.—Trouting was rather poor this week on the dams. On Tuesday, Mr. J. M. Murray, Mr. Longhead, and Mr. Atkinson were out on Trooper's Lane Dam, and killed half a dozen fish each. Capt. E. R. O. Ludlow, D.A.A.G., and Mr. M. Stay were out several days, with fair success.—J. A. B.

Corrib (co. Galway).—The Corrib is fishing better now than any time since the season opened. Since my last notes Capt. Ottara killed three salmon; Mr. White, eight (heaviest 23lb.); and the Lydon brothers, twelve (heaviest 17½lb.). Fish seem to be plentiful, and as the weather gets warmer there will be a corresponding improvement in sport.—J. B.

Cummeragh and Inney.—On the Cummeragh, on one day last week, Col.-Surgeon Barry, Bayview Hotel, Waterville, fishing with Tim McCarthy, caught two salmon, 12½lb. and 9lb., and two nice trout, of 3½lb. and 1½lb. In the Inney trout fishers did very well in the late evenings.—T. J. D.

Erne (Ballyshannon and Belleek).—Trouting on the Erne during the past week was not very good, as the bright weather and harsh wind spoiled the chances of sport. The following gentlemen are now angling on the Erne: Mr. C. C. Ralli, Mr. E. A. Ralli, Mr. T. M. Pike, Mr. G. Antonini, Mr. Dandy, and Capt. Heygate. To-day the weather is looking changeable, and with some rain now sport would become good all round.—M. ROGAN AND SONS.

Killarney District.—There seems to be a misapprehension about the proposed sale of a part of the Lakes of Killarney. The water and land to be disposed of are: Muckross House, demesne lands, and deer forests, comprising 13,357 acres, the middle Lake of Killarney—Tore, or Muckross, as it is sometimes called—parts of the Devil's Punch Bowl and Mangerton Mountain, two-thirds of Purple, Durnishere, and Tore mountains, Muckross Abbey, Tore Waterfall, O'Sullivan's Cascade. It is stated that the price of £30,000 has been asked. Trouting on the lakes lately was fairly good, but salmon fishing poor.—J. A. B.

Lee (co. Cork).—The river rapidly running down to summer level. Some rain is badly wanted, as the grilse are just beginning to show, and a good flood would fill the river with them. On Ashton fishery, Mr. J. L. Peach, 7lb. On Mashonaglass, Mr. Allgood, 9lb., 9lb.; Capt. Douglas Penant, 6th Rifles, 6lb., and a grilse, 3lb. On Warrens Court, Mrs. Jameson, 32lb. (a record fish for this river); Mr. J. A. Jameson, 12lb., 12lb., 9lb., 8½lb., 8lb. On Oakgrove, Mr. F. M. Leader, 16lb. On Lee Mount, Mr. W. T. Crawshaw, 15lb. At Castlelynn, Mr. J. O'Brien, 10lb. At the Waterworks, Mr. J. O'Donnell, 9lb. Trout anglers are getting some good baskets on the small rivers. In the tidal water at Sundays Well trout are very numerous, and are rising freely in the evenings. Mr. S. Haynes, on the 4th inst., had four, 3½lb., 3½lb., 3½lb., and 1lb.—W. HAYNES AND SON.

Lough Conn (Cloghans).—In two and a half days the Rev. White got fifty-five trout, averaging 1lb.; Mr. Pitts, in two and a half days, got twenty trout, largest 6lb., smallest ½lb.; Mr. Higgins, in a few days, got some nice trout, average 1lb.; Mr. Carpenter got one salmon, 11lb., and four trout, on same day; Mr. McNabb and friend got three salmon, along with some handsome baskets of trout.—TOM CLARKE.

Lough Mask.—Ont from Mount Gable Hotel, Clonbur, Professor Patterson, of Aberdeen, on May 8, caught one gillaroo trout 6½lb., one brown trout, 6lb., one ditto, 4lb., and three, weighing together 5½lb., in all 22½lb. Major Ferguson got a beautiful specimen of gillaroo trout, nearly 6lb., with a lot of small ones ranging down to 1lb., on the fly. Prospects of sport very good. A most remarkable incident occurred while Professor Patterson was trolling. A large lake trout got on and pulled the rod out of his hand, which he failed in getting out of the lake. Six gillaroo trout, weighing 32lb., have been sent within the past ten days to be set up by Messrs. Cooper and Sons, London.—J. A. JOYCE.

Lough Melvin.—The weather during the past week was very unfavourable for angling, as a hard north-east wind prevailed all the time, and this, with sharp frosts at night and bright, sunny sky in daytime, retarded the chances of sport a good lot. The following are the particulars: Mr. A. J. Troup landed one salmon, of 11½lb., on 3rd inst.; Mr. J. R. T. Mulholland took a fine fresh run salmon, on same day, of 15lb.; Col. R. B. Wilson took one salmon, of 8½lb., on 5th inst.; Mr. A. J. Troup took one salmon, of 14lb., on 6th inst.; Mr. J. R. T. Mulholland took one salmon, of 9½lb., on 5th inst.; Mr. E. Mulhern took one salmon, of 8lb., on 6th inst.; Mr. J. Phillips took another, on same day, of 9lb.; and Mr. J. O'Brien took one salmon, of 8lb., on 8th inst. The Rev. Wm. Verner, Mr. W. King Edwards, and Mr. Wm. Neely took several trout (*Salmo ferax*) trolling, the largest trout taken weighing 5½lb., and caught by the Rev. Wm. Verner. Trout did not rise well to the fly since last report, in consequence of the very bright weather and north-east wind; still, a fair number of baskets of brown trout were taken, heaviest weighing 8½lb.—M. ROGAN AND SONS.

Lough Melvin (Lower Reaches, Kinlough End).—The success of fly anglers was somewhat marred during the past week owing to the very sudden change to bright warm days, with easterly winds. Anglers were out in good numbers from Kinlough and Bndoran. Fair baskets were had in the early mornings and late evenings. Some nice trout were also had, trolling, from 1lb. to 4lb. Darker weather must be had before angling is again a success.—P. GALLAGHER.

Lough Neagh.—The pollen fishing continues fair, and the same applies to trout netting. It seems a pity to see so many of these beautiful fish, up to 8lb. and 10lb., taken

so ignominiously in a net. Trout fishing on the tributaries is very poor; in fact, the spring of 1899 has been one of the worst experienced for many years.—J. A. B.

Mountain Lakes (Waterville).—Sport has been good considering the unfavourable conditions. The following were the best baskets had on the different waters last week: On Coppal (bank fishing), one of three dozen brown trout; on Cummeravanig, one of thirty-four; on Coomavoher, one of forty; on Fiealougha, one of three dozen; on Drenane, one of twenty-nine; and on Coomcateun, one of thirty-three.—T. J. D.

Moy Hotel Private Waters (Ballina).—There is a fair spill of water in the river Moy, and to-day some few fish were got in the Boxes and in the nets below the bridge. The big floods this spring brought the early run of fish to Lough Conn, and it was rumoured in town to-day that three salmon have been killed in one day by one rod. It was also stated that one fish was got to-day in the nets above Foxford. A few fish have been seen throwing on the water leaved by the proprietor of Coghlan's Hotel at Foxford. The opinion entertained here is that nothing will save the salmon fishing in this river from utter ruin but an extension of the weekly close time.—INNISH-OWEN.

Moy, Loughs Conn and Cullen (Ballina, co. Mayo).—River in good order; weather fine; run of grilse getting more numerous. Mr. H. McNab, three salmon, 6½lb., 9lb., 12lb.; Mr. Harden, one salmon, 8½lb.; Mr. Perhouse, two salmon, 10lb., 15½lb.; Dr. Bailey, one grilse, 4lb.; Mr. C. L. Duncan, one salmon, 17lb., one grilse, 3½lb.; Mr. Douglas Carter, two salmon, 11lb., 12½lb., one grilse, 3lb. Trout anglers are doing fairly well. The lough is lowering fast, and every prospect of sport improving.—PAT HEARNES (Ballina).

Shannon and Lough Derg (Killaloe).—After three days excessively hot sun, which will hasten the rise of the Green Drake on Lough Derg, a few soft, refreshing showers descended last night, with the pleasing result that the ever welcome fly is to the fore to-day, not in any great numbers, to be sure, but sufficient to assure us of an early lake season. On yesterday, on the lake, young Mr. Courtney, of Newtown, got on the "dap" a dish of trout, largest 4lb. In my report last week I stated that the lake fishing would open about the 12th, so you see I have hit it off just nicely. Any number of English gentlemen and ladies coming over for the grand sport. Speaking to Capt. Gartside-Spaight, Master of the Derry Castle Harriers, near Killaloe, yesterday, he told me that last May (1893) he and his fisherman, James Lucas, fished the lake for a fortnight, and the bag each day amounted to from twelve to fifteen trout, weighing 25lb. Splendid sport, truly! Salmon fishing very indifferent this week. Major Traherne's fishermen, Patsy Ryan and W. Fogarty, killed yesterday a fish of 22lb.—S. J. HURLEY.

Shannon (Castellconnell).—During the preceding part of this season it has been remarked that salmon appeared scarce, and very few were seen at any time. Now there appears to have been a fresh arrival of a large number, as several have been seen rising during the past week on the various stretches. The brilliant sunshine which we have had has no doubt been the reason of the fish not taking freely. On Doonass, Mr. G. C. Williams killed one salmon, 30lb., on 6th. On Prospect, Mr. H. Chapman killed one salmon, 13lb., on 2nd. On New-garden, Mr. F. Cooper killed one salmon, 13lb., on 7th; and Mr. R. Greenfield, one salmon, 11lb., on 6th. On Woodlands, Mr. G. W. Greenhill killed one salmon, 12½lb., on 5th, and one salmon, 29lb., on 9th. On the Castle fishery, Mr. J. H. Wheatley killed one salmon, 14½lb., on 6th. On the same fishery, Mrs. E. T. Ingham killed one salmon, 15½lb., on 8th.—JOHN ENRIGHT AND SON.

Tyrone Rivers.—The Blackwater and Ballinderry are both low, and trouting has fallen off a little. A few days ago a Mr. M. Campbell, whilst fishing a pool known as "Sally's Hole," on the Blackwater, near Augher, killed a 27½lb. pike. The pike contained three rats, three spoon baits, and five hooks. A 21lb. pike was killed on the same pool a couple of years ago.—J. A. B.

Upper Lakes (Waterville, co. Kerry).—Sport continues pretty good on the above waters since last report, though the baskets would, of course, be far better but for the abnormally hot and bright weather of the past week. The best basket had on those waters last week was one of two dozen brown trout, got by Surgeon-Colonel Barry, on Monday.—T. J. D.

Westmeath Lakes (Mullingar).—We are on the very eve of the dapping season on the Westmeath lakes, and before these lines are in print the Green Drake will have made its appearance. I anticipate that sport will be pretty general about the 20th inst. Fortunately, we have had the wind in the east for the past ten days, and there are now indications of a change, so that the dapping time may come in all right this year. Very few fish have been taken since the season opened, so, if the weather be propitious, good sport is assured. Anglers are requested to return any rainbow trout they may hook, as these fish were only introduced into Loughs Ennel and Owel last October.—T. J. W.

It is the custom in a certain village when a farmer kills a sheep for him to send round first to the squire's lady, then to the parson, afterwards to the doctor, and so on in order of precedence, to ask them if they will take some of the meat, and what joints they would like. On one occasion the farmer sent the usual message to say that a sheep would be killed, and each gave an order for the joint selected. When the meat was delivered, the parson's wife said: "I ordered mutton, but this is pork." "Oh, it's all right, ma'am," was the reply, "father was obliged to kill a pig, as the sheep got better."

Angling Fixtures.

May 14.

Islington Brothers: Brake outing.
Second Surrey: Dinner and distribution.

May 15.

Anglers' Association: Adjourned delegate meeting.
Clapham Junction: Dinner and distribution.
Clissold: Supper and distribution.
Harcourt: Benefit concert.
Prince of Wales: Distribution.

May 16.

Alma: Annual supper.
Battersea Friendly: Annual dinner.
Blackfriars: Visit.
Gresham: Paper by Mr. F. Goodwin.
Seymour Brothers: Supper and distribution.
Victoria Brothers: Dinner and concert.
Waggoners: Distribution.

May 17.

Amicable Brothers: Supper.
Anchor and Hope: Supper and distribution.
Bostonian: Benefit entertainment.
Cambridge Heath Brothers: Distribution.
Campbell Brothers: Distribution.
Canning Town: Distribution.
Highbury: Supper.
Islington: Annual supper.
Lincoln: Supper and distribution.
Phoenix: Supper and distribution.
Royal George: Supper and distribution.
Victoria Brothers: Annual dinner.
West Ham Brothers: Supper.

May 18.

Bloomsbury Brothers: Annual dinner.
Cobden: Dinner and distribution.
Duke of Norfolk: Dinner and distribution.
St. Albans: Annual dinner.
Walworth Waltonians: Annual dinner.
Woolwich Brothers: Annual dinner.

May 19.

Wellington: Annual supper.

May 21.

North Lambeth: Dinner.
Hearts of Oak: Annual supper.
Bermondsey Brothers: Dinner and distribution.
Islington Brothers: Distribution.
Izaak Walton: Sea fishing outing.
Cosy: Concert and distribution.
Crown and Buckland: Distribution.
Duke of Norfolk: Supper and distribution.
Great Northern Brothers: Annual supper.
Jubilee: A.B.S. concert and distribution.
Elgin: Distribution.
Stratford: Supper.
Dalston: Dinner and distribution.

Reports from Clubs

We beg to remind Secretaries that their Reports must reach us not later than **SIX o'clock on Thursday Evening**. Address "Editor, FISHING GAZETTE, St. Dunstan's House, Fetter-Lane, London," marked "CLUB REPORT" outside envelope.

Anglers' Association.—The adjourned annual delegate meeting will take place on Monday evening next, May 15, at 8.30. The Netting Fund Committee will meet at 7.30.—R. GHURNEY.

Anglers' Benevolent Society.—Since my last report I beg to acknowledge with thanks the receipt of £20s. 2d. from the Cambridge Heath Bros., 11s. 2d. Friendship Angling Societies Donation Boxes, 10s. 6d. Izaak Walton, and 5s. Dr. Leapingwell, President Conservative A.S., as annual subscription. On and after May 26, the committee meetings will be held at the Club Union Buildings (adjoining Holborn Town Hall), Clerkenwell-road, instead of the Foresters' Hall.—R. GHURNEY.

Anglers' Association Visiting List.—The next visit on the above List will take place on Tuesday, May 16, at the Blackfriars A.S., the Imperial Hotel, Southwark-street.—E. ROWLES.

Albion Brothers' Angling Society. The Frampton Arms, Well-street, Hackney.—On May 10 there was a fairly well attended meeting, new members were elected, and a lot of business got through. Members please note Wednesday next is yearly night, when it is hoped all will attend, as there is important business to settle re dinner and distribution.—C. J. KING.

Allason United Brothers' Angling Society. Dnke of Sussex, Uxbridge-street, Notting Hill Gate, W.—The ninth annual dinner took place on May 10. Mr. A. R. Matthews occupied the chair, and Mr. G. King the vice. Everything was of usual quality at these festive gatherings. After due justice was paid to the good things at the dinner, and the cloth cleared, the distribution of prizes was awarded by the chairman, the chief winners being Messrs. Sheppard, Abbott, Ben, Barker, Brasington, Turner, Jackson, Leslie, Barlow, Marchant, Prouter, Blades, Hunt, West, &c. The chairman offered £1 ls. in value for two specimen roach, and we have got quite forty prizes just for a start, and will still add to list. I tender thanks to Elgin and Prince Albert Angling Societies for their presence, and all donors, pianist, and all kind friends.—BEN ABRAHAMS.

Alma Angling Society. Coach and Horses, Portsmouth-place, Lincoln's Inn Fields.—On May 16 the ninth annual supper and distribution of prizes will take place at

the above. Harmony will follow, when we will be pleased to see any friend that will give us a look in.—J. CHAMBERS.

Amicable Waltonian Angling Society. The Fox and French Horn, Clerkenwell Green.—The Bohemian concert, which took place at the above on Monday last, was a great success, a very large company being present. Mr. W. Musgrave having charge of the musical department, some really excellent talent was produced, and a very successful evening passed. Mr. Frank Newton took the chair, supported during the evening by Mr. Elsmore, vice-president of the Central Association; W. J. Wade, secretary of the same; J. Smith, W. Musgrave, and a host of others. Mr. Fred Thorling, of the St. John's, opened our A.B.S. box, and it was found to contain the sum of £3 2s. I beg to return the thanks of the A.W. to all those gentlemen and ladies who supported us. At the last meeting of the above on May 10 some further prizes were added to our list, and a sum of money voted for a prize for the Central competition.—G. MERRY.

Anchor and Hope Angling Society, Duke of Kent, Old Kent-road, S.E.—On Wednesday evening Mr. W. Marchant was elected a working member. Our supper and distribution of prizes will take place at this address on Wednesday, May 17, at 8 p.m. sharp, when I hope all members will attend.—F. W. MARTIN.

Battersea Friendly Angling Society, Queen's Hotel, Queen's-road, Battersea, S.W.—Annual dinner and distribution next Tuesday, May 16. Hope to see a good muster of members and friends. Dinner on table at 8.15; concert to follow.—A. JENKINS.

Battersea Piscatorialists, Lord Ranelagh, Verona-street, Battersea.—Our second annual dinner and distribution of prizes took place on the 10th, when we sat down to a splendid spread, provided by Mr. Chubb, of East Hill, Wandsworth. After dinner came the prizes. Mr. A. Painter, first; T. Tringham, second; W. Keene, third; and Messrs. H. White, C. Harris, E. Collins, S. Death, and A. White in the order named, the remainder of the evening being spent in harmony. Some capital songs were sung by Mr. G. Fowler, W. Keene and Ottaway (piano and violin duet), Mr. Bridges, Knight, Marquarth, J. Thorn, of the Clapham Junction A.S., and others. Our prize list for the ensuing season being contributed to by Messrs. E. Wilson, G. Fowler, J. Papworth, Painter, Tringham, C. Saunders, J. Anderson, Mr. Graves, W. T. Montague, sen., Mr. Cousins, A. Slingo, and others promised during season.—T. TRINGHAM.

Bermondsey Brothers' Angling Society, Woolpack Bermondsey-street, S.E.—The annual dinner and distribution of prizes will take place on Tuesday, May 30, Mr. H. J. Henlon, president, in the chair.—ALF CONN.

Blackfriars Angling Society, The Imperial, Southwark-street, S.E.—Our supper and distribution of prizes was a record one. Fifty-five sat down to a very good supper, in fact, our room looked more like a Lord Mayor's feast than a working man angler's club. Mr. G. H. Shepherd ably occupied the chair, supported by Mr. Crumple as vice-chair, in the unavoidable absence of Mr. Wade, from whom we received a letter of regret. We had a grand array of talented artistes, our most successful members being Mr. Merrygold, Mr. Howard, and Mr. Wheelhouse. The prize list offered for ensuing season reached in the room no less than thirty guineas. We have also, on Wednesday evening, received promises of another five guineas. I wish to thank Mr. G. H. Shepherd, Mr. Crumple, and all other gentlemen for bringing our event to such a grand conclusion; also I wish to thank Mr. Maurice Cowan, Mr. Musgrave, and the Holloway contingent; also all the talent that honoured us with their presence. I wish to remind members and brother anglers that we take a visit on the S.L.U.V. and Anglers' Association List on Tuesday, May 16, when I hope to see a good muster, as we have an old Colonel that is doing his duty like a soldier and a man.—WHEELHOUSE.

Bloomsbury Brothers' Angling Society, Rose and Crown, Broad-street, Bloomsbury.—On May 10 Mr. J. W. Blake was elected a working member. The twenty-seventh annual supper takes place on May 18, on which occasion the chair will be occupied by Mr. R. Lummes, supported by Mr. J. Pailles, after which the distribution of prizes and concert will take place, when the company of brother anglers and friends is invited. Will members and friends kindly forward their prizes, and oblige?—T. PATERNOSTER.

Bostonian Angling Society, Dalby Tavern, Dalby-street, Prince of Wales-road, Kentish Town.—On Wednesday evening, May 17, Messrs. Taylor, Ward, and Jones will give a lantern entertainment (comic only). The proceeds of which will go towards the benefit of the widow of the late Mr. Harry Patman.—J. H.

Cambridge Heath Brothers' Angling Society, The Good Intent, Mowlem-street, Bishop's-road, Cambridge Heath.—Our fifth annual dinner was held on May 3 at the above house, there being eighty-two members and friends present. Sir M. Blownaggre, M.P., presided, and the vice-chair was occupied by Mr. H. Everett. Many prominent anglers were present. A capital dinner, nicely cooked and served, was placed on the tables by host B. Williams, which was done ample justice to by the company. The chairman proposed "The Cambridge Heath Brothers," and said he was glad to hear that the membership had reached seventy-two, and trusted to be often with them. Mr. A. Taylor proposed "The Health of the Chairman," saying how pleased they all were to have him with them. The toast was drunk with musical honours. A start was made with the prize list for coming season. Sir M. Blownaggre headed it with £3 3s.; B. Williams, £3 3s.; H. Everett, £2 2s.; B. Morley, £1 1s.; E. Brockett, £1 1s.; C. J. King, £1 1s.; and three special prizes; Messener, £1 1s.; W. Argent, £1 1s.; H. Deverill, £1 1s.; J. Eaton, 10s. 6d.; F. Newton, Hoxton Brothers, 10s. 6d.; E. Luffingham, 10s. 6d., until the list reached

the total of £42. The rest of the evening was spent in harmony; the health of the host and hostess was well received, and at 2 a.m. Auld Lang Syne brought to a close the most enjoyable and successful dinner that it has been my pleasure to be present at. On May 17 we held a Bohemian concert and fifth annual distribution of prizes; ladies cordially invited. I beg to remind members to clear the books by Tuesday. On the 9th twenty-eight members were present, and four hon. members elected—Sir M. Blownaggre, Mr. B. Morley, Mr. Messener, and Mr. C. J. King, the secretary of the Albion Brothers' A.S. Letters were read from Mr. H. Robertson, M.P. for South Hackney, and Mr. G. Attwood, expressing regret for non-attendance at dinner on May 3. I shall be pleased to receive prizes promised last season, and take names for A.B.S. membership cards.—P. E. L.

Camden Angling Society, The Locomotive, James-street, High-street, Camden Town, N.W.—I must again remind members that May 3 was half-yearly night, and it is impossible to get on with the business unless members turn up. As we are very close on our supper and distribution of prizes, I hope members will turn up in force next Wednesday.—E. BOXALL.

Campbell United Angling Society, Sir Colin Campbell, High-road, Kilburn.—Our distribution of prizes takes place on Wednesday, May 17. Mr. F. Honour, our honorary member, has kindly undertaken to take the chair and distribute the prizes. I hope to see a good number of members and friends on this occasion, as Mr. F. Honour intends opening a good prize list for the ensuing year. Chair taken at nine sharp.—A. C. QUICK.

Canning Town Angling Society, Marquis of Salisbury, Hermit-road, E.—Our prizes will be distributed next Wednesday evening. I wish to remind members that their Benevolent tickets are now due.—M. W. BROWNIE.

Clapham Junction Angling Society, The Clarence, Winstanley-road, Clapham Junction, S.W.—Our twenty-fifth annual dinner and distribution of prizes will take place on Monday, May 15, at 8.30 sharp, when I hope to see a good muster.—G. T. JAMESON.

Clapham Strollers' Angling Society, Alexandra Hotel, Clapham Common, S.W.—Our annual dinner and concert took place last evening, and turned out a complete success. Fifty-three sat down to dinner, and as a very lengthy programme had to be gone through, speeches were of the short order; amongst other speakers were Mr. Welch (chairman), Mr. Baldwin (Press), Mr. Powell, Mr. Bolton, Mr. W. Crow (mine host), and last but not least Mr. W. J. Wade, who was very warmly received, and spoke on the L.B.S.C.R. concessions, T.A.P.S., &c., &c. The magnificent sum of twenty guineas was guaranteed to start the season's prizes.—S. VIOLET.

Cobden Angling Society, Kensal-road, W.—Will members kindly attend next Tuesday night and clear up the books? And will those gentlemen who have promised prizes forward them on as early as possible? I hope members will not be later than 8.15 on Thursday night, the 18th, as dinner will be on the table at that time, sharp.—T. TWYMAN.

Collingwood Angling Society, Lord Nelson, Nelson-square, Blackfriars-road, S.E.—Will members please note that the revision of the rules takes place on June 7? Members wishing to make alteration must give notice before that date. The election of officers takes place next Wednesday. Will members please attend? Mr. G. H. Howard and Mr. Roberts elected life honorary members.—W. H. STAFFORD.

Cosy Angling Society, The Plough, Rochester-row, Westminster.—The annual concert and distribution of prizes will take place on Wednesday, May 31.—J. WHITE.

Dalston Angling Society, Brownlow Arms, Brownlow-street, Dalston.—On May 8 we had our return visit, which proved a great success, twelve clubs answering to the roll. I beg to tender my sincere thanks to those societies who supported me, also to the gentlemen who so ably assisted with the harmony. On May 9 a full attendance, when the final arrangements were made for the distribution of prizes on Tuesday, the 16th. Anglers and their lady friends will meet with a hearty welcome. Members who were not present last Tuesday please let me know whether they intend to be present at the dinner on June 4.—S. MALBY.

Dibdin Angling Society, St. Martin's Tavern, Pratt-street, N.W.—Our supper on Monday last proved a grand success; thirty-two members and friends sat down to table, our president, Mr. W. Clatworthy, in the chair. Everything went off splendidly. After supper we had plenty of good songs, also music by way of solos on violin, mandolin, banjo, and cornet. Toasts were given to "the President," "Press," and "Visitors," and were duly responded to by W. Clatworthy, Mr. Widdicombe, Mr. Ball. A vote of thanks was also given to our host, F. Dewdney, for the splendid way he had managed the supper. Distribution of prizes followed, Mr. Ball presenting same to Messrs. H. Brock, D. Ansell, W. Elton, A. Edwards, R. Bennett, J. Edwards, who proved themselves the winners, after which the following ladies and gentlemen offered prizes for ensuing season: Miss Elton, Messrs. W. Eaglestone, M. Brothers, G. Johnson, E. Boxall, W. Clatworthy, F. Drake, C. Sheppard, H. Newman, J. Edwards, H. Brock, W. Elton, A. Edwards, R. Bennett, D. Ansell, Mrs. J. Edwards, Mr. F. Dewdney (host) two, Mr. C. Martin, Messrs. Peek and Son, and there are several more to follow. A general meeting is called for Saturday, May 20, at eight o'clock, at clubhouse, to arrange prize list.—JOHNNY EDWARDS.

Duke of Norfolk Angling Society, The Apollo, All Saints'-road, Westbourne Park.—Our annual supper and distribution of prizes will take place on Wednesday, May 31, in place of Thursday, May 18. All gentlemen

and members giving prizes will forward same soon as possible.—W. JENKINS.

Earlsfield Angling Society, Half-way House, Earlsfield, S.W.—The thirteenth annual dinner of the Earlsfield A.S. was held at the Half-way House, Earlsfield, on Wednesday, May 3. Mr. T. Gathercole, president of the society, occupied the chair; vice-chair, Mr. F. Mathews. An excellent repast was enjoyed by a goodly number of members and visitors. The musical part of the programme was contributed to by the following gentlemen: Messrs. Gibbs, Will Scott, F. A. Robinson, Nicholson, T. Frampton, and others. The prize winners were as follows: Messrs. F. Mathews (holder of the silver challenge cup), Fulton, Marter, Adams, Shepherd, Keepin, Smith, and Winch.—A. T.

Elgin Angling Society, Blenheim Arms, Blenheim, crescent, Notting-hill, W.—At our last meeting we made a new member. I am pleased to say that the private prizes for last season are nearly all in. They will be distributed on quarterly night, June 6. I should like to take this opportunity to thank the donors. Will all members try to attend next Tuesday to arrange brake outing?—G. KING.

Firm and True Angling Society, Prince Regent, Beresford-street, Walworth.—On Tuesday last we held our sixth annual concert and grand distribution of prizes, of which there were plenty; and it was an unprecedented success. Mr. Randal, of the Richmond Angling Society, ably filled the chair, supported by Mr. Wiles, of the Lord Nelson and Collingwood Angling Society; and a great number of gentlemen were around the table to ably support them (vice chair, Mr. Ball and friend, of the Collingwood Angling Society, occupied during the evening), and they all thoroughly enjoyed themselves. There was plenty of talent. During the evening Master George Rosser, aged twelve years, gave a negro stump speech, and also sang in costume. I wish to thank all friends on behalf of the Firm and True Angling Society for their very kind support on this occasion, which was brought to a close at rather a late hour; also there were plenty of prizes offered for the forthcoming year.—T. ROSSER.

Globe Angling Society, Earl Russell, Isledon-road, N.—On Monday night last over fifty members and friends sat down to a substantial spread at their headquarters, when host F. Richardson did his utmost to make the gathering a success. The chair was ably filled by Mr. Charles Ellis, supported by Mr. Robert Sharpless. During the night many good prizes were promised for the ensuing season, and the prizes distributed to those anglers who had been successful in the competitions for the past year. No doubt the club's ascendancy is due to the respected secretary (Mr. W. Lawrence), who works very hard for its interest. The gross weight of all fish amounted to 633lb., Mr. C. Ellis being first with 153lb., and Mr. C. Stebbings second, with 125lb. Amongst some of the visitors we noticed the well-known faces of Mr. H. Booth, Mr. J. Pratt, sen. (Globe Hotel), Mr. J. Standen, &c. It may be mentioned that this is the twentieth annual dinner in connection with this club. The night's proceedings terminated with a capital smoking concert.

Golden Barbel Angling Society, Sir Isaac Newton, Union-street, Middlesex Hospital.—Our annual supper came off on Tuesday, thirty-two sitting down to an excellent spread by Mr. Wilson, of Cleveland-street, after which we distributed the prizes. Club prizes won by Messrs. Ellins, Games, and Crow. Mr. King won the Tuesday prize. Specimen prizes were taken by Mr. Payne, perch; Mr. F. Bourlet, barbel; Mr. Ellins, chub; Mr. King, roach; after which we had harmony, contributed to by Messrs. W. McFeely, Whyman, Bourlet, Ellins, Pennell, Wadham, and many others, to whom we tender our hearty thanks. We have many prizes promised for coming season. Will members come up and allot them, so as to have prize sheet printed?—A. W. ELLINS.

Great Northern Brothers Angling Society, Robin Hood, Southampton-street, Pentonville.—Our annual distribution of prizes took place on May 8, Mr. L. Watling, chairman, and a most pleasant evening was spent. The list of prizes and names of winners are too numerous to mention. One hundred and twenty-five prizes were distributed, and 1219lb. 15oz. of fish weighed-in during the season, all taken from the bank and Sunday fishing only. The thirty-sixth annual supper will take place on Wednesday, May 31.—J. A. FITCH.

Harcourt Angling Society, Harcourt Arms, Harcourt-street, Marylebone.—On Monday last we elected two members, and booked the names of several more. Next Monday evening we devote to the concert for our esteemed friend, Mr. T. Twyman, C.A.S., and we fully expect a crowded house, when I hope to see all Mr. Twyman's friends, and they are legion.—A. E. PAYNE.

Hearts of Oak Angling Society, Ye Olde Crown, Brick-lane, Bethnal Green.—Our supper takes place on May 29, and I hope members will make themselves eligible.—C. SMITH.

Highbury Angling Society, Globe Hotel, Upper Tollington-road, N.—I have recorded two nice trout during the week: 5lb. 12oz., by Mr. W. T. Attwood, and 4lb. 14oz., by Mr. J. Parsons—the latter a very short and thick fish. Members absent last Wednesday are reminded of the supper on the 17th inst., seven o'clock sharp.—E. W.

Islington Brothers' Angling Society, Myddleton Arms, Canonbury-road.—We met on Tuesday last, Mr. Boys in the chair, when the minutes of the previous meeting were read and confirmed. For the outing on May 14 I hope the weather will be fine. The brake starts from clubhouse at nine o'clock sharp, wet or fine.—J. H. HERBERT.

Izaak Walton Angling Society, Old King John's Head, Mansfield-street, Kingsland-road.—The annual general meeting will take place on Wednesday evening next, 17th inst., and as there is some very important and

interesting business to transact, I hope that all members who can possibly attend will please do so.—H. B.

Jubilee Angling Society, Prince Arthur, Golborne-road, North Kensington.—Will members please attend at their earliest convenience to clear the books, as we have our distribution and concert on June 5 for the benefit of the A.B.; also will gentlemen who have promised prizes forward them on if possible before the above date.—J. BENCE.

Kingston Piscatorial Society.—A meeting of the above society will be held on Monday next, at 8 p.m., at the Sun Hotel, to decide whether the annual general meeting shall be held before the opening of the coarse fishing season, which would allow of the rules of the society being altered so as to meet all requirements.—F. H. AMPHLETT.

Lincoln Angling Society, Metropolitan, Winchester-street, Pentonville-road, N.—Our seventeenth annual supper and distribution of prizes takes place on Wednesday next, May 17. Supper 8.30 sharp. Members requiring tickets can get them from the stewards, Mr. Cook and Mr. Gilbert. We shall be pleased to see any anglers or friends to our concert to follow.—W. WATLING.

Liverpool Angling Association, Bee Hotel, Queen's-square.—A meeting of the Liverpool centre of the Northern Anglers' Association was held at the Bee Hotel on Monday evening last, Mr. Wishart in the chair. The date for the first annual competition, Aug. 26, was approved. The question of federation was mooted by Mr. Whittington and favourably received, and this question will be further heard of before long, and will undoubtedly be the best thing for Liverpool anglers to carry out. Very little information as to angling has come out during the last week, but the reports from Lake Vyrnwy are very favourable, our Sir Thomas Hughes being amongst those who have done well. Fair sport with the trout has been had in the Rivington reservoirs, and these waters would favourably compare with any other if one or two, or more, fishing boats or punts were placed on them for the use of anglers, and a pavilion or shelter house erected.—RD. WOOLFALL.

North Lambeth Angling Society, Newcastle Arms, Hercules-road, Lambeth, S.E.—The club's annual dinner takes place at the Black Rabbit on May 21, at Arundel. Members wishing to go please attend at the club on the 14th inst.—E. ROWLES.

Phoenix Angling Society, The Tavistock, Stibington-street, N.W.—Our twenty-ninth annual dinner and prize distribution is on May 17, at eight o'clock sharp. We shall be pleased to receive friends to the concert after dinner. Shall be at the club on the evening of May 14, when Host Tinson wants to know exactly how many to cater for.—R. C.

Prince of Wales' Angling Society, Windsor Castle, Church-street, Edgware-road.—At our meeting on Monday evening all particulars as regards the distribution on May 15 were settled. I am sorry that the date clashes with the complimentary concert at the Harcourt A.S., on behalf of Mr. Twyman, but our date was fixed some time back.—W. B.

Queen's Piscatorials, Queen's Arms, 1A, Chapel-street, Edgware-road, N.W.—On May 9 our annual dinner and distribution of prizes took place, and proved a great success. A splendid dinner was placed on the table by that popular caterer, Mr. W. Wilson. After the tables were cleared some excellent songs were rendered by those well known artists Geo. De Vere, C. Grossmith, P. Garvey, and W. Silvester; Mr. Silvester also presided at the piano.—Geo. KEENE.

Royal George Angling Society, Queen's Arms, Bateman-street.—At our last meeting we were fairly attended, and settled everything relating to our annual supper, which takes place on May 17. Will members kindly make it convenient to attend the club-house on May 14, as we have a little business on hand that must be attended to?—J. GIBBONS.

Second Surrey Angling Society, the Sun, Boniface-street, Westminster Bridge-road.—Our annual dinner and prize distribution takes place on May 14 at the Black Rabbit Hotel, Arundel. Members and friends to start by the 7.55 train from London Bridge.

Silver Trout Angling Society, Bedford Head, Maiden-lane.—On May 9 Mr. Abrahams weighed in two and a half brace of trout. I shall be pleased to receive all prizes and subscriptions as soon as possible to clear up the books.—PILICAN.

South London United Anglers' Visiting List.—The next visit on the above list will take place on Tuesday next at the Blackfriars A.S., The Imperial, Southwark-street. I hope to see a good muster on this occasion.—ALF. PAINTER.

Stepney Angling Society, Bee Hive, Rhodeswell-road, Stepney.—Our annual prize distribution took place on May 8. Several specimen prizes were taken, besides a large number of club prizes, our late secretary, Mr. W. Woodford, being the chief prize-winner, taking no fewer than nine prizes. After the distribution we had a concert, spending an enjoyable evening, with Mr. Morgan in the chair; Messrs. Shnm, Dicks, Bolding, Clark, &c., giving us some good songs.—W. BEATTIE.

Stratford Angling Society, Dorset Arms, Leyton-road, Stratford New Town, E.—The members of the above club had their annual ramble on May 7 at Amberley, the weather being beautifully fine. We walked through the park, dined at the Black Rabbit, back by the river, and arrived in London after an enjoyable day. The annual supper takes place on June 7.—G. F. WEAVER.

Sundial Angling Society, Plough and Harrow, King-street, Hammersmith.—Our annual supper and distribution was a great success. Forty members and friends sat down to supper, Mr. C. Pennyfather taking the chair, and Mr. J. Tolly the vice. After supper the usual concert commenced, and after songs, speeches, and toasts the

distribution of prizes took place, as follows: Messrs Taylor, Hare, F. C. Gerrard, J. S. Smith, Burnham Holt, Maynard, Ravenhill, Harwood, Lock, Stevens, Parker, Sherman, Brace, Kuitler, Holmes, Knight. The chairman, in a very able speech, proceeded to fish for prizes for the coming season, with the result that two silver cups and guineas and half guineas and special prizes to the amount of £22 were subscribed. Mr. Page also presented the club with some fish plates. Amongst those who subscribed to the harmony of the evening were Messrs. W. Smith (R.A.M.), Tom Huggett, Alf. Howard, Rob. Emerson, Will Diamond, G. Le Roy, Gus Egan, Parker, Fred Collins, F. Tilly and pupil, Bert Lawn, Ponites, H. W. Bland, F. Brooks, H. Broadway, Harry Barton, and Shepherd.—C. E. LOCK.

Victoria Brothers Angling Society, Princess Victoria, Robert-street, Hampstead-road, N.W.—We wish to impress on the minds of visiting clubs that our annual dinner is on May 16, and concert at 9.30, extension till two o'clock.—W. H. B.

Waggoners' Angling Society, White Lion, Albert Embankment.—We had a good meeting on the 9th, some very important business was got through; our prizes are coming in, and I hope to have the list complete by Tuesday next the 16th, on which date our distribution takes place. I shall be very pleased to receive prizes not to hand in the meantime, business will start at 9 o'clock prompt.—H. C.

Walham Green and Chelsea Angling Society, Black Bull, Fulham-road, S.W.—Our dinner on the 3rd inst. was the most successful one we have ever had. Our president, Mr. G. Smith, occupied the chair, with Mr. Elsmore, our vice-president, in the vice-chair. Mr. Wilson provided an excellent menu for some sixty-five of us. After dinner we had some excellent harmony, contributed to by Messrs. Bert Ray, Otterway, Steptoe, Hart, Powe, R. Russell, F. Webb, Andrews, Carter, C. Wake, and W. Duffield. Members are reminded that the prize list for 1899-1900 is still open.—TIDDLER.

Walworth Waltonians Angling Society, St. Paul's Tavern, Westmoreland-road, Walworth, S.E.—Any member requiring a ticket for the dinner on Thursday next, May 18, please apply at once, as there are only two or three left.—W. WRAY.

West Ham Brothers' Angling Society, Coach and Horses, The Grove, Stratford.—As our members proposed a supper to take place on May 17, I wish they would apply more freely for the tickets, as we have to give the number that are going not later than Sunday night next, May 14. The annual prizes will be paid on that night, and the other business of the club will take place on Wednesday, May 24.—R. LOWTHER.

WHITSUNTIDE ARRANGEMENTS.

THE SOUTH EASTERN AND CHATHAM AND DOVER RAILWAYS

Announce cheap day excursions on Whit Sunday and Whit Monday from Charing Cross, Cannon-street, London Bridge, and New Cross to Ashford, Canterbury, Deal, Dover, Folkestone, Gravesend, Hythe, Margate, Ramsgate, Sandgate, Walmer, &c.; also on Whit Monday to Tunbridge Wells and Hastings. Special cheap excursions will be run to Aldershot on Whit Sunday and Whit Monday from London, but not from New Cross. Special trains will be run to Hayes, Blackheath, Greenwich, and Gravesend (for Rotherville Gardens). Cheap day excursions on Whit Sunday and Whit Monday from Victoria, Holborn, and St. Paul's to Canterbury, Deal, Dover, Gravesend, Herne Bay, Margate, Ramsgate, Sheerness, Walmer, Whitstable, &c. On Whit Monday a cheap excursion will be run to Tonbridge Wells and Hastings from Victoria (Chatham and Dover). The usual extension of time for certain return tickets will be allowed. On Whit Monday frequent special and ordinary trains will run to and from Holborn, Victoria, Ludgate Hill, St. Paul's, and intermediate stations, and the Crystal Palace. Return fares, 1s. 6d., 3rd class, including admission. For intending visitors to the continent, special cheap tickets will be issued from certain London stations (via Boulogne or Calais), Brussels (via Calais or Boulogne and via Ostend), Boulogne, Calais, Ostend, Amsterdam, Aachen, Flushing, The Hague, Rotterdam, and Utrecht. The Continental Services will be as usual. Full particulars of trains by which cheap tickets will be issued, London departure stations, return times, alterations in train services, &c., are given in the holiday programme and bills.

UNITED BROTHERS ANGLING SOCIETY.

The annual dinner of this society was held on May 4, presided over by Mr. Arthur H. A. Morton (M.P. for Deptford), supported by Mr. T. Crumpley ("Old Isaak"), Messrs. W. Elsmore, Holmer, Moss, and Jacob. The room was prettily decorated, and the dinner well served. The usual loyal and complimentary toasts having been proposed and duly honoured, the chairman proposed the toast of "The United Brothers Angling Society," coupling with it the name of Mr. Lawes. Speaking on angling matters, he (the chairman), gave a little resumé of his own experiences in that sport, commencing with the humble gudgeon at Windsor, when a boy at Eton College, following on with dry and wet fly fishing, the Test and Itchen, and also his pleasurable days spent in Scotland salmon fishing, telling humorous anecdotes as an angler knows how, and listened to by anglers who love a little tale, acknowledging that he was an enthusiastic angler. Mr. Lawes, in reply, thanked the chairman for his kindness in presiding, and, alluding to his love of angling, invited him (the chairman) to become a united brother, and become the president of that society. Mr. Morton accepted the invite, and he is now the president of the U.B.A.S. The chairman having to leave to attend

his Parliamentary duties, Mr. Shepherd, of the Bermondsey Brothers, presided over the meeting, and right merrily did he keep the ball rolling, song after song, then pausing to make an appeal for assistance to the prize fund, which, thanks to his tact, was capitally supported, afterwards proposing the toast of the worthy host of the Druid's Head (Mr. Mackrill), speaking of him in the warmest of terms as a friend and business host. Mr. Mackrill suitably replied. The toast of the vice-chairman was next proposed by Mr. Shepperd, duly accepted and drank with musical honours. The chairman had to leave, with the good wishes and thanks of the U.B.A.S. for his assistance that night. Mr. Mackrill then assumed the chair, with Mr. J. Payne as vice, and spent the remainder of the time in harmony of the highest and best class, until "Auld Lang Syne," sung by all present, due the time to depart. The thanks of the society are due to all concerned, and the *artistes* in particular, for making such an enjoyable and successful evening.

W. R. L.

A NOTE FROM TASMANIA.

DR. BRUNTON kindly sent us these extracts from a private letter from an angler in Tasmania:

"I went off with Bedgood to try Yan Yean on Monday, but we went first up to Toorourrong, and got a man to drive us there from the station. It was a fine day, but no wind—simply cat's paws—and not a fish playing on the loch. When the sun set I put on my leggings, and went down to cast over the reeds; but it was very calm, and the fish could see the sway of the rod and my arm. I missed the first that rose; the second I hit hard, and he proved big, and walked off with half my Crochast cast and two flies! Bitter disappointment. I was too anxious and the fish larger than I expected. I fastened on a fresh end fly as the light was fading, and I could see the loops only against the red sky in the west. After soaking well I cast again once or twice, and struck a very active fish. He ran out 30yds. of line, and I let him go, just giving the butt but letting the reel take the strain. He turned and came up, and I wound in and landed the prettiest fish I have seen here, but only 1½ lb. weight. The red markings were lovely. I sent him down to Sir Wm. Zeal, and he 'thought it a pity to eat such a beautiful fish.' It had a perfect head. The next was nearly 2lb. (1½ lb.), game and strong, but good play; and then, as I landed him, darkness came down.

"Next morning at five to five I was in my waders (for wet, long grass), but it was absolutely like glass. The fish saw every move, and you could see the wake of their backs as they 'tore away' into deep water on being disturbed.

"The man came with the trap, and we drove down to Yan Yean—about seven miles off—and had an afternoon's experience—bitter wind, rain, hail! No wonder fish did not take. I saw not one fish (trout), but about thirty English perch guzzling along on top of the water, but they would not take the fly. I daresay I tested two miles of water, and then gave it up; and we came down tired out by the evening train. My arm was sore constantly casting! Bedgood fished Grasshopper all day (I had got them from Albury), and landed one small trout at Toorourrong, so the fly is quite as good as the 'hopper,' although I doubt if I could equal Officer in equal circumstances.

"We are quite decided that, as fishing ground, Yan Yean is not worth considering for us; and I think that if I get another day before the weeds get too hard, I could do well, and especially at dusk, to use a heavy cast."

TO BE CHEERFUL.

THE sovereign voluntary path to cheerfulness, if our spontaneous cheerfulness be lost, is to sit up cheerfully, to look round cheerfully, and to act and speak as if cheerfulness were already there. If such conduct doesn't make you soon feel cheerful, nothing else on that occasion can. So to feel brave, act as if we were brave, use all our will to that end, and a courage fit will very likely replace the fit of fear. Again, in order to feel kindly toward a person to whom we have been inimical, the only way is more or less deliberately to smile, to make sympathetic inquiries, and to force ourselves to say genial things. One hearty laugh together will bring enemies into a closer communion of hearts than hours spent on both sides in inward wrestling with the mental demon of uncharitable feeling. To wrestle with a bad feeling only pins our attention on it, and keeps it still fastened in the mind, whereas if we act as if from some better feeling, the old bad feeling soon folds its tent like an Arab, and silently steals away.—*Scribner's Magazine*.

Toffings by the Way.

THE various bodies interested in natural history are losing no time in the matter of discovering the contents of lake Tanganyika, and other portions of rivers and lakes in Africa. A committee has been formed, with Professor Ray Lankester as secretary. It is assisted by the Royal Society and the Natural History Society at Kensington. Professor Moore has been chosen as naturalist, and a complete fit-out of dredges, trammels, trawls, mounted lines, baits, and traps of all descriptions, has been supplied by Mr. William Header, the well known fishing tackle-maker, of Plymouth, who fitted out the Challenger expedition. Amongst the various gear supplied was a new "Duplex" trawl, made in such a manner that whichever way it falls to the bottom it will fish right, it being provided with two ballies and beams. All the gear had to be packed in sacking parcels, each weighing 56lb., as it

had to be carried about 2000 miles on niggers' heads, and they absolutely refuse to carry any package heavier than 56lb. It is to be hoped their investigations will lead to an increase in our knowledge of natural history.

A KINGSTON correspondent writes that "the enormous quantities of roach, dace, and perch, about two inches long, as well as many of a takable size, to be seen from the bank is simply astounding." This augurs well for a successful season.

MR. BUCKLEY'S otter hounds met on Tuesday last, at the Tanat's mouth, about a mile above the village of Llanymynech, where an otter was soon found, and, after affording excellent sport, was eventually killed, and weighed 19lb. On Wednesday, in beautiful weather, they met at Penybont, and had another capital day, and after a prolonged chase ran down a very large dog otter, which scaled upwards of 22lb. They are now hunting in the Bala and Bettw-y-Coed district for about a fortnight, when they will again pay another visit to the Tanat. [Poor otters! Wish the weather was 'otter!]

WELSH station-masters are proverbially polite and most obliging, and anxious to give information in the best of Queen's English at their command. The other day, a tourist arrived in a hurry at a remote station, and hastily asked the station-master when the next train was due for Manchester. The reply—as hurried as the query—was, "I am very sorry, sir, but it has just left!"

THE twenty-sixth annual show of the Bull Dog Club will be held at the Royal Aquarium next Tuesday, Wednesday, and Thursday. Of all the many breeds which now find favour this is the one that most appeals to John Bull. It will be a good show, and will include a fine display of toy bull dogs, which hitherto have been excluded from the club's shows.

ON and after May 26, the committee meetings of the A.B.S. will be held at the Club Union Buildings (adjoining Holborn Town Hall), Clerkenwell-road, instead of the Foresters' Hall. All other meetings in connection with the Anglers' Association will be held in the same place.

IN answer to a correspondent ("H. W."), the largest bream on record was caught, a little over thirty years ago, in a pond—less than an acre in area—at Beeston Regis, New King's Lynn, Norfolk. This fine specimen weighed 11½lb., and measured 2ft. 2in. in length from the nose to fork of tail, by 22½in. inches girth at the dorsal fin. It was afterwards exhibited by Mr. T. E. Gunn, the taxidermist, of Norwich, at the 1883 International Fisheries Exhibition, South Kensington. As to the approximate length of a bream weighing 5lb. 8oz., perhaps some of our readers can answer for you. There is a bream weighing 7lb. 6oz. in the club-room of the Caxtonian Angling Society. Its extreme length from nose to fork of tail is 22½in.

IN the absence, through domestic bereavement, of Sir T. Powell Buxton, Bart., recently Governor of South Australia, Mr. E. H. Pickersgill, M.P., took the chair at a meeting on Wednesday, in celebration of the twenty-third anniversary of the Bethnal Green Free Library, and the second year of the opening of the free lending department. Elquent testimony was borne by the chairman, by Sir M. M. Bhowmaggree, M.P., and other speakers, to the excellent work done by the institution in a district whose poverty alone prevented it establishing a rate-aided library. The committee's appeal for increased financial support was heartily endorsed, and the earnest hope was expressed that the efforts being made to obtain a site contiguous to the Bethnal Green Museum might be crowned with success. Meanwhile, the committee are in need of a boy's reading-room, to relieve the congested state of the limited reading accommodation.

MR. H. S. HEATON writing from Kennett, says: "Fishing in the river Lark on May 5, I caught a beautiful specimen of the Loch Leven trout scaling 6½lb., length 24½ins., girth 13½ins. This fish was taken on a light fly rod and fine cast, and a gallant fight of over two hours he gave me before I could bring him to the net. After his first rush the cast got twisted under one of his gills, and the strain thus taken off the hook, which accounted for this prolonged struggle with the gamest trout it has ever been my fortune to encounter. I got him on a small live minnow on a single hook." This fish is now in the hands of Messrs Farlow and Co. for preservation.

THE Nottingham Wellington Angling Society have decided to hold their annual dinner on Wednesday evening, May 31. The chair will be occupied by that evergreen sportsman, Mr. W. Gaskell. I have received a pressing invite. The boys—yes, they have an 'all'—tipped a chair for "Drag" one side of the chairman, and the "copper" on the other. The idea! Why, the "copper" is the Lord High Commissioner for Nottingham!

The *Architectural Review* for May is a particularly fine number, containing as it does a special supplement showing the work of Blomfield, Mountford, Pomeroy, and other distinguished artists in the Royal Academy. There is also a charming article on "The Art of Ancient Egypt," and "The Church and Village in North Devon" is illustrated by some beautiful views of Devonshire scenery. Taken altogether, the number is up to the usual high standard of the magazine, and higher praise could scarcely be given.

"THREE months for being innocent," disgustedly remarked a malefactor at the Old Bailey recently, as the sentence of the court was pronounced. "Yes," remarked the counsel for the prosecution, with fine irony, "if you had been guilty you would have had six."

AN ANGLER'S YARN.

I stood beside the flowing stream
In the delightful summer gleam,
And there I watched with eager sight,
In patient longing for a bite.

At last, although I could not note
The slightest twisting of my float,
I felt that something in the brook
Had caught and firmly held my hook.

The thought was fathered by the wish
That this might be a mighty fish;
I pulled and pulled with all my mettle,
And hoisted up—a rusty kettle!

Of a kettle of fish men often speak,
But the kettle alone seemed a curious freak,
I took it away from my hook in a trice,
And cast it away with a feeling of vice.

Once more I let my bait sink low,
And patiently watched the river's flow;
And once again it strangely appeared
That something had caught it and adhered.

Once more I stoutly hauled it out,
Thinking to find a lusty trout;
But, alas! it was not a fish that had bitten—
'Twas the mournful corpse of a murdered kitten.

By the riverside, in the summer bright,
To angle may be some men's delight;
But when to its charms I tried to settle,
I caught a cat and a rusted kettle.

OUR F. G. ALBUM OF ANGLERS.

No. 41 (New Series).



MR. J. DALGETY HENDERSON

Is a well known angler—that is, to Londoners. When not engaged in his business as a paper agent, he is off at the first opportunity after the trout. Scotland is his favourite hunting ground, although he does not object to Wales for an occasional turn. Not long since I had the pleasure of fishing with him in Montgomery, when two of six sons proved as successful as any of the party. In fact, all the boys are ardent trout anglers. The face of "Dalgety" is familiar to us on account of his appearing at so many of the highest class angling functions throughout the year, not only in London, but the chief cities of the United Kingdom. A repertoire of from 500 to 600 songs might be described as a fairly comprehensive one; yet Dalgety sings that quantity, and sings them with such sweetness and tenderness of expression as to thoroughly rouse and delight an audience. Verily he is a true angler-artist.

OUR Irish correspondent sends a cutting from the Amicable Waltonians Club report of April 29, and remarks, "Not a bad bull for an Englishman!" This is the "bull": "On the 29th a smoking concert will be held on behalf of our old friend H. Nunn, who, after twenty-two weeks' illness, was knocked down by a cab and killed." Now, where's the bull? He was ill for twenty-two weeks; got better; went out; cab knocked him over and killed him. If the twenty-two weeks' illness had happened after he was killed it might be construed a bull.

BERTIE: Father, it worries me to think how much trouble I give mother. Father: But mother don't seem to mind much. Bertie: No; she is very patient. But she often sends me on errands, and the shops are a long way off, and I know she gets cross waiting when she's in a hurry. Father: Not very often, I fancy. Bertie: Oh, she's nearly always in a hurry. She gets everything ready for a cake, and finds at the last moment she hasn't any

baking powder; or she gets a pudding mixed, and finds there is no nutmeg or something, and then she's in a state because the oven is all ready, and, maybe, company coming, and I can't run a very long distance, and I feel very sorry for poor mother. Father: Well, what can we do about it? Bertie: I was thinking you might get me a bike. [I think the name of "Bertie's" play is entitled "Diplomacy."]

As I was going to St. Ives—I felt a pain, well, just like knives. The wife applied balm to my temple, and said, "At once see Dr. Semple—Jnst take a 'Sandwich'—'Drag'—and 'T. (teR) Ruston.' Seeing friend Hon. Sec. Col—lin—son!" Too late! Cruel fate! A telegram to "Ned" to state—"Sorry cannot attend Fête. Meet you in the summer!"

I NEVER have been to one of these high class St. Ives dinners, although many invites have been sent to the F. G. office. The London contingent has generally been strong at St. Ives; not because some good fish are to be had in the society's waters, but that the St. Ives boys are good sportsmen. Unfortunately, this year of "Flues," there were many letters and wires from those who were unable to attend—from Earl Sandwich and the Hon. A. E. Fellowes, M.P., down to the bloated aristocrat "Dragnet."

VERY well; not being able to be present, the account of the "good old annual" was expected—and *veni* (I mean, it came). Here it is: The *Hunts Post*, May 6.—"St. Ives Angling Association—an. din.—(Dear, dear; where do these long shorthand writers find room to put all the proceedings of an annual dinner?) A bell—the phone—"Are you there?" (That's to "Drag," from his chief.) "See me—AT once!" (Oh, that cruel foreign asparagus!) "Coming sire, as soon as I can settle terms for the best method of exterminating trout for the benefit of the coarse fisherman, and taking out all the dreadful coarse fish for the benefit of the trout fishermen. I have a gentleman here from Kamschatka, who wishes to see you—to know—if you think—what are your opinions on—as to time of year—"R—R—R—R—R— See me at once!" [The first duty of a soldier is to obey. I obey with obeysance.] "Yes, yes; what's this—er, 2½ cols. re St. Ives Ang. Din. Were you there?" "No, sire; I was not thar." "Well, give them all you can. Just pick out the salient points, and no try and please everybody."

THEN the 3½ cols. devoted to the chronicling of that very pleasant function—the St. Ives A. D.—has to be dotted—that is, brought down to dots. [My chief is inexorable. He will not allow me to put 140 pages into a 38 pp. paper. Well, well; if he does not know what's what, why should I presume?] Here goes:

EIGHTY-TWO members and friends sat down to an excellent banquet at the Golden Lion Hotel. The decorations were simply delightful. Dr. Semple presided over this large assembly, amongst whom were the Mayor, M.P.'s, Aldermen, J.P.'s, Councillors, artists—in fact, all the *élite* of the county. The speeches were more than usually brilliant. The songs and music could not have been better—for they can sing at St. Ives. The toasts commenced with "The Queen," and finished up with "The Visitors." Hon. Sec. Collinson read his report, from which it was gathered that the society was never in a more prosperous condition. Some first-rate specimen fish had been taken during the season by the members, and a prize list read out which would make some of our London clubs "sit up." The president handed the prizes to the successful anglers in his own inimitable way—a right word at the right time. After one of the most pleasant evenings had been spent, the audience rose *en masse* to the strains of the National Anthem, and retired. Tableau! Bravo!

THAT fish have more intelligence than we generally give them credit for is the firm belief of ichthyologists and other scientists who have given any study to the question, but I doubt whether the world has ever before heard of any fish one half as wonderful as the herring I am now going to tell about. The story is so extraordinary that many sceptic fishermen will probably refuse to believe it, but I can't help it. The French *Journal des Debats* is my authority, and surely that should be dignified enough and conservative enough for anybody.

WHY are schoolmasters and schoolboys like dogs and cats respectively? Give it up? Because one is the canine, the other the feline race.

WHY is a hot roll like a chrysalis? Because it's the grub that makes the butterfly.

THE "Sunday" (the "Money" Fly) was to have been described this week. Something gone wrong with the dressings; sent Daisy out for some fly-tiers' wax—and she brought back tie-flyers' wax (cobblers'). I have the whole thing at my fingers' ends—wool, cotton, silk, fur, feather, and lots of other things that have no business there—and hope to describe this fearfully and wonderfully made—or partly made killer (kill at a hundred yards). A friend happened to see it before it had got the hasting stitches out of it, and does not think much of it! Of course not. Let him wait till it appears as a beautiful living thing! I asked him to take one home, and give me a wrinkle as to how to improve it—if that were necessary. He only said, "Take it away! Mind the step!" DRAGNET.

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PISCATORIAL SOCIETY.

MR. J. W. ZAEHNSDORF was in the chair at Monday's meeting, but things piscatorial were, on the whole, somewhat quiet. Dr. C. S. Patterson, who had been down to the Lambourn, had taken eight brace of trout in two days, the best fish weighing 1lb. 8oz. The doctor exhibited a live specimen of the Pale Golden Sedge, which had been "up" on the stream mentioned in considerable numbers. This in the present cold month of May, too! Mr. E. M. Mayes was on the Kennet for the opening day, and had good sport. He took several fish over 2lb each, besides grayling, which latter were returned. Mr. Mayes, it may be added, has been unanimously chosen to represent the society at the forthcoming Loch Leven tournament in June next. Mr. R. Bradford had done little with trout on the Kennet, but he caught a fine grayling of over 2lb. weight with a large Dusty Miller! On the Uxbridge water the fish had been very much "down" in consequence of the cold weather. The only take recorded was a brace of fish by Mr. H. A. Rolt, the heavier one weighing 2lb. 8oz., the largest trout taken up till now from the new water. Chub of over 3lb. had been caught while trouting, besides perch and dace. The chairman stated that he had seen immense shoals of roach, dace, and chub on the broad shallow by the High Bridge, which speaks well for the coming coarse fishing season, which opens on June 16 next. For the information of members who fish the Hungerford water, it may be stated that the popular proprietor of the Bear Hotel, Mr. W. Osmond, has arranged a special tariff for anglers. Several members of the society have already sampled the accommodation to be had at the quaint hostelry, and have given a distinct pronouncement in its favour. The Bear is close to the water, and the inclusive terms *per diem* are most reasonable. Mr. J. W. Zaehtendorf reported that Mr. R. Clay had kindly presented to the library a copy of Sir Edward Grey's book on "Fly Fishing," for which the donor was warmly thanked, and that he, Mr. Zaehtendorf, as hon. librarian, had purchased a copy of Aldam's "Quaint Treatise on Flies and Fly Making," an exceedingly curious and interesting work. M. G. E. DE C.

BRITISH SEA ANGLERS' SOCIETY.

THE ordinary weekly meeting was held in the York Room, Holborn Restaurant, May 10th, 1899, Mr. C. O. Minchin in the chair. Mr. John Hsndly, at Southend, May 8, in three hours and a half took four score flounders up to 1lb., and many small ones were returned. Mr. Wood, at Southwick, on May 6 and 7, had poor sport, the weather being very rough; plenty of sand eels could have been taken with proper tackle. Mr. H. J. Moore reported sport at Deal last week. Mr. Tucker, with Mr. Mignot, senr. and junr., on May 8, at Southend, took thirty small fry, and ten nice flounders (boating); weather rough. Mr. Canton, St. Leonards, reported that prospects were promising for the week. Weavers were in evidence, which are locally considered a good omen, whitebait very plentiful. Mr. Bates showed a new eight-inch reel made of German silver; it has an adjustable break, the action being very simple, and apparently the maker has hit upon an idea which is likely to be a boon to sea anglers. The weight of the reel is trifling in comparison to its size. Mr. Minchin showed an improved pollack bait made of grey gurnard belly. The usual vote of thanks to the chair closed the meeting. CHARLES S. PATTERSON (Hon. Sec.).

GRESHAM ANGLING SOCIETY.

AT an ordinary meeting, Mr. T. Gilbert in the chair, several additions to the already large library were announced by the hon. librarian. Fishing reports: Mr. Frank Bridgman, three brace of trout (returned); Mr. Emery, several trout (returned), the largest being 13in.; Messrs. Dryden and Ladell, at Brighton, several fine dabs; Mr. Connellan, four trout (Chesham), three being returned, and a quantity of dace and one trout from Hertford (all returned); Mr. Gibson, one brace of trout and quantity of dace from Hertford (all returned). Mr. Emery also reported several pike and chub, taken from private waters on the Lea (all returned); Mr. Goodwin, two and a half brace trout from Chesham (all returned but one), largest fish 15½in. long. Mr. Goodwin will read a paper before the society next Tuesday, the 16th inst., entitled "Roach Fishing." I hope to see a good muster. The usual toasts and vote of thanks to chair concluded the proceedings. ALEX. WRIGHT (Hon. Sec.).

THE OLDE CLAPHAM ROVERS.

FISHING AND HOLIDAY TRIPS BY THE S.E. RAILWAY.

A LECTURE, illustrated from photographic views, was given on Tuesday at Mr. Harry Edwards's house, The Windmill, Clapham Park-road (the headquarters of the Rovers), by Mr. W. J. Wade (Secretary C.A.), on behalf of the funds of the Thames Angling Preservation Society. The society's meeting room was profusely decorated with rods, nets, and lithos of a typical character. The chair was occupied by the genial secretary of the Rovers, Mr. Nat Linden, and a goodly audience of admirers of the sport paid close attention throughout, which, without doubt, the lecture merited. After a few words from the chairman on the subject and object of the meeting, Mr. Wade said that it was his pleasure to come that evening to give a

gossipy chat, and mentioned that his services were free, also he would be delighted to give similar lectures to any club, and take it as a labour of love. He notified an important concession to Clapham, Brixton, Stockwell, Wandsworth, and surrounding districts, through his intervention, by the Brighton Railway, the privilege granted being that instead of having to travel to London Bridge or Victoria, anglers could now entrain at Clapham Junction, thereby ensuring travelling by the early trains. The first design cast on the sheet was a hearty welcome to all, followed by that of a South-Eastern train in motion. Here the lecturer importunately said that the many excellent waters in touch by the aid of this railway had scarcely received the attention they merited. After dealing with the popular resorts of Ramsgate, Broadstairs, Canterbury, Margate, and a view of the *Empress* under steam, which plies between Dover and Calais, the popular town of Dover received an ovation owing to the fact that the Anglers' Benevolent Society have their Convalescent Home here. An admirable arrangement in connection with this home is that pocket money was provided as a general view to the extent of a guinea. Deal, with the lower stage especially built to afford facilities to anglers, was mentioned as a good cod fishing ground to the tune of 18lb.; also a fair supply of conger eels. Grove Ferry claimed several views, this being under the supervision of the Canterbury Preservation Society, and being especially fruitful with extensive bags of roach, one day's fishing being stated to weigh 32lb., and the largest 1lb. 12½oz. The splendid bank was highly commended, and, owing to the weeds that fringed the bank, a 20ft. roach pole, with heavy float, was most suitable, the bait advised being a loaf of bread with bran, mixed to a stiff paste, and cubes being cut to the size of a dice. Last year a Mr. Ireland was reported to have hooked a roach of 2lb. 15oz., but unfortunately gave it away to a countryman instead of having it cased.

After a short interval Sandwich claimed attention, but owing to the water being very swift and brackish was very little use for fishing, but the beauty of the scenery claimed a visit. The Brick Ponds, owned by the S.E. Railway, provided two or three pleasing views, and for a quiet hour or so were unsurpassable. Chilham, situated one or two stations above Canterbury, is a private fishing ground of no mean repute, accessible by sanction of the lord of the manor, and here the lecturer was able to instance the hearty goodwill felt by fellow anglers one to another by a pleasing incident.

Amberley was much favoured by Mr. Wade. He mentioned in the course of his remarks that a 20-guinea and 8-guinea cup were for competition, as well as fifty other prizes. Many photographs of ardent workers on the committee of the Central Association met with a hearty welcome.

After a hearty vote of thanks to the lecturer and lanternist, harmony brought the evening to a close. N. L.

HOLLOWAY ANGLING SOCIETY.

THE first annual dinner of the above society was held at headquarters, the Holloway Station Hotel, on May 9. The president of the club, Mr. Frank H. Clay, occupied the chair, and Mr. G. Johnson the vice-chair. Many well-known anglers were present. After the toast of "The Queen and Royal Family" had been duly honoured, an excellent programme, arranged by Mr. Tom Johnson, was gone through. Mr. George Johnson, in proposing the toast of "The Holloway Angling Society," said that this was the first year of the club, and it had been one of which any club may be proud. Until he joined the society his knowledge of the pleasures of angling as a sport were small. This was now, however, changed. He had become one of the most ardent disciples of the large number of fishers mainly through interest infused through the Holloway Angling Society, and he hoped that their coming year would be even more successful than the past.

The chairman, in response, said that it afforded him a great deal of pleasure to answer to the toast of the evening. As his colleague in the vice-chair had said, this was their year, and it had been a year of which any club might well feel proud. In spite of the adverse conditions as regards weather, they had weighed in some excellent fish, amongst others roach of over 2lb., and several dace of over 1lb. There were few clubs who could show better results than they had done, and when they considered that this was their first year they had every reason to feel proud of the first year's success. He hoped that they would add to their successes, and make the club one of the best in the locality. They were in a strong financial position, and were rapidly adding to their membership roll, and were generally in a most healthy state. They had an excellent secretary in Mr. Clayton, and a hard-working committee, and the smooth working was in no small measure due to their efforts. He must conclude with a heartfelt wish that the Holloway Angling Society would grow into a club whose career they could look upon in the years to come with pleasurable interest.

The prizes won during the year were presented to the following during the evening: Messrs. E. Steinhart (gold medal for specimen), F. H. Clay (silver medal for specimen), F. Hawes (bronze medal for specimen), A. Clayton, A. Stevens, G. Johnson, G. H. Jones, J. Johnson, G. Horner, G. Caines.

Mr. R. Blunden, the host, was the recipient of many compliments for his excellent catering.

The following artistes assisted in the making of an excellent programme: Mr. George Renn, comedian; Mr. E. Stevens, bassoon solo; Mr. W. T. Clay, clarinet solo; Mr. Ansell, selections from Dickens; Mr. F. Hawes, sen., F. Hawes, jun., G. Johnson, H. Hilbert, W. Whitehead, F. Johnson, H. Wates, vocalists.

SOUTH BERMONDSEY PISCATORIALS INSTITUTE,

ROTHERHITHE NEW ROAD, S.E.

THE fifth annual dinner and distribution of prizes took place on Monday last in the hall of the above institute, and was crowned with success from beginning to end, Mr. Wilson, of Cleveland-street, W., being our caterer, and every credit is due to him for the manner in which he served us. The harmony was everything to be desired. The Royal toast was responded to in a most hearty and cordial manner. The secretary reported the financial position of the club, and we shall have a good balance to start the ensuing season. Distribution of prizes: Mr. W. Fawcett, first, gross weight of season, 337lb., chiefly roach; Mr. W. Streeton, 173lb., second, also a very nice specimen carp of 4lb. 6½oz.; Mr. Allam, third; Mr. Davis, fourth; Messrs. Whicelaw, Thomas, Byers, Smith, Costin, Clark, Sutherland were winners of prizes. Mr. A. G. Smith was then presented with a rod and reel, as a testimonial for services rendered during his five years of office, as a token of regard from the members of S.B.P. Mr. E. Gowers was also presented with a very handsome walking-stick, as a testimonial, given by the members of the institute. Mr. W. Gowers was also presented with an illuminated address, also for services rendered the T.A.P.S. and A.B.S., was very suitably responded to by Mr. W. Streeton, and Mr. W. Capewell gave a very warm response on behalf of the visitors. I am also pleased to say we have a record list of prizes promised for the ensuing season, and we can only thank the donors heartily for their kindness in the present instance as in the past, and I can only hope we shall be spared to spend many such happy evenings as we did on Monday. J. H. DAVIES.

THE PAST SEASON'S SPORT AT ALTNAGEALGACH.

Now that the trout and *ferox* angling on the Sutherland lochs is commencing, the following brief statistics may be of interest to numerous anglers. The fish caught with the rod were as follows:—

1898.	Ferox.	Weight. lb.	Trout.	Weight. lb.
April and May ...	—	—	831	251
June.....	4	14	6693	1716
July.....	4	15	2974	1095
August.....	2	5	2521	855½
September.....	1	3	1870	547½
Total.....	11	37	14,689	4465

Of the above, the various lochs yielded as follows:—

Loch.	Ferox.	Weight. lb.	Trout.	Weight. lb.
Urquhart.....	3	7½	4552	1025½
Cama.....	3	7½	4355	1602
Veyatie.....	4	20	2173	818½
Boarlan.....	1	1½	1788	543½
Mheallin and other waters...	—	—	1821	465½
Total.....	11	37	14,689	4465

The following figures will show at a glance the total sport of the past five seasons, viz.—

Year.	Total fish all kinds.	Aggregating Tons. cwts. qrs. lb.
1894.....	13,911	2 9 0 ¾
1895.....	15,369	2 9 2 9
1896.....	15,348	2 6 3 10
1897.....	10,569	1 10 1 23
1898.....	14,700	1 19 1 6
Total in five years	69,897	10 15 0 20½ B.

NEW PISCATORIAL PATENTS.

The following particulars are compiled by Messrs. Hughes and Young, Patent Agents, 55 and 56, Chancery-lane, London, W.C.

21,201. Fishing. Patentee: Mr. G. G. V. Norrman, Handtver-karegtan, Stockholm, relates to line floats. A tube passing through the centre of the float is closed at its upper end by a diaphragm perforated. Within this tube slides a second one, the upper half of which is cut away to a semi-circular section, and bulged outwards through an opening in the tube. The line passes up the tube through the hole, and then between the tubes and to the hole. By pressure, the grip on the line is released, thus enabling the position of the float to be adjusted.

6676. James Yelverton Payton, and Hubert Jackson Hall, Chancery-lane, London. "Improvements in fish-hooks."

28,641. Swivels. Patentee: Mr. W. Smallwood, Lion Works, Redditch, Worcestershire; relates to swivels for fishing tackle, which is made of two pieces of wire coiled, bent, and headed.

THE ESCAPE OF A MURDERER.—A man in Yorkshire was recently arrested for the murder of his employer, but after being in the hands of the police for nearly a week, awaiting his trial, he actually succeeded in making his escape. He has not yet been recaptured. How he succeeded in getting away no one can imagine. The police consider the escape to be almost miraculous. But still more wonderful is the escape from death of a man whose health was ruined, and who found himself almost within the very grip of death. This man, in his hour of desperation turned to Holloway's Pills, and he was saved. To-day he is sound and healthy, in the full enjoyment of vigorous life.

WHITSUNTIDE HOLIDAY ARRANGEMENTS, 1899.

THE GREAT EASTERN RAILWAY

Announce that, in addition to the tourist, fortnightly, and Friday or Saturday to Monday, Tuesday, or Wednesday tickets, which are issued from Liverpool-street and their other London and suburban stations to the east and north-east coasts and the Norfolk Broads districts (Yarmouth, Lowestoft, Cromer, Mundesley, Southend-on-Sea, Clacton, Walton-on-Naze, Dovercourt, Harwich, Felixstowe, Aldeburgh, Southwold, Hunstanton, Scarborough, Whitby, Bridlington, &c.), they will on Saturday, May 20, issue special cheap excursion tickets to most of the above stations; also to Norwich, Cambridge, Wisbech, Lynn, Fakenham, and the other principal stations in Essex, Norfolk, Suffolk, &c. Cheap Saturday to Monday tickets will also be issued to most of the Great Eastern country stations. Excursion tickets will also be issued from Liverpool-street and suburban stations, by the cathedral route, on Friday, May 19, to Durham, Newcastle, Berwick, Edinburgh, Glasgow, &c.; and on Saturday, 20th, to Lincoln, Doncaster, York, Leeds, Bradford, Wakefield, Manchester, Sheffield, Hull, Edwinstowe (for the dukeries), Chesterfield, Durham, Newcastle, &c. Tickets (ordinary, excursion, &c.) can be obtained in advance at Liverpool-street Station; at the Great Eastern American Rendezvous, 2, Cockspur-street, S.W.; and at the company's various City, West End, and other booking offices. Relieving trains will be run on the Friday and Saturday to Colchester, Clacton, Walton, Ipswich, Norwich, Cromer, Yarmouth, Lowestoft, Cambridge, Lynn, &c. Special trains will leave Liverpool-street on Friday, 19th, at 1.30 p.m., for Colchester, Clacton, Walton, Ipswich, Norwich, and Cromer, and at 1.35 p.m. to Yarmouth and Lowestoft; and on Saturday, 20th, at 8.10 and 9.55 a.m., and at 1.55, 4.5, and 7.12 p.m., for Ipswich, Yarmouth, Lowestoft, &c.; at 1.30 and 7.12 p.m., to Felixstowe; and at 4.5 p.m., to Clacton, Frinton, and Walton. For the accommodation of persons detained late in town on Saturday, midnight trains will leave Liverpool-street at 12.0 for Norwich, via Cambridge, and at 12.30 for Norwich, Yarmouth, and Lowestoft, via Ipswich, calling at the principal intermediate stations; and at 12.3 (night) for Colchester and Clacton (express supper train). On Bank Holiday, excursion trains will be run from Liverpool-street and Fenchurch-street to Southend-on-Sea and Burnham-on-Crouch; from Liverpool-street to Clacton, Frinton, Walton, Dovercourt, Harwich, Yarmouth, Hertford, Cambridge, and Ely; from St. Pancras to Yarmouth, Cromer, Cambridge, and Ely. Excursion tickets will be issued and special trains run to Epping Forest, Broxbourne, and Rye House. On Whit Tuesday a special early train will be run from Yarmouth, Lowestoft, Ipswich, &c., due in London 8.0 a.m., and several of the usual up Monday only expresses (including the 7.5 a.m. restaurant car train from Cromer) will be run on this day instead of Bank Holiday. Restaurant cars will also be run on the 7.45 a.m. train from Clacton. Restaurant cars are now run daily on the trains leaving Liverpool-street at 4.55 p.m. for Norwich and Cromer, and at 5.0 p.m. for Yarmouth; and on the up trains leaving Cromer at 8.5 a.m., and Yarmouth at 8.25 a.m.

Notes from the North.

THE rivers are beginning to run small and clear again, yet good volume withal, and bar the easterly winds first class angling conditions prevail. Results are mounting upwards, and sport on the whole fairly good. Better returns from the netting stations on the coast are to hand, although still far back in the main.

Angling on the Spey is improving with the season, a few fish being got on the Knockando, Carron, and Elchies waters. Trout anglers on the Deveron and Ythan upper waters are having good baskets of yellow trout, while one or two salmon have been got on both streams. The best day on the Dee last week fell to the rod of Mr. Barclay, Glentana, who had four fish, scaling 4lb., 12lb., 12½lb., and 14lb.

Loch fishing commenced last week, when there was a fairly good rise of well-conditioned fish, and good average baskets have been the order of the day. On the Parkhill Lake, Donside, Mr. Johnstone had twenty-five fish for a few hours' angling.

Miss Pickering, Kincardine Lodge, is one of the youngest and best lady anglers on the Dee. She wields a 17ft. greenheart of the ordinary type after the manner born, and despises anything of a lighter make. She has an occasional run north in the spring, but autumn is the time when she is most actively and steadily on the river.

Smolts are making a fine show on the lower and tidal reaches just now, and for size and general condition they bear all the marks of having wintered well during the past two seasons.

Ignorance is no available plea now for those who kill salmon smolts, as a man, Robertson, found to his cost when he was fined at Berwick Police Court last week for having eight of them in his pockets.

A more interesting case was that of Andrew Percy, Tweedmouth, who was convicted for having eight sea trout

smolts in his possession. The defence that they were orange fins or yellow trout would not go down with the justices, and rightly so. Orange fins are in the stage of growth between the parr of sea trout and the finnock. The tidal angler has hitherto regarded the orange fin as his peculiar property, but after this we expect it will be as rigorously protected as the salmon smolt. Both are protected by the same law as "fish of the salmon kind."

The Bills and Law Committees of the Aberdeen Town Council are to find out from existing charters and leases if the council has lost all their rights in regard to the Dee tidal waters. The question has already been settled in the affirmative with regard to the Don, when the opinion of eminent counsel was obtained some time ago.

Her Majesty the Queen will make her spring visit to Deeside towards the end of the month. She is due at Balmoral on the 27th, and meantime the usual active preparations are being pushed vigorously forward.

Mr. Farrar has taken a lease of part of the Glentana waters from Sir Wm. Brooks right on to the end of the angling season in October.

Sheriff Robertson has given no uncertain sound as to how he is to deal with trout poachers in future. In the Aberdeen Sheriff Court last week he fined a man, Scott, who was one of a party found "sweeping the river with a net," not far from Dyce Bridge on the Don, in the sum of £3, with £1 8s. 3d. of expenses, and at the same time warned the fraternity that "if any other cases of the kind came before him he should impose the full penalty."

In passing judgment his lordship said: "There was no form of poaching that he regarded with so much objection as that of trout poaching. It was the sport of the many, and the doings of the accused and such as he were depleting their rivers and making them useless to anybody."

At last we are promised a remedy for the vexed question of distillery effluent. Extensive experiments are in progress on Speyside, which are very favourably regarded as a solution of the problem by those in the swim; but, meantime, details are withheld. SPECIAL SCOTCH.

Provincial Notes

FROM BIRMINGHAM AND DISTRICT.

The monthly meeting of the committee of the Birmingham Angling Association was held on Friday evening last at the headquarters. Mr. T. Coles presided, and Mr. H. W. Miller occupied the vice-chair. Several apologies were read from members who were unable to attend through illness and pressure of business. The minutes of the past monthly meeting were read and adopted without discussion. An application for removal by the Aston Park Society from the Queen's Hotel, Victoria-road, to the Fountain Inn, Vicarage-road, Aston, was considered, which, after a short discussion, was sanctioned. This club seems to be making very little headway, but the report went to show that the removal would be a benefit to the club. This club have had five removals in about six years, and I hope that they will now find a place of meeting that will place the club in a better and sounder position. New officers have been appointed, and all looks well for their future success. Two more new clubs are in the course of formation, and their applications will be brought before the next meeting of the committee, when the preliminary stages of the next great association contest will be gone into. One of the most difficult things will be to find a suitable place, as the association is growing so strong that the places we have hitherto patronised will not be sufficient to accommodate us, as this year over 1000 members will take part in the competition. Although the committee of the Birmingham Anglers' Benevolent Society have passed a resolution to fish their annual contest in the canal at Fenny Compton on Saturday, July 9 next, there seems to be certain obstacles in the way of the contest being fished there, as we cannot get to know who has the rights of the fishing. The Banbury Association has been approached, and also the secretary of the canal company, but both write to say that they do not hold the rights for fishing the water. We are now waiting to see who has the rights, and if permission cannot be obtained we shall have to fall back upon a canal or river where we know that we can fish. We fished the contest in the river Avon at Wyre last year, but this was not a success. The year before we fished at Alrewas, in the canal; this was a great success, and a financial gain to the society. The Fenny Compton canal is far before the one at Alrewas for fish, but if we cannot bring off the contest at the former place we shall have to fall back upon the latter. Speaking of the Benevolent Society, I wish to place the important matter of prizes before the clubs, and hope that all those who can will forward a prize this year, so as to make the contest worth the attendance of those who are members and those who are not. The contest tickets will be 6d. each for members and 1s. each for those who do not belong to the society. The Spring Hill Society is making a large number of members just now, the reason being that a special prize of a valuable nature is offered for competition at their annual contest. The new Bridge Society, held at Smethwick, is making

rapid progress. This is in a measure due to the officers. The secretary is a man in the right place, and the president is a gentleman holding a high position at Mitchell and Butler's brewery at Cape Hill, who takes a deep interest in the society. The Bellarn, Highgate Park, and Rose and Crown Societies will have to keep their members well together or the Lamp Society will soon pass them in point of numbers.

FROM DERBYSHIRE.

The past week has not been very favourable for angling on Derbyshire streams. Anticipations of warm days have as yet been but partially realised on a few days; for the rest, strong north-easterly winds have prevailed, harsh and cold. The waters have been, and now are, in excellent condition, and in sheltered places on them moderately good sport has been had by both fly and bottom fishers and trollers. On the Ecclesburn, between Alton and Dnfield, several anglers have taken decent lots of fish; and a few fair baskets have been made on its pretty tributary, the Sherburn. Sport has not been very good on any part of the Amber, moderate creels only having been made both on the open and on the private lengths. There has been a fair sprinkling of anglers on most parts of the Dove, and some satisfactory sport has been had on the warmer and calmer days. The Dovedale, Load Mill, Beresford, and Hartington reaches have furnished several tolerably fair creels, but the angling, as a rule, has not been really good. A few brace have been killed on the tributary streams, the Fenny Bentley and Henmore or Schoo, but successful anglers have not been numerous on either of them. The Wye has scarcely had an average number of visitors. On the higher lengths, by Blackwell Mill and Miller's Dale, there have been, amongst others, anglers from Buxton and the Manchester district, and some moderately good sport has been had there. A few nice lots of fish have been killed on the sheltered parts of the Monsdale open and private waters, but, with one or two not very important exceptions, not much has been done on the Ashford, Bakewell, Haddon Hall, and Rowsley lengths of the river. On the Chatsworth and Baslow reaches of the Derwent anglers have not been very numerous, and although some fair creels have been made during the week, yet the fishing has not been, on the whole, satisfactory. Higher up, on the Derwent Valley lengths by Calver, Stoke, Grindleford, Hathersage, and Sickleholme, in the parts sheltered from the east and north-east winds by the hanging woods and the hills, rather better sport has been had, and several good baskets have been made there of nice sized fish, principally by members of the Hathersage Angling Society and their friends from the Derby, Manchester, and Sheffield districts. Not much has been done with the fly on the Bamford and Yorkshire Bridge lengths, and only moderate creels have been made by bottom fishers and trollers. A few decent lots of fish have been killed on the Ashopton and Derwent Chapel reaches; and several brace have been captured on the adjoining tributary, the Ashop, between Crook Bridge and the Snake Inn. Some tolerably fair sport has been had on the Nowe and on the Castleton burn, near Hope, where several decent creels have been made. Sport has improved somewhat since Sunday last, but settled warm weather is needed to make it what it should be, of which, after nice showers of rain, there are, this evening, Wednesday, favourable indications.

FROM THE FEN DISTRICT (LINCOLNSHIRE):

There is very little to relate in reference to trout fishing. Last week the weather changed somewhat for the better. Warm sunshine in the daytime and mild nights promised well, but all this has been changed again by the cold north-east winds and frosty nights. Under these conditions the fish are still keeping down, and, although one or two are occasionally seen, they are not really feeding in a way at all satisfactory to anglers. There was a heavy downpour of rain in the district on Tuesday. This will further improve the streams, but fly fishing will not be good until the water becomes warmer and flies hatch out more freely. Bottom fishermen continue to obtain fair sport with the maggot and worm; but the bags, as a rule, have not averaged more than three to four brace per rod.

FROM HULL AND DISTRICT.

The weather in this district for the past week, although fine, has been extremely cold for the time of year, a strong north-easterly wind prevailing during the day, and being very cold at night, which has caused quite a scarcity of the natural flies usually seen during May, consequently the fly fisher has met with very poor success, either on the river Hull or its tributaries; but as both the river and contributory becks are in excellent condition, all that is required is a little milder weather. A few brace of fair sized trout have been taken in the Wansford and Brigham district; and below the lock, at the beck-ends, odd fish, going from 2½lb. to 1½lb. each, have been secured with worm. At Hull Bridge some fair catches of flounders have been made, but the cold weather has thrown the eels off the feed even in the lower waters below Beverley. At Hull Bridge, the Victoria Angling Society fished a match and did fairly well, Mr. W. Downsworth taking the first prize with 1lb. 15oz., and the others had decent takes, considering the weather was extremely cold on the day in question; the second and third prizes were taken by Messrs. R. Walmsley and A. H. Dahle. The Stoneferry Angling Society fished their first match of the season on the same day, on the celebrated Minto Flatts stretch, but did not do so well as their confrères at Hull Bridge. Messrs. W. J. Cox, W. C. Cox, and W. Smith were the first three prize winners. This society will hold its annual opening dinner on the 22nd inst., at the New Inn, Stoneferry, when the prizes will be distributed to the successful competitors. The Holderness Angling Society also held their first match on Minto

Flatts on Thursday last, Mr. J. Dobson winning the first prize with a little short of 1lb. of fish, Messrs. J. Thompson, R. G. Fetch, and W. Culting coming in for the next three. The prizes will be delivered to the winners at a meeting at the club's headquarters, the King's Arms, in Witham, on the 16th inst. A much respected member of Messrs. Blundell's Employees' Angling Society has just passed over to the great majority in the person of Mr. B. Plant, who was one of the founders of the society several years ago, and will be much missed by the members, by whom he was greatly esteemed.

FROM THE LAKE DISTRICT.

After the heavy rainfall of Monday week, which brought out rivers, good sport was obtained with worm on the Lune, Eden, and some other streams, and this was maintained for a time, after the waters had settled, with natural minnow and fly. The first named river was patronised by visitors from Lancaster, Kendal, and other places, and there was a fair turn-out of local rods. Amongst the more successful were Messrs. Henderson, Remington, Turner, W. Fisher, J. Bland, and P. Crane, the last named having three nice trout which weighed 2lb. A few good fish have also been secured on the Derwent, the best being one to the rod of Mr. J. Spark weighing

a little over 3lb., two or three others of 2lb. being taken, Messrs. Williamson, Carr, Cutts, Lowther, Denwood, Moffatt, Hodgson, Coulson, Hill, Wilkinson, Newton, Elliott; and, lower down the river, Messrs. R. F. Brown, J. Parkin, J. Soulsby, and G. Banks being amongst the successful ones. On the upper waters of the Eden paniers of from three dozen downwards have fallen to the lot of Messrs. M. Howson (thirty-six), T. Howe (thirty and thirty-four), Rev. E. Rhodes, Dr. de Montmorency, Messrs. W. H. Laycock, E. A. Heelis, Addison, Thornton, and others. Fishing on Ullswater and Windermere has not been good.

FROM LANCASHIRE.

The Ribble has suffered in consequence of the prevailing north-east winds, which have tended to keep the fish down. The rise of fish has been scarce, except at noon, when it has been fair only. Fair average sport has been obtained. The most useful flies were March Brown, Olive Dun, Little Waterhen, Dark Snipe and Purple. On the Wyre and tributaries, although all have been in fair condition for fly fishing, very few rods have been out. The cold winds, no doubt, are to blame for this. A satisfactory rise of fish during the day, but the early morning and evening have been too cold. Fair baskets of fish have been made at

Garstang, and on the majority of the tributaries. Nine brace is the best basket recorded. The Lune and tributaries, owing to recent floods, are pretty well free now of smelts, the majority having been enabled to get to the sea. The waters, as a rule, have been too heavy for the fly, the best basket reported being three brace. The minnow and worm have been fairly used at Hornby Castle and Tunstall waters, resulting in baskets of eight and a half, seven and a half, and six and a half brace. Codling fishing in the estuary at Morecambe Bay being good. The Warrington Anglers' Association have been disappointed with their efforts to secure suitable trout ova, so decided to buy 1000 yearling trout from the Wyresdale Fishery, and to reserve their energies to the hatching of roach ova, with a view to stocking one of their waters near the town. On the 6th, ten carriers, containing yearling rainbow trout, arrived for this association, and were turned into the river Bollin at Heatley. They were in fine condition.

FROM MANCHESTER.

The County Palatine Angling Association have, it is officially stated, secured the fishing rights of eleven miles of the Poynton or Macclesfield Canal, commencing at Marple, at the junction of the Peak Forest Canal, and continuing to the Buxton-road Wharf, at Macclesfield, join-

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11ft., " " 28/-, 30/-, 36/-.
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With cork grip, 6/- extra.

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snake rings and cork grip ... 40/-.

SUPERIOR GREENHEART SALMON RODS.

18ft. steel snake rings, steel revolving
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rubber button, &c. The very best Rod
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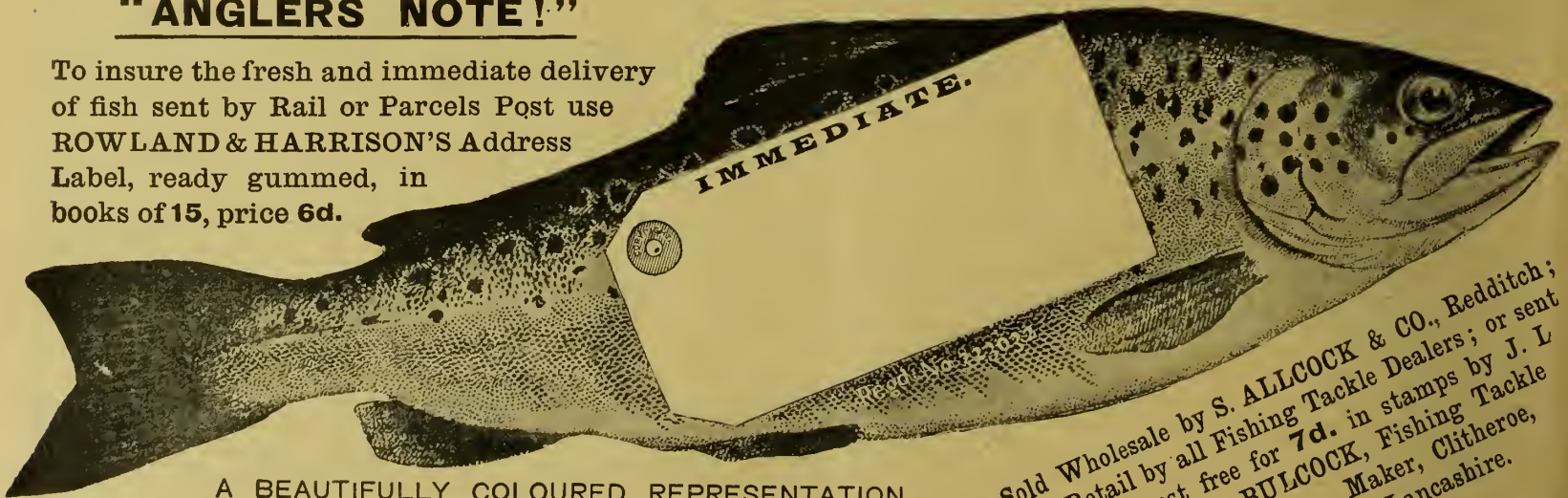
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TAPERED CASTS (240 TROUT TAKEN ON ONE), 1/- each; or 10/- dozen.

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ing up to the length governed by the Macclesfield Association. The water has the reputation of being one of the best canals in the North of England, and if extensive stocking will do it, this good name is to be maintained. A drawback to most canal fishing, the constant procession of boats, will not be found on this water to such a large extent as is generally met with, which is very much in its favour, and there is little doubt that the commendable efforts to be put forth in the near future to carry out a lengthy stocking programme will be much appreciated by those for whose benefit it is intended. A water bailiff, officers, and places for the sale of tickets have been appointed, and posting has been carried out right through the entire length to be preserved, and all things are now ready for the opening on Saturday, May 20. The Longsight Angling Association are making extensive preparations to launch out when the close time for coarse fish has once more gone by. No less than eight contests are down for decision, the first taking place on July 21, in their private waters in Derbyshire—waters that are well stocked with fine fish, comprising rainbow and Loch Leven trout, perch, tench, roach, dace, and chub. No wonder is it that hopes are high for a good season. Several vacancies are noted on the roll call. The officers for the ensuing season were elected.

FROM NOTTINGHAM.

Angling news is still very scarce in our district. On Tuesday heavy rain fell, bringing on a rise of a few inches on the following day, and this should do good as regards helping onward coarse fish on the spawning grounds. Very soon roach will be at the weirs going through the process of scouring. A few trout anglers have visited the local tributaries, and on the Dover Beck sundry choice fish have fallen to the worm. Fly fishing has so far resulted in general failure, this being due to the cold nights prevailing. The Nottingham Nag's Head Society have, since my last, held their annual meeting at headquarters, under the presidency of Mr. W. Packer. All the officers were unanimously re-elected, and the champion prize of the season was awarded to Mr. F. J. Lindley, of Beeston. As to the stocking of the Shardlow Fishery (leased by the Wellington Association) with trout, Mr. W. Gaskell, the esteemed president, has taken up his fertile pen with a view to elicit expert opinion on the subject.

FROM SHEFFIELD.

The river Amber has been running on the clear side, but a few anglers well acquainted with the river have accounted for several brace of nice fish. Bottom anglers have fared the best, but in order to achieve any success they have been compelled to use the finest tackle, baited with maggots on a small hook. The waters rented by the Sheffield Trout Anglers' Society at Wingfield have yielded several brace of nice trout. Visitors to the Derwent have obtained a fair amount of sport, bottom anglers fishing with maggots accounting for the greater number of fish. The upper reaches of the Derwent have been fairly well patronised by anglers from Sheffield and other places, and in the Darley Dale Club waters a lot of nice fish have been taken. Locally the best sport has been obtained in the Loxley, which has taken the place of the river Sheaf in the affections of Sheffielders. Both in the stream and in the dams adjacent a lot of capital fish have been killed. The opening of the season in the Hollow Meadows Reservoir has not provided any sport of an unusual character. There is some talk of re-stocking portions of the river Sheaf, which was depleted of trout by the cleansing of a dam some time ago. Arrangements have been made between the Sheffield Anglers' Association and the Peterborough Anglers' Association, whereby the Sheffield anglers will enjoy the privileges of fishing in the river Mene on the payment of the same entrance fee as the Peterborough members.

FROM SHROPSHIRE.

By the decision given in the Divisional Court of Queen's Bench recently, the question whether or not the public have the right to angle in the non-tidal, but navigable, parts of the river Severn has been determined, and in a manner predicted in these notes some time ago. It was held that prescriptive right to fish could not be acquired by the public, and, further, that the Act of Geo. III., upon one clause of which reliance had been placed, could not bear the construction that had been placed upon it—namely, that public fishery rights were thereby conferred. The result of the case is that the magistrates, whose decision had been appealed against by the Shropshire Association, will have to reverse such decision and convict; and it follows that the fishery rights are vested solely in the owners of the land adjoining the river. Public rights can only exist where the river runs past public property, as in several places at Shrewsbury. The decision of the Justices of the Queen's Bench appears absolute; facts, especially legal ones, are stubborn things, and the angling public will have to accept the verdict, unpleasant though it may be, with good grace. The right of the Shropshire Association to control the greater part of the fishing in the Severn in their county has been upheld, and anglers generally will do well to make whatever terms are possible under the circumstances. It is hoped that the association will be ready, on their part, to make concessions to the coarse fish angler, for it would be a sorry necessity if the river were closed against them. By cordial co-operation the Shropshire Association and the angling public might vastly improve the fast failing fisheries of the upper Severn. For the last few years a state of confusion has existed, owing to the uncertainty of the legal position of the association; meanwhile, the river has been neglected, pike and chub swarm in every part, salmon and trout have been practically exterminated, and, if steps be not taken to net them out, grayling, roach, dace, and other fish will share the same fate. Very little can be accomplished by the association as it is at present

constituted; and anglers generally will be well advised if they now take out membership tickets and enable the association to set up a proper system of river management, in place of the conditions of neglect and chaos which have so long existed. The anglers of the Thames have set an example which could be followed with the greatest advantage. There is room for the coarse fish angler as well as for the trout fisher; but the extermination of predatory fish is essential if anything is to be done in the common good.

FROM WORCESTER AND DISTRICT.

The rivers continue in first class condition, but not much has been done among the game fish, for anglers are waiting for warmer weather. Nights have been exceedingly chilly, several degress of frost being registered on some of them. Some of the days have been very fine and sunny, and flies more abundant on the water, the Stone Fly and Yellow Dun showing up well, and on the Teme the trout rose well at them, and with the Blue Dun were the best flies of the week. On other waters Iron Blue and Blue Dun are given as the best. Anyway, some very nice fish were creoled, and the fish are getting in very good condition. There has been a great number of anglers fishing the Severn for coarse fish during the week, and some members of clubs have been reported for doing so, contrary to the rules of the District Association, and the matter will be brought before the committee at a special meeting, to be held at the Plough Inn on Saturday evening next, the 13th inst., when the matter will be thoroughly gone into. Much satisfaction is expressed by anglers in this district that the Court of Appeal has decided that it is not necessary for coarse fish anglers to take a trout licence if they are fishing for coarse fish only. This has been a vexed question between the Severn Fishery Board and anglers for some time, and the Provincial Angling Association has been most anxious to have the matter decided. On several occasions, when the board have been worsted before the magistrates, they have asked for a case for the higher court, but failed each time to go on with it. An angler at Kynesham was summoned before the magistrates for fishing without a licence, and the case dismissed, the magistrates being satisfied he was fishing for coarse fish. The case was before the Court of Appeal on Monday last. The case was well argued. Mr. Justice Channell said the magistrates said the man was fishing for coarse fish, and how could the Court say they were fishing for trout. The appeal must be dismissed. Mr. Justice Charles agreed, and the case was dismissed. It will lead to a great reduction in the funds of more than one fishery board, and of the Severn Fishery Board in particular, which the loss of licence duty has already much affected. All clubs would gladly pay for a licence if the board would protect their sport, and it is to be hoped it will lead to a better understanding between the board and the rapidly increasing number of anglers, for the board cannot work without funds.

FROM YORK AND DISTRICT.

Fly fishers have experienced most unfavourable times, owing to the prevalence of north-easterly winds, and from day to day results have varied considerably. On the whole, the rivers have yielded fairly gratifying sport with the artificial fly and the minnow. In the Ure (Ripon district) there has been excellent water for spinning, and several baskets of from ten to eighteen trout were reported at the close of last week. The Partridge Bloas have accounted for some nice fish in the Hawes water, and fair sport has been obtained both by fly anglers and bottom fishers about Leyburn. Good baskets of trout were recently taken on the Otley banks of the Wharfe, the most enticing flies being the Winter and March Browns, Waterhen Bloa, and Orange and Yellow Partridges. It is surmised, in accounting for the scarcity of flies on the water, that the floods a few months ago washed the larvae from the head of the river. The prospects for angling on the Wharfe, Ure, Swale, and Nidd have improved with the change of the wind and temperature, the north-east wind at the time of writing having given way to southern breezes and far more spring-like conditions than have prevailed of late. Reports generally show a settling down of the waters, and the trout streams should, if no untoward meteorological conditions assert themselves, yield better sport than has been obtained for some time. Harrogate Club waters are in fine trim for all kinds of angling. A number of rods have been out since minnow fishing opened, and good results have accrued. The long stretches of the Nidd have yielded capital fishing, more than usually weighty baskets having been made. Visitors have done well with the Waterhen Bloa, Snipe, Spanish Needle, and Orange Partridge. The fly has risen earlier since the east wind subsided. Should the cold return, from ten to two o'clock will be the best time to anticipate the fly.

THAMES RE-STOCKING ASSOCIATION.

The first annual dinner of the Thames Re-stocking Association was held on Tuesday evening at Carr's Restaurant, 265, Strand, W.C. The president of the association, Mr. C. H. Cook ("John Bickedyke"), occupied the chair, and was supported by Mr. Wm. Senior ("Red Spinner"), Messrs. W. H. Cate (Caxtonian Angling Society), F. G. Littlewood (hon. treasurer), F. H. Amphlett, G. R. Clarke, A. Drinkwater, G. P. Andress, C. W. Littlewood, T. Lyne, A. W. H. Marsom, A. R. Matthews, W. A. Smelt, H. G. Hankins (hon. secretary), and other gentlemen.

The usual loyal toasts having been duly honoured, Mr. F. H. Amphlett proposed the "Thames Re-stocking Association." He said he was pleased to see present that evening so many gentlemen who were present at the first meeting of the association, a fact which showed that

their interest in the question of re-stocking the Thames had not diminished. He maintained that the Thames Re-stocking Association, and those responsible for its management, had no desire to interfere with older re-stocking and preservation societies.

The toast having been drunk with enthusiasm, Mr. C. H. Cook, in reply, said that since the idea of the hatchery had been started a large number of people who had previously taken an interest in the question of maintaining the stock of Thames fish had come to him and expressed the hope that the scheme would succeed. He quite expected they would have some difficulty in getting the money, but they meant to go on until the whole of the money needed was subscribed. (Applause.) But they not only wanted funds, they wanted to create a feeling of brotherhood amongst all classes of anglers. At present there was a good deal of jealousy between angling societies and preservation societies, but he hoped this would cease, and that a healthy spirit of determination to work together for the common good of the Thames would prevail. (Hear, hear.)

Mr. W. Senior next gave the toast of the "President," and in doing so he said the Thames Re-stocking Association were fortunate in having a man of the stamp of Mr. Cook as their president. He had known Mr. Cook very many years, and he had always found that when he took up a scheme he worked away at it until it became an accomplished thing. He was pleased to see they were going to try and start a hatchery on the Thames, and he hoped they would be successful in raising the necessary funds. (Applause.)

Other toasts were the "Officers," proposed by Mr. T. Lyne, and responded to by Mr. H. G. Hankins (hon. secretary) and Mr. F. G. Littlewood (hon. treasurer), and the "Press," proposed by Mr. G. Read Clarke and acknowledged by Mr. Senior.

During the evening an excellent musical programme was carried out by Messrs. W. H. Cate, A. W. H. Marsom, Drinkwater, G. P. Andress, and others.

HON. REPORTER.

MAIDENHEAD, COOKHAM, AND BRAY THAMES ANGLING ASSOCIATION.

THE annual meeting of the above association was held at 1, Park-street, Maidenhead, on April 29. Mr. H. W. Russell, C.A., presided. The minutes of the last half-yearly meeting having been read and confirmed, the annual report and balance-sheet were presented and adopted. From the report it is gathered that in May last year the association turned in twenty-one brace of good trout averaging 1lb. in weight, and that the improvement in the perch still steadily continues, both as regards size and quantity. The committee are most anxious that the association should be strengthened by the addition of new subscribers. Mr. W. H. Grenfell was re-elected president, and the following vice-presidents were also re-elected, viz.: Lord Boston, V. W. B. Van de Weyer, Esq., Capt. Oliver Young, R.N., M.P., Col. Ricardo, and Ernest Gardner, Esq. Messrs. H. W. Russell, R. Goolden, H. Hoare, J. J. Jonas, F. D. Lambert, R. Nicholson, A. N. Gilbey, and F. Brewer were chosen as members of the committee. Mr. Alfred Fossick was re-appointed as solicitor, and Mr. C. H. Ricks as secretary to the association. The head bailiff (Mr. Harry Wilder) reported with regard to trout that some very good fish had been seen, and that there was a prospect of a good season. The river was well stocked with coarse fish of all kinds. The meeting closed with a vote of thanks to the auditors, Messrs. R. D. Lee and W. Naylor.

ANSWERS TO CORRESPONDENTS.

PEDAGOGUE.—If you write to "J. S. N." 35, Harrington-square, N.W., you will probably get the information you require.

H. P. SATLOCK.—June 16 will be the opening day of the Thames coarse fishing season. Unlike the Lea, eels may not be taken during the fence months.

Correspondence

[We do not hold ourselves responsible for the opinions expressed by our Correspondents.]

A TROUT THAT DID.

SIR,—Mr. Dewar, in "The Book of the Dry Fly," and Mr. Halford, in "Dry-Fly Fishing," agree in the opinion that it must be an extremely rare event for a trout to allow itself to be netted after getting clear of the hook. The story of a trout that did may, therefore, be worth the telling.

In 1869 I was fishing with a friend one evening on the Avon at Salisbury. It had become too dark to see the rise when I joined my companion just as he was into a fish of some size. After a longish encounter, characterised rather by a display of stubbornness than of dash, the hitherto unseen fish was brought near to the spot where I was ready with the net. Almost in the same moment I caught sight of a good trout, saw the line go slack, and heard my friend, in a sad tone, exclaim, "He's off." I was just able to reach far enough to slip the net under and bring to grass the unhooked fish. Never were two anglers more astonished than were we at this piece of good luck, which, of course, was a fluke. The defunct scaled a few ounces over 4lb, was in excellent condition, and pink fleshed, the latter quality not being common to trout in that water. I should add that he was floating right way up at the time of disaster and success; whether he had

been on his side, and happened to roll to the normal pose just for the moment, is a question for speculation.—Yours obediently,
BIPISCATOR.

PIKE "HANGING ON" TO WEEDS.

DEAR MARSTON,—I was interested on reading your review, in last week's *Fishing Gazette*, of Sir Edward Grey's book on fly fishing. At page 302, *Fishing Gazette*, you speak of the author's conviction "that trout at times, when they rush into a weed bed, hang on to the weeds with their teeth;" and the editors—i.e., the Marquis of Granby and Mr. George A. B. Dewar—say "it would surely be hard to over-estimate the importance to the angler, and the interest to the naturalist, of this theory."

You and I have noticed, when fishing together, that pike, while fighting for liberty and life, do sometimes take hold of weeds with their teeth. You will no doubt remember my hooking a large pike—it was 15lb.—in that weedy backwater just above Holme Bridge, river Frome, Dorset, and how it held on for some minutes to the bottom. I had hard work to get it loose, and when you gaffed the fish for me its jaws were tightly clenched on a bunch of weeds. A similar thing happened to our friend, Edwin Frost, when angling with me at the large pool near Wareham Bridge. He was snap fishing far out in the middle of the river. A large pike took his live bait, and dived down into 12ft. of water, and held on for at least ten minutes. When landed the fish had in the grip of its closed jaws a bunch of weeds bigger than my doubled fists.—Yours sincerely,
ALFRED JARDINE.

FISHING IN CO. LEITRIM, IRELAND.

DEAR SIR,—I would be very grateful if, through the medium of the *Fishing Gazette*, you, or any reader, could give me the address of a reliable owner of boats and fisherman in or near Kinlough, co. Leitrim, Ireland. I am going there in July with a party who intends to fish Lough Melvin, and wants information regarding familiar flies and other lures. I also want to have boats and lodgings provided.—Yours truly,
YOUNG ANGLER.

FISHING NEAR LOWESTOFT.

DEAR SIR,—I propose spending a week or two at Lowestoft in July, and should feel greatly obliged if you would advise me as to the best rivers or broads to fish, and whether the tackle used there is the same as used on Thames or Lea.—Yours truly,
HILLS.

COOPER'S FANCY.

DEAR SIR,—I shall be pleased to forward a pattern of Cooper's Fancy to Mr. A. Roland Upcher if he will favour me with his address.—Yours truly,
J. E. MILLER.

DEAR SIR,—This fly can only be obtained, correctly dressed, from myself. I brought it out three seasons ago, and have used it, fishing one fly only, on every water I have visited with great success, killing more fish than I ever did before. I use it from the beginning to the end of the season, rarely changing it, and it kills as well wet as dry. One evening last August, fishing in the Derwent here, I put it over four fish, rising one above another in the stream, and hooked and landed all—a trout, grayling, dace, and a roach.

Mr. F. Walbran, Leeds, writing on Sept. 14, 1898, has the courtesy to acknowledge the origin of this fly, by saying, "This fly, which I believe is an emanation of your active brain, I am besieged with orders for."

I have not yet heard from Mr. Dale, Hanley, to the same effect.—Yours faithfully,
HENRY COOPER.

NETTING FUND.

DEAR SIR,—Since last report I beg to acknowledge receipt of following sums: West Green A.S., 13s. (second donation); Clisold A.S., 6s. (second donation), and 1s. Queen's Piscatorials.—Yours faithfully,
ALEX. WRIGHT (Hon. Treasurer).

TROUT AND PIKE FISHING IN IRELAND.

DEAR SIR,—If "Pike," "Pedagogue," and "J. T.," whose letters appeared in last week's *Fishing Gazette*, will communicate with me I shall be happy to give them full particulars as to the sport, &c., obtainable here. As I am the recognised correspondent of the *Fishing Gazette*, your English friends may count on getting from me most reliable information regarding fishing of all kinds on the Shannon and its lakes, both here, at Killaloe, and elsewhere along the river.—Yours faithfully,
S. J. HURLEY.

Abbey View, Killaloe, co. Clare,
Ireland.

TROUT FISHING IN IRELAND AND NORWAY.

DEAR SIR,—In reply to the query of "J. T." and "Pedagogue" for good trout fishing in last issue of your paper, might I venture to suggest Lough Melvin, still unrivalled for trout angling? Bracing air, lake, and mountain scenery. Dapping with "daddys" in August is really a success. Cheap, clean, and comfortable lodgings can be had near the lake. If the above named send their addresses to me I shall be pleased to furnish all information required gratis.—Yours faithfully,
ROSSFRIAR, KINLOUGH, CO. LEITRIM. P. GALLAGHER.

DEAR SIR,—"J. T." would find a comfortable inn, with very fair trout fishing in the river Yore, the Bain, and in a small lake called Semerwater, if he makes his headquarters at the Rose and Crown Hotel, Bainbridge, Wensleydale. I have so frequently called attention to this beautiful district in the *Fishing Gazette* and other newspapers, that its features must by this time be well known. Respecting Bainbridge, H. Speight, in his work of "Romantic Richmondshire," says: "The approach to Bainbridge is most inviting, and the houses composing the

village are ranged round a spacious and pleasant green. There are several interesting old buildings, including the hall, and an ancient and commodious hostelry, the Rose and Crown, which is believed to have been an inn since the old Forest days. The doorway had formerly a good Norman arch, and above the porch (a late work) was formerly a stone bearing in raised letters the date 1445. Adjoining the inn was an old house, which was rebuilt much in the original style a few years ago, and has in front of it a Greek and Latin inscription. On the green are the remains of the old stocks, which have not been used for over sixty years. The last occasion, I am told, on which they were put into use was when a tinker named Jos. Swales and his wife (a riotous couple) for being drunk and disorderly, were committed to sit in them. One of the most romantic excursions from Bainbridge is into Raydale, where the visitor may obtain a peep at lonely Semerwater, a beautiful silvery expanse lying in the bosom of sequestered hills, remote from the busy world and its tribulations. The lake ordinarily covers a space of about 100 acres, but after rains, the banks being low, it sometimes swells to nearly double that area. Its greatest normal depth is about 40ft., and the walk round it is from three to four miles. The marshy flats and banks abound in rare plants, and the ornithologist, too, will find the retired mere the haunt of many a *rara avis*. Its waters abound in fish, which in former times, as appears by ancient surveys of Richmondshire, were of considerable value; in Edward I. (1281) being valued at 40s. yearly (about £30 of present money), though in the time of Edward III., A.D. 1340, it is returned as of no value 'because it cannot be let, nor any profit made of it,' doubtless owing to the devastation caused by the border raids after Bannockburn." Rudd and bream are particularly plentiful in the lake, and sometimes during storms numbers of these fish are left high and dry on land, having been blown from the shallows about the margins. Rudd sometimes collect about the sides of the lake in such numbers that it has been possible to rake scores together out of the water with a hay rake. There are also thousands of crayfish, and trout are fairly numerous. The fishing is owned by the Wensleydale Angling Association, and day tickets, 2s. 6d. each, may be had at Aysgarth station, or from the secretary at Askrigg. The season is from March 16th to October 1st. A good deal of interest centres round Semerwater. It was from the large boulder at its foot, known as the Carlow Stone, that the artist Turner, the greatest of England's landscape painters, drew his unrivalled view of the lake.

The story is that the stone named (which is said to bear supernatural marks) was one of many hurled by some despairing genius of this remote valley upon a city that once stood here, which was renowned for its pride and selfishness. Another legend of similar import relates how, once on a time, a poor but God-fearing man (some say he was an angel in disguise) entered this wicked place, then overflowing with wealth and abundance, and failing to obtain either food or shelter at any house save that of the poorest tenant in it, he, after a little deliberation, walked up the hillside above the poor man's cottage, and, raising his hand heavenwards, then exclaimed:

"Semerwater rise, Semerwater sink,
And swallow all the town, save this little house
Where they gave me meat and drink."

No sooner said than the proud and uncharitable city, with all its inhabitants, sank out of sight, and a body of water gradually rose and spread over the site. As the legend runs:

"They tell how once a busy town
Stood where these waves are flowing,
The streets are hidden where, far down,
The lily roots are growing."

But the saint's blessing, be it known, rested upon the poor man and his wife, and they ever afterwards prospered:

"Nor did it reach to them alone,
But reached to son and daughter,
Until the land was all their own
Around lake Semerwater."

The Crown is now in the occupation of Messrs. Kendall and Chierici, formerly of the Bruce Arms, Tanfield, and well known to many Yorkshire anglers. Mr. Chierici is an expert angler, and will gladly give "J. T." or any other brother piscator every advice.—Yours truly,
J. E. MILLER.

Northern Angler's Depot, 19, New
Station-street, Leeds.

SALMON FISHING IN BRITISH COLUMBIA.

DEAR SIR,—If some of your many readers and contributors know anything about salmon fishing in British Columbia, I am sure they will be kind enough to provide me, without delay, with all the hints that they consider useful to a would-be angler in those parts.

Any information whatever on this point, provided it were reliable, of course, would be most acceptable; and it could not be too extensive or too detailed for.—Yours, &c.,
WOULD-BE ANGLER.

SOFT DRESSING FOR A LINE WANTED.

DEAR SIR,—Could you or any of your readers give me a recipe for dressing an eight plait silk line for spinning for salmon, to be used on a patent casting reel?

The line is loosely plaited, and I, of course, wish to have a soft dressing. Thanking you for past favours.—Yours, &c.,
IRON BLUE.

FISH TO PAINT FROM WANTED.

DEAR SIR,—In venturing to ask a favour of you, I feel sure you will oblige me if you can do so. I am making a series of water-colour drawings of British fish. Many of the common species I take here, but it takes more interest than I have to get specimens of char, grayling, sea trout,

&c., which frequent the northern lake district. Would you object to insert a note from yourself asking any friend to send one specimen, when it can be spared, to me direct, and any expense I will repay.—Believe me, yours very faithfully,
A. WHEELER.

71, Queen's Road, Clifton, Bristol.

[We shall be very much obliged to any of our readers who will assist Mr. Wheeler to complete his drawings of our fresh-water fish.—Ed.]

GREEN DRAKE—"THINGS BELATED OR OTHERWISE."

DEAR SIR,—Many of your readers may be glad to know that a few Green Drake have been showing on Lough Derg, and as the weather is now brilliantly fine and warm, and looks "set fair," the fly will, no doubt, be "up" in its thousands by the end of this week; so "dappers" look sharp!

The lake is some 4in. above summer level, and the nights cool and keen, but for which, I am sure, the rise would now be well on.

It surprised me to learn from "Mona's" letter in last week's *Fishing Gazette*, that the Caddis Fly or large Pale Sedge Fly, which so abounds in the Shannon at Killaloe, is called the May Fly by local anglers. I never heard it so called, and I am a local angler. It is called the Cinnamon, Sedge, or Rail, and is a first cousin of the Lough Ree Fly "Mona" makes mention of, which is also a Caddis Fly.

The latter fly is well known on Lough Derg, and is locally called the Olive, or Dark Olive, or Rail. It makes its appearance when the May Fly is on the wane, and is taken as evidence that the dapping is practically over. I entirely differ with "Mona" when he says it is "in shape a Stone Fly in miniature," for this Caddis Fly has, like all its family, sloping wings of a roof-like shape, whereas the Stone Fly has absolutely flat wings.

He says the Stone Fly is called the "Mullah." In this he is doubly astray. There is no such fly locally known as the "Mullah." He probably means the "Murragh," derived from "mnr," or "mor," the Irish for large or great. The Murragh is a very large Sedge or Cinnamon fly, much larger than the Stone Fly, and appears later on in the season than the Stone Fly. The Stone Fly is known to very few of our local anglers, for it scarcely ever takes to wing, and lies hidden under flat stones on the lake shore. The Stone Fly is of the Perlidae family, whilst the Murragh is, I believe, the *Phryganea grandis* of the Trichoptera; so one could not be confused with the other.

The Stone Fly appears about a week or two before the Green Drake. When I find the orange tip butterfly skimming the road hedges I look out for the Stone Fly, and the brimstone butterfly arrives with the Green Drake. I send you, this post, specimens of the Stone Fly, picked up on the shore of Lough Derg the past few days, and you can say if it is or not the Stone Fly proper.

I generally try a few days' dapping with the Stone Fly, if the weather suits, before the Green Drake is on, and it will also kill near the shore by being sunk under water with a small shot on the cast.

I also enclose a specimen fly, which I imagine is the Yellow Sally. I found it on the Nenagh river last week. It is a most killing fly when out if the weather be at all breezy, but I can never get a good artificial imitation. Mr. Halford says it is not relished by trout, in which I must respectfully differ from him, but then I fish the pattern wet in preference to dry, which makes all the difference! The Willow Fly, or Hare's Ear and Claret, to give it its local name, is also the most deadly killer as a dropper in the months of March and April, when the natural fly hatches out in large numbers on our local rivers.

By the way, in "Dry Fly Entomology" it is stated that the Stone Fly inhabits rapidly flowing water. How then is it so numerous on certain rocky shores of Lough Derg, where there is practically no flow? The male fly (wingless) is very scarce in proportion to the female. Not one male to thirty females can be met with.

"Mona" can at the present time find the larva of the May Fly in the mud or sandy shallows of Lough Derg. I do not think it burrows into banks, but even in rivers lives in the mud or sandy bottoms under water, on a shallow, perhaps, for preference.—Yours, &c.,
OIRMUHAN.

Nenagh.

FISHING NEAR GALWAY.

DEAR SIR,—Will you or any of your correspondents kindly answer the following questions?

1. Is there a decent hotel to stay at in the town of Galway?
2. Is this a good time to fish in the river Corrib and lake for salmon, trout, and sea trout?
3. What does one have to pay for salmon fishing; and from whom does one have to get leave to fish on Corrib?
4. Do the fish one lands belong to oneself, or has one to surrender them to the proprietor?
5. Is there any other good fishing near Galway with convenient and decent hotel close by? Any other information gladly received.—Yours truly,
X.

FISHING IN SUTHERLANDSHIRE.

DEAR SIR,—Can any of your readers tell me whether during the first fortnight in June I am likely to get good loch fishing in Sutherlandshire (fly), also what places are recommended? I should expect on going so far north to get better sport and bigger trout than can be obtained by travelling a less distance. Am I likely to be disappointed? Preference would be given to a spot where a little salmon or grilse fishing might be obtained at a moderate daily charge, particularly if wading were not absolutely necessary. Are the hotels likely to be empty so early in the year? I don't want to be the only guest, as I may have to take my fishing holiday alone. Any information I may obtain through the columns of the *Fishing Gazette* I shall be grateful for.—Yours, &c.,
VOLUNTEER.

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NOTICE.

THE FISHING GAZETTE is published every Saturday, and can be obtained at Messrs. W. H. Smith and Son's Railway Bookstalls and of the principal Newspapers and Fishing Tackle Dealers in London and the Provinces.

Communications relating to the Literary Department, Fishing Tackle for Notice, Books for Review, &c., should be addressed to R. B. MARSTON, Editor of the FISHING GAZETTE, St. Dunstan's House, Fetter-lane, London.

Correspondents are requested to write on one side of the paper only, and give their real names and addresses, not necessarily as signatures to their letters, but as a guarantee of good faith. Unless this rule be adhered to no notice will be taken of such communications.

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The GAZETTE can be had by sending Postal Order or Stamps to Messrs. Sampson Low, Marston and Co., Limited, the Proprietors, St. Dunstan's House, Fetter-lane, London, to whom all money payments should be made.

For One Year, post free to any part of Great Britain and Ireland	10s. 6d.
Months ditto	5s. 4d.
Three Months ditto	2s. 8d.
To America and the Continent, annual subscription, including postage	12s. 6d.

Scale of Charges for Advertisements.

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— The —

Fishing Gazette

WITH WHICH IS INCORPORATED

ANGLING AND CLUB GOSSIP.

SATURDAY, MAY 20TH, 1899.

MR. JAMES OGDEN'S ARTIFICIAL MAY FLIES.

MR. JAMES OGDEN, of 28, Winchcomb-street, Cheltenham, makes superb artificial May Flies, and uses a special hook, which suits the purpose admirably, and does not overweight the fly, as so many of the hooks used in May Flies do. Among some lovely samples sent us by Mr. James Ogden we must mention the famous "Marquis" pattern, which killed so well last season. Some anglers use one favourite pattern of May Fly, and stick to it, saying, if the fish will not take it they will take nothing else; but we have often killed fine trout which had refused an artificial of a light shade with one with dark wing and strongly marked dark body, like the "Marquis," and *vice versa*. We have also found it a good plan when there is a lot of natural fly on the water, and the fish only pick out a few of those floating over them, to use an artificial which is much lighter than the natural in colour, or if that is very light then a dark pattern. Of course, it is unnecessary to endeavour to call the fish's special attention to your fly in this way if he is taking all he can get.

It would be difficult indeed not to be able to pick out of Mr. James Ogden's beautiful variety

of patterns something to suit the taste not only of trout, but of far more fastidious anglers. They bear examination with a magnifying glass. To describe the dressings would be giving them away; but we particularly recommend the "Marquis," with dark body and grey wing, and ditto with light body and light wing—also the winged and hackled spent gnats.

The winged patterns for floating—and none beat them in this respect—are 6s. per dozen; and the hackled, for wet-fly fishing, are 4s. per dozen.

HEWETT WHEATLEY'S PRACTICAL HINTS AND DAINY DEVICES FOR THE SURE TAKING OF TROUT, GRAYLING, &c.

IN 1849 Messrs. Longman, Brown, Green, and Longmans published one of the best and most original books on fly fishing and spinning ever written.

Wheatley's little book is called "The Rod and Line; or, Practical Hints and Dainty Devices for the Sure Taking of Trout, Grayling, &c." It is beautifully illustrated with hand-coloured steel engravings, and I can advise anyone who comes across a copy to secure it; it has long been out of print.

FLIES DRESSED ON EYED HOOKS FIFTY YEARS AGO.

Wheatley ought to have lived and fished nearly half a century later than he did, for he would have delighted in the "dainty devices," to use his own words, of the dry-fly fisher. That he was in advance of his time seems clear from the fact that he had eyed hooks made to dress his flies on; and most beautiful eyed hooks too—small, slightly turned-up eyes on the most perfect of Limericks, also special long-shank eyed hooks for May Flies, beetles, &c. Thanks to the kindness of one of my correspondents, Mr. H. Longfield, of Broad View, Mallow, Ireland, I have in my possession a fly and a caterpillar dressed by Wheatley on his eyed hooks, and given by him to Mr. Longfield in 1856. I referred to this in the *Fishing Gazette*, in September, 1884, after there had been much correspondence on the question of eyed hooks, which, for dry-fly fishing purposes, were re-invented by Mr. H. S. Hall and Mr. George Bankart.

The caterpillar has a piece of gut still attached to the eye, and the knot used is the same as that which I, nearly thirty years later, christened the "Turle Knot," after Major Turle, who first showed it to me when I was fishing with him on the Test.

Here are Wheatley's reasons for using eyed hooks, written in 1849, or exactly half a century ago.

"The beetles are used like the artificial fly; but I think they kill best when allowed to float gently down the stream. . . . I generally use them made on hooks having a fine eye at the extremity of the shank. In fact, I very commonly make all flies, large and small, on similar hooks; a practice which will doubtless be much scouted by many anglers. Nor shall I attempt to persuade anyone to adopt it, though it possess the advantage of enabling me to use either fine or thick gut with the same fly. It is far more durable, for when the fly is tied on gut, the gut is very soon so worn as to be unsafe, and the fly consequently valueless. Besides, in an ordinary sized snuff-box, I carry to the river 300 flies—a compression of material with which I am well pleased, more especially as each is separate, and available without trouble.

"Should the good-natured fishing public ask for a second edition, I may, perhaps, give more details on this subject; for it is somewhat of a pet, though not exactly the child of our old age; rather the mistress of our youth, and the friend of our riper years, combining, as Keats most correctly sings,

"The bread of friendship, and the wine of love,"

Exhilaration and sustenance—the excitement of sport, and its fruits."

Unfortunately no second edition was called for—Wheatley was in advance of his time; and quite likely the anglers of the old school resented his somewhat caustic style, and called his "dainty devices" fads.

DID WHEATLEY INVENT THE RED TAG?

I think it would be difficult to prove that he did not, for among the flies which he figures in colour on Plate V. is one which he says he has never seen used by others, and it is an exact

representation of the famous Red Tag, which has slain so many thousands of grayling and trout, and here is Wheatley's dressing:

Body.—Peacock herl. (He does not say so, but his illustration shows it is green herl.)

Hackle.—Plain red.

Tail.—The tips of two feathers from the head of the crimson crow. Not more than the sixth of an inch, at most, need be shown.

Hook.—No. 12.

EXACT COLOUR IMITATION.

Mr. Smurthwaite (whose essay on exact imitation of the natural colour of flies I noticed last week) doubtless knows Wheatley's book—if not, I am sure he would be delighted with it—for Wheatley also carried a magnifying glass when fishing to aid him in discovering "the true colour of the living insect." He adds: "I esteem the colour of the fly's body of far greater importance than that of the wing. . . . What may appear the right colour when looking down upon it, may be found wrong when viewing it between the eye and the light—the way in which fish must, from their position beneath the object, always see it.

DID WHEATLEY INVENT THE "ALEXANDRA" SALMON FLY?

On p. 128 he says:

"I consider the great perfection of a salmon fly to consist in its life-like motion; I mean, that in moving it through the stream, by short jerks, the wings shall very visibly collapse, and suddenly resume the position they present to the eye when out of water and dry. This double motion of the wings looks more life-like than any mere movement of the whole bait, and it is to be communicated to the fly by drawing it quickly toward you for a few inches, stopping suddenly, and again drawing. This will not only give motion to the whole mass, but a seemingly separate motion to the wings, exhibiting, therefore, a more lively appearance of the whole than can be given by any other means. Fig. 3, Plate VIII., is incomparably the best fly with which I am acquainted for producing this effect; the play of the peacock's strands is perfection."

He tells us that, in consequence of the success Capt. Russell had with this fly "this spring" (1849), it has been christened "The Captain."

Plate VIII., fig. 3, is a Red "Alexandra," thus dressed:

Body.—Bright red worsted. Rib with a strand of black ostrich and rather fine gold alternately.

Wings.—From a dozen to twenty strands of the peacock's tail feather. A few of the bright green strands from the sword feather of the peacock may be laid over them.

Hackle.—Brightest golden pheasant's tippet feather under the wings.

Tail.—Red and yellow.

The common "Alexandra" has usually a silvery body, but the red and gold, as described by Wheatley, was a favourite variation with the late Dr. Brunton, who used the "Alexandra" with most deadly effect—of course on waters where its use was allowed.

Wheatley in his "Introduction" says: "My book may, in some measure, be considered a sequel to Mr. Ronalds's 'Fly Fisher's Entomology.' Most admirably has he fulfilled his intentions by producing the best work extant on the imitation of the natural fly." Wheatley supplements this natural every-day fare with tit-bits and *sauce piquante*—"a sort of cayenne to a jaded appetite"—and he certainly gives some most killing dressings.

There has been some correspondence in the *Fishing Gazette* recently about "Cooper's Fancy." Here is Wheatley's dressing of a fly not very unlike it, viz., "dark claret body hackled with a small, very pale sea swallow's feather."

"Dark claret" for body has always been a favourite with me, and for many years past Mrs. Richardson, of Kingston, has dressed for me a fly with gut body stained a dark claret colour, medium starling wing, with soft dark blue hen's hackle at shoulder, and ditto tail. Wheatley says, and says most truly, "There is one colour which enters far too sparingly into the composition of our flies, and that is dark claret or tortoiseshell," and he points out that many flies are dressed with black bodies which should, if nature were copied, be "dark claret colour." On the Itchen we used formerly often to notice a beautiful dun with a body of this dark claret—almost port wine colour. It has not been so common of late years, though I was glad to see some again last season. I think, with Theakston, that

the nature of the soil, &c., in which the eggs are hatched and the larvæ feed, has a good deal to do with the colour of the body of the fly. If the nature and colour of the food of trout affects the colour of their flesh, as it undoubtedly does, why should not the same apply to the colour of water flies. Worms dug out of a light sandy soil are of a light sandy colour; out of a rich dark soil, a dark colour. I think, therefore, it is quite reasonable to suppose that flies hatching from a stretch of bright sandy gravel will be more of the amber tint of a tortoiseshell; and those hatching from a dark rich loam or peaty bed, of the dark claret colour in a tortoiseshell. For the same reason, or, rather, for another reason, the warmth of the sun will hatch out flies on a dark bed of the river sooner than on a light bed, because a dark substance absorbs and a light one reflects heat. This is only "speculation," but I think it may well have something to do with the fact that on different days we get hatches of the same fly varying much in shades of colour. What is the best imitation of the wing and body of the Iron Blue Dun? The natural fly has a dull soft violet blue tint most difficult to imitate, and the body has the same tint, with a dash of purple in it.

I should like to see samples of a really natural artificial Iron Blue. R. B. MARSTON.

MR. J. R. RICHARDSON'S "CORRIE" WHOLE CANE TROUT ROD AND NATURAL ALDERS.

In our Christmas number we gave an illustration of Miss M. A. B. Corrie and the little trout rod with which she killed a 19lb. salmon in Scotland last autumn.

In a letter we had from Mr. Corrie at the time, he said: "The best fun we had was when my little daughter, who was fishing for sea trout, hooked a clean run salmon of 19lb. Luckily I had fitted her up with a pretty strong line, but it took her forty-five minutes to kill the fish on her feather-weight rod—a 10ft. whole cane, made by Mr. J. R. Richardson, of Kingston-on-Thames. I am now a firm believer in the strength and 'recovery' of whole cane rods made by 'J. R. R.' The wee rod bent until the only part of it which did not point straight at the fish was some 3ft. 6in. of the butt. The rod came perfectly straight almost directly the strain on it was released, and shows no sign of hard usage, though it has since killed a good sized grilse and a lot of sea trout."

The following is a description of this powerful little rod, which is thoroughly well made, and suited to either wet or dry fly fishing:

Length, 10ft. 4½in. Weight, 9½oz. (this can be reduced to 7½oz., if desired, without loss of power, Mr. R. says). The rod is in two joints, with snake rings, the butt being whole cane, with solid universal winch fittings, and the top is best selected greenheart. It is an excellent rod in every way, and the price (25s.) is very moderate.

"The Alder is plentiful. No May Fly at present." So writes a keeper of a Hertfordshire water, which we hope to visit shortly and renew our acquaintance with the innocent ubiquitous Alder, a favourite on every river, and one of the most deadly of the standard trout flies. Mrs. J. R. Richardson, of 57, High-street, Kingston-on-Thames, makes Mr. Chas. Walker's dressing of the Alder admirably, with the wings put on as carried by the natural fly, and with the nice little fat brown body wonderfully imitated. We have asked Mrs. Richardson to make for us some Duns with a similar body. Mrs. R. says many of her customers had great sport last season with Mr. Walker's clever dressings of the Alder and the other flies, &c., described by him in his very suggestive and interesting work, "Old Flies in New Dresses; or, How to Dress Flies with the Wings in the Natural Position, and Some New Wet Flies." We believe all the artificial flies from which the illustrations in this work were done were specially dressed for it by Mrs. J. R. Richardson, who is one of the most accomplished fly-tyers living, and always ready to carry out the suggestions of customers as far as practicable.

"LOCHS AND LOCH FISHING" is the title of a work which Mr. Hamish Hay Stuart, who has had great experience in the matter, has in the press.

SWEDEN AS A FISHING GROUND.

NEARLY three years ago (July 18, 1896) I wrote a few lines as to angling in south-eastern Norway, and perhaps a word or two as to Sweden as a fishing ground might not be unacceptable. The southern districts of the two countries are much alike in this respect, and the rivers as a rule abound in fish.

The chief centres in Sweden of the gentle art are Falkenburg, Laholm, and Alfkärlby for salmon; also the Norrland rivers and lakes, where great quantities of salmon trout, grayling, &c., dwell. The fish of the inland lakes are both easy to catch and much prized for their flavour, and the perch are in most parts of a very fine quality. Strangers must obtain leave from the proprietor of the fishing; it is only in the sea and in the still virgin Lapland that angling can be indulged in without let or hindrance.

Full particulars as to the fishing may be obtained by subscribing to the Swedish Touring Club, Stockholm, at the nominal cost of 3s. 6d. a year. No intending visitor to Sweden should fail to become a member of this wonderfully well-organised club, which affords all information that can possibly be required, at its chief office, and 400 branches; constantly opens up new routes, and erects shelter-huts and sign-posts; ensures reduced

the middle of May, and in North Sweden as late as the end of June; the close is respectively in September and August. F. E. LONGLEY.

THE SALMON ANGLING SEASON.

"DEAD failure" but poorly expresses the unfortunate results which have attended the season's netting operations. There is no previous record so low; and when this is the case at the various sea, river, and estuary netting stations, it cannot be much better at any of the great salmon angling centres further inland. With the exception of certain fisheries on the Dee, in Aberdeenshire, and one or two of the smaller rivers in Sutherlandshire, the spring salmon angling season has been almost as dead a failure all over as the netting season has been; and, whatever may be the cause, or causes, there is no blinking the fact that a serious crisis has been reached in the present conditions of *Salmo salar*. The returns of Scotch salmon sent up to Billingsgate for April may be taken as an authoritative criterion of the present state of matters. In 1898 616 boxes were received at the London market from across the Border for April, and this was 15 per cent. below the normal average. For the same period this year only 522 boxes were sent up,



TROLLHÄTTAN: GULLÖ AND TOPPÖ FALLS

From Photo by Axel Sjöberg and Co.

charges at many hotels; issues beautifully illustrated pamphlets free; and in every way studies the comfort of the tourist. Full particulars from the Secretary, Stockholm.

Gothenburg, the nearest port to England, is, to my mind, the best point by which to enter the country; and the best route, to my way of thinking, is by the "Thule" line, one of the fine steamers of which leaves Tilbury every Friday morning. (Full particulars may be had of Philipps and Graves, Botolph House, Eastcheap, London.)

From Gothenburg every part of Sweden may be easily reached, and innumerable excursions made; one of the most notable is to Trollhättan, whose celebrated falls (or weirs) are seven in number, altogether 112 feet in height. They are called the Gullö, Stampeztöm, Helvetes (three), and Toppö, the highest, 44ft. Of two of these we give an illustration.

Of course there is not room here to give any details of the country and its beauties, but a very full description may be obtained in Philip and Son's "Sweden" (Fleet Street, 5s.), to which I can cordially refer my readers, and am certain that a holiday trip to "Sunny Sweden"—outside its angling facilities—would amply repay them. It may be mentioned that the summer (of course the best time for touring), begins in South Sweden in

being one-sixth less than the previous bad year! The season from Tay to Thurso is now over for spring fish, and netsmen will have to depend on the summer run of grilse and the few summer and early autumn fish as their future supplies to make up past deficiencies. It simply cannot be done, however prolific the grilse run may turn out, and from present appearances it need not be looked for.

The returns up to date from many of the largest fishing stations have not paid the men's wages, and this in spite of the record rates ruling for the price of salmon. The rent, tear and wear of plant, and interest on capital expended have all as yet to be made up. The tear and wear has been something enormous, and here we may look for one of the mysterious causes of the present slump in our salmon supply. Everything about the ways of *salar* is more or less mysterious and speculative, and so we may be pardoned if we speculate a little too. The storms on the east coast have often been more violent, but they have never been more protracted than has been the case during the past three months in the memory of the oldest fisherman. The wind has been "aired" wrongly ever since the early days of February. It has been a continued series of easterly, north-easterly, or south-easterly winds,

with scarcely two days on end from any more favourable point. Whatever be the controlling cause, fish make off the east coast in an easterly wind—not only salmon, but all kinds of fish. Added to this is the fact that whenever there was a break in the easterly direction of the wind, a fresh impetus was given to the salmon trade, and supplies began to flow in. The only marked runs that have taken place in the Dee, and slightly in the Spey, have come away at those times, and these are the fish that are now affording anglers sport in the inland pools.

That the severe winter weather of four years ago (1895-96) has much to do with our poor supplies of salmon at present we doubt very much, and in this we are not alone. No doubt the rivers being so long icebound during that memorable spring, was not conducive to the protection and furthering of the salmon ova and fry, but that is a contingency which occurs frequently, and although more damage may have been done from ice and frost than in a normal year, yet those who have had any practical experience of how nature protects salmon and other deposits of a like nature, place no reliance in any such belief. The meteorological returns of the spring of '99 will have to be looked to mainly as contributing to the dead failure of the salmon supply. What affects the fisherman equally affects the angler in a greater or less degree, and when it comes to be so serious a falling off in the salmon supply, the rodsmen may well feel uneasy as to the prospects of his sport. In fact, in the lower half of such a river as the Dee, where sport has been exceedingly bright otherwise, scarcely a fish is being got. They are not on the coast, and they have not been coming away in anything like numbers to fully stock the pools. What fish have been running through the nets, or getting away with the Sunday's slap, have kept travelling, so that while on such reaches as the Ballater, Glentana, and Aboyne waters five, six, and even nine fish are being got daily to a single rod; yet on the Park, Drum, and Culter reaches only an occasional fish is being seen. As the temperature advances, the fish run higher up, and in a season like the present we would certainly look for a good summer fishing on the very far inland waters, and we have no hesitation in recommending intending anglers to hold well upstream. What salmon are already into the rivers are gradually congregating in these pools, and their forces will be constantly augmented with every fresh spate.

It is very satisfactory to note that present appearances point to a successful grilse season. Several of these maiden *salar* were secured about three weeks ago, two on the Don stations, two at Portsoy, in the Moray Firth, one at Aberdeen, and two on the South Esk. They scaled from 2½ lb. to 3 lb., these being considered extra weights for first fruits of the season. Since then, one and two have been got daily, but it is somewhat too soon yet to look for any great run of them. Another fortnight from now, and we may expect to be in the thick of the early grilse season on the Feugh and such like feeders, where they first make their appearance to the angler in anything like numbers.

The quality of the salmon has been excellent all through. Anglers have seldom seen such models. Scarcely a lean fish has been met with, and disease has been conspicuous by its absence. Water bailiffs say they have not met with so few diseased fish on such rivers as the North Esk, Don, and Spey since the disease was so prevalent some years back; while the number of affected fish taken from the Dee up to date is only sixty-nine as against 360 or so last year—a mere nothing when compared with the vast shoals constantly teeming all over its ninety miles course. Very few have been met with on either the Earn or Tay, and we may now confidently rest assured that we have at last seen the worst of the ravages of *Saprolegnia ferax*, and that we may fish our salmon pools without the horrid dread of every second fish being a fungoid brute to be thrown to the dogs.

The fly has been the killing lure on the Dee and on such rivers as have yielded anything like fair sport. The larger patterns have been discarded long ago, and even the medium irons have now given place to those tiny mites of salmon hooks, which seem the special delight of the up-to-date salmon angler. Shade of Jock Scott!

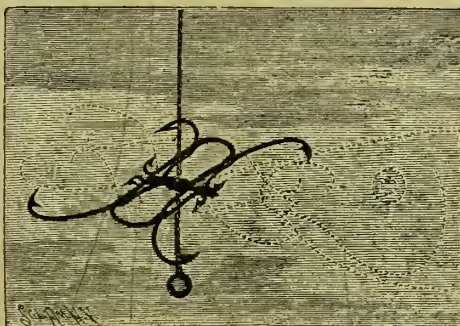
What would he have said to killing a 35-pounder with an imitation of his inimitable lure dressed to a-quarter inch or three-eighths iron? Yet this was the case on the Thurso last week; and although the Loggie, Jeannie, Jockie, Cocky, and all the rest of the brood of bantams are more popular on the Thurso, Ness, Spey, and Dee than the real Jock Scott, yet they are mostly imitations, and are never used after this time on anything bigger than a half-inch iron.

G. M.

AN AUTOMATIC POACHING SPRING FISH HOOK.

A PATENT has been granted to James Y. Payton, of Waldron, Ark., for a novel spring hook, which is constructed to close and catch a fish when the bait has been seized.

The fish hook comprises two spring grab hooks connected at their central bends and two spring bait hooks pivoted to the grab hooks and arranged symmetrically with relation to each other. When set, the hooks all lie in the same horizontal plane, the bait hooks holding the grab hooks distended, as shown by the full lines in the illustration. As each pair of hooks is maintained in unstable equilibrium, the hooks can be readily tripped by



the fish, by a slight pull upon the bait hook, by clamping or biting, or by causing a displacement of the abutting bait hooks. The hooks' action depends upon the tendency of the springs to free themselves. Following this tendency the external grab hooks, when the bait has been seized, approach each other, unless one of them be obstructed. But the obstruction of the one in its forward movement has no effect upon the other, since each hook acts independently by the tension of its spring. The dotted lines show the grab hooks in the act of closing upon a fish, the bait hooks projecting forwardly into the mouth of the fish, thus doubly securing it.—*Scientific American*.

[In the old fishing books spring hooks to fly open when a fish takes the bait are described and illustrated; but our grandfathers condemned them as poaching dodges unworthy of a sportsman. And so they are.—ED. F. G.]

ANTI-ANGLING MOVEMENT IN GERMANY.

WE understand that the professional fishermen in Germany are combining to destroy the sport of angling in the German Empire.

If they are successful, angling even in private waters is to be restricted to fishing with a cork float with line fastened to end of rod, no spinning, fly fishing, or any other kind of angling is to be legal, and even the use of the winch is to be illegal.

Fortunately, the Emperor of Germany is a sportsman, and will never allow such absurd suggestions to become law—at least, we should think not.

NATURAL FLIES, LARVÆ, &c.

WE have to thank many of our readers for sending samples of the above from rivers and lakes. They will be identified by recognised authorities including the Rev. A. E. Eaton, and described later on in the *Fishing Gazette*.

MAY FLY FROM THE BEANE.—Mr. C. L. Gill, of the Gresham Angling Society, sent us, on May 15, a live May Fly, caught the previous day on the Beane, in Herts. The body is a very dull, dark olive.

DEATH OF THE AUTHOR OF "A COTSWOLD VILLAGE."

WITH much regret we have heard of the sudden death, from failure of the heart after an operation last Saturday (May 13), of Mr. Joseph Arthur Gibbs, author of "A Cotswold Village," which was published last autumn by Mr. John Murray, and had an unusual but well deserved success, for it is one of the most charming pictures of English country life ever written.

Mr. Gibbs, who was only 31, was educated at Eton and Christ Church, Oxford, and was well known in Gloucestershire as a keen angler, hunter, and shot. His first attempt in literature consisted of some articles on the laying down of cricket grounds, which appeared in the *Field*, and were afterwards brought out in book form.

Very recently we referred to "A Cotswold Village" as follows: "We can strongly recommend it as one of the best books about country life—hunting, shooting, fishing, &c.—that we have ever read."

THE EXACT SHADE OF COLOUR THEORY.

THE exact shade of colour theory is so fascinating to the mind that one would naturally wish, if one could, to accord it unconditional belief. But the practical angler finds that if he set himself to reconcile this theory with the facts, the facts will at times provide him with hard nuts to crack. Let me take one or two examples from my own experience.

In September every year there comes daily upon the Itchen a rise of small, pale, maggot-coloured Duns with legs of a pale ginger hue. One would infer that Little Marryatt, No. 1 Whitechurch, Flight's Fancy, or Ginger Quill was the proper selection for the occasion, but my experience is that the fly for the occasion is invariably the Blue Quill, which bears no resemblance to the natural fly.

Again, on the 9th May I was fishing perhaps the most difficult length of that difficult river the Itchen. From about eleven till one there was a tremendous rise of a pale olive which would have been well represented by a lightish Blue Quill with the faintest possible tinge of onion dye. The trout went mad over it, taking it under water before it hatched; big fish were careering about right and left, and feeding furiously. I tried every kind of light olive I could think of, and the Wickham, Blue Quill, and Red Quill in vain. In the last ten minutes it occurred to me to put up a Green Nondescript on two cyphers. The first cast produced a rise; I turned over the fish without fastening. The same thing occurred at the second cast. At the third cast I rose a fish, but, striking too hard, lost my fly to him, and my gut point.

I rigged up a new point, and put on a fresh Green Nondescript, and tried the next fish. He came at the first offer, but I failed to fasten, and only turned him over. The same thing occurred at the next cast. The sixth cast proved abortive; but at the seventh I hooked a big fish which tore yards off the reel, and, after leaping twice into the air, took refuge on the far side of a heavy bank of weeds, from which I failed to dislodge him, and in a few moments my fly came back to me. By this time the rise was over, ceasing with extraordinary suddenness, and I had not another chance.

Now, here was an extraordinary instance of the trout rejecting good imitations and coming (short, indeed, speaking generally, but still coming) at a fly which bore no resemblance to that on which they were feeding. For the benefit of those who may not know it, I may mention that the Green Nondescript is a fly dressed thus:

Wing.—Medium starling.

Body.—Dark green floss.

Rib.—Flat gold tinsel.

Hackle.—Red.

Whisk.—Do.

Hook.—0, 00, or 000.

It would be easy to multiply such instances. On the other hand, on the preceding day, when a somewhat similar light olive with ginger legs was coming down, I put up a No. 1 Whitechurch with some success, the fish taking it willingly when I could get it into the wind to them under my own bank.

VAL CONSON.

THE "G.O.M." MAY FLY.

THE popularity of this famous brand of May Fly is so great that Messrs. Ogden Smith (of 6, Park Side, Hyde Park Corner, London, and 34, St. John's Hill, Clapham Junction) now make it with twelve variations in the dressing, including the original two (the Light Green Drake, with olive hackle and gold rib, and the Grey Drake, with dark hackle and gold rib), which still are our favourites. With a good supply of these two May Flies we should feel safe on any May Fly water. The flies are so delicately light that the least touch of oil on wing and body (for it is a mistake not to oil the whole fly, in our opinion) makes it float almost on the points of the hackle only; the wings arch over on each side well, and thus act as a parachute, causing the fly to fall lightly and at full cock, and if the angler pulls the trigger properly at the signal he is pretty sure to kill a good proportion of the game which gets up to his fly—to miss a lot in May Fly fishing is fortunately inevitable—we say fortunately because May Fly fishing is a big tax on any water, except in those bad May Fly seasons which seem to upset the angler's liver for the rest of the year. To say the truth, there is one feather used as a hackle in these patterns which we do not like in a May Fly, and that is bittern or bustard, or something of the same speckled kind; it is too opaque and thick, and hides the body too much, as the fibres of the feather cling together, instead of each standing out separately, like the spines on the "fretful porcupine." Excellent hooks with the original turned up eye (which we always prefer, though there is no difference probably in their killing powers, whether turned up or down), make one confident, not only in the rising, but also in the holding quality of the G.O.M. Mays. Long may they flourish!

DRY-FLY AND WET-FLY FISHING.

I HAVE read Mr. F. M. Halford's book on "Dry-Fly Fishing" with much pleasure; but, in my opinion, many anglers who fly-fish for trout and grayling, also some who write about the advantages of dry-fly fishing, fret their theories to shreds. Much can be adduced in favour of dry-fly fishing, but as much, or more, can be said for wet-fly fishing; both have their advantages, under varied conditions of weather, water, wind, &c. Dry-fly fishing does admirably when the stream is not too rapid, but it is frequently found that more trout may be caught in most rivers with wet fly, and with less labour. As for myself, for sixty years I have been more of a practical than a theoretical fly fisherman. I was born on the Kentish Darenth. From twelve years of age I watched the methods of practical anglers on that, the Cray, and many other streams, and I don't believe the art of angling can be acquired from books, however scientific. From 1860 to 1875 I continually fished the Wandle, many times having had the pleasure of meeting on that stream the author of "Dry-Fly Fishing in Theory and Practice," and from the model of his greenheart rod I had an exact copy made. It proved the most perfect and serviceable 10ft. 8in. trout rod I ever used—strong as steel, but withal flexible. With it, I could cast a line straight as pin-wire into the "wind's eye," and with it, on May 24, 1874, I killed, in the Wandle, trout of 3lb. 10oz., 3lb. 6oz., 2lb. 8oz., 2lb. 6oz., 2lb. 3oz., 2lb. 1oz., 2lb., and 2lb.; also ten others, weighing together 12lb. 8oz. In the Colne, May 23, 1882, I caught ten trout, weighing 11lb. 6oz., the largest fish 2lb. 5oz., and smallest 1lb. 6oz. All the above were caught with wet fly—Small Alder, Cowdung, and Coachman—in fact, the fish would not look at a cocked-wing fly, floated dry, ever so nicely. A wet fly can be "fished" either downstream, across, or upstream, if the angler has acquired the requisite proficiency.

Another argument in favour of wet-fly fishing is that a sunk fly skilfully cast into, and worked through, an eddy, or along and down a swift "run" of water, where a dry fly would drown* (probably because of a "sagged" line), will often-

* If the fly is oiled it will not drown as long as you can prevent the line dragging—if you cast an oiled dry fly upstream, even into a rough mill tail, it will float all right, and fished close to the stone work is often very deadly.—Ed.

times be seized by a non-rising trout, and the finest and best conditioned are, as a rule, caught in such places as I have mentioned. Therefore, whether fish are rising to fly or not, the wet-fly angler should always try likely places, for, as the "gillie" said, "Mon, ye'll ne'er catch a saumon, unless y're flee is in the watter." Mr. Halford seems to have altered his opinion about "trying likely places," for in his first edition he advocates floating a fly on spec over a likely place, even if no movement of a feeding fish has been seen there. This he has expunged in his new edition, which, however, is thoroughly up to date, as he mentions all real improvements made during recent years in rods and tackles used for trout and grayling fishing; but the illustrations of "How to Cast," such as plates 2, 3, and 4 (the overhand cast), and plates 6, 7, and 8 (the underhand cast), and plates 9, 10, and 11 (the steeple cast) convey the inaccurate impression that (in proportion to the rod) the line is 60ft. or 70ft. in length, although the author says "from 10 yards to 15 yards from fly to reel, is the length for most anglers."

ALFRED JARDINE.

CAPTURE OF AN ALBICORE.

A RATHER singular capture of a large fish was made at Coverack, South Cornwall, last week. As the fishermen, Eustise, Barker, and Hosking, were drawing their net they found a very large albicore—a variety of *Delphinidae*—enmeshed,



LARGE ALBICORE, 672LB. WEIGHT, CAUGHT AT COVERACK, CORNWALL, IN A MACKEREL NET.

which they succeeded in securing. It was 8ft. 6in. long, 6ft. girth, and weighed 6cwt., i.e., 672lb. It required eight men to lift it into a cart for conveyance to St. Kevern, where it was exhibited, at a small charge for admission to view the monster, which, no doubt, had pursued mackerel into the net, and so got caught itself. The captors of the albicore reaped a small harvest, I am informed, and afterwards got "three sheets in the wind" at the snug little Cove Hotel, Coverack, kept by Mr. H. M. Bennetts. An illustration is here given of the fish.

A. JARDINE.

THE PROPOSED NEW NORWEGIAN SALMON LAW.

THE United Kingdom of Great Britain and Ireland is not the only place where the laws which apply to the salmon fisheries appear to require revision, and an effort in that direction is about to be made in Norway. Some time ago a commission was appointed by the Storting to collect all possible information upon the subject in the different fishery districts, and the report of the labours of this commission, together with its recommendations, have now appeared in the form of a voluminous pamphlet of 170 odd pages.

In view of the very considerable interest, pecuniary and otherwise, which British anglers now possess in Scandinavian waters, some of the conclusions arrived at—especially those which refer to the annual and the weekly close times, and the *pros* and *cons* there for—are worth reciting.

One of the few points upon which both the river and the sea fishery proprietors appear to agree is that the annual close time should continue throughout the spawning season and for some time afterwards, but as to the date upon which it should commence there is a considerable difference of opinion.

As a matter of fact, this question is one which affects the coast netmen but little. By the end of July in some, and by the middle of August in nearly all the different districts, the sea fishing is over, principally because there are no longer any salmon to catch, and partly also on account of the numbers of jelly fish which permeate the water and render the nets useless. And so, too, in regard to the spring fishing, there being hardly any part of the coast where bag nets or other contrivances of the kind can be employed before April 14. Fishing on the rivers only, therefore, it may be said, is limited by the duration of the yearly close time and the dates at which it commences and terminates.

Here and in this connection it may not be out of place to give the results of a series of investigations conducted by the inspector of fisheries in regard to the periods at which salmon ascend, cease to ascend, and begin to spawn in the principal Norwegian rivers.

Of 119 rivers, salmon begin to run upon one in March, five in April, fifty in May, fifty-six in June, six in July, and one in August.

Of 114 rivers, salmon cease to run upon three in June, sixteen in July, forty-two in August, thirty-

seven in September, thirteen in October, and three in November.

Of 108 rivers, salmon begin to spawn upon forty-five in the latter half of September, thirty in the first half of October, twenty-one in the latter half of October, seven in the first half of November, four in the latter half of November, and one in the beginning of December.

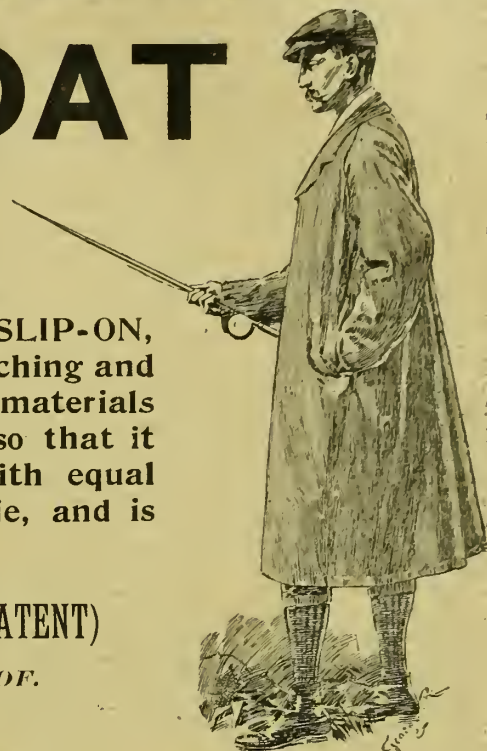
From the above it will be seen that the run of fish ceases, and that spawning commences upon the majority of Norwegian streams very much earlier than upon those of the United Kingdom. In England, Scotland, and Ireland the largest number of spawning fish ascend the rivers in September, October, and November, some even later; but on many of the water systems of Norway they cease to do so in August, and, with few exceptions, the run is over in September. All things considered, and in spite of expressions of opinion from sundry coast fishery proprietors as to the advisability of determining an earlier date for the commencement of the autumn close time, the commissioners have come to the conclusion that a change in this respect is undesirable, and recommend that, as now, the use of nets, cruives, and all similar contrivances should become illegal on Aug. 26. By the law of June, 1869, the date for the termination of the close season on rivers, mouths of rivers, and inland lakes was altered from Feb. 14 to April 15, but even the latter date was found not sufficiently early to protect the kelts. On many rivers these fish do not begin to return to the sea until the latter half

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of April, on others not until May, and vast quantities were annually netted out. In order, if possible, therefore, to remedy this state of matters, the date was further altered by the law of June, 1891, to April 30. Singularly enough, as it would appear, and in spite of the fact that so few clean fish run before May, the commissioners advise a recurrence to April 15, exceptions, however, to be made by Royal decree in regard to those rivers where the destruction of kelts is proved to have become pronounced. In view of the increasing extent to which the rivers are being taken up by sportsman, and the small proportion of fish captured by them, they recommend that rod fishing be permitted, as is now the case, until Sept. 14. The advisability of amending the law of May, 1863, in regard to the extension of the weekly close time, was broached in 1868, and upon this important question the commissioners have, unfortunately, been unable to arrive at a unanimous conclusion.

Formerly, the only legal restriction which practically applied to the coast and fjord fisheries was that which determined the size of the mesh at 2½ in., all the others affected the rivers only. The yield from the latter used to be large and well maintained; but gradually, from want of proper protection, more especially during the spawning season, it fell off very materially, and, as a result of exhaustive inquiries, the then fishery inspector, Herr Hetting, declared it as his opinion that in the course of the period 1816 to about 1855 the decrease on many of the best salmon rivers, from the Swedish frontier to and including the Mandal, was from 75 to 90 per cent. (see Inspector Hetting's report for 1856 and 1857). In the meantime, however, a good deal had been done in the way of artificial hatching, regulating the close times, &c., and the results of these efforts at improving matters became manifest about 1859 and 1860, when the inspector was enabled to report a marked improvement. In regard to a large number of the rivers, however, this satisfactory state of things did not last longer than the latter half of the sixties, and after that another change for the worse took place in the fishery districts, especially those in the South Bergenhus Amt and northwards. Complaints of the falling off in the quantity of full grown salmon became numerous from such important streams as the Namsen, Gula, Orkla, Surendal, Driva, and Rauma, although these had been under supervision for six or seven years, and, according to Herr Hetting's report for the period 1868-1870, the fishing on these rivers had reached almost as low a point as it ever had before protection was initiated.

There was only one cause to which this falling off could possibly be attributed, and that was the largely increased number of bag nets on the coast.

Partly on account of the time which has elapsed, and partly because they are in some degree evolved from the old "Laxevaerp," it is not easy to say when these destructive engines were first employed in Norway. Real hag nets, however, were introduced in the Lister and Mandal Amt during the first quarter of the present century, as also in Nedenaes Amt, in Jaederen and Dalarue, and at the entrance to the Bukkenfjord in 1830.

In Nordhordland the first hag net made its appearance in 1846, in Søndhordland perhaps a little earlier, in Ryfylke somewhat later, and in North Bergenhus about 1860. In Søndmør they were not in general use until 1865; in Romsdal and Nordmør they were not introduced until about that year, nor to the Trondhjem and Namsen Fjords until 1865 and 1860 respectively. Prior to 1870, with the exception of a couple of isolated cases, hag nets can hardly be said to have been used to the north of the North Trondhjem Amt. In that year the total number on the whole coast was 810, while, according to the fishery inspector, there were not more than twenty in 1860 beyond the limits of the Lister and Mandal Amt (see Report on Fresh-water Fisheries, 1876-1879, page 95).

The considerable increase in the number of bag nets which took place between 1860 and 1870 was in great degree due no doubt to the general improvement in the quantity of salmon brought about by the measures taken for the protection of the rivers, and in a lesser degree to the higher prices obtainable for fresh fish owing to increased facilities for transport abroad.

In 1868 numerous petitions, with many hundreds of signatures, from Local Government Boards and from private owners were received by the Home Department, praying that the use of bag nets should be forbidden, or at any rate limited by law, and Mr. Inspector Hetting was accordingly instructed to frame measures with this object. The proposals made by this gentleman were approved by two other experts, and, after sundry alterations by the Storting, became law in June, 1869. By this law power was given to the authorities in different parts of the country to regulate the bag net fishing in accordance with the local conditions, and advantage of this was promptly taken, weekly close times being determined as follows:

In Finmarkens, Tromsø, and Nordland's Amts, from and including 1871, four days.

In the North Trondhjem Amt, from 1871 to 1882, four days; after that year, three days.

In the South Trondhjem Amt, during 1871 and 1872, two days, within a distance of 1000 alen (about 670 yds.) of the mouth of a river; and afterwards throughout the whole Amt, three days.

In the Romsdal Amt, from 1873 to 1888, four days; and after that year, three days.

In the North Bergenhus Amt, from 1873, three days.

In the South Bergenhus Amt, from 1873 to 1881, four days; after that, three days (of twenty-four hours each).

These extensions of the weekly close time naturally enough caused a good deal of grumbling amongst the coast fishery proprietors, but the results proved very satisfactory, as is evident from Herr Hetting's report of January, 1874. According to that document the fishing in 1873 in Nordland's Amt was considerably better than during the preceding years, especially in the Salten; on the Vefsen there was a marked improvement, and an unusually large number of grilse were taken, while similarly favourable accounts were given of the Fussen, Rydselv, and Beiern. One of the inspectors on the Namsen, who had fished that river with the rod for thirty-three years, was more successful in 1873 than he had ever been before, and expressed his conviction that the salmon had increased in numbers perceptibly year by year since a limit had been put to the proceedings of the hag netsmen; the coast and fjord fisheries, too, in the neighbourhood, and in other parts of the North Trondhjem, Amt, showed a distinct improvement. Not for many years had so many salmon been taken on the Stenkjer, Ogna, and Figen as in 1873; on the Orkla and Gula the fishing was excellent; not for ten years had so many salmon been seen in the Rauma, and not for fourteen or fifteen in the Surendal; while, in regard to the Sundal, old inhabitants of the valley said they had never noticed so many fish in that river. From numerous other rivers and fishery districts, too, equally good reports were received, the improvement being in nearly every case attributed to the restrictions placed upon the hag nets, as no exceptionally favourable conditions of weather or water prevailed.

While the more northern provinces took early advantage of the new Act, the Stavanger and Lister and Mandal Amts did not do so until considerably later; but for the former a close time of three days a week was determined, commencing in 1882, and in the latter as from 1879; while in the Fogderi of Larvik a close time of the same length began in 1888. When therefore the law of June, 1891, was passed, the three days weekly close time had voluntarily been adopted to all intents and purposes everywhere; and yet so great was the outcry raised by the coast fishermen against the clause in that measure which fixed three days as the minimum weekly close time for the whole country that it had to be rescinded.

As pointing the same moral in regard to rivers, the case of the Laagen is worth quoting here. This stream used to rank as one of the most productive in Norway, but to such an extent were its lower reaches netted that in 1880 it yielded only 7315 kilos. That year, with intent to remedy this state of matters, a four days weekly close time was applied by the local authorities, to commence in 1881. In 1882 an improvement began, and continued until 1887, when 17,063 kilos. were captured; while for the period 1890-94 the average annual take was 29,035 kilos. Thus,

after fourteen years, during which net fishing was permitted only three days a week, the yield of the Laagen was four times as great as in the last two seasons when it was carried on during six days.

As a matter of fact, the total annual yield of the Norwegian Salmon Fisheries has increased considerably of late years, as the following figures, which are official, and may be taken as fairly correct, show:

For the years 1876-80 the average was 507,120 kilos. 1881-85, 659,264 kilos. 1886-90, 824,703 kilos. 1891-94, 951,479 kilos.

But the hag nets also have increased in numbers, for during the period last named there were no fewer than 3756 more in use upon the coast than during the first (at the present time, it may be added, there are about 7000 in all). Whether, therefore, the increase of 440,000 kilos. (or 88 per cent.) be an indication of any real improvement in the fisheries is very questionable. The majority of the commissioners do not think that it is. Prior to 1885 reliable returns are not available in regard to the average annual takes by the bag nets; but while in that year the quantity of salmon taken by each was 166, it gradually diminished, until in 1894 it was only seventy-nine, or rather less than one-half. Moreover, the increase in the total annual yield shown above applied to the sea fisheries only; the rivers did not share in it, as appears from the following figures:

In the period 1876-80 there were annually taken in fifty-four rivers, 170,293 kilos. 1881-85, in sixty-five rivers, 206,354 kilos. 1886-90, in eighty-seven rivers, 224,685 kilos. 1891-94, in ninety-three rivers, 220,615 kilos.

In the opinion of the majority of the commissioners, things would have been much worse, and the rivers completely fished out, had it not been for the weekly close time, which neutralised to a certain extent the destructive influence of the bag nets. In view of the experiences and the state of matters above described, the conclusion arrived at is that three days a week close time for both sea and river fisheries (excepting, of course, with rod and line) is the shortest that can be recommended, and a clause to this effect will probably form part of the proposed new Norwegian salmon law.

Perhaps the question next in importance to the one last referred to is the one with regard to the size of the net mesh, and it is not so easy of solution as would at first appear.

With a view to protecting the grilse, 2½ in., or 5.8 cm., was determined by the law of 1863 as the legal minimum, and this was increased to 6.5 cm. by the Act of 1891, as experience seemed to show that with the former an undue number of these fish were captured. Grilse generally weigh from 2 to 2½ kilos., and with a 5.8 cm. mesh they may be taken down to 2 or even 1½ kilos., whereas fish of 3 or, at any rate, of 2½ kilos. escape the 6.5 cm. mesh. This seemed to be confirmed by the measurement of a large number of fish taken in different parts of the Lister and Mandal Amt. The larger mesh, too, seemed all the more desirable, inasmuch as "lax" (generic for salmon and grilse) of less than 3 kilos. each are worth from 50 to 75 per cent. less than full grown fish, and because a grilse of from 2 to 2½ kilos. approximately doubles its weight in the course of a year, at the end of which time, therefore, its value is at least trebled. Great was the dissatisfaction created among the coast netsmen with this clause. Not only was the extra cost of nets with the new mesh said to be excessive, but the probable diminution of the take, owing to the proportion of fish which must escape, was considered a great hardship. According to reports from different districts, fish of 3.00, 3.25, 3.70, 3.75, 4.00, 4.30, 4.50, 5.00, 5.25, and even up to 5.50 kilos., escaped capture, and many salmon were injured in such a manner as to be rendered unfit for export abroad. These statements the commissioners would appear to have taken with a good deal of salt, but taking all things into consideration, and more especially the amount of mischief which would be done among the salmon fry and spawn by the vast quantities of sea trout that would escape capture with the larger mesh, they recommend a return to the 5.8 cm. minimum.

Of the additional subjects with which the contemplated new Act deals, the only other to which reference need here be made as of direct interest to sportsmen is in regard to the letting for rod fishing purposes of rivers or parts of rivers owned

by several proprietors. According to the chairman of the Namsen Fishery Association, a large portion of that river has, for between fifty and sixty years, been let to Englishmen, who, one way and another, spend some 50,000kr. at least in the valley annually. The salmon fishery rights that belong to each farm are not, however, defined, and the consequence is that unless all the owners of a piece of water are unanimous it cannot be let; indeed, it not infrequently happens that an advantageous bargain falls through owing to the unreasonable demands of some single individual. In former days the fishery was carried on for the common benefit, and the proceeds distributed; now the small co-landlords demand as large proportions of the sum paid under a lease as their larger neighbours. After acknowledging the necessity for remedying this state of matters, the commissioners make the following proposals:

(1) Any co-proprietor of a fishery on a water system may demand an official delimitation of the individual rights therein.

(2) Such delimitation shall fix either the proportion of the daily catch to which each owner is entitled, or the portion of the water system upon which he may exercise his fishing rights.

(3) Should the former be chosen, and the co-proprietorship include both banks of the river, the days of the week upon which fishing may be carried on shall be divided equally between the two sets of proprietors.

(4) Should the properties be all on one side of the river or water system, allotment of the days upon which fishing may be carried on shall be in accordance with the registered value and area of each; but so that where any owner possesses particular rights in the joint property, allotment as far as he is concerned shall be upon this basis.

RUGDE.

"THE LIFE OF A SEVERN SALMON."

THIS is the title of a very interesting little pamphlet by Mr. J. W. Willis Bund, F.L.S., F.Z.S., chairman of the Severn Fishery Board. It is a paper read by him at the Victoria Institute, Worcester, on Feb. 18, 1899. We hope to refer to some points mentioned in it shortly.

MAY FLY PROSPECTS.

THE following are replies from correspondents who kindly answered queries we sent to them:

BALLYSHANNON.

DEAR SIR,—A good May Fly season is expected, and the natural fly will be well up, probably about May 25, or may be a day or two earlier; will let you know.

M. ROGAN AND SONS.

COLN, LEACH, & CO., GLOUCESTERSHIRE.

DEAR SIR,—Anticipate the Green Drake being well on about the 27th or 28th inst., but very much depends on the weather. Larvæ in a forward state, and several May Flies have already been seen on the Coln. As a rule, the Drake is not generally on until about May 29, but it varies even in the distance of a few miles. Will write or wire you latest information respecting the May Fly on Wednesday or Thursday morning. Thames, at Lechlade, is in grand order for trout, and lost a whopper there myself on Monday last.

F. LOCKWOOD.

Fairford, East Gloucestershire.

COLN, GLOUCESTERSHIRE.

DEAR SIR,—In reply to your inquiry, I think the prospects for May Fly fishing on the Fairford water "good." There is a nice lot of water this year, and owing to adverse wind and weather the usual number of fish have not been taken out as yet, so that an extra good time is expected with the May Fly.

F. R. BUSBY.

DOVE, DERBYSHIRE.

DEAR SIR,—In reply to your card, I may say there is every indication at present that the water will be in good trim for the May Fly season. There is, I know, a very good stock of trout in the Dove, so what we must hope for is a good rise of May Fly.

WM. PRINCE.

Izaak Walton Hotel, Dove Dale.

ITCHEN, HAMPSHIRE.

DEAR SIR,—The May Fly has been dying out at the Worthys for this last two years. I cannot say what prospects there will be this year.

Abbotsworthy. JOHN LOCK (Keeper).

KENNETT AND LAMBOURNE.

DEAR SIR,—The prospects for the May Fly fishing is good and expect a rise early in June. The Lambourne is

full of fish, and I look forward to a good season. We have had several good fish with Wickham Fancy, Red Quill, &c. Tell Howard eels are not rising.

Jack Hotel, Newbury. W. S. VEITCH.

ROWSLEY, DERBYSHIRE.

DEAR SIR,—As yet we have heard nothing of the May Fly—the weather is much too cold—and we are not expecting anyone for fishing until the end of May and early in June.

The Peacock. J. COOPER.

A MAY FLY FROM THE WYLIE.

DEAR SIR,—Herewith I send you May Fly I caught this morning on the Wylie, between Wilton and here. If there were only plenty of them and fish appreciating them sport would be better.

Royal Oak, Wisford, Salisbury.

May 18. W. R. REEVES.

RIVER TROUT FISHING IN IRELAND.—We notice that Mr. Dan O'Fee, of Rasharkin, co. Antrim, maker of those grand salmon flies the Black and Gold and Judge, in his report from the Bann this week says: "No English anglers are yet at Mercer's Hotel, Kilrea, though the best trout and best river fishing in Ireland is to be had there." He also says the trout are taking the sedge freely.

SPORT ON THE BOYNE.—Mr. W. H. Wilson, who is fishing on the Boyne, at Navan, co. Meath, has killed fourteen salmon in ten days, most of them on Mr. McFee's dressing of the Judge and the Black and Gold. If Mr. McFee's health allowed him to make any number of these flies, what a sale he would have for them, but it is not an easy matter to get the real McFee patterns.

THE HARDEN ROD.

HAVING four hours to spare, to go out of London in the hope of a trout, to catch nothing but dace in the month of May, and to have the felicity of finding the water fouling after two hours with the rod is not altogether a satisfactory experience. It was mine, nevertheless, on Tuesday last; but it did not matter, since my main object was to try the Harden rod, made by Hardy Brothers, of Alnwick. Something was written about this rod in connection with the Fisheries Exhibition at the Westminster Aquarium in March. It was then stated that it was named after a well-known member of the Piscatorial Society, its peculiarity being that to a certain extent it flies in the face of accepted ideas as to rod building. In other words, to borrow what I have reason to believe is a slang phrase, it is a rod "on the bulge." It has not a true taper from butt to top, since the wood is thinner midway between the handle and the first ferrule. At such a theory one might be inclined to be amused, but many practical anglers of the Piscatorial Society assured me that it was no laughing matter, and seeing at the Aquarium what Hardy Brothers had done with the idea after going out with Mr. Harden to see the rod in action, I began to think that there was, as the saying goes, something in it. I am now able to report that the rod is really one of decided excellence. It is a perfect specimen of rod building in all its parts, with nice attention to details apart from the Harden principle.

As to what I have just called the Harden principle, the claim was that an extraordinary length of line could be sent forth by this rod with a minimum of exertion. This is literally the truth. The rod so springs from the butt that when the preliminary sense of awkwardness and suspicion of top heaviness are surmounted the action becomes easy and delightful. On the water which I visited there is a certain stream, the other side of an island in the middle of the river, which for many years I have used as a test as to my particular form; here I knew to a couple of inches the outside distance to which I could cast when I was at my best, and until the other day I never could send a floating fly to the edge of a particular run. I never passed it without a trial with a single-handed rod, and once or twice threw to within a foot of the required distance. The new Harden rod (10ft. 6in.) enabled me at last to do it, and, further, to go half a yard beyond, though the light wind was against me. It was, though I say it, a good straight line, too, that dropped the fly in a workmanlike way. There are two tops to the rod, one a little lighter than the other, and for long distance casting, without concernment of delicacy, the heavier would probably for most men be the best. I tried the rod with a light and a heavy line. The former was fair enough with the lighter top, but to do the rod justice, the Hawksley line, with its somewhat heavy taper, is the best. Until you are used to the novel action, it seems as if the angler had to do all the work, but after half an hour's usage you get into the humour of the implement, and all is well. Amongst the powerful rods, I should place the Harden in the very first rank, and the 10ft. 6in. edition appears well adapted for ordinary dry-fly fishing, and has the special merit of being tractable a short distances.

My trial of this rod gave me the opportunity of making the personal acquaintance of two improvements of which I had read and heard and seen something, but had never seen the theories tested by practice. The first is the lock-fast joint devised by Mr. N. Lloyd, and described by "Detached Badger" in the *Field* of Sept. 25, 1897, and again in the *Mayfly* edition of "Dry Fly Fishing."

Hardy Brothers are the patentees and manufacturers of this "treble-grip rod ferrule," and it undoubtedly merits all that has been said of it. The manufacturers make a point of advising that care should be taken to push home the parts before twisting what Mr. Halford calls the steel hook, and adjusting the sliding sleeve, and, this precaution being scrupulously observed, I do not see how this clever device can ever go wrong; at the same time carelessness may easily bring about disaster. The other novelty is the Hardy combined spear and butt cap. Most anglers will remember probably, at some time or other, leaving that wretched spear at home or losing it when away. I saw a friend's magazine of six rods once, each of which had lost its screw button or spear. In this patent you keep the spear in the butt. It has a double turned flange, which is concealed and fastened by the simplest plan, leaving no points or edges protruding to catch the grass. It is a capital arrangement.—*Field*, May 13.

ANGLERS' ASSOCIATION.

REPRESENTATIVES from forty-one clubs attended the adjourned annual meeting of the London Anglers' Association, held on Monday evening at Foresters' Hall, Clerkenwell, under the presidency of Mr. P. Geen. The revised balance-sheet was presented and adopted. It showed a balance in favour of the association of £104 19s. 10½d. With reference to the association's charge for privilege tickets—the colour of the same will be a salmon tint for the coming season—which had hitherto been 2s., Mr. Harwood moved that in future the tickets be issued at half-a-crown, the extra 6d. to be devoted towards preservation and re-stocking work. Mr. Barber seconded, but the resolution, on being put to the meeting, was lost. Mr. R. Gurney was empowered by unanimous resolution to engage the room offered at the Cripplegate Institute for the association's meetings, and with reference to the June delegate gathering, due notice of place of meeting will be given in the *Fishing Gazette*, &c. Mr. Derry asked if eel fishing was now allowed in other association waters besides the Lea, and Mr. Gurney stated that members of the association could fish for eels now from the tow-path of the Grand Junction Canal. In regard to a tributary of the Lea at Sewardstone, however, it was stated that neither eel nor trout fishing was allowed there, as the landowner from whom the water was rented wished to preserve the grass at this period of the year. Delegates were informed that in future they would only be allowed to vote by card, and application should be made to the secretary for new voting cards next month. Mr. A. Wright, hon. treasurer, owing to increasing pressure of business, resigned the position, and was accorded a very hearty vote of thanks for his past services. Mr. J. Powles-West was elected to fill the vacancy. A vote of thanks to the chairman for presiding closed the proceedings.

HON. REPORTER.

WHITSUNTIDE HOLIDAY ARRANGEMENTS, 1899.

THE GREAT EASTERN RAILWAY

Announce that, in addition to the tourist, fortnightly, and Friday or Saturday to Monday, Tuesday, or Wednesday tickets, which are issued from Liverpool-street and their other London and suburban stations to the east and north-east coast; and the Norfolk Broads districts (Yarmouth, Lowestoft, Cromer, Mundesley, Southend-on-Sea, Clacton, Walton-on-Naze, Dovercourt, Harwich, Felixstowe, Aldeburgh, Southwold, Hunstanton, Scarborough, Whitby, Bridlington, &c.), they will on Saturday, May 20, issue special cheap excursion tickets to most of the above stations; also to Norwich, Cambridge, Wisbech, Lynn, Fakenham, and the other principal stations in Essex, Norfolk, Suffolk, &c. Cheap Saturday to Monday tickets will also be issued to most of the Great Eastern country stations. Excursion tickets will also be issued from Liverpool-street and suburban stations, by the cathedral route, on Friday, May 19, to Durham, Newcastle, Berwick, Edinburgh, Glasgow, &c.; and on Saturday, 20th, to Lincoln, Doncaster, York, Leeds, Bradford, Wakefield, Manchester, Sheffield, Hull, Edwinstowe (for the dukeries), Chesterfield, Dnrham, Newcastle, &c. Tickets (ordinary, excursion, &c.) can be obtained in advance at Liverpool-street Station; at the Great Eastern American Rendezvous, 2, Cockspur-street, S.W.; and at the company's various City, West End, and other booking offices. Relieving trains will be run on the Friday and Saturday to Colchester, Clacton, Walton, Ipswich, Norwich, Cromer, Yarmouth, Lowestoft, Cambridge, Lynn, &c. Special trains will leave Liverpool-street on Friday, 19th, at 1.30 p.m., for Colchester, Clacton, Walton, Ipswich, Norwich, and Cromer, and at 1.35 p.m. to Yarmouth and Lowestoft; and on Saturday, 20th, at 8.10 and 9.55 a.m., and at 1.55, 4.5, and 7.12 p.m. for Ipswich, Yarmouth, Lowestoft, &c.; at 1.30 and 7.12 p.m., to Felixstowe; and at 4.5 p.m., to Clacton, Frinton, and Walton. For the accommodation of persons detained late in town on Saturday, midnight trains will leave Liverpool-street at 12.0 for Norwich, via Cambridge, and at 12.30 for Norwich, Yarmouth, and Lowestoft, via Ipswich, calling at the principal intermediate stations; and at 12.3 (night) for Colchester and Clacton (express supper train). On Bank Holiday, excursion trains will be run from Liverpool-street and Fenchurch-street to Southend-on-Sea and Burnham-on-Crouch; from Liverpool-street to Clacton, Frinton, Walton, Dovercourt, Harwich, Yarmouth, Hertford, Cambridge, and Ely; from St. Pancras to Yarmouth, Cromer, Cambridge, and Ely. Excursion tickets will be issued and special trains run to Epping Forest, Broxbourne, and Rye House. On Whit Tuesday a special early train will be run from Yarmouth, Lowestoft, Ipswich, &c., due in London 8.0 a.m., and several of the usual up Monday only expresses (including the 7.5 a.m. restaurant car train

from Cromer) will be run on this day instead of Bank Holiday. Restaurant cars will also be run on the 7.45 a.m. train from Clacton. Restaurant cars are now run daily on the trains leaving Liverpool-street at 4.55 p.m. for Norwich and Cromer, and at 5.0 p.m. for Yarmouth; and on the up trains leaving Cromer at 8.5 a.m., and Yarmouth at 8.25 a.m.

THE SOUTH EASTERN AND CHATHAM AND DOVER RAILWAYS

Announce cheap day excursions on Whit Sunday and Whit Monday from Charing Cross, Cannon-street, London Bridge, and New Cross to Ashford, Canterbury, Deal, Dover, Folkestone, Gravesend, Hythe, Margate, Ramsgate, Sandgate, Walmer, &c.; also on Whit Monday to Tunbridge Wells and Hastings. Special cheap excursions will be run to Aldershot on Whit Sunday and Whit Monday from London, but not from New Cross. Special trains will be run to Hayes, Blackheath, Greenwich, and Gravesend (for Rotherville Gardens). Cheap day excursions on Whit Sunday and Whit Monday from Victoria, Holborn, and St. Paul's to Canterbury, Deal, Dover, Gravesend, Herne Bay, Margate, Ramsgate, Sheerness, Walmer, Whitstable, &c. On Whit Monday a cheap excursion will be run to Tunbridge Wells and Hastings from Victoria (Chatham and Dover). The usual extension of time for certain return tickets will be allowed. On Whit Monday frequent special and ordinary trains will run to and from Holborn, Victoria, Ludgate Hill, St. Paul's, and intermediate stations, and the Crystal Palace. Return fares, 1s. 6d., 3rd class, including admission. For intending visitors to the continent, special cheap tickets will be issued from certain London stations (via Boulogne or Calais), Brussels (via Calais or Boulogne and via Ostend), Boulogne, Calais, Ostend, Amsterdam, Aarheim, Flushing, The Hague, Rotterdam, and Utrecht. The Continental Services will be as usual. Full particulars of trains by which cheap tickets will be issued, London departure stations, return times, alterations in train services, &c., are given in the holiday programme and bills.

REPORTS FROM RIVERS, LOCHS, &c.

ENGLISH AND WELSH REPORTS.

Lower Thames.—GENERAL REMARKS.—I do not regard with any regret the filling in of the cutting through Platt's Eyot at Hampton, which was netted again last week by the Thames Angling Preservation Society. I can remember when the cutting was being made, and first detected by the committee on one of their visits down the river, and was then regarded with some concern as likely to take some of the stock fish out of the river beyond their reach and control, but on the first occasion when application was made to the talented engineer, Mr. J. W. Rother, I received a most courteous reply, granting permission on each occasion, when the water would be lowered for the purpose of netting and the removal of the fish into the Thames again, and he very kindly sent me a plan showing the width and depth of the water. It has always been remarkable, not only in the cutting, but in the West Middlesex Water Company's reservoirs opposite, the large proportion of the fish that were found there in the nettings, and especially on this last occasion, were perch, there only being one carp and a few jack besides. In this particular respect of the river I can very well remember in my angling days having had some excellent sport amongst the perch, fishing with the veteran William Milbourne, and accompanied with the then head river-keeper, the late Abraham Stroud, and on that occasion, if I had not been obliged to leave early in the afternoon, I should have been able to have made a record take of perch, and this my old friend Milbourne will thoroughly indorse, and we have frequently talked about it since. The reports of Mr. T. W. Gomm's capture of a 5½ lb. trout at Staines, and Mr. Jenkyn's success with one of 6½ lb. at Sunbury, reached me too late for last week's publication. We have at last got the rain, and if it is succeeded with some fine, milder weather, it is to be hoped the trout fishers will be able to make up for the lamentable deficiencies of the past few weeks. In another month the general body of Thames anglers will be in possession of the river, but there is plenty of time yet for some good trouting if the anglers will only show up and give those fishermen the chance of realising what they have said each week lately as to there being "plenty of trout, but no one coming to try for them."—B.

(Datchet).—Not much been done here. I was out with Mr. Walter Eyward on the 14th and 15th, had bad luck; on the 14th four runs, didn't get one; on the 15th he caught a very pretty fish nearly 4 lb. The fish are moving very well, in fact, I don't know where it is there is not a trout, but they are so artful.—G. LUMSDEN.

(Hampton Court).—William Milbourne reports: "Mr. George Woods, of Molesey, on Tuesday creelred a very handsome trout weighing 5½ lb. at Hampton Court Weir. The river is in good condition, and the trout have been showing well. There is still a good many barbel taken at the weir, but returned to the river again."—B.

(Hampton Wick).—Head river keeper, William Douglas, in his official report, says: "I have not heard of any trout being taken. All the perch have spawned, also most of the barbel and roach, but there may be a few stray ones to come up. The swans were returned to the river to-day (Tuesday), having been up four weeks."—B.

(Lechlade).—The river here is in capital order for trouting, and several good fish have been seen on the move; a fine one was lightly hooked at St. John's Bridge,

estimated to be a 7-pounder; and another large one by Mr. George Moir in Buscot weir pool. A 4-pounder has been taken near Inglesham. Silver Devon, minnow, bleak, and small dace have been the lures. The Green Drake came up on Sunday at St. John's Bridge, and at noon on Monday was thick on the water in the weir pool. Mr. Lockwood, when fishing for trout in this pool with Mr. Stocklet, with a large floating Green Drake, had his fly actually taken by a bleak or blay, which was safely landed and used as a bait by Mr. Moir, but unsuccessfully. There has been a quantity of large Alder flies on the water as well as Drakes, and the chub rise freely to these flies in the evening. Should think a trout, if spotted rising, ought to be taken on these flies, or a large gold ribbed red Soldier Palmer, fished wet.—RAMBLER.

(Shepperton).—George Rosewell writes: "I have had three more trout—Mr. J. Parsons, one of 5½ lb.; Mr. R. Coles, one of 6½ lb.; and Mr. Westrop, one of 2½ lb., which he returned to the river again. I have had three different members of the Highbury Club down within the last week, and each of them has caught their first Thames trout whilst fishing with me." George Rosewell, writing again on Tuesday, says: "Out to-day with Mr. Charles Turner for his first trial this season, and he caught a nice trout weighing 5½ lb. During this season I have landed nine trout with different clients, seven of the best weighing 4½ lb.; the two smaller ones, weighing respectively 2½ lb. 8oz. and 2½ lb. 12oz., having been returned. My largest fish was 8½ lb. 12oz., and, considering all things, I have not done badly." Major Arthur Terry, on Saturday last, creelred a very pretty female trout weighing 6½ lb., and another on Tuesday, at Sunbury, weighing 6 lb. 4oz.—B.

(Staines).—The report of Charles Hone reached me too late for last week. He got a nice fish of 5½ lb. 12oz. with Mr. T. W. Gomm. Writing yesterday (Tuesday), he says: "We ought to score soon, after this nice rain."—B.

(Sunbury).—Mr. Jenkyn, of Sunbury, has creelred a nice trout of 6½ lb. 12oz., which was weighed in at the Kingston Piscatorial Society. This report reached me too late last week.—B.

Coln, Leach, &c., East Gloucestershire.—The weather has been very bad for trout fishers, being rough and very boisterous. The Green Drake has been up on the lower Coln, near Inglesham, and at the mouth of the Leach, near St. John's Bridge, since Monday last, and I expect with warm weather that it will be up generally by about Wednesday or Saturday after Whitsuntide. A large number of rods have been out both on hotel and private waters, amongst others being Col. Porter, Justice Hannen, Drs. Hooker, Good, March, and Wolfendale, and Messrs. Carbolzell, Faulkner, Battersby, Crowley, Barkley, John Morgan, Hough, Perry, H. B. Millward, Stocklet Moir, Peto, Reade, Yeates, Hough, Jackson, Lea, Mills, &c. The Duke of Leeds is fishing the Williamstrip Park waters, which he has rented for the May Fly season. Dr. Lockwood has been having nice sport on the Little Farringdon waters, and Mr. F. Lockwood has been out, with sport, at Lechlade and the Priory Mills. Saw the Green Drake thick on the water at St. John's Bridge on Monday.—PAN.

Cornish Streams.—The Camel, after the recent rains, is now in good condition for fly fishing, and is fairly high. The winds are, however, cold, and sport below expectations. Baskets of sixteen, twenty, and thirty trout have been taken in the higher parts of the river, and lower down one fisherman got 10 lb. weight. Perch are not yet running in this river or the Fowey, but if these waters continue they may be expected in the lower reaches almost immediately.—BODMIN.

Dareth (Farningham, Sutton-at-Hone, &c.).—Water is now in very good order, and the smaller trout are rising fairly in the evenings at the Black Gnat, but the larger fish do not move so much. There is every prospect of some fairly good sport at Whitsuntide, though very little has been done this spring so far. It must, indeed, be considered that trout fishing proper has only just begun here.—J. P. T.

Dart (Totnes and District).—There has been some fair sport with trout since the early part of last week, chiefly by evening fishing. On Thursday several good baskets were made, Mr. E. Distin killing a nice lot of nearly 5 lb. weight; Mr. H. T. Distin and Mr. H. Full also had nearly a dozen each; and Mr. E. Ackrell killed a few brace. Mr. T. Browne creelred some nice fish in Hempston Leat; whilst Mr. H. Searle and other Staverton rods have had fair takes. Mr. Sethbridge, of Paignton, killed a small lot; and on Monday Mr. E. Distin secured seven brace at Staverton; Messrs. Ackrell and Full also getting some sport.—DEVONIAN.

Devonshire Streams.—The weather this week has not been favourable, with cold winds and showers. Fish are beginning to find their way into the rivers, the first from the upper Lyd district, a 2-pounder, being secured by T. L. Winsor, of Whitechurch, in the Lady Pool. A few salmon, too, have been killed on the Dart and the big northern streams. Trout, however, showed improvement last week, the best sport being obtained from the southern border rivers. Some capital fish were creelred in the Ashwater district, takes running up to 5 lb. or 6 lb. weight, the best trout scaling from 1 lb. to 1½ lb. The Half Stone and Red Palmer was killing, whilst in the upper Lyd and Tavy (Cleaves district) the Blue Flax with Silver Twist proved most effective. Mr. Bishop killed a nice lot, ten brace, on Saturday, in the Bridestowe tributary, several fish being a foot in length. Other rods have had fair sport, trout being plentiful and of good size. One rod on the Tamar took over forty fish after a few hours' fishing, the Red Palmer and Hawthorn being the favourite bait. From the upper reaches some good sport has been obtained, principally in the evenings. Mr. Stainton has had good catches up to two and a half dozen,

and Mr. C. Woodley killed a nice lot in the preserved water, both returning a good number.—DEVONIAN.

Eden (Carlisle).—Salmon angling may almost be said to be over for the spring, and a wretched season it has been. Sea trout are now running fairly well, and several have been caught by anglers below Carlisle when fishing for trout. Some good baskets of trout have been taken with the fly, the Dark Bloa and Yellow Woodcock being the most killing. On Monday, Archdeacon Prescott had 16 lb. in the Wetherall water, and several others had from 6 lb. to 10 lb. Creeper fishing has not yet begun, the river being too heavy and the trout not fairly in the streams. Salmon are now making a somewhat better show, and one or two grilse have been taken in the nets. For the early fish they are large—5 lb. and 6 lb. From all districts comes the report that river trout are unusually plentiful and poachers scarce. This must be so, for the water bailiffs, though watching every night, have not yet come across a gang this season.—SILVER GREY.

Exe and Canal (Exeter).—Weather very unsettled, with thunder showers at intervals. The rivers rose a foot or so a day or two since, but the rise was of short duration. Sport has not been particularly lively, the thunder influence rendering trout generally sulky. Many of our local enthusiasts are now eagerly anticipating the Whitsun holiday, and it is to be hoped that the clerk of the weather will be in more genial mood on that festive occasion.—RED PALMER.

Fen District (South Lincs. and Cambs.).—Angling prospects are but poor, notwithstanding that we have got into the middle of May. What is really wanted is a higher temperature of the water, and this would set aquatic life going. As yet fish have to be brought out of the holes with worm grub or other bottom bait. Fish only rise in the evening, after the day's sunshine.—LIMPET.

Idle District (North Notts.).—Fishing in the Idle district is still unexciting. Members fishing the club waters in the direction of Southwell have very little sport, as many of them are confined to the fly. The same remark applies to the npland district. There are a fair quantity of land flies about, but the water is too cold for much sport. Several good trout have been landed from the Rytton lately, and the best reported last week scaled 4½ lb. It was caught near Blyth. This and others from this stream and the Idle have all been taken with the dock grub.—L.

Lake Vyrnwy (N. Wales).—The take for the last week was 247 fish from the lake. No fishing was possible one day (the 13th), owing to stormy weather. The above take is, therefore, the result of five days' fishing only. On the 10th, thirty fish were killed, weighing 18½ lb. 1oz. On the 11th, seventy fish, 42½ lb. 9oz. On the 12th, forty-six fish, 29½ lb. 2oz. On the 15th, fifty-five fish, 32½ lb. 1oz. On the 16th, thirty-five fish, 22½ lb. 9oz. On the rivers, Mr. S. Garnett made the best basket with thirteen fish. On the 10th, Capt. Garnett killed seven fish, 4½ lb. 1oz.; Col. Doncaster, five, 2½ lb. 15oz.; Mr. R. L. Garnett, five, 3½ lb. 4oz.; Mr. Jackson, five, 2½ lb. 13oz.; Mr. Henty, four, 2½ lb. 8oz.; and Mr. Graham, three, 1½ lb. 10oz. On the 11th, Col. Doncaster had the best creel with sixteen fish, 8½ lb. 14oz.; Mr. Henty killed nine, 5½ lb. 8oz.; Mr. Gee, seven, 5½ lb. 1oz.; Mr. Duprey, seven, 4½ lb. 8oz.; Mr. Graham, seven, 4½ lb. 4oz.; Capt. Garnett, six, 4½ lb. 2oz.; Mr. R. L. Garnett, four, 2½ lb. 1oz.; Mr. Murly, four, 2½ lb. 4oz.; Mr. Jackson, four, 2½ lb. 4oz.; Mr. Shaw, three, 2½ lb. 1oz.; and Mr. Watts, three, 1½ lb. 10oz. On the 12th, Messrs. R. L. and S. Garnett killed ten fish, 7½ lb. 1oz.; Capt. Garnett, nine, 5½ lb. 2oz.; Mr. Henty, eight, 4½ lb. 14oz.; Mr. Jackson, seven, 4½ lb. 2oz.; Mr. Graham, five, 3½ lb. 9oz.; and Col. Doncaster, four, 2½ lb. 14oz. May 13 was a very stormy day, and the lake was too rough for boats. The rivers, however, gave good sport, Mr. S. Garnett killing thirteen, Mr. Graham eleven, and Mr. Murly eight fish. On the 15th, Messrs. R. L. and S. Garnett killed ten fish, 6½ lb. 4oz.; Messrs. Davison and Wymer, nine, 5½ lb. 8oz.; Messrs. Broadmead and Andrews, seven, 3½ lb. 12oz.; Mr. Jackson, seven, 4½ lb. 5oz.; Capt. Garnett, five, 3½ lb. 7oz.; Mr. Henty, five, 2½ lb. 12oz.; Col. Doncaster, four, 2½ lb. 7oz.; and Mr. Watts, four, 2½ lb. 2oz. On the 16th (a very stormy and wet day), Mr. Henty killed eleven trout, 6½ lb. 8oz.; Mr. Jackson, six, 4½ lb. 2oz.; Mr. Graham, five, 5½ lb. 1oz.; Mr. Clarke, four, 2½ lb. 13oz.; and Capt. Garnett, three, 1½ lb. 14oz. The fish rise only to very small flies mounted on 00 hooks. The favourite flies at present are Black Midge, Partridge and Black, Teal and Black, and Teal and Red.—LONGDRIFT.

Lea and Tributaries.—The rains have been very welcome in the Lea Valley, as the river had grown stale, and required freshening up. There has been a nice flush of water through, and trout should feed better. There has been little sport during the past week among the trout, although numerous anglers have been out spinning, fly fishing, worming, &c. The principal capture has been a nice fish of 4½ lb. 1oz., and measuring 2½ in. in length, which early in the week fell to the rod of Mr. Anderson, of the Cambridge Heath Brothers, while fishing the Black Pool, at Rye House. Mr. A. E. Jackson had a grand trout miss the bait at St. Margaret's, the fish literally jumping at it. The angler failed to rise the trout a second time. The river in the Ware district was showing signs of pollution early in the week, the water being inky black in some places. A few decent trout have been met with in the tributaries. Mr. Jackson has had a pretty little fish of just under 1½ lb. in the Hertford district of the Beane. Trout have been seen on the move in the Stort, at Harlow, but none are yet reported captured. The warmer weather should make the eels run in the Lea.—IZAAK WALTON.

Lugg and Arrow (Leominster).—Both these streams are still running clear and a nice height, and in good order for fishing. There has been some good showers of rain, which has improved the water in this part, but

the weather has been so changeable that angling for this time of the year has been remarkably slow to former years. The fish have been moving fairly well, but there has not been so many flies on owing to one day being warm and another cold, and until the weather becomes more settled sport will be slow as at present. A few nice trout are taken occasionally with Red and Gray Spinners, Yellow Dun, Alder, Iron Blue, and Stone Fly. Minnow fishing quiet. Bottom fishers have been successful. The Pinsley is in order.—G.WYNN.

Lugg, Arrow, and Pinsley (Kingland).—Rivers in capital order; sport, though improved, not yet to say good; weather variable, and wind shifty. The Alder has made its appearance, and with Yellow Dun, Blue Dun, Iron Blue, Hardy Brown, Stone Fly, and Spinners form the best selection to rely on. With improvement in weather, prospects of sport during the holidays appears hopeful.—R. T. WILLIAMS.

North Staffordshire Rivers.—The streams in this district had become very low and clear, needing the utmost care in fishing, but the intermittent showers of the past few days have quite altered their condition, and they are now flowing with a nice water. Sport has been had with Hare's Ear, Wickham's Fancy, and Fogg Black, but chiefly on smaller streams. The Dove seems a bit backward on most of its lengths, but anglers are preparing for the oncoming drake season. Some excellent fish have been taken on the Leek and Moorland Club's length of the Churnet, chiefly to bottom fishing, but the Moss's Cocking has accounted for a very good fish to the 101 of Mr. Hawksworth.—F. W. DALE.

Otter (Budeleigh Salterton).—During the past week the dry-fly men have had all the best of it, and some good catches have been made by experts. The river was very low up to Tuesday, May 16, when the rain came down in full force. During the night a perfect gale, accompanied by heavy rain, raged, and to-day (17th inst.) the river is full and slightly coloured. If no further floods come, fishing ought to be good for the next week or so. The trout are now in very good condition, and show splendid sport.—HERON.

Flymouth.—The rain during the last week has been welcomed both by the farmer and the fisherman, and the result has been very favourable to the rivers—it has put plenty of water in them, and they are coming down a nice colour. Fresh run peal have been taken in the Tavy. A gentleman had one last Tuesday 2lb. weight, and on Wednesday one of 11lb. weight. I did not see the fish, but I hear they were in very good condition. Better sport has been obtained in the Dart, and several good salmon have been landed. The weather has been rather cold for trout fishing; still, some nice dishes have been taken.—WILLIAM HEARDER.

Severn, Vyrnwy, Tanat, and Cain (Llanymynech).—Towards the close of last week the weather was very favourable for angling, and all these rivers in good condition, consequently some capital sport was had by those anglers fortunate enough to be on the spot, and several gentlemen from Manchester, Liverpool, Oldham, and other parts of Lancashire secured some nice trout from the Vyrnwy, Tanat, and Cain. Several fair-sized pike were also taken in the Severn and lower part of the Vyrnwy, and also in the deep water in the last mentioned river, below the bridge at Llansainffraid. A salmon was recently observed in the Vyrnwy, in the neighbourhood of Llanymynech, but has escaped capture so far. The angling in the Vyrnwy has greatly deteriorated since Lake Vyrnwy was constructed, and it is the decided opinion of several practical anglers in this vicinity that it was a very great mistake to construct the lake so that the compensation water which flows from it into the Vyrnwy proceeds from the bottom of the lake, whereas it should have been taken from the top part, the consequence being that all the dregs from the lake find their way into the Vyrnwy, and the fish captured, when the water is in the river, are always found to be very dull and listless. At present the weather is much warmer and more settled, but very few flies are to be seen moving about.—VYRNWY.

Sussex Rivers and Chichester Harbour.—During the early part of the week rain has fallen heavily, accompanied by the wind blowing half a gale, and both streams and rivers are now in good colour. A number of anglers have patronised the Onse with but indifferent success. A few small trout have been taken from the Haney district, but nothing exceeding 8½oz. Dace have been taken with fly, but are not rising well at present. Small trout have given sport in the brooks, taken principally with worm, and from the upper portion of the river trout up to 1½lb. have been captured with minnow. The Rother has yielded trout of 2lb., taken by paternoster with gudgeon. A few trout have rewarded anglers in the tributaries of the Adur. Smelt fishing in the harbour has not been so productive. Bass are coming in, and smelt departing. They are antagonistic.—GEORGE F. SALTER.

Taff (Llandowror, Carmarthenshire).—The water continues in first rate order for trout fishing, and good baskets have been taken during the past week.—H.

Taw (North Devon).—The rain during the past few days has made the rivers fishable, and although cold some good catches have been had. Mr. P. got two dozen on Friday; Mr. T., four dozen; Mr. J., a nice catch at Molland. Two gentlemen did well also on the Bray. G. Anstey has taken some catches on the Taw. Mr. M. C. Campbell had a nice take on Monday. On the Lynn, at Lynmouth, good sport has been got. Some gentlemen told me of some takes on the Mole. The netmen are very much disappointed; their labours have been fruitless, or nearly so. Wednesday, rivers higher, and fresh salmon are running up. The otter bounds have killed on the Taw this morning, being the third in eight days. The flies mostly used are Blue Upright (real), Rustus (red

and blue), Pinket, Caddis, March Browns, and Red Palmer.—RUSTY GAME.

Teifi (Llandysil, South Wales).—River in fair condition. Good baskets of trout taken last fortnight. Twenty-six fish last Thursday, 7½lb.; on Friday, twenty-eight fish, 6½lb. Several salmon caught. One on Tuesday, 12lb., in the village.—A. E. S.

Temē (Ludlow).—The Temē in this part continues to run clear and a nice level, and in good order for fishing. The weather has been unsettled, and some good falls of rain have been had, which has made the fish more on the move, and has also greatly refreshed the river. The wind has been strong, and to-day (Wednesday) rain threatens, and there will be more storms, and until it takes up there is little prospect of good baskets of fish being landed. There has been a good few anglers out, and they have used Red Spinner, Blue Dun, Alder, Coch-y-Bondhu, Grey Spinner, and Yellow Dun. Minnow fishing has been tried, but with little success. Worm fishing has been good, and some large trout landed. Eels have now begun to run well, and some good lots have been landed. On Monday morning an angler in the Castle Pound, with the worm, took a fine trout scaling 2lb. 5½lb. and an ounce. With the Red Spinner and Yellow Dun four good trout were taken the same day. On Tuesday, some good trout were landed with the worm. In the water near Ludford several trout have been caught with the fly. On Wednesday, trout were on sale at the fishmongers at 1s. 4d. per lb. The Ony, Corve, Clun, and Ledwyche are all running clear and a nice level, and sport has been had in them with fly and worm.—S. LUDLOW.

Temē (Tenbury).—The water in this district is running clear and a nice level, and in order for fishing. The weather has been very changeable, and heavy showers of rain have been had, which has refreshed the river, and the fish have been more inclined to rise at the fly. A few anglers have been out, but until the weather gets more settled fishing will be slow. The flies used are the Red and Grey Spinners, Stone, Yellow Dun, Iron Blue, and Hardy Brown, and several very nice lots of fish have been taken. Trout are inclined to feed on the bottom, and no doubt are after the caddis bait, as if the weather was warmer they would soon be showing themselves.—WORCESTER.

Upper Yore.—We have had a few floods, and a lot of baskets have been made with the worm and minnow; one gentleman staying at the Crown caught a good basket of trout, also returned to the river seventeen grayling, these fish were in the very best of condition. Blades, as usual, has been catching his 7lb. or 8lb. each day this week, most of them average ½lb. With the weather a little warmer, the next week on this river should be the best of the season.—FAWCETT (Crown, Hawes).

Witham, &c. (Mid-Lincolnshire).—Reports from the trout fishing districts are but very meagre. The supply of flies is as yet but very scant. The Cowdang, Hawthorn, and other land flies are about in the sunshine, but water flies are a rarity. As a rule, fish have to be sought for in the deeper holes. Now and then an angler gets a haul, but oftener he is out of luck. One of the best baskets we have heard of was five brace, taken from a stream in North Lincolnshire, above Horncastle.—LUCI.

Wye and Derwent (Derbyshire).—The above rivers were in order for the fly up to Saturday in last week. Sport has been better on both streams, baskets ranging from three to five brace have been obtained. The Darleydale Club's water has yielded some nice fish. Mr. Brown, fishing the lower portion of this club's water, took two and a half and one and a half brace on two occasions, several of these nearly 1lb. each. E. H. Maule, Esq., fishing the Matlock and Cromford Angling Association's water, Matlock Dale, landed several nice fish with minnow. This same gentleman, fishing from a boat by the Lovers' Walk, took one about 2lb. and several others smaller. On Wednesday night, Mr. William King, fishing from his balcony at Matlock Bath with a small Devon minnow, hooked a splendid trout, and after an hour's combat he succeeded in landing it, which proved to be 22in. long, 12in. in girth, and weighed 4½lb. This fish has been sent to Messrs. Cooper and Son, London, for preservation. Several other gentlemen have taken a few nice fish below Cromford, but there is still a lack of natural flies on the water. The showery weather we have had this week should improve the fishing for Whitsuntide holiday anglers, as the prospect is good. Useful flies: Yellow Dun, Ash Dun, Cooper's Fancy, Furnace Fly, and Bumbles.—DOTTEREL.

Yore, Swale, Wharfe, Nidd, Dove, &c. (Yorkshire).—"Do you call this May? It's more like November," said a Coverdale man to me the other day, when up fishing that beautiful little tributary of the Yore, and I must admit that so far the balmy month has not been of the character the old writers describe it. Perhaps the climate has changed. Anyway, we have had plenty of water to fish in, and if it's been cold and against fly fishing, sport with the worm and minnow has been good. I have missed a lot of the flies usually seen in quantity during the months of April and May, and the fish even on likely days have had little inducement to rise to the artificial fly. This lack of insect life is, doubtless, the cause of the trout being backward in condition, but a good feed on the Stone Fly creeper, and then on the fly itself, will put them all right. I send you by same post a bottle of larvae and fly of the Gravel Bed Fly I found hatching out in numbers the other day, also a few Red Cloaks and Stone Fly creeper. You will notice that the latter have made little progress for a week or two. A gentleman writes me asking for a few dozen Stone Fly to try dapping on the Irish lakes next Tuesday. I have no doubt they will kill trout anywhere, but I don't anticipate them hatching out until June. This is often the case. I got twenty-four trout on Monday, and sixteen on Tuesday, with the Miller's

Thumb Devon. Several other anglers have done well up the tributary streams of the Yore since Friday, they being much better trim than the main river itself, although in the upper waters there has been nothing to complain of as far as worm and minnow fishing is concerned. Lower down there has been too much water, but things will right themselves, and fine weather is all that is required for the fly fisher to have a real good time of it now. To-day the Yore is in grand trim for the fly, but a strong westerly wind has been against angling, and only a little could be indulged in in sheltered places. Some nice dishes of trout have been caught in the Swale during the week, between Catterick and Muker, chiefly with the worm and minnow; and Mr. Robert Lee, of Thirsk, tells me some large fish have been caught in the Codbeck, one of 3lb. 10oz., another of 2lb. 9½oz., and a third weighing 2lb. 11oz. When I knew this stream years ago it used to contain burbot, but I am told they are now almost extinct. A lot of spawning pike run up the Codbeck from the Swale to spawn. There has been too much water in the Wharfe for fly fishing, but as I write prospects are good for the holidays; all that we want now is genial weather. At Ilkley, Messrs. Leach and Richardson have done very fairly, and Mr. Binns killed thirty trout last Saturday with the Partridge and Yellow; this is always a good fly on this river. Higher up, Mr. Wood and other gentlemen have found the minnow, the March Brown, and the Waterhen Bloa to kill well. Until we have much warmer weather all the flies usually fished at the opening of the season will be best to rely on for this river and the Nidd, on which Mr. Riley Fortune, of Harrogate, caught twenty-four trout in the Conservative Club water with fly. Messrs. Lupton and Dent return twenty-three for one day; Mr. Dickinson, twenty; and baskets containing from half a dozen to a dozen trout have been common. Mr. Waddington has done well with the Snipe and Yellow and March Brown, but the most killing flies on the Dove have been the Red Drake and the Brown Bodied Drake ribbed with gold tinsel. Mr. J. C. Frank had a very good day at Sinnington. The Dove is well worth the attention of anglers for Whitsuntide; there is plenty of water, and prospects for sport could not be better.—J. E. MILLER, Northern Anglers' Depot, 19, New Station-street, Leeds.

By TELEGRAPH.—The Yorkshire rivers are all in fine trim for angling. The weather has changed, and is now genial and springlike, with a south-west wind and warm showers. Prospects for sport for the Whitsuntide anglers are A1. The flies are March Brown, Snipe and Yellow, Partridge and Orange, Waterhen Bloa, Snipe and Orange, Cooper's Fancy, Thompson's Fly, Olive Bloa, Dotterel, and Yellow Blue Partridge, and Pout Bloa, until the Stone Fly comes on.—J. E. MILLER, Northern Anglers' Depot, 19, New Station-street, Leeds.

SCOTCH REPORTS.

Awe.—Fishing from Taynult Hotel on the 10th, Mr. Macdonald had a salmon of 10lb. On the 12th, Mr. John Hassack McNiven had one of 15lb. On the 13th, Mr. C. T. W. Gardener had one of 13lb. River in grand order.—D. MACDONALD.

Border Esk and Liddle.—The weather is a trifle warmer than it was ten days ago, but owing to the cold spring yellow trout are not yet in prime condition. Salmon fishing has been most disastrous. Few fish have so far been caught, and not many are expected to be taken before the back-end of the season. The same scarcity of fish prevails in the Tay, the Tweed, and other Scotch rivers, as well as in the Elen and the Annan. Mr. T. Graham's capture of a sea trout weighing 4lb., in the Duke of Buccleuch's reserved water at Canonbie, with fine fly tackle, is one of the chief recent angling events. He was fishing for yellow trout, and had a hard struggle with the sea trout, which was full of fight. Mr. Wm. Thompson had eleven yellow trout in Langholm water, and other anglers have had fair baskets in the Ewes and upper reaches of the Esk. Mr. W. Murray, Canonbie, caught 5½lb. of yellow trout in the Liddle, above Penton Linns, and hooked a sea trout, but lost it. Dr. McLellan, Liverpool, staying at Est Bank, Canonbie, close to the Esk, had fifteen yellow trout with fly, in Tommy's Pool and Mill Pool, in the Esk. Mr. S. McKune had a nice basket of yellow trout in the Byreburn-foot water; and Mr. D. Little, Claygate, Canonbie, landed eighteen trout with fly in the same water. The Liddle is now in good order for angling. Fishing in the upper reaches, below Newcastle, Mr. J. Smith had a nice basket, which weighed 10lb. Mr. J. Murray, Copshaw, had also a good basket, one yellow trout weighing over 1lb. During the last few days the weather has been unfavourable for angling, and in consequence comparatively few rod fishers have been out. On Saturday Mr. Wm. Law, Canonbie, fishing in Jock's stream, in the Esk, had a nice new run salmon, with fly, weighing 9lb. Sea trout are not running freely, but may be expected soon.—Mr. Telford Langholm had a good basket of yellow trout in the upper reaches. Mr. Macmillan had also a nice basket in the same water. Fishing in the Liddle, above the magnificent Penton Linns, Mr. Hill Slack had a nice catch of 6lb. of yellow trout. Mr. Oliver had a good basket below New Castleton. There have been no sea trout taken in the Liddle up to the present. Yellow trout are furnishing the bulk of the sport in the Liddle; the same applies to the Esk. In the lower reaches of the Liddle several local anglers have had good sport with yellow trout, but in the lower parts of the Esk little has been done. Mr. Mason, Rockliffe, had one sea trout in the Metal Bridge water, and an angler staying at Longtown had a couple below the bridge, and lost another one. A Metal Bridge angler had a grand run with a salmon on Saturday at Lynfoot, but the fish eventually got away. Last week the weather was damp in the Langholm district, yet the river ran high, and as

no fishing could be done, a good many of the anglers joined in a grand hunt with the Dumfriesshire otter hounds. A start was made at the junction of the Esk and Ewes, at the foot of the Castle Holm, one of the most picturesque spots on the river. At Langholm Lodge the favourite seat of the Duke of Buccleuch, there was a grand burst of hounds' melody, which swept over the mountain tops and resounded through those deep glens of far-famed beauty. The otter got away. On returning to the "muckle toon," the water being in fair order, several of the otter hunting anglers were out with their rods in the gloaming. One gentleman staying at the Eskdale Temperance Hotel, Langholm, creel'd a dozen yellow trout above the Skipper's Bridge; while Messrs. Thompson, Graham, Anderson, and others had good catches. At time of writing temperature low and water cold.—GILNOCKIE.

Breadalbane Arms Hotel (Aberfeldy).—The Rev. T. J. Yarde, fishing Loch-na-Craig on the 11th, caught fifteen trout, 4½lb.; on the 13th, twenty-four trout, 8½lb.; and fishing the Tay on the 12th, caught nine trout, 3lb.; on the 15th, eleven trout, 5½lb.

Carron (Easter Ross, Ardgay, N.B.).—Quite a number have been out, both from hotel and lodges, but owing to unfavourable conditions sport has been poor. Mr. W. Allis Smith, of Glencalvie, landed two salmon of 8lb. and 10lb. on Glencalvie water. A few other fish were caught since last reported, but particulars not to hand.—B.

Deveron (Banffshire).—In the end of last week and the beginning of the present week genial showers of rain have fallen in this district, which had a beneficial effect on this river. Anglers are having fair sport, the only drawback being the large amount of smolts which the rising of the stream have brought down. The smolts are of good size, and in a healthy condition, which augurs well for future fishing. Some good baskets of trout are getting. Salmon and grilse are exceedingly scarce, and we hear of only one salmon having been killed this week on the Carnoustie section, weighing 5½lb. There was a slight increase in the take in the net fishing, some fine clean run salmon having been got. On the coast there was an imperceptible improvement in the fishing on Saturday last and on the first half of this week. The weather is more favourable, the wind blowing more milder from a westerly direction. On Monday two large boxes, weighing close on 20wt. each, on Tuesday one of 13wt. and another on Wednesday of similar size, were dispatched to the markets. The salmon are not of particularly heavy weight, the average being 9lb.—H. W.

Isa.—The weather has been milder for some days back, and, though there is still a good deal of snow brot, sport has greatly improved, and fairly good baskets are being made with fly, the most taking being March Browns, Hackles, and Hare's Ear. On the Erich, on Friday, at Bridge of Cally, Mr. Durward Lyell landed a trout of 5lb., and measuring 18in. in length. This trout has been known to frequent the same pool for ten or twelve years, and has frequently been hooked, but has broken a great amount of tackle and temper, and given occasion for a great deal of strong, and even vile, language. Friday's capture is to be preserved in the form of a cast. On the Arde, Shee, Blackwater, Dean, and Melgum tributaries fair sport is now got; but there is still a great absence of insect life, as up till now there has been no genial, sunny weather.—JASGATE (May 15).

Loch Awe (Loch Awe Hotel).—The following are the best takes recently: Mr. J. M. Ross (Glasgow), seven trout; Mr. McFarlane (Edinburgh), twelve trout; Mrs. Carter (London), eighteen trout; the Rev. G. Marjoribanks (Stenton), one salmon, 10lb.—D. FRASER.

Loch Katrine (Stronachlachar Hotel).—Out from Stronachlachar Hotel, on May 10, Mr. Fitzwilliam caught seven trout; on the 11th, Mr. C. McIntyre caught fourteen trout; and on the 12th, Mr. Neale Thomson had a fine basket of twenty-six trout.—H. M.

Lochleven (Kinross).—A week of dull, cold weather, with moderate winds, has done nothing to improve sport as was expected, and anglers have had a very disappointing time on the loch. There was no rise of fish on all the week, even when the weather appeared all that could be desired. Fish are now feeding on the bottom, and until the weather becomes milder good catches cannot be looked for. On Tuesday the wind, which has been persistent from the south-east or north-east, veered into the south-west, and became very squally, so that only a score of trout were killed by forty-five anglers. The most successful angling club out during the week was the Glasgow Angling Club, the catch to ten rods being fifty-five trout, 34lb. 6oz. The heaviest prize creel of trout was secured by Mr. W. N. Machan, of the Dundee Club, who captured, with fly, thirteen, of 9lb. 12oz. The best sport was got by the following private parties: Mr. and Mrs. Laird, London, twenty-three trout, 17lb.; Mr. Dunbar, fifteen trout, 12lb.; Mr. T. Lawson, Glasgow, sixteen trout, 11lb.; Mr. G. Stirling, Crieff, fourteen trout, 14lb.; Mr. Dunlop, Bridge of Allan, eighteen trout, 13lb. 8oz.; Mr. Sloan, Glasgow, fourteen trout, 10lb. All the boats are engaged for the ensuing week.—ROBERT LAING.

Loch Ness (Foyers Hotel), N.B.—Trout fishing during the past week has been very good, and anglers have been most successful. On Monday, Messrs. McGregor and Pile, fishing Loch Knockie, had a nice basket of forty-one trout, weighing 11lb. On Tuesday, fishing Loch Mhor, Messrs. McGregor and Lindsay had twenty-one trout, weighing 12lb. On Wednesday, on Loch Mhor, Mr. Pile had twenty-six trout, weighing 15lb.; and Messrs. McGregor and Lindsay, thirty trout, 18lb. On Thursday, Mr. Pile, on Loch Mhor, had twenty-two trout, 13lb.; and Messrs. McGregor and Lindsay, thirty-six trout, 23lb. On Friday, Mr. Pile had a splendid basket of thirty-one trout, weighing 20lb.; and Messrs. McGregor and Lindsay had thirty-eight trout, 21lb.—S. TILSTON.

Naver (Bettyhill, via Thurso, N.B.).—The water is low, and very little done either by rod or net. On 8th, Mr. Oats, Dalvin Lodge, landed a salmon on Beat No. 1; on 9th, one on No. 2; and on 10th, on No. 3. On 11th, Mr. Lawrence, Skelpick Lodge, had a salmon on No. 2; and Mr. Gill, Syre Lodge, a grilse of 2½lb. on No. 6. This was the first grilse of the season either by rod or net. On 12th, Dr. Turner, Syre Lodge, had a nice salmon weighing 13lb.—B.

North-East of Scotland.—Splendid sport has been enjoyed all over during the past week, while the prospects are daily getting brighter. On the upper waters of the Dee one rod last week had nine fish one day, scaling from 6lb. to 16lb. This, of course, is exceptional, the average being two and three daily on the best water. There is a scarcity of fish on the lower waters, owing to the falling off on the coast, and this will be more severely felt as the season progresses. Grilse are making their appearance in fairly large numbers. On the Fife Arms water, Braemar, Mr. Wyburgh had one of 6½lb.; and Mr. Fred Usher another of the same weight on the same beat. On the Crathie section, Mr. Page creel'd one of 7½lb. and one of 8lb.; while Mr. Granville Farquhar had one of 6lb. on the Invercauld private water. On the Ballater reaches anglers have had excellent sport every day during the past week, five, six, and seven fish being got per rod per day. On the Glentworth waters, Mr. Barclay creel'd two, of 7lb. and 16lb., two, of 9lb. and 16lb., two, of 5lb. and 8lb., two, of 7½lb. and 15lb., three, of 5lb., 7lb., and 17lb., and two, of 5lb. and 7lb.; while Mr. Fraser Sandeman had one of 6lb., and two, of 6lb. and 7lb.; Mr. Laming, one of 8lb., one of 8½lb., two, of 8lb. and 8lb., and three, of 8lb., 8lb., and 10lb.; and Mr. Farrer, one of 13½lb. On the Aboyne section, Mr. Whitelaw creel'd two, of 8lb. and 13lb., and two, of 6½lb. and 7lb.; Mr. Fife-Jameson, one of 5lb., two, of 6lb. and 8lb., two, of 6lb. and 7lb., and one of 6lb.; Mr. Watson, one of 5½lb.; Mr. Barclay, two, of 6lb. and 13lb.; Mr. Allan, three, of 6lb., 6½lb., and 7½lb.; Dr. Lewers, one of 9½lb.; and Mr. Younger two, of 6lb. and 7lb. On the Kincairdine O'Neil section, Major Davidson had four on Dees water, scaling 6½lb., 7lb., 7lb., and 8lb., and two, of 6lb. and 8lb.; while Mr. Findlay had one of 10lb., and two, of 7½lb. and 8lb.; while Harper, keeper, one of 17lb., and two, of 7lb. and 8lb., on the same waters. On Borrowstone water, Lord Lisburn creel'd two, of 7lb. and 8lb., one of 6lb., and one of 12lb.; while Lord Garrioch had two, of 6lb. each, and one of 7lb. On the Ballachie water, Mr. Crawford Logan had two, of 6lb. and 7lb., two, of 6½lb. and 9½lb., three, of 8lb., 8½lb., and 14½lb., and two, of 7lb. and 10lb.; while Mr. Levett had one of 6lb., one of 6½lb., and two, of 6lb. each. On the Carlogie water, Mr. Monk Gould creel'd one, 8lb., and Mr. Cook Taylor one, 7lb. On the Comonty water, Sandy Ross had one of 8lb., and one of 7lb. On Kincairdine water, Mr. G. Orr landed one of 10lb. On the Slinie section, Charlie Gill creel'd a fine fish of 15lb.; while John Mortimer had six on the Woodend water, scaling from 6½lb. to 10lb. On the Upper Blackhall water five fish were got, scaling from 6lb. to 8½lb. On the Cairnton and Durris sections a like spell of good sport was had, but few fish were seen on any of the lower reaches. On the Don excellent baskets of trout were made on the Parkhill, Pitmadden, and adjoining beats by Baillie Brown, Mr. Chas. Graham, Mr. G. M. Mackay, and others. On the Ythan, Mr. Shepherd had a salmon of 14lb. on the Eilon Castle waters; while Messrs. George Stephen, Geo. Stott, and others had good baskets of trout. The Ugie is also fishing exceedingly well, now that the weather has taken a more favourable turn.—G. M.

South of Scotland.—The weather is still unsettled, and quite unfavourable for angling. Yesterday (Tuesday) there were severe falls of hail in the northern parts of Moffat Dals, and more hail fell this morning. Several anglers have been out trout fishing on all the Border

streams, but sport has been decidedly poor. Yellow trout have not been rising to the fly at all well, but several baskets have been had with the worm bait, fished in the clear water style. In the Solway the run of sea trout is much under the average for the third week of May, and so long as the weather remains cold and unreasonable the lessees and fishermen do not anticipate any improvement in the run of sea trout. The following is a note of the sport had on the different rivers of the Solway with the exception of the Border Esk, which is reported upon separately. **THE ANNAN.**—This river is in fair order in the middle and lower reaches for trout fishing. In the higher waters near Moffat the streams are low and clear, and very little has been done in that part. Mr. Hullet, of Moffat, a well-known angler, had a heavy basket of yellow trout in the Wamphray portion, caught with worm and fly. On Tuesday, Mr. J. Rae killed over a dozen yellow trout in the Wamphray and Dinwoodie portions. They were all caught with worm. Not a fish would look at the fly. Mr. Thorburn, Brydekirk, was reported as having killed a sea trout and a dozen yellow trout in the Monut Annan water last week. There has been no sport in the lower reaches. **THE NITH.**—Angling is about at a standstill just now. Only a few rods have been out, and very indifferent baskets have been the rule. On the Cluden and Cairn the yellow trout angling has shown considerable decline since last report. This is attributed to low waters and the cold weather. **THE GALLOWAY RIVERS.**—There are no particulars of the angling from this district this week. On the lochs the trout have not been rising at all well, while the fish that have been caught are not yet in good condition. **AYRSHIRE LOCHS.**—More rods have been out since last week. Two anglers caught about a score of yellow trout on Friday by fishing from the Eglington Hotel boat on Loch Doon. On Monday, Mr. Murray and friend killed twenty-five on the same loch. Angling on the Ayrshire rivers very poor at present. **DERWENT OF SOLWAY.**—On this river some fair sport was had towards the end of last week in the Cookmouth district of the river, as also in the Cocker. The May Fly was up in thousands. Among the more successful rods were Messrs. T. Ritson, J. Soulsby, Grave, Thompson, Fleming, Hewitt, and Plaskett. The fishing on the lakes is also poor. One angler caught three trout, weighing 4½lb. The rivers Ehen, Calder, Irt, Mite, and Esk were in good order last week-end. The most of the trout were taken with the worm bait. With a spell of mild weather good sport would follow. The barometer is low, and there is every appearance of more rain.—HEATHERBELL.

Tongue Hotel Waters.—On May 7 Mr. Michell of Lynton, on the Kyle of Tongue, had eight sea trout weighing 10½lb., heaviest 2½lb. On the 9th he had ten trout, 15½lb., heaviest 3lb., on the Kyle. On the 10th, on Loch-na-hacon, the same gentleman had seven brown trout weighing 4½lb. On the 11th, on Kyle of Tongue, he had ten trout, 12lb. On the 12th he had seven sea trout weighing 8½lb., and on the 13th he had fifteen weighing 24lb., all on the Kyle.—M. MCINNES.

Tweed, Teviot, and other Border Rivers.—A few good baskets of trout have been killed both on Tweed and Teviot, while on some of the tributary streams the results, so far, have been satisfactory. On the Tweed, on Monday, Mr. Archibald Steel killed between 16lb. and 17lb. of trout. Others who have had good baskets during the week were: Mr. James Affleck, Heiton, who on Saturday had 4½lb., on Monday 6lb., and yesterday he had again 4½lb., these being killed on Teviot. On the same stream, Mr. Robt. Ferguson, Kelso, had 5½lb.; 7½lb. tell to the rod of Mr. Charles Farquharson, Kelso, on the Tweed; while Mr. George Thompson had 7½lb.; Mr. Geo. Turnbull, Slater, 4lb.; Mr. Wm. Barff, 3½lb. (Teviot); Mr. R. Hardie has had baskets of from 3lb. up to 6lb. on Tweed and Teviot; Mr. Wm. Lowery, on Teviot, 4lb. and 5½lb. Mr. John Gibson, fisherman, Kelso, on the Tweed, has during the past week killed baskets of trout varying from 4lb. up to 8lb.; Mr. R. Newton, on the Teviot, with fly, takes of from 2lb. up to 6lb.; Mr. T. Stewart, takes of from 3lb. to 4lb., including one sea trout of 3½lb. In the Galashiels district of the Tweed and Gala sport has been capital, excellent baskets of trout having been got on both streams, ranging from 3lb. up to 12lb. In the Peebles district of the Tweed the river is also affording good sport. On the Tweed, at Sprouston, Mr. George Wright has had a fine basket of 15lb. of trout; and on the Rutherford water, Capt. Key had a basket of trout of nearly the same weight. On the Bowmont, Kale, and Eden, baskets of from 3lb. upwards have been killed. On the Blackadder (Berwickshire), last week, Mr. John Moffat had 4lb. (clear water worm fishing); Mr. Robert Trotter, 4½lb.; while Mr. Robert Thomson had 6lb. During the past fortnight angling competitions by various clubs have been in full swing, and on the whole good sport was got. On the Rutherford water Capt. Key killed a couple of salmon, weighing 14lb. and 21lb. respectively. No fish have been killed in the Kelso district during the past ten days.—MAXWHEEL.

IRISH REPORTS.

Ballina (Imperial and Royal Hotels Private Water, and Gortnorabbey Hotel, Lough Conn).—Mr. J. Timlin killed one salmon, weighing 14lb., and lost two others; Mr. Little killed one salmon and one pike, the salmon weighing 9lb. and the pike 16lb.; Mr. Carroll, one salmon; Mr. Hoban, one salmon and one pike; and Mr. MacNulty, three baskets of trout, weighing 21lb. The weather is very cold here, and we are having heavy hail showers, which is not at all favourable for fishing, but I am glad to state the pools are getting well stocked with fish in both lake and river.—MANAGER.

Ballina (Private Waters, Moy Hotel).—Water clear; occasional showers; fair runs of fish on the river. Mr. W. C. Wilson rose a few fish on Monday. Mr. Schrop got a fine trout on 14th inst. On the whole

LONGLEY'S HOLIDAY GUIDES

ABUNDANTLY ILLUSTRATED. 10. EACH.

FOUR POST FREE FOR FIVE STAMPS.

- | | |
|-------------------------|---------------------------|
| 1 The Rhine. | 34 Connemara. |
| 2 E. Coast Wat'g Places | 35 Inverness & Highlnds. |
| 3 A Run to Dublin. | 36 Donegal Highlands. |
| 4 Amsterdam | 37 Cumberland Coast. |
| 5 Eastern Cathedrals. | 38 Across Ireland. |
| 6 Channel Islands. | 39 Round Glengariff. |
| 7 Mona's Isle. | 40 On the Cambrian. |
| 8 Southend. | 41 Four Channel Ports. |
| 9 The English Lakes. | 42 Teignmouth. |
| 10 Devon Coast. | 43 Paris. |
| 11 Cornish Coast. | 44 Round London. |
| 12 A Run to Cork. | 45 Giant's Causeway. |
| 13 Epping Forest. | 46 North Wales. |
| 14 Western Islands. | 47 Flying Scotchman. |
| 15 Mourne Mountains. | 48 Run to Scarborough. |
| 16 Midland Spas. | 49 On the Columbia. |
| 17 Peak District. | 50 Famous Castles. |
| 18 Up the Thames. | 51 Round Glasgow. |
| 19 Western Cathedrals. | 52 Across Wales. |
| 20 Somerset & Dorset. | 53 A Trip to Norway. |
| 21 County Down. | 54 A Trip to Sweden. |
| 22 Forest of Dean. | 55 On the "Ceylon." |
| 23 Killarney Lakes. | 56 Round Brussels. |
| 24 Round Oban. | 57 Round Harwich. |
| 25 South-East Wales. | 58 Pembroke Coast. |
| 26 The Irish Rhine. | 59 Cornish Wnt'r. Res'ts. |
| 27 The Potteries. | 60 Weymouth. |
| 28 Orkneys & Shetlands. | 61 Around Brecon. |
| 29 Belfast. | 62 Seaside A.B.C. |
| 30 Dundalk Bay. | 63 Round Sunningdale. |
| 31 Mid-Wales. | 64 Gwbert-on-Sea. |
| 32 Southpt. & Blackpl. | 65 Falmouth. |
| 33 A Run to Glasgow. | 66 Round Lulworth. |

F. E. LONGLEY, 39, Warwick Lane, London, E.C.

trout rising fairly well. Mr. McKinsie got a nice basket at Runagry. Major Brooke Collingwood got some trout also.—JOHN DEYERS.

Bandon River (co. Cork).—Salmon and trout anglers have been doing very well for the past week, the river being well stocked, especially on the upper waters near Ballineen. Capt. Richards, Hants Regt., had two fish, 11½lb. and 10lb., on the Carrigmore water, 14th inst.; Mr. Joseph Pike, D.L., on the same water, has also had good sport with salmon.—W. HAYNES AND SON.

Bann.—This river has been a little discoloured by the late rains, but is now in grand order for trout angling. A few sedges are now on the water, and trout are taking them freely. The Messrs. Coates, of Belfast, in three days, took twenty-four fine trout on the shallows at Kilrea, two of the largest 3½lb. each. No English anglers are yet at the Mercer's Hotel, Kilrea, though the best trout and best river fishing in Ireland is to be had there.—DANIEL O'FEE.

Caragh Lake (Caragh).—Trout fishing is still good on all mountain lakes, especially Caragh. Some good fishing has been had by anglers staying at Southern Hotel, Mr. and Mrs. Woodhouse getting some baskets.—G. C.

Corrib and Tributaries (Corrib).—A good deal of rain fell since last report. The river was in fair order, and a good many fish were killed in the past week. Amongst those out were Mr. A. Gesson, Mr. G. Meldon, and Commander Law, R.N. The Lydon Brothers had good success. The Black and Yellow Goldfinch flies and the prawn were the killing lures. Salmon fishing is improving on the other Galway streams, notably the Clare, Galway.—J. A. B.

Erne (Ballyshannon and Belleek).—Anglers fishing the Erne for trout since last report had rather indifferent sport, owing to the bright days and cold evenings. The following gentlemen took some trout: Mr. T. M. Pike, Mr. G. Antonini, Mr. C. Ralli, Mr. E. A. Ralli, Mr. Hoskyns, &c. The largest we heard of taken was 3½lb. weight. The Fishery Company got a fair number of salmon in the nets and boxes during the past week, and next week rod fishing for salmon on the Erne will be in full swing.—M. ROGAN AND SONS.

Lee (co. Cork).—River has been in fair fishing order for past week; inclined to be low. A fair number of grise are now running. On Mashonaglass, R. L. C. Hobson, 60th Rifles, 19lb., 17½lb., 7lb.; Mr. Algood, 11½lb., 6lb. On Ashton, J. L. Peach, 7½lb., 3½lb. On Lee Mount, W. T. Crawshaw, 9lb., 10lb. On Warren's Court, J. A. Jameson, 15lb., 10lb., 9lb., 7½lb. On the free water of the Gullane river (Macroom), Mr. John Barry, 22lb.—W. HAYNES AND SON.

Lough Curran (Waterville, co. Kerry).—Sport has been very poor on Lough Curran, the principal free water here. Only one salmon has been had since last report on this water, and the baskets of brown trout were either poor or indifferent. No sea trout have been had up to time of writing. Peal are coming in, but in very limited numbers so far. On the upper lakes (preserved waters) some average baskets of brown trout have been had, but no sea trout. It is too early, however, to expect any sport at the latter fish on these waters. On the mountain lakes sport has been fairly good in the late evenings.—T. J. D.

Lough Derravaragh (Westmeath).—The May Fly is rising steadily on this well-known loch, and by the end of the week it will be well on, the 20th being the average date. Messrs. Gibson, Stonehall, made several fine baskets of trout in the past fortnight.—J. A. B.

Lough Mask and Lough Corrib.—Fishing from Mount Gable Hotel, Major and Mrs. Ferguson, Dr. Skyes and party, and Mr. Evans have had excellent sport. They made record baskets on May 13 and 16, from seven to ten grand trout per rod each day, ranging from 1lb. to 3½lb., all taken on the fly. Rivers and lakes in good condition, and with the May Fly on sport promises good.

Lough Melvin.—Since last report the weather has been very changeable; very hot and bright in midday for the most of the time, and afterwards turning quite cold in the evenings, and consequently sport was not near as good as it would be if more favourable weather prevailed. During the past week the following salmon were taken: Capt. H. Wood, one salmon of 12lb., on 11th inst.; Lord F. Conyngham, one salmon of 7lb., on same day. Mr. James Johnston, one salmon of 9½lb., on 12th inst.; Mr. W. Barton, one salmon of 7lb., on same day. Capt. Wilding, one salmon of 8½lb., on 11th inst. Mr. Edward Mulhern, one salmon of 8lb., on 15th inst.; Mr. P. Hughes, one salmon of 9lb., on same day. Mr. P. Gallagher took a trout (*Salmo ferox*) of 5½lb., on 13th inst.; and Mr. J. Conolly took two more trolling, of 3½lb. and 4lb., on 16th inst. A fair number of baskets of trout were taken on the lake during the past week; but owing to the bright sun in daytime, followed by cold evenings, the gillaroo trout did not rise well to the fly, and it was chiefly all brown trout that was taken since last report. A few May Flies have already made their appearance, but it entirely depends on the weather during the next ten days whether there will be a good healthy rise of May Fly or not.—M. ROGAN AND SONS.

Lough Melvin (Lower Reaches, Kinlough End).—In the early part of the past week weather conditions was dead against fly angling. Bright summer-like days, a change to rain on the 10th, has improved matters, and trout are sporting fairly well. Trolling on the 11th, Mr. H. Higgs had a nice brown trout of 5½lb. Trolling with Devon minnow on the 12th, Mr. Rutherford landed a nice salmon of 11lb. Quite a number of Dublin and English anglers are arriving at Whiteside's and Moor's hotels, Kinlough, this week. Angling prospects looks promising.—P. GALLAGHER.

Lough Neagh.—Pollen fishing was not so good lately, and the same may be said of trout netting. On the tributaries little angling has yet been done.—J. A. B.

Mourne (Newton Stewart, co. Tyrone).—Although considerable rain fell this week the Mourne is in fair order, and trout fishers had excellent sport in the past week. Fishing from the Abercorn Arms, Messrs. Evans, Allnutt, Ranson, and Howe killed, in one day, 100 trout on the Glenelly tributary. Mr. Burden and friend had fair baskets this week. No salmon or sea trout have yet appeared about here.—J. A. B.

Moy, Loughs Conn and Cullen (Ballina, co. Mayo).—Weather very much against angling, heavy hail showers and peals of thunder having put fishing aside here for the past week. Mr. Croke, one salmon, 11lb.; Mr. Preston, one, 9½lb.; Dr. Bruce, one, 11lb. A few salmon have been got on the lough trolling; trout rose badly. A fair number of jack have been got on Lough Cullen, largest 17lb. The Moy Company nets have had the best take of spring fish for the past week that they have had for the past ten years.—PAT HEARNES.

Shannon and Lough Derg (Killaloe).—There have been a few good sized salmon taken this week. May 12, Major Traherne killed, on his preserves, one fish, 19lb.; 13th, one, 9lb.; 15th, Mr. W. A. H. Martin, one, 18½lb.; and on 16th, one 30lb.; same date, Major Traherne's fishermen, one, 12lb. The weather all this week has been rough on the lake trout; nevertheless, several fairly good bags have been made. Col. Rogers, on one day, landed six trout, weighing 14½lb.; another gentleman got 14½lb.; Mr. W. Malsbury Cotham and Mr. Bertram Cotham (Prescott), fishing from the one boat, killed eight trout, 16lb. Other baskets too numerous to mention have been made. On my salmon water a good many nice dishes of river trout have been had. To-day (Wednesday) is an ideal fishing day on the lake. A spanking breeze is blowing from the west, the sky is clouded over, and the Green Drake are about in clouds. Quite a flotilla of boats have gone up the lake this morning, and their occupants, mostly English gentlemen, should realise good sport. Each train that arrives here brings numbers of English anglers for the salmon and trout fishing on river and lake. Major Traherne and Miss Hope-Johnstone have returned to London; Mr. A. P. Thornley has arrived from Birmingham.—S. J. HURLEY.

Shannon (Castleconnell).—The river is now in excellent condition, but though salmon seem to be plentiful they are very shy in taking anything offered them. On Hermitage, Lord Massy killed one salmon, 21lb., on 12th. On Woodlands, Mr. F. Cooper killed one salmon, 11lb., on 15th. On the Castle Fishery, Mr. J. H. Wheatley killed one salmon, 12lb., on 9th, and one salmon, 27½lb., on 12th. On the Worldsend, Mr. E. T. Ingham killed one salmon, 15lb., on 11th. On the Landscape water, Mr. R. Greenfield killed one salmon, 36lb., on 10th.—JOHN ENRIGHT AND SON.

Westmeath Lakes (Mullingar).—Previous to the advent of the Green Drake good sport has been had on Lough Derravaragh with artificial flies. A few trout have been taken on Lough Ennell or Belvedere, dapping with the natural fly, the best I have seen being a plump, well-conditioned fish of 4lb. Monday, 16th inst., was comparatively calm, and little was done. Tuesday was ushered in with a strong, squally S.W. wind. Weather cold, and one trout per rod would hardly be under the average. To-day (Wednesday) is much worse, and is causing serious disappointment, as all the anglers' resorts in the lakes district have been engaged.—T. J. W.

Reports from Clubs

We beg to remind Secretaries that their Reports must reach us not later than **SIX o'clock on Thursday Evening.** Address **Editor, FISHING GAZETTE, St. Dunstan's House, Fetter-Lane, London,** marked "CLUB REPORT" outside envelope.

Anglers' Association, Cripplegate Institute, Golden-lane.—Secretaries of societies please note, so as to inform their delegates, that Rule 13 will in future be strictly enforced.—R. GHURNEY.

Anglers' Benevolent Society, Club Union Buildings, Clerkenwell-road, E.C.—The committee will meet on Friday evening next, May 26, at 8.30, at Club Union Buildings, Clerkenwell-road.—R. GHURNEY.

Amicable Waltonian Angling Society, The Fox and French Horn, Clerkenwell Green.—Will members please note that a special meeting of the above takes place on May 24. Programmes for C.D.U. concert can be had of—G. MERRY.

Albion Brothers' Angling Society, The Frampton Arms, Well-street, Hackney.—Wednesday, 17th, being quarterly night, brought a good muster of members. Mr. C. J. King was again elected secretary for the coming year, there being no opposition. Messrs. Yeowell and Carey were elected auditors. A brake outing has been arranged to Stamford rivers on June 26. Any friends wishing to join us, kindly send in names early. All members please note: Prizes that have been promised, whether won or not, must be paid in by June 7. Seven new members have just been made.—C. J. K.

Allason United Brothers' Angling Society, Dnke of Sussex, Uxbridge-street, Notting Hill Gate, W.—A special general meeting takes place on May 24th, at 9 p.m., to revise certain rules, arrange conditions of silver challenge cup, fix date for our first match in the opening season, and other items of an important nature. Mr. E. Jackson gave the Anglers' Association delegate report, which was accepted. There are one or two outstanding prizes for past season not yet in. Will those who have received my letters kindly respond on or before 24th, and to those in arrears, I may inform them that Rule 23 will be enforced. I have received lists for A.A. privileges and

A.B. cards, and taking names and cash for same on 24th. We have an agreement on our above house, and we are now comfortable.—BEN ABRAHAMS.

Alma Angling Society, Coach and Horses, Port-month-place, Lincoln's Inn Fields.—On May 16 the ninth annual supper and distribution of prizes took place, presided over by Mr. Pailk. Much credit is due to Mr. Wilson for the catering, after which Mr. Pailk distributed the prizes. Messrs. Drew, Montgomery, Utting, Hopping, Hall, and Butlin were the chief recipients. A good list of prizes was booked for the ensuing season. The harmony was of the best, Messrs. Houghton, R. Chambers, J. Hawes, Langton, Habbijam, Drew, sen. and jun., Smith, and our worthy chairman pleasing the company. "Auld Lang Syne" finished a very enjoyable evening.—J. CHAMBERS.

Battersea Friendly Angling Society, Queen's Hotel, Queen's-road, Battersea, S.W.—Our annual dinner, &c., on the 16th, was a grand success. The ample spread supplied by Mr. Chubb, of East Hill, Wandsworth, did him great credit, forty members and friends participating. After the usual toasts, the prizes were distributed to the successful winners, and a new list opened for the coming season with capital results, about £20 being promised on this occasion. At the concert which followed some really good songs and solos were rendered by the following artists: Messrs. F. Edwards, A. Chettle, Evans, A. Vine, J. Smith, A. Quibell, C. R. Townley (cornet solos), J. Curtis (pianist). "Auld Lang Syne" terminating an enjoyable evening. There will be no meeting next Tuesday, 23rd inst., but a general meeting is fixed for Tuesday, May 30, to arrange the first outing and other important business.—A. JENKINS.

Brunswick Brothers' Angling Society, Cherry Tree, Brunswick-road, Bromley-by-Bow, E.—There was a fairly well attended meeting on Tuesday, May 16, and a lot of business transacted. I beg to remind members that our dinner and prize distribution takes place on June 6. All members intending to be present are requested to let the secretary know not later than May 30. All donors of prizes will oblige by sending same to clubhouse as early as possible. Don't forget June 13, concert for "Old Uncle."—F. RANDALL.

Burlington Piscatorials, Burlington Hotel, Burlington-road, W.—Our second annual dinner took place on May 11, which was most successful, twenty-seven sat down. The caterers were Mr. C. E. Revill and his wife, which was served up in excellent style. Our president, Mr. L. C. Greenhill, took the chair, and Mr. A. Hibble, the vice, followed by a grand concert given by the following gentlemen: Messrs. Sanger, Rowbottom, Revill, Dare, Tierney, Morrison, Mason, Wren, Amos, Green, Orlebar, and Emery. Pianists, Messrs. A. Pocock and Dare. The prizes promised, value £5 19s. 6d. The next meeting will be held on Wednesday, June 7, at nine o'clock. Members wanting privilege tickets let me know as soon as possible; 2s. must accompany the order this year.—P. LAVINGTON.

Cambridge Heath Brothers' Angling Society, The Good Intent, Mowlem-street, Bishop's-road, Cambridge Heath.—On May 14 Mr. R. Anderson weighed in a trout measuring 21in. and weighing 4lb. 1½oz., taken whilst spinning in the Lea, near Rye House Bridge. Our distribution of prizes on the 17th was a grand success, Mr. Golding taking £1 ls. specimen jack; H. Hackett, specimen roach; H. Deverill, specimen dace; B. Sawyer, specimen perch; W. Elliott, specimen bream; W. Elworthy, sen., specimen trout; and H. Deverill, in addition to three special prizes, won the £4 4s. challenge cup, presented by Mr. B. Williams, our worthy host. Over £45 in prizes was distributed, and a very enjoyable evening was spent. There will be no meeting on May 23, Whit Tuesday. Found in the club-room on the 16th a receipted ticket for goods; owner can have the same by applying to—P. E. LOFT.

Campbell United Angling Society, Sir Colin Campbell, High-road, Kilbarrn.—Our distribution of prizes last Wednesday was a great success, Mr. F. Honour in the chair; our most successful members being Mr. J. Tanner, Mr. J. Bowry, and T. Batchelor. Our prize sheet for the ensuing year was well patronised, but I hope to have a good many more names before the season opens. Very pleased to state that the A.B. box was well patronised, and also that we made two more new members, and several more promised.—A. C. QUICK.

Clapam Junction Angling Society, The Clarence, Winstanley-road, Clapam Junction, S.W.—The twenty-fifth annual dinner and distribution of prizes of the above society took place on May 15, when thirty-five sat down to a good and substantial meal, which was done justice to. After the cloth was removed harmony was the order. Among those contributing were Messrs. J. Bergeman, Batchelor, Thorne, Burrage, Moore, Nichols, Keen, Ern, Bailey, Jones, &c. During the evening the following prizes were distributed to the successful members: Mr. J. Thorne, first, with ten prizes to his credit; Mr. H. Moore, second; Mr. A. Ward, third; also Messrs. Wm. Evans, Runnigar, J. Willgoose, Ball, Bowater, Hines, Woodhouse, Jones, Heyman, Bethol, Pegg, G. Jameson, &c. Over £20 were distributed during the evening; and also we have a grand balance in hand from our annual balance-sheet. A new prize list was started, when over £10 10s. was made up by several gentlemen. A vote of thanks was accorded to all officers of the society, when the evening was brought to a close with the usual musical honours ("Auld Lang Syne"). I wish to return my sincere thanks to all members and visitors who favoured us with their company on this occasion.—G. T. JAMESON.

Clapham Strollers' Angling Society, Alexandra Hotel, Clapham Common, S.W.—Our presentation of prizes for the past season will take place on May 30, and I shall be glad to receive all donors' prizes in by that date.

A committee meeting will be called next week to arrange a six months list of prizes and fixtures for the ensuing season, also prize outings for honorary members. We made two members last Tuesday. Our annual dinner was a grand success.—S. VIOLET.

Collingwood Angling Society. Lord Nelson, Nelson-square, Blackfriars-road, S.E.—Will club secretaries please note that our address is as above, as we have had some important letters sent to our old address. The election of officers resulted as follows: President, Mr. Jeffreys; vice-president, Mr. Sorge, sen.; chairman, Mr. Jarrett; vice-chairman, Mr. Downs; trustees, Mr. Poole and Mr. F. Beames; delegates to the A.A., Mr. Poole and Mr. Sorge, jun.; auditors, Mr. Ford and Mr. Ball; assistant-secretary, Mr. Sorge; secretary, W. H. Stafford. Will members kindly attend next Wednesday for important business?—W. H. STAFFORD.

Crown and Buckland Piscatorial Society, Middlesex Arms, 35, Clerkenwell-green, E.C.—Our annual general meeting took place on May 17, when the following gentlemen were elected to serve for the ensuing year:—Committee: G. Norris, W. Attridge, C. Glover, W. Macdonnell, H. Wright, B. Richardson, A. Anderson, W. Richardson, and H. Haines. Delegates to the A.A.: G. Norris and C. Walter. Delegates to the C.A.: G. Franklin and W. Attridge. Delegates to the C. and D.V.L.: G. Norris and G. Franklin. Auditors: J. Leadhester, W. Richardson, and H. Haines. Secretary: G. H. Franklin. The balance-sheet was read, showing a fair amount in the treasurer's hands. The annual dinner will take place at Chertsey. A brake will leave the clubhouse at nine o'clock on June 11; seats can now be booked. I should advise those who wish to go to give in their names at once. Two working members were proposed, who will be balloted for next week.—G. H. FRANKLIN.

Dalston Angling Society, Brownlow Arms, Brownlow-street, Dalston.—On May 16 our annual distribution of prizes took place. The recipients were Messrs. H. Poore, T. Thompson, E. Wild, A. Morgan, W. Thompson, C. Pocock, J. Eagles, S. Wood, G. Davies, and T. Swain. During the evening the A.B.S. box was opened, and found to contain £1 12s. 3d. The chair was taken by Mr. A. E. Lloyd, faced by Mr. T. Thompson. During the evening some excellent songs were rendered by several ladies and gentlemen, Mr. C. Pocock presiding at the piano. Members please note that on Tuesday, the 23rd, the society will not meet, likewise all members who intend to be present at the dinner on June 4 must give in their names by May 30.—S. MALBY.

Dibdin Angling Society, St. Martin's Tavern, Pratt-street, N.W.—Wednesday's meeting quiet. After usual business the members adjourned to Bostonians' comic lantern show, in aid of the widow of the late H. Patman.—JOHNNY EDWARDS.

Duke of Norfolk Angling Society, The Apollo, All Saints'-road, Westbourne Park.—Our annual dinner and distribution of prizes will take place on June 1

instead of May 31, on account of it being Derby day.—W. JENKINS.

Earlsfield Angling Society, Half-way House, Earlsfield, S.W.—The annual general meeting will be held on May 30, when all members are requested to attend. We desire that members will send in their applications for privilege tickets as early as possible.—A. T.

Enterprise Angling Society, City Arms, High Cross-road, Tottenham.—The above society hold their annual general meeting on Wednesday, May 31, when I hope all members will kindly attend.—W. LEFEVRE.

Good Intent Angling Society, The Crown, Church-street, Shoreditch.—Our first return visit on the No. 1 Eastern District will take place on June 5, when I hope to see all clubs represented. The district officer, Mr. Manning, will open our Benevolent box on the occasion, and our distribution of prizes will take place on June 13. I hope all members and friends will give in their prizes promised by Saturday, June 10.—R. MURPHY.

Harlesden Angling Society, The Crown, Harlesden.—The first annual dinner of the above society was held at the above house on May 3, when thirty-six members and friends sat down to a capital dinner supplied by host Pimm, afterwards enjoying a musical evening, during which upwards of £7 was promised for prizes for ensuing season.—W. N. DAWES.

Highbury Angling Society, Globe Hotel, Upper TOLLINGTON-road, N.—Our annual supper took place last Wednesday, Mr. J. B. Close being in the chair, faced by Mr. J. Moore. After the good things provided by the host, Messrs. Pratt and Son, in their best style, had been disposed of, the usual toasts were honoured, and the chairman presented the prizes won last season to the various winners. Mr. Wymer holds the challenge cup for the year. Mr. F. Berry took the silver cup, also silver medal for the best fish (pike, 17lb. 5½oz.). There were in addition four other silver medals presented. Mr. W. D. Hall (perch, 2lb. 4½oz.), Mr. W. T. Attwood (dace, 13½oz.), Mr. F. Woods (chub, 4lb. 5oz.), and Mr. E. Wymer (dace, 14½oz.). The other prizes were varied and numerous. The harmony was contributed to by Messrs. R. Lawrence (bass), T. Day (comic), W. Sycklemore (tenor), E. Barrett and Harry Thorne (comic), T. Pocklington (tenor), F. Hudd (violin), &c. Mr. F. Berry has weighed in three more trout during the week, two of them being over 3lb. each.—E. W.

Hoxton Brothers' Angling Society, Spread Eagle, Kingsland-road, Shoreditch.—At our meeting on Thursday evening last, which was general meeting, Mr. W. Bishop was elected as trustee and Mr. T. C. Sowerbutts as treasurer. The annual dinner will take place on June 11, at the Bull Inn, Ware. Will members please note that we meet on Thursday evenings to do business? I should like to see some of the absentees, as we have some important business to be done, viz.: Names for annual dinner, second weight prizes, and also distribution.—JOHNNY.

Islington Brothers' Angling Society, Myddleton Arms, Canonbury-road.—On May 14 our brake outing

was a success. On Tuesday last (Mr. Croker in the chair) our steward gave in his report and bills of the outing, which were all satisfactory. I hope those members and friends who have promised prizes will have them up at clubhouse on or before Tuesday, May 30, as the distribution of prizes takes place on that night.—J. H. HERBERT.

Leightonstone Piscatorial Society.—Mr. J. Harwood had a very fine take from Southend on May 14, his catch including thirteen eels. We have enrolled six new members in the following gentlemen, viz., Messrs. Waterhouse, Spillman, Sanders, Ferdinand, Wright, and Routledge. I am also very pleased to state that the following gentlemen have promised to present prizes for the forthcoming season, i.e., Messrs. Doherty, King, Harwood, and myself.—W. CLOUTING.

Liverpool Angling Association, Bee Hotel, Queen-square.—The past week appears to have been a very quiet one as regards angling in this neighbourhood. Yesterday there was for sale in our fish market a large lot of good roach, which the vendors say came from Ireland, and are exempt from the operation of the Freshwater Fisheries Act, at least, so say the Markets Committee through the town clerk, though Mr. Minndella is of an opposite opinion, and he ought to know. There is a great scarcity of salmon, and what there are, mostly small. Several of the dealers say there will be none at all in a few years, as in consequence of the overnetting in the estuaries and the mouths of salmon rivers there are not enough parent fish allowed to get up to the spawning beds to keep up the stock, and there should be a standard of weight set below which no salmon should be offered for sale.—RD. WOOLFALL.

North East Brothers' Angling Society, Star and Garter, Green-street, Bethnal Green.—Our fifth annual dinner and distribution of prizes took place at the above house on May 11, and a very enjoyable night we had. There were about eighty at dinner, which was served in grand style, and the prizes we got to fish for in the coming season passed all record. The talent was also very good, but too numerous to mention. Chairman, Mr. J. Thornton; vice-chairman, Mr. C. Lamb, sen. On May 30 a special general meeting is called. Hope all members wishing to take up their fishing tickets for the coming season will call and give in their names.—G. TAYLOR.

North London Angling Society, Tap House, Holloway-road.—On May 10 the eighth annual dinner and distribution of prizes took place, the chair being occupied by Mr. J. Pales; vice, Mr. W. Stretch; Mr. Shirley, of Old-street, doing the catering in first class style. Covers were laid for thirty-eight, all of whom did justice to the good things provided. After the cloth was cleared the harmony was started, several songs being sung. The chairman then distributed the prizes, the principal winners being Mr. W. Stretch, Mr. Pink (each of them taking six each), Mr. Harris, Mr. Black, Mr. Hellicar, Mr. H. Stretch, Mr. Hayes, Mr. Christmas, and others (taking from one to four each), the said prizes ranging in value from two guineas to 7s. 6d. The chairman then opened

CURIOUS AND INTERESTING FACT

CONCERNING AN

ITCHEN TROUT AND THE MAY FLY

The "Fishing Gazette," April 16, 1898.

"The Major caught a brace of trout and several troublesome grayling; the largest trout was about 1½lb., and by this trout there hangs a tale.

"When I was fishing in the same meadow last June I lost many a trout and many a May Fly; now it so happens that in the gill of this trout was found, firmly hooked, a very perfect May Fly—the G.O.M.—with 6in. of gut. He has worn and no doubt been proud of this distinctive decoration ever since. It seems to me to be a very remarkable thing that fly and hook should have been in that fish for more than nine months, and now as perfect and fresh as if it had been in my pocket-book all the time; the gut is rather rotten. The gold tinsel round the body is as bright as ever it was, one wing is slightly mangled, as if other envious trout had tried to nibble it. I fully believe that fly is mine, that I lost that fish on that particular spot last May; the only doubt I have about it is that I then estimated the fish I lost as at least 1½lb.,

whereas this one, after nine months' growth, now weighs only 1½lb.; on the other hand, you know how much larger are always the fish you lose than those you take! I find there are other claimants for this fly. The Professor, who



is not here now, has certainly a claim. I can only say, 'Palmarum qui meruit ferat,' if it can only be proved. It is distinctly a G.O.M. of Mrs. Ogden Smith's make."

THE AMATEUR ANGLER.

The "Fishing Gazette," April 30, 1898.

"Here is a picture of the G.O.M. May Fly imitation, after it had been worn in the gill of a trout for about eleven months, as described by me in the Fishing Gazette of April 16. Of course there is no novelty in finding a fly in a trout's mouth; but it is somewhat of a novelty to be able to identify the fly, and also to find it in such a perfect state of preservation after so long a time of wear and tear."—AMATEUR ANGLER.

THE "GLADSTONE" MAY FLIES,

The invention of Mrs. OGDEN SMITH, were the most successful flies used last season, proving more killing than any other pattern, especially on the Hampshire streams. They float remarkably well, dry very quickly, and can be had in twenty varieties of shade, both in the body and wings. Price 4s. per dozen. To be obtained only at OGDEN SMITH, 6, Park Side, Hyde Park Corner, S.W.; and 34, St. John's-hill, Clapham Junction, London, S.W.

MAY FLIES

4/- per doz.

G.O.M.

MAY FLIES

4/- per doz.

OGDEN SMITH,

6, Park Side,

HYDE PARK CORNER, S.W.,

And at 34, St. John's Hill, Clapham Junction, London, S.W.

the prize list for the ensuing season, which was liberally responded to, being better than the last. The harmony again being set going, was kept up till two o'clock, all being of opinion that this annual was the pleasantest that they have had.—H. STRETCH.

Ormonde Angling Society, The Royal George, Carlisle-street, Westminster-road.—On May 30 this society will remove to their new head-quarters, at the Rose, Saville-place, Lambeth-road, S.E., Host W. King, when our meeting nights will be altered from Wednesdays to Tuesdays. On the opening night, May 30, a concert will be held on behalf of the T.A.P.S., when as many anglers who can make it convenient to attend will be esteemed a favour.—A. HOLBROW.

Peckham Brothers' Angling Society, Windsor Castle, Cator-street, Sumner-road, Peckham.—We held our twenty-first annual dinner and distribution of prizes on May 11, host Clarke putting on an excellent repast, to which I am sure we all did justice. Our president, Mr. Reed, was in the chair, and Mr. H. Colman in the vice-chair, between thirty and forty being present. After the dinner the distribution took place, Mr. W. Stone being first prize winner, followed very closely by Messrs. Etherington, Childs, Steedman, Watkins, Gardham, Gibbs, and a host of others. We have an excellent prize list (which is still open) for the ensuing season. Our sincere thanks are due to the St. Albans, St. Thomas, and the Amicable Waltonians for the handsome way in which they supported us both in prizes and musical talent. Altogether we had an enjoyable time.—GEO. ETHERINGTON.

Phoenix Angling Society, The Tavistock, Stibington-street, N.W.—Our annual on May 17 went off nicely. Thirty sat down to Host Tinson's repast, and were well satisfied, after which we had a little harmony. Chair, Messrs. Bonflier and Skinner; vice, Mr. Greene; pianist, Mr. Holmes. Messrs. Clifford, Broughton, Sherlock (trio), and numerous others gave a turn. The prize winners were: Messrs. Bonflier (top weight, 303lb. 12oz.), Austin, Bros. Dove, Sherlock, Carr, Carter, Silcock, Shaw, and Reed. We have a capital list for next season.—R. C.

Royal George Angling Society, Queen's Arms, Bateman-street.—On May 17 we held our annual supper and distribution of prizes, and it proved beyond doubt a thorough success. Messrs. Wells and Ackerman carried out their duties in a thorough competent manner. The concert, under the able management of Mr. Steptoe, was in all respects up to its usual calibre. Our prize list for the coming season promises to excel all previous seasons.—J. GIBBONS.

Second Surrey Angling Society, the Sun, Boniface-street, Westminster Bridge-road.—Our dinner and prize distribution on the 14th, at the Black Rabbit Hotel, was in every way a success; an excellent dinner being backed up with a substantial prize list for next season.—W. ANSTLEY.

Seymour Brothers' Angling Society, King and Queen, 1, Foley-street, Fitzroy-square, W.—May 16 was our annual supper and distribution of prizes, when a very successful evening was spent. Mr. Phil Samuels in the chair, and Mr. C. F. S. Barker the vice-chair. The distribution of prizes to the members was as follows: first gross weight, Mr. North, 134lb.; second gross weight, W. Aldis, 78lb.; third gross weight, G. Campbell, 60lb.; and every member of the club receiving prizes. A capital evening was spent after the supper, when the following members and friends rendered some good harmony: Messrs. Wadham, Whyman, and others. I beg to thank all friends and donors for our new prize list.—W. ALDIS.

Silver Trout Angling Society, Bedford Head, Maiden-lane.—Our annual dinner and distribution of prizes will take place on Tuesday, May 30, at 8 p.m. sharp. Tickets, 2s. 6d. each, at Mr. Dent's, The Hop Pole, Wardour-street, W. I shall be pleased to receive prizes and subscriptions as soon as possible.—PILICAN.

South Bermondsey Club Piscatorial Institute, Rotherhithe New-road.—We have one or two more prizes to add to the list, and I must therefore impress upon the members to attend the meetings every Friday night to arrange prize list, and any alteration in rules they might suggest. Three of our members were down at Amberley on May 14.—J. H. DAVIES.

South London United Anglers' Visiting List.—A return visit on the above list took place on Tuesday last at the Blackfriars A.S., The Imperial Hotel, Southwark-street, when thirteen clubs were represented. The next visit goes to the Collingwood A.S., Lord Nelson, Nelson-square, Blackfriars-road; date later.—ALF PAINTER.

Stratford Angling Society, Dorset Arms, Leyton-road, Stratford New Town, E.—At the meeting on the 16th of the members of the above club, Mr. W. Drake in the chair, three gentlemen were proposed as working members, late of the W. H. Brothers. The election was delayed for a week for the secretary to write their late secretary. Mr. J. Sanders was elected an honorary member.—G. F. WEAVER.

Sundial Angling Society, Plough and Harrow, King-street, Hammersmith.—At our weekly meeting it was proposed that there should be a meeting next Tuesday. Also that a committee meeting should be called for Thursday, the 25th, at nine o'clock, to arrange prize list and outings for coming season. We made two new working members last meeting night.—C. E. LOCK.

Waggoners' Angling Society, White Lion, Albert Embankment.—Our distribution took place on Tuesday last, and was a grand success. The following were the principal winners during the past season: Messrs. Allan, Clegg, G. Clayton, W. Betts, J. Clayton, J. Clayton, jun., and H. Walton. Three new members were nominated: W. Heppelthwaite, G. H. Mitchell, E. Reid. The audit took place on the 18th, and I am very pleased to state that the Waggoners are in very flourishing circumstances. The gross weight of the club is fully up to the average, although not so good as last year.—H. O.

Walham Green and Chelsea Angling Society, Black Bull, Fulham-road, S.W.—Dinner committee gave in their report and laid it on the table for next week. We also made two more new members, and hope all the members will turn up strong next Wednesday for very important business.—TIDDLER.

West London Angling Club, Dartmouth Castle, Hammersmith.—Our auditors met on Thursday to balance accounts, and note that several subscriptions and donations are still due. Members are requested to clear the books on or before our next quarterly night, June 1, as we have a heavy list of prizes for distribution, which takes place at our annual dinner on June 8.—J. J. HUNTER.

Westminster Angling Society, The Telegraph, Regency-street, S.W.—Our annual concert was a grand success. After a short speech by the chairman, Mr. Westlake, the following gentlemen contributed to the harmony: Messrs. Frank Landen, Bob Berry, Steptoe, H. Church, Mandry, Godfrey, and G. Barrett. The club and special prizes were then presented by Mr. Greg. After a vote of thanks to Mr. Greg harmony was renewed, Mr. G. Barrett's encore song being one written and composed by himself, entitled the "Old village green," for which he was deservedly encored. Mr. Humphrey sang the last song, and the evening was brought to a close with the "National Anthem."—S. J. H.

White Hart Angling Society, The White Hart, Tottenham Hale, N.—On May 10 our annual supper and distribution of prizes took place. It would have been a better success had the landlord got an extension; consequently, it gave us no time after supper to have any harmony, or to do the usual business. Will members please note that our annual general meeting for the election of officers for the ensuing season takes place next Wednesday, May 24, at 8.30 p.m., when I wish all members to attend?—W. E. BEAUMONT.

Ye Olde Clapham Rovers' Angling Club, The Windmill, Clapham Park-road.—We had a good attendance at club, and got through a lot of business on Tuesday. Revised rules, elected new officers for the ensuing year, and arranged for supper and distribution of prizes on June 6, when we hope to see some of the old faces, and spend a very cheerful evening, having secured some good talent to follow supper.—N. LINDEN.

Angling Fixtures.

May 21.

North Lambeth: Dinner.

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| May | 29.—Hearts of Oak: Annual supper. |
| " | 30.—Bermordsey Brothers: Dinner and distribution. |
| " | 30.—Clapham Strollers: Distribution. |
| " | 30.—Islington Brothers: Distribution. |
| " | 30.—Izaak Walton: Sea fishing outing. |
| " | 30.—Ormonde: T.A.P.S. concert. |
| " | 30.—Silver Trout: Dinner and distribution. |
| " | 31.—Cory: Concert and distribution. |
| " | 31.—Crown and Buckland: Distribution. |
| " | 31.—Duke of Norfolk: Supper and distribution. |
| " | 31.—Great Northern Brothers: Annual supper. |
| June | 1.—Duke of Norfolk: Dinner and distribution. |
| " | 4.—Dalston: Annual dinner. |
| " | 5.—Clerkenwell and District Visiting List: Smoking concert at the Empress, St. John Street-road. |
| " | 5.—Good Intent: Visit. |
| " | 5.—Jubilee: A.B.S. concert and distribution. |
| " | 6.—Brunswick Brothers: Dinner and distribution. |
| " | 6.—Elgin: Distribution. |
| " | 7.—Stratford: Supper. |
| " | 8.—West London: Annual dinner. |
| " | 11.—Crown and Buckland: Annual dinner. |
| " | 11.—Hoxton Brothers: Annual dinner. |
| " | 13.—Good Intent: Distribution. |
| " | 16.—Dalston: Dinner and distribution. |

EXPLOSIVES AS PIKE DESTROYERS.

LAST week at the instance of the Trent Fishery Board, at the Ashbourn Police Court, Samuel Whittingham, labourer, was summoned for having used gelignite to destroy fish in the river Henmore, at Sturston, on March 31; and Mr. Peveril Turnbull, of Sandybrook Hall, Messrs. Edward Sellers, Horace Sellers, Wm. Barnes, of Ashbourn, and Thomas Treadwell, water-keeper, Mayfield, were also summoned for aiding and abetting. The cases of Whittingham and Mr. Barnes were first heard; and Mr. G. R. Eddowes, of Derby, who appeared for the prosecution, stated that the proceedings were taken under the 2nd section of the Fishery Dynamite Act of 1877, which provided that any person who used dynamite or other explosive substance to catch or destroy fish, rendered himself liable on conviction to a £20 fine or imprisonment, the Act applying to public as well as private waters. Mr. Barnes and almost all the other defendants were members of the Ashbourn Fishing Club. At one time the Henmore was an excellent trout stream, but it had become spoilt through pike getting in. Mr. Turnbull was president of the club, and on several occasions had taken the advice of the Trent Fishery Board as to the best way to destroy the pike. The board had expressed their willingness to help anyone to destroy pike in a legal manner, for the purpose of preserving trout and other fish. Two years ago there was a prosecution against two men, under another Act, for using gelignite, and Mr. Eddowes said that he did not ask for a full penalty, but if the Bench decided to convict, to inflict a penalty which would tend to effectually debar

anyone from using gelignite or any explosive substance for the destruction of fish. Mr. W. H. Foster, the secretary, deposed that he saw a little pickerel, a dace, and a trout killed by the explosive, which was used in several parts of the stream. There was no concealment of the affair whatever. Some six or eight pike had been killed recently in this particular small length of water. Mr. Barnes, who elected to give evidence, said that when he arrived at the water he heard it was illegal, but at the same time he heard that they had had a kind of unqualified permission from the board to do it. It was done entirely on his own account, and not with the assistance of the club. The chairman said that ignorance of the law had nothing whatever to do with the case. At the same time, the Bench believed that defendants had no intention whatever of breaking the law. The only thing that struck him as curious was, that if they decided to blow up a certain part of the stream, how were they to avoid destroying trout as well as pike. Mr. Barnes would be fined 10s. and Whittingham 2s. 6d. with costs each. In the case of the Messrs. Sellers, Mr. Wilson (who defended them as well as Mr. Barnes), said that they did nothing beyond being spectators, but the Bench looked upon Mr. Edward Sellers as an interested spectator being a member of the club, and fined him 2s. 6d. and costs. The case against his son was dismissed, and against Treadwell withdrawn. The case against Mr. Turnbull (who did not appear) was adjourned.—From the Field.

SHOULD THAMES PIKE BE PRESERVED?

Now that so much attention is being paid to the re-stocking of the Thames with trout and coarse fish, the above question is one which is well worthy of the serious attention of the Thames Re-stocking Association and the numerous other preservation societies of this river. When we consider the proverbial voracity of the pike it would seem more rational to protect the fish which are already in the river from their ravages than to abstract fish from other waters and place them in the Thames, probably to fall victims to the insatiable hunger of the pike. The reason which is usually assigned for the real or imaginary decrease of fish in the Thames is the increase of anglers in recent years. In view of the remarkable fecundity of coarse fish, if the fish, their ova, and their fry were efficiently protected from their destroyers (the pike, the steam launches, and water fowl) there can be no doubt that, notwithstanding the increase in the number of anglers, there would be no scarcity of coarse fish. As regards the fecundity of the perch, I notice that Mr. T. Ford, the pisciculturist, of Caistor, states that a single large perch will yield about a million eggs, and that fifty female perch will yield at the most moderate computation 5,000,000 to 10,000,000 eggs. (Thames Angling News.) The numerous dangers which these and the ova of other fish encounter in the process of their evolution to the Thames standard length cannot be dealt with in the present paper; it only falls within its scope to deal with the fish which can be accounted for by the pike. The amount of damage done to the fishing in the river by the pike depends on two factors: (1) the number of pike in the river; (2) the number of fish which a pike devours. Now, it is, of course, impossible to accurately estimate the number of pike in the river. In ten miles of the river Wylie, a small stream near Hungerford, 3619 pike were destroyed during four years. ("Making a Fishery," Halford). Let us imagine, then, as a working hypothesis, that there are on an average 200 pike of 1lb. and upwards weight in one mile of the Thames. This estimate has been regarded by those fishermen to whom I have spoken on the subject as a very low one.

The second factor is also very difficult to estimate accurately, for not only will the number depend on the size of the fish taken, but also, if one is to judge from angling experiences, the fish go off the feed for days together. So far as my experience goes from the examination of the contents of the stomachs of pike which I have caught, the stomachs of the larger pike have usually contained larger but fewer fish than the stomachs of small jack; in fact, from the stomachs of small jack of only a pound in weight one can often express five to eight freshly taken small fry. Mr. Halford, in his book "Making a Fishery," gives the following among other examples of a pike's voracity. "On Sept. 27, 1893, a pike of 9½lb. was taken in the nets. The contents of its stomach were as follows: Two small pike about 9in. long, nine lampreys, five tullheads, and a small trout about 1½lb., with only its head partially digested and the tail projecting from its mouth. March 26, 1894, a pike 11in. long, wired in a hatch hole, had three lampreys, two tullheads, and two yearling trout in its stomach." Mr. H. C. Pennell, in his "Book of the Pike," relates how eight pike, of 5lb. in weight, devoured in three weeks 800 gudgeon; this is approximately at the rate of five fish a day. If we assume, then, that a jack over a pound in weight consumes on an average five fish a day, and that in each mile of the Thames there are 200 jack of over a pound in weight, we find that 100,000 fish are daily destroyed by pike in 100 miles of the river. Now, even allowing for gross exaggeration in this estimate, how insignificant must be the influence for good of the various re-stocking associations when compared to the ravages of the pike. "One 4lb. pike will do more mischief than all the poachers in the district." ("Practical Management of Fishery," Francis Francis.) It is evident that if we preserve the pike we *ipso facto* destroy the other fish in the river. Now, as the roach and other coarse fishermen very largely outnumber the pike fishermen, is it fair to favour by legislation the few at the expense of the many? No sane fisherman would think of stocking his private water with trout and at the same time preserving the jack. He would first exterminate or, as far as possible, reduce the jack before

he put in the trout. Why should the Thames be restocked in a different manner? It has been said there are such a number of bleak, roach, and dace in the Thames that pike do less harm than in other rivers to the trout. Now, though there may be a very large number of other coarse fish, there are a proportionately large number of pike, and I think that most jack fishermen would admit that the best bait for a jack is a trout, but of course this is not regarded as a permissible bait. The success of the wagtail as an artificial bait is probably due to its resemblance to a trout. Now, as I do not think it would be practicable to do so, I will not discuss the extermination of the Thames pike. But though it may not be advisable to exterminate them, it is quite another matter to protect them by the present legislation. By allowing any method of angling for jack, and most of all by allowing any sized jack to be retained, the number of jack in the river would be quickly reduced and the number of other fish thereby enormously increased. This subject is one, as I said at the commencement, for the consideration of the various Thames angling societies. If they think that the large increase in the number of jack of below and about the sizeable limit, which has undoubtedly occurred since these fish have been protected by the bye laws of recent years, is prejudicial to the interest of Thames anglers in general, then it is their duty to approach the Thames Conservancy for the repeal of the bye laws. If properly brought before the conservators, the appeal would be successful, and then when the pike in the river began to diminish, their praiseworthy efforts at re-stocking would be attended by more appreciable results than at present.—PTERODACTYL, in the *Thames Angling News*.

Offings by the Way.

THE Anglers' Association have shifted their quarters. Instead of meeting at the Foresters' Hall, they will in future hold their meetings at the Cripplegate Institute, Golden-lane, Barbican. June 5 will be the date of the first meeting.

THE account of the Wye Board of Conservators annual meeting, and the Yare and Bure Preservation Society's annual dinner, will appear next week.

OYEZ! OYEZ!! OYEZ!!!—In the name of our Sovereign Ladye Queen Victoria, verily you are summoned, by request of mine Hoste of ye Olde Crown Hostel, Slough, to celebrate ye birthday of Her Most Gracious Majestie, by a junket in ye said hotel, on Wednesday, ye twenty-fourth day of May, in the year of our Lord one thousand eight hundred and ninety-nine; musick at 8.30. All good citizens are cordially invited. God Save the Queen!

THE Whitsuntide programme at the Royal Aquarium is a continuous succession of entertainments from ten a.m. until 11.45 p.m. Every element of variety is introduced, and there is much to provoke mirth. Searchers for amusement will be difficult to please if they do not find much to their taste in the programme of 100 "turns." As the doors open at 9 a.m. visitors will be able to obtain 14½ hours' enjoyment for the small entrance fee of one shilling, and children at sixpence.

A FINE pike weighing over 12lb. was taken on Monday last, by Mr. James Harris, of the sausage gill restaurant, St. John's Street-road, Islington, while fishing with some gentlemen in some private water, on the estate of Col. Marden, at Norwich.

WHEN on one of my angling excursions into Lancashire, I stayed at an old Inn where a "stoop," so called, of four steps, led down into the cellar, or the so-called "spirit vaults." An ascent of other six stone steps ascended to the "select wine and spirit bar." This sign was painted over the front door:

"We have spirits above, and spirits below,
Spirits of bliss, and spirits of woe;
The spirits above are spirits divine,
The spirits below are spirits of wine."

ON Saturday last a flock of fifteen wild geese was observed by several persons. The geese were travelling in a north-easterly direction, over the parish of Llanyblodwel, near Oswestry, and continually uttering their peculiar and discordant cries. On the same day, seven others were also seen flying very high in the air over the village of Llanymynech. These were also heading for the north east; but two others were shortly afterwards seen passing over the village in the opposite direction. Their appearance is said to indicate stormy and unsettled weather, and at present such is the case in that respect.

A FEW days ago, as an aged lady, Mrs. Gittins, Voel, Llanael-fraidd, Oswestry, was attending to her poultry, she observed a hawk swooping down on a brood of chickens; but the hen in charge of them gave battle to the intruder, and a sanguinary struggle took place for some time, until the old lady interfered, and with her walking stick disabled the hawk, who lay motionless for a while, but showing signs of a resurrection. The old lady effectually prevented anything of that sort occurring by placing a large stone on the body of the hawk, and she is, quite naturally, very proud of her exploit, and which is without a precedent in that neighbourhood.

WELSH river watchers, or, to give them their proper title, water bailiffs, are occasionally recruited from the ranks of river poachers, on the principle of setting a thief to catch a thief, and as, before their conversion, they had to appear frequently before their "betters," it is small matter for wonder they should seize every opportunity to be revenged on these "betters." Some time ago, a young gentleman, ten years of age, son of a county magistrate, and who is also a master of hounds, was from home on a visit, and, to amuse himself, commenced to fish in a primitive way on a stream which was under the guardianship of one of these worthies. Had it been a gang of poachers, perhaps, the bailiff might not have observed them; but, knowing the young gentleman, it was too good an opportunity to be lost; so he got a summons against the boy for angling without a licence, and which was served in rather an informal manner at the residence of the boy's father. To complicate matters, this precious piece of paper was blown from a table on to the floor, and the footman, observing what he conceived to be a waste piece of dirty paper, promptly consigned it to the flames. It was some time before its contents were known, but someone in the house had glanced at it, and surmised what it meant. To give as much trouble and annoyance as possible, the summons was made returnable at a county town upwards of twenty miles from where the alleged offence was committed. The young gentleman's father very promptly took out an angling licence for his son, and as the magistrates considered the affair a piece of sharp practice to be discouraged, the summons was withdrawn, and the officious official found it best to seek "fresh fields and pastures new" to watch over in future.

A CORRESPONDENT, writing from North Wales, says: "The paragraph in the last *Fishing Gazette* respecting the substitution of pork for mutton recalls to mind another yarn. A party of tourists travelling in 'Wild Wales' arrived late one night at an hotel, and had for supper what is termed in Welsh 'Pastai Perchill.' It was a sort of pork pie—the literal translation being 'little pig pie.' They heartily enjoyed it, and next year, calling at the same hotel, asked for another pie of the same sort. The waiter, with more candour than discretion, explained that it could not be supplied, as, although the old sow had recently had another family of pigs, they were all born alive. The inference was, of course, that the pie was composed of several still-born infants of the porcine tribe, and ever since that time 'Pastai Perchill' has been most religiously avoided by that party of tourists. Where innocence is bliss it is indeed folly to be wise, and the moral of this true tale is that it is not always expedient to be too candid, especially as to the composition of rare and choice dishes. A nod is as good as a wink to a blind horse, and tourists in Wales will, perhaps, in future, not care to partake of 'Pastai Perchill.'"

MR. DURWARD LELY, who has been enjoying a well-earned holiday for some time past on his own property, Glenardle, near Bridge of Cally, caught a trout on Friday weighing about 5lb., and measuring over 18in. long. This fish has a history, as it was known as a "cannibal," owing to its predatory habits upon its own kind, and had haunted the same pool for ten or twelve years past, during which time it had often been hooked, but as often lost. On learning of its existence, the famous tenor, who is an expert handler of the rod, resolved to land the fish, and succeeded. He has asked Mr. Crockart, Allan-street, to get Mr. Dickson, artist, who is an adept at this class of work, to paint a cast of it. It is calculated to have been fifteen years old.

As announced recently, the Gresham Angling Society's list of meetings is to hand, from which the following are quoted:

- June 13.—Paper by Mr. J. Jeffery ("Straw Hat").
- 20.—Trout fishing at Chesham.
- July 8.—Outing and cricket match at Witham.
- 11.—Paper.
- 18.—Bream fishing.
- Aug. 15.—Outing to Newhaven.
- 29.—Outing to Kelvedon.
- Sept. 12.—Outing to Chesham.
- 26.—Paper by Mr. E. F. Goodwin ("Chub Fishing").
- 30.—Closing dinner at Chesham.

The remainder of the most important fixtures for Feb. 27, 1900, will appear later.

MAUD: "Don't you think there are just as good fish in the sea as ever were caught?" MARIE: "I don't know. But they're smarter, anyhow."

SEVEN flies—one for each day in the week. Magic number! Seven Sisters' Road, Seven Dials, seven candlesticks—but I promised to give the "dressings." Somehow they—the dressings—or I have got a bit mixed. There's the dry fly, the wet fly, the sunk fly, the floating fly, and the fly that will do neither. The "Sunday Fly" (or, rather, the "Money Fly") is an expensive one to make. The tail feathers from the cockbird are absolutely necessary; also the breast feathers from the weathercock. See that is freshly gilded, or your trouble will be in vain.

ANOTHER way: Pick up one; drop two; pearl four; chloride of sodium, two grains; paraffin, three; castor oil *ad lib.*; worsted, silk, cotton; horse hair—in fact, anything you can get, if properly managed, will make a good fly. When you have finished throw it in the river, or stream, or lake, to see if it will swim or sink. This will enable you to form an opinion as to whether it is a floating

fly or otherwise. Should it not come up to your expectations drop it into some salad oil. This will keep it wet for a long time.

Do not be too particular with the wings. Let one hang and the other down. Put one eye in each wing (there is already one eye on the hook), and the fox that the trout get into will be an eye-opener. This is the time to bring the landing net into play. Several samples of my own make of flies have been sent to newspapers and critics, also a copy of my work (now O.P.). Modesty, unadulterated, prevents my quoting further from it. One or two "Opinions of the Press" may be given, and the only copy in existence—that is, if anyone should care to read it—is in the Chamber of Horrors.

"It is hardly probable that any hungry fisherman thirsting for instruction will read this more than once! Perhaps it is as well."—*Winkle Boiler's Journal*.

"*Bradshaw's Guide* is a well thumbed monthly, but we must truthfully admit there is more entertaining reading in it than this—!—!—!—!" * [The asterisk explains.]

* There are words which are given to men to express their thoughts. We have them handy (like Grant's Morella Cherry Brandy—Advt.), but refrain.—*Churchman's Quarterly*.

"The author of this new book has sent me an *edition de looks* (and it looks like it!) for review."

"I thank him for the flies, and tried them on the Southend flat fish. I also find the flies or fly papers an excellent substitute for bait. Unfortunately neither mussels, oysters, nor winkles will take these flies, but I made a very successful catch of an *Epigastrius moreatus*, which I send for identification."—*TRUTHFUL TOMMY*.

"Ought to be in the hands of every duffer at fishing. Hard work made easy, and brain work unnecessary. . . . It is simple as shelling peas. If cut up nicely into proper slices, will be useful as pipe lights."—*Thick Bits*.

"We have seen a few worse books and worse specimens of the fly tier's art—but not many."—*Chelsea Flab-gaster*.

"The matter is so skilfully written, and there is such an air of candour and bashfulness in this unique instruction book, that no counsel (Q.C. or F.G.) would care to risk his reputation in defending it."—*Lairful Times*.

"The author of this treatise should not hide his light under a barrel. . . . It a treat is. With recalcitrant rigidity he clumsily treads down the trammels of technicality and soars into ethereal effluence, a certain satisfaction gilding the circumambient atmosphere. . . . We frankly confess that we do not understand one word of it—and certainly do not wish to."—*Terrouth*.

"Fearfully and wonderfully made—especially the former. Children will not look at it."—*Lancers*.

"There is not a living authority (with the exception of the author) who could have written the book. Certainly none but a master hand could have formed or transformed such a beautiful fly into such a bundle of old clothes!"—*Haberdasher*.

"Entomologists beware! You will all have to begin *de novo* if you read this. Well, our advice is—Don't!"—*Puncture*.

"Worthy of a niche in the vabhalla of people of genius—the flies a case in the Chamber of Horrors. Not one of us could possibly have done it—not if we died for it!"—*Oratorator Slipcamorial Society*.

"Not only a terror to fish of every known or unknown species, but a certain preventive to soiling fly papers. One of these celebrated 'scarers' may be stuck in the centre of a freshly-treaded paper, and not a living fly will come within miles of it. . . . One quire of 'stickers' will last a lifetime."—*Fly Paper Chronicle*.

The end of evolution's this:

One thing's no better than another;

We all came from the chrysalis—

That is to say, a common mother!

The idea! To speak of the new and condensed list of flies in this way is not worthy of—*Scraps*.

THE author of the "Seven Day Flies" has sent us a copy of his work—also two flies. His instructions as to how to throw them are a bit involved. . . . Instead of "throwing" them, we should advise him to "chuck" it. —*ED. F. G.*

"REMEMBER you are on your oath," remarked a judge, who is as celebrated for his skill on the golf links as for his legal abilities, to a witness who was contradicting himself. "By the way," he continued, "do you understand the nature of an oath?" "In course I do, me ind, I ain't li' your ludship's caddie for close on two years without learning that much!"

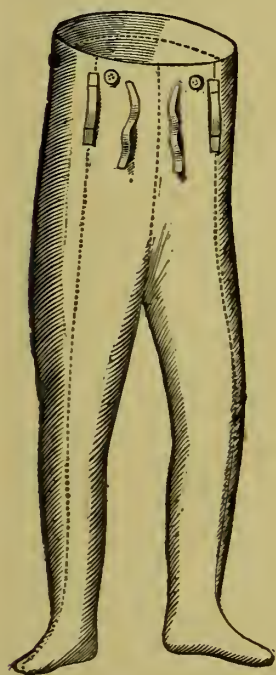
"I HAVE a scheme to improve your play," said the indigent idiot to the manager. "In that fisher-girl scene use gilt tackle and luminous bait." "What for?" "It would make the lines bright and catchy."

"CAN you oblige me with some bait?" "Could you lend me a few hooks?" These questions were addressed to a veteran angler who was fishing at the pier. "They seem to take me for the loan fisherman," remarked the angler to his friend. *DRAUGHT*.

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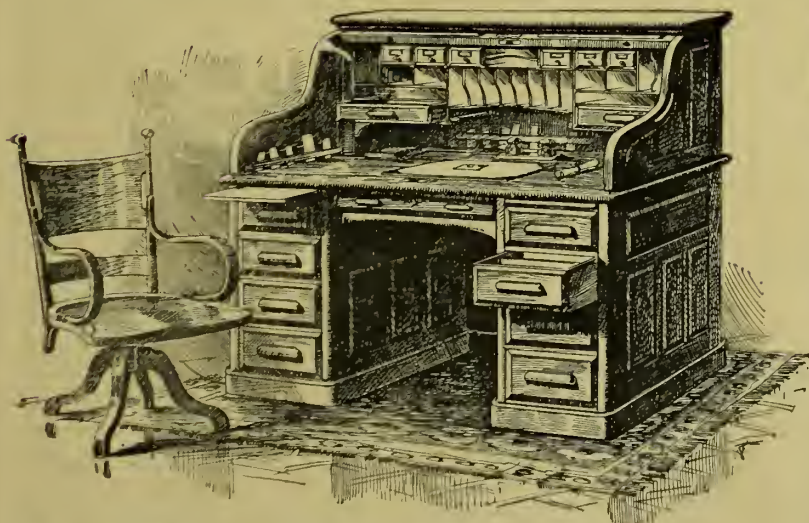
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PISCATORIAL SOCIETY.

JUDGING from the reports received from members who related their angling experiences at Monday's meeting, Mr. R. C. Blundell presiding, trout fishing had been in a very bad way during the previous week. Several gentlemen had visited the Kennet, but the results had been exceedingly poor, there having been an absolute dearth of fly, and very few fish moving. The chairman, however, had had on a good fish of over 3lb., which performed some extraordinary antics for a trout. On being hooked it immediately bolted into the bank in the same manner as a chub will often try to do, and endeavoured, apparently, to get its head into a rat's hole. By careful handling the fish was extricated from its unusual position, but, unfortunately, owing doubtless to the gut having been frayed in the "horing" operations aforesaid, the three-pounder broke away, and left the angler lamenting. On the Lambourn sport had been fair. Messrs. R. C. Blundell, R. Bradford, and C. H. Bywaters having creel'd plenty of fish, although none were of exceptional size. From Uxbridge only one trout was reported as having been caught, but some very large fish had been seen and their whereabouts carefully noted. The Alder was up slightly on Saturday, and for days past there had been a good sprinkling of Pale Olive Duns in evidence. The trout, however, were not in a rising mood. Dr. C. S. Patterson, on private water, got a brace of nice fish with the Alder, but no other takes were chronicled. A party of members have left for Ireland for the May Fly fishing on Lough Derg, and it is hoped that they may meet with good sport. Members who wish to have a key of the gate by the High Bridge, on the Uxbridge water, can procure one on application to the keeper at the cottage for a small payment. The 22nd inst., being Whit Monday, there will be no meeting.

M. G. E. DE C.

BRITISH SEA ANGLERS' SOCIETY.

THE usual weekly meeting was held at the Holborn Restaurant on Wednesday, May 17, at 8 p.m., Mr. R. C. Preston Gardner in the chair. Mr. Lane reported poor sport off the pier at Deal. The chairman showed a sea-fishing winch, made for him by Mr. David Slater, of Newark; also a spliced wire line for great depths. Mr. Lane announced that he had been over Hanger's new house at Deal, and found it very comfortable. He stated that he himself had stayed at the New Inn, and found the accommodation good, and moderate as to price. Some interesting extracts were read from various papers regarding the controversy on steam trawling and the depletion of Icelandic line-fishing grounds; and the feeling seemed to be that no steam trawler should be allowed to fish within the three-mile limit in any waters. The members present were strongly in favour of the Bill now before the House of Lords regarding the imposing of penalties on trawl owners for infringement of the regulations as regards territorial waters. Mr. Bates showed a very handy lead buckle, which allowed of the buckle being removed in a minute and placed anywhere on the line. The chairman referred to the photograph at the dinner, and thought that if the photography was correct, the evening must have been very convivial.

CHARLES S. PATTERSON (Hon. Sec.).

GRESHAM ANGLING SOCIETY.

At an ordinary meeting, Mr. F. R. Ohlson in the chair, three new members were elected. One new nomination was received, and will come on for election this day fortnight. Fishing reports: Mr. Buckingham, trout of 2lb 9oz., from private water; Mr. Fowning, two and a half brace of trout, all returned but one of 13½ inches; Mr. Chastaney, two brace, one brace retained of 14½ inches and 15½ inches., killing flies, Alder and Red Quill; Mr. Bridgman, two brace, one brace returned, fly, the Brouley; Mr. Goodwin, two and a half brace, all returned, flies, Alder and March Brown; Mr. Connellan, dace, trout, and swallow with fly, all returned; Mr. Eldred, two and a half brace of trout, Chesham, all returned. The trout mentioned above were taken from the society's water at Chesham. Mr. Gibson, trout and dace from Hertford, returned. A very interesting and instructive paper was then read before the members by Mr. E. F. Goodwin, entitled "Roach Fishing." He described where the fish are mostly to be found, and their habits, described the spawning process, the various kinds of rods and tackle in use, and the best to use. He advocated the use of a 16ft. rod, and exhibited one made by one of the members, and named after another member, and said to be the rod *par excellence* for Kelvedon. He described the various ways to fish, and the way to select the swim, the way to bait the hook, in fact, every possible hint that could possibly be of use to the roach fisherman. At the conclusion, and after some discussion on the paper, a most cordial vote of thanks to Mr. Goodwin was passed for his labours and the pleasure he had given the members. The usual vote of thanks to the chair, and usual toasts concluded the proceedings. ALEX. WRIGHT (Hon. Sec.).

CAMBRIDGE AND ELY ANGLING SOCIETY.

THE annual general meeting of the members of this society was held at 12, Market Hill, recently. Dr. Cooper presided, and among those present were Messrs. W. W. Gray, C. S. Roe, G. Stoe, G. F. Knowles, C. Hoppett, Fawcett, Hayward, Robinson, Lee, Beales, Stearn, Salmon, Percy W. Gray (hon. sec. and treasurer), and others. The committee, in their 21st annual report, stated that they had the satisfaction to announce that the accounts showed that after discharging all liabilities there was a balance of £7 2s. 5d. The past season had been a disappointing one. At its commencement the sport was good, but owing to the long continued drought and the

intense heat, the autumn fishing gave very poor results. Of course there had been exceptions, and some excellent catches had been recorded, yet upon the whole the season had been noted more for its disappointments than for its successes. But the society had only experienced the same ill-luck as attended similar clubs in all parts. The committee hoped that the coming season would prove more favourable. The committee had made arrangements during the coming season to publish periodical reports of the condition of the water, with such other information as would prove useful to the members as to the chances of obtaining sport. To the Great Eastern Railway Company the thanks of the society were due for the continuation of special privileges for anglers. It was a matter for congratulation that notwithstanding the unfavourable aspect of the past season, the membership had not decreased. The committee recommended that the rule as to subscription of residents in Littleport be altered. The report and accounts were adopted. It was also resolved to raise the subscription of Littleport members from 2s. 6d. to 5s. per annum. Dr. Cooper was re-appointed president. In returning thanks, Dr. Cooper referred to the report that other angling societies were prepared to give more for their fishing than their own society. He had made it his business to approach the South Level Commissioners, and be found that their desire was that the fishing should remain in the hands of the present society as long as possible. The commissioners were desirous of preventing the incoming of a body of strangers, as had occurred in some parts of the Isle of Ely, to the great inconvenience of the anglers in that part of the country. The committee were re-elected with the substitution of the names of Mr. Champion and Mr. Ling for those of Mr. Perkins and Mr. Moyes. Mr. Percy W. Gray was unanimously re-appointed secretary and treasurer, and Messrs. C. Hoppett and Salmon were elected auditors. The meeting closed with the usual vote of thanks.

Notes from the North.

GRILSE are now making their appearance in satisfactory numbers. The weights are also heavy for pioneers, being nearly 3lb. of an average. Two were got in the Deveron district last week, being ten days or so earlier than last year.

The protracted easterly winds have surely come to dead stop at last. On Sunday a genial change was perceptible, and after a night's rain the pent up vegetation seemed to burst out all of a sudden. It was like riding through quite a different country from what was the case only a week before. The season is fully a month behind, both for the angler and agriculturist.

The most popular trout fly in the north just now is the fancy known locally as "Dr. Fowler," after its inventor, who made some grand baskets with it on the Ythan. The "Red Brick" would have been a more descriptive appellation, as it is all of that colour, both hackle and wing. Mr. Milne, Trinity-street, Aberdeen, has had his bands full to meet the constant demands for this pattern alone.

They are getting five, six, and seven fish per rod per day just now on the Ballater Dee section. This is something like sport, and gives a fresh impetus to the art. Hitherto, he has been indeed a lucky angler who has been fortunate enough to get two fish a day, even on these now prolific parts.

The Glentana Dee waters are also yielding very good results, and probably the most popular angler, with the fish at least, if not otherwise, is Mr. Barclay, who has had four, five, and six fish daily, for some time back. Mr. Sandeman is now doing some salmon fishing up there.

Most of the best angling sections of the Don are let either to single rods or by ticket, and very good brown trout angling is being got. We sampled the Pitmaden water on Saturday, and had an excellent basket, heaviest 2½lb., all to "Dr. Fowler."

A sad accident occurred to an angler at the rocks south of Stonehaven on Saturday last. George Forrest, secretary to the Stonehaven Rock Anglers' Association, and a companion went to a point known locally as Teelong, at a creek called the "Cappie," a famous fishing spot in the neighbourhood. Forrest elected to fish from rather a dangerous position, and was helped out of it by his companion, Middleton. It is surmised that he had returned to it again after the tide had turned, as he was last seen there at six o'clock, and shortly after a cry was heard from that quarter, as of a drowning man; but when assistance reached the place nothing could be seen of Forrest but his clip lying on the rocks.

Mr. and Mrs. McGregor, who are leaving the Invercauld Arms Hotel, Ballater, were the recipients of handsome presents on Saturday from the nobility, gentry, visitors, and residents in the charming village and district of Deeside generally. The McGregors have long catered both at Braemar and Ballater to a wide circle of all classes, from the prince to the peasant. They long rented the famous Ballater and Invercauld fishings, and in this way no more popular hosts than the McGregors, *pere et fils*, were to be found in the north. There was a right royal demonstration on Saturday when Sir John Clark, Bart., Deputy Lieutenant of the county presided and made the presentations.

Mr. Andrew Carnegie, the American millionaire, has just commissioned a Paisley firm to construct a specially designed yacht for service in connection with his recently acquired estate of Skibo in Sutherlandshire.

A woman named Brown was fined £1 or seven days for inciting boys to collect lapwings' eggs, for which she paid them a penny apiece. It came out at the trial in the Aberdeen Sheriff Court that her husband was a regular dealer, and had this year alone dispatched upwards of two tons of lapwings' eggs to London. All Aberdeenshire and adjoining counties must have been pretty well scoured to secure them.

Mr. Shepherd, Lemon-tree Bar, Aberdeen, on Tuesday last creel'd a salmon of 14lb. and a fine basket of trout on the Ellon Ythan water. He had a salmon of 9lb. the previous week, and 11lb. trout. Daily tickets cost only one shilling.

Mr. Hugh McDonald and other trout experts believe in the single iron for small flies when the river runs small and clear. We hold similar views, but give us the double iron when there are any big game about. We like to have the confidence of a double grip.

We pin our faith to casts such as Carswell, Glasgow, can produce; the tear and wear in them is truly marvellous when compared with some of the stuff we have had to contend with some years back.

There is no "May Fly Season" in Scotland, but the first rise of the March Brown after an April or May shower may be likened to a good substitute. At such a time a pool on some of the mid reaches of the Don is a sight worth seeing—with rising, leaping, tumbling fish—and once seen will never be forgotten.

SPECIAL SCOTCH.

Provincial Notes

FROM BIRMINGHAM AND DISTRICT.

A communication has been forwarded to me from a member of one of our angling societies which is to the effect that he would like to see a series of contests arranged, in which a selected number of members from each club should compete for a silver cup, the contest to be fished after the same manner in which the English football cup is played for, that is, that the clubs should be drawn together, the first contest to be called the first round, the next the second, and so on, until there were only two clubs left to fish, the winner to hold the cup for twelve months. A contest of this kind would, no doubt, bring about a lot of friendly rivalry and enthusiasm, and, as the writer points out to me, it would show which club had the most skillful team of anglers each year. I have no doubt that if a cup could be obtained, the clubs would go in for it with a will. Mr. G. Stanley, of exhibition fame, has promised us one, and when we get it the representatives of the clubs at our general meeting may decide to adopt the scheme as suggested, and contest for it in the manner indicated. Last week I mentioned in my notes that two more new clubs were in the course of formation. Another one has just applied, making three in a fortnight. One is being formed at the Gnn Inn, Bath Street, another at the King's Arms Hotel, Harborne, and the other at the Men's Early Morning School at Oldbury, outside Birmingham. This club have taken Titford Pool at White Heath for the members, who number about forty. The secretary, Mr. Watts, informs me that the committee intends to get a large number of the men who attend the school, to join, and if they cannot afford it they will be presented with a cheap outfit by several influential gentlemen who are interested in the schools. The Trades Exhibition closed in Birmingham on Saturday evening last, May 13, having been open eight weeks; the exhibition was a great success, so much so, that the manager, Mr. G. Stanley, presented a cheque of two hundred guineas to the Queen's Hospital. Every member of our association paid a visit, and upwards of £200 worth of tickets were sold to our members and friends. We shall have another show of fish next year, when Mr. Stanley visits us again. The prize money will be larger, and, as a consequence, the cases of fish will be more numerous. The East End Society have acquired a nice stretch of the river Alne, near to Aston Cantlow. The water contains a fair quantity of all kinds of fish with the exception of pike. Some very fine dace have been had from this water previous to the close season coming in, and of late some very good trout have been taken, both with the fly and worm. A large number of our members will be out during the holidays. The majority of them will be on the Severn, Teme, and other local streams where there are trout to be found. Some will visit the local canals just merely for the outing, not for the chief purpose of fishing, as some of the pimperns like to visit their old haunts during the close time. I am pleased to say no fishing will be allowed on the popular parts of the Avon during the holidays, the Evesham, Pershore, Defford, and Eckington landowners being very much against fishing during the close time, and until such time that the hay crop is got in. Under the circumstances, I would advise anyone not to go to the places mentioned for some time to come.

FROM DERBYSHIRE.

There has been a considerable improvement in the angling on Derbyshire streams this week, owing to an agreeable change in the weather. Warm showers have fallen and freshened the waters without materially disturbing them. They are now in excellent condition, and fish are rising in places pretty freely. Anglers are

tolerably numerous on most of the streams, and sport, as a rule, has been satisfactory. On the upper waters of the Wye, by Ashwood Dale (Burton District), Blackwell Mill, Chee Dale, and Miller's Dale, some very fair baskets have been made, and good creels up to seven brace have fallen to fly anglers on the private and open waters of Monsal and Cressbrook Dales, where the fish are very plentiful and of large size. Several nice lots of trout have been killed on the Ashford lengths, and also on the Holme reaches between Holme and Bakewell. About an average number of rods have been out on the Bakewell and Rowsley waters, and artificial fly anglers there have, as a rule, done well, some excellent baskets having been made by several of them. On the upper waters of the Derwent sport has been much better than of late. Several good creels have been made on the Ashopton and Yorkshire Bridge lengths; and also on those of Bamford and Sickleholme, by fly and bottom fishing and trolling. There has been a considerable number of anglers on the Derwent valley reaches, between Hathersage, Grindleford, and Stoke, where the sport has been of a satisfactory character, several good creels of nice sized fish having been made there, chiefly by visitors from the neighbourhoods of Manchester and Sheffield. Both the open and the private lengths of the river in the Calver district have been well patronised, and several capital lots of fish have been killed by fly anglers. There has been, during the week, an increased number of visitors to the Chatsworth and Baslow waters, many of them from London and other distant places; and sport has generally been found satisfactory. Some really good baskets have been made there, principally on the Park lengths, by fly anglers; and some nice lots of fish have been killed on the lower adjoining reaches of Calton and Beely. Several large trout up to 4½ lb. have been killed on the Derwent within the last few days, chiefly at Matlock Bath and the Bridge. Fly and bottom fishers have done well on the Holmesford and Watstonwell lengths, and several very fair baskets have been made there. Angling has been satisfactory on most of the lengths of the Dove. On the Dovedale waters fly anglers have, as a rule, met with good sport, and some excellent creels have been made there, and also on the Alsop-le-Dale and Mill Dale reaches. The Baresford and Hartington lengths have furnished some nice lots of fish, and sport has been pretty good there. In bottom fishing ant eggs, gentles, worms, and dock grubs have proved successful; and killing flies have been the Dotterel, Claret Bumble, Cooper's Fancy, Cock-wing, and Yellow and Ash Duns. Angling prospects are good.

FROM HULL AND DISTRICT.

We have had an entire change of the weather in this district during the past week, and in place of the cold north-easterly winds, south-westerly breezes and copious showers of rain have intervened, causing the waters to be nicely coloured, which will bring the fish well on the feed again. The top stretches of the river Hull, and the becks and streams in the neighbourhood of Driffield, Frodingham, and Hempholme are now all more or less in grand condition for trout fishing, either with fly or minnow; and in the tidal waters below Hempholme, and at the becks, shoals of fish are scouring themselves, evidently after spawning, so that there is every prospect of a good season amongst coarse fish when it opens. A few decent sized trout have been taken by those who have ventured up stream, and odd fish have also been taken with worm in the lower portion of the river, but owing to the unsettled state of the weather no quantity of anglers have been out, but there is prospect of some good fish being taken in the upper waters when the wet weather subsides. A letter has been received by the Hull Amalgamated Anglers' Association from the Leeds Amalgamated Anglers asking their co-operation relative to the expenses of the Yorkshire Fishery Board in prosecuting offenders under the Fishery Act, i.e., for the sale of coarse fish during the close season; but in the absence of fuller information relative thereto nothing was done at the May council meeting. A committee was formed to carry out the Amalgamation's charity match, which will take place on the river Ancholme on July 1. Another big local event took place on Saturday afternoon last on the river Hull, at Dunsell, in very inclement weather, resulting in the takes being very small. It was Blundell Spence and Co.'s Angling Society's annual open match, but the number of anglers was not near so large as had been anticipated, no doubt owing to the unfavourable weather. Mr. A. Waites was the fortunate winner of the first prize with 9½ oz.; Messrs. S. Dean, J. W. Petty, S. Conyers, E. Robertson, and D. Friend taking the next five with about 4½ lb. of fish each, whilst the 20th prize was taken with 3½ oz. The Kingston Rovers A.S. fished their first match this season on the river on Minto Flatts, Mr. T. Lambert being first prizeman with 1½ lb. 1½ oz., Messrs. D. Jordan and C. Wilson taking the next two. The East Hull Brass Band A.S. fished their second match of the season at Wawneferry, but had only very moderate sport, Messrs. W. Gale and T. Nicholson taking the first two prizes with only about 4½ lb. of fish each. On Monday the Hearts of Oak A.S., of Driffield, fished their second match on the river on Minto Flatts; so likewise do the Derringham A.S., of Hull; and the Stoneferry Star A.S. will fish theirs at Hull Bridge on the same day; whilst the Hull

Excelsiors will journey to Broomfleet, and fish a match on the Market Weighton Canal. Another addition has been made to our long list of local angling societies, called the City Angling Association, whose headquarters is at the Talbot Hotel, in Scale Lane. The West Hull A.S. have just held their first meeting and elected officers for the season of 1899, Mr. T. Chester being voted to the presidential chair.

FROM THE LAKE DISTRICT.

Although the Cumberland County Council has refused to remove the protection accorded to certain species of seagulls, the West Cumberland Fishery Board seem disinclined to let the matter drop. Notwithstanding that some members of the board have described their own action as childish and absurd, the question is to be placed on the agenda for next meeting, when Mr. Grice hopes to be able to prove that the gulls do destroy fish. Following heavy rains towards the end of last week, angling improved in some parts of the district. On the Keswick waters good fish and good fishing has been the rule—with exceptions, of course—for some time, many trout of 2 lb. or 3 lb. and over having been secured, especially from the lake, while the river also affords sport. Since the rain, on Thursday, Mr. T. Hodgson has had nearly thirty fish; Mr. Sparke and friend, nine trout and two or three pike, from the lake; Mr. A. Wilkinson, a 14 lb. pike, and several trout running from 1½ lb. to 2 lb. each; Mr. Denwood, Mr. Lowther, and others being also successful. Lower down the river sport was poor. The best fish we have heard of in the district fell to the rod of Mr. A. H. Gregson, of Kirkby Stephen, who captured a trout of over 3 lb. whilst angling near Mallerstang. The Petteril and Eden have yielded baskets of from thirty to forty trout downwards to the rods of Messrs. Wappett, Howe, Thornton, &c. Owing to the high state of the rivers, the worm has proved the most killing lure. At the time of writing the weather is not very promising, and some anxiety is being expressed regarding the holidays.

FROM LANCASHIRE.

Our Warrington friends are irrepresible; they will not keep quiet. No sooner do they get rid of one item than they are full swing into another. At their last meeting they decided to go in for 500 two-year *farrios* to stock the river Bollin a little more, and 2000 roach for the old Quay Canal. The latter water has been carefully nursed for some time, and when opened will be sure to provide good sport for their members, who will be limited to one rod each. The Ribble has been in condition for the fly, and there is reported a better rise of fish in the Clithero district and the higher reaches. Sport of better character has been obtained. The best flies have been March Brown, Cowdung, and Snipe Bloa, all having killed well. The Wyre with better weather is also improved. Trout are showing better, and there is a good rise from 5 to 6 p.m. More rods have been out and better baskets made, the tributaries fishing well. The most successful flies have been March Brown, Dark Snipe and Purple, and Light Woodcock. The Lune and tributaries are reported as having fished much better. One good basket of thirteen brace is reported from Jedbergh, and another from Middleton, and one of seventeen and a half from the Wenning. Good killing flies are given as Coch-y-Bondhu, Hawthorn, and Yellow Dun. The Lne Fishery Board are doing everything in their power to improve the fishing in all the streams they control. It is gratifying to learn that the anglers of St. Helen's do not mourn the loss of any of their numbers by the recent terrible explosion, but they have lost friends and property. Next Monday they fish a match from 6 a.m. until 12 noon for trout only. Local circumstances compel these hours for the event. During Whitsuntide all the fishermen in Liverpool will be busy, but any details cannot be dealt with in these notes. Suffice it to say all the principal societies are negotiating contests.

FROM LINCOLNSHIRE.

Trout fishing has considerably improved during the last few days. The weather is warmer, and there is an increased number of flies on the water. Under these conditions trout are showing infinitely better sport, and those who have operated with the fly have obtained a number of nice fish, especially in the evenings, when they have risen more freely than at any other time of the day. Bottom fishermen continue to do extremely well with the maggot, which has proved a very killing bait during the last week or ten days. The streams are now in the pink of condition, and if the warm weather continues, a spell of successful fishing should be had.

FROM MANCHESTER.

The Whitsuntide holidays will interfere with the ordinary meetings of several clubs in this city, the Moss Side Socials in consequence do not meet again until June 5, and the Buckland until June 7, the latter society have arranged a match for June 17 and June 21, in their own waters in Derbyshire. A party of our citizen anglers, out at Coombs' reservoir on May 15, report good sport but the fish rather small. At the board meeting of the Worsley Canal Fishery, held on May 12, a deputation representing a large number of canal fishermen attended; and asked that this fishery be opened like the other canals in the district. Considerable discussion followed, but in the end the board decided to grant the request, and open on May 20. Our locals can now go in for the coarse fish to their hearts' content. The Urmston anglers open the season on June 17, with a match for Capt. Stott's silver challenge cup and prizes. The County Palatine Angling Association at the last delegate meeting, on the 11th, had a good attendance, no less than thirty-seven clubs being represented. After disposing of routine business, the question of establishing a central headquarters was dealt with, and after some little discussion it was decided to accept the offer of Mr.

Prax, Silver Grid, 100A, Market-street, Manchester. It was also decided to have a contest in the Peak Forest Canal on Aug. 26; prizes, £15 in cash and medals, and an additional medal for specimen, given by the president. The delegates received with satisfaction the announcement of the acquisition of the Poynter Canal. Both their canals open to-day, but the Irlam waters remain closed until June 17. The next meeting is on July 13, and in the meantime all rules, &c., will be printed and sent to the various clubs affiliated with the C.P.A.A. The Halme Crown Angling Society have selected Althorpe for their first match on July 2. The Globe Angling Society, Salford, at their last meeting elected officers, &c., for the coming year. The new executive is practically the same as the old one.

FROM NOTTINGHAM.

The Trent has undergone a substantial change, and there is absolutely nothing doing. The waters have been too high for successful salmon fishing, and so far no follower of the sport has taken a fish. Prospects at the period of writing were the reverse of favourable. Privileged visitors caught a few choice trout on portions of the Dover Beck in the closing days of last week. Wild, stormy weather has militated very considerably against the chances of the "surface whippers," and warmer conditions must prevail ere much good will accrue.

FROM SHEFFIELD.

The conditions for angling in the Sheffield district still remain of a somewhat unsettled character, days of warm, genial sunshine alternating with days of miserably cold, wretched rain. Under these circumstances it is only natural that the number of anglers who go forth should be somewhat limited, but the fishermen who are fortunate enough in choosing the fine days have generally succeeded in obtaining some good sport. The season for the waters at Hollow Meadows and Redmires is now in full swing, and, as the tickets are limited to a reasonable number, fishermen can usually reckon on getting a fair day's fishing if the conditions are anything like favourable. A good deal of sport has lately been forthcoming in these waters, but unfortunately some of the fish have not been in as forward a condition as could be desired, resulting in a number of them having to be returned. Visitors to the Loxley Valley generally anticipate some gratifying sport, and so far this season their expectations have not been disappointed. The Damflask Reservoir, which always contains some big fish, already shows evidence of maintaining its reputation, but warmer weather is required before the fish will arrive at that well-favoured condition which is the delight of all true anglers. Up to the present a few big fish have been landed, but all show need of further development. Visitors to the Idle and Ryton have not been very numerous so far, but without a doubt anglers will soon be having a try at the former river, which is a favourite trout stream, whilst the latter stream is said to contain a lot of nice fish. In the river Amber, at Wingfield, a fair amount of sport is reported, a few good specimens having fallen victims to dock grubs. In the Derwent the reaches near Bamford have come in for considerable attention, maggots having been the most successful bait, and some of the catches have amounted to four and five brace per rod. The higher reaches of the Derwent have been moderately well patronised, though up to the present no particular good catches have been made. There is some talk of steps being taken to re-stock the river Sheaf. I hope the project will be carried out, as it will be a pity if this once popular trout stream should suffer by reason of a little neglect. Prospects for Whitsuntide are encouraging, but will depend very much upon the weather, which no one, however, can guarantee or prophesy about with any degree of certainty.

FROM WORCESTER AND DISTRICT.

There has not been much angling done during the past seven days by club members in this district, although the weather has been favourable. We have had some heavy rain and tempest, but not enough to affect the streams appreciably, for they continue in excellent condition for bottom or fly fishing, but the high wind has been much against the latter. The Severn has been but little fished by club anglers. Some few have been trying the artificial minnow under the weirs and other likely places for trout, but without success. The take of spawning fish by unattached anglers, I am sorry to say, has been very large indeed. The Teme has been more patronised, but sport anything but good. One angler was fortunate enough to take three brace of nice trout on Monday last with Blue Dun and a Yellow Dun, and some others had a brace or so, but rises came very slowly. On private water sport has not been good this week. I heard of one of the Malvern anglers taking one fine trout of over 2 lb. on their club water, this the best fish of the week. The Upton-on-Severn Angling Society held their annual meeting at the Star Hotel on Friday evening last. In the unavoidable absence of the president, Dr. Mountford, the chair was taken by Mr. Ludford Docker, C.O. There were a large number of members present. The chairman addressed the meeting briefly, and called on the secretary, Mr. C. Evans, for his report and balance-sheet, which showed they had had twelve competitions, and had a balance in hand towards another season. Mr. R. Wingfield said he had audited the accounts, and they were quite correct. The officers for the coming year were: Dr. Mountford, president; Sir E. Lehmere, captain; G. W. Grice Hutchinson, M.P., Rev. A. Beal, and L. Docker, Esq., C.O., vice-presidents; C. Evans, hon. sec.; and a good working committee. The rules were revised, and the headquarters of the club was removed to the Bell Inn, New Street. Vote of thanks to the chairman closed the meeting. A meeting of the committee of the Worcester and District Angling Association was held on Saturday

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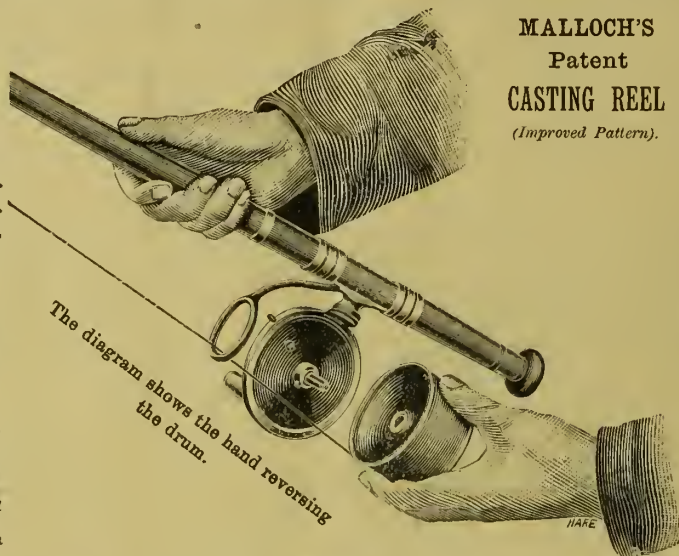
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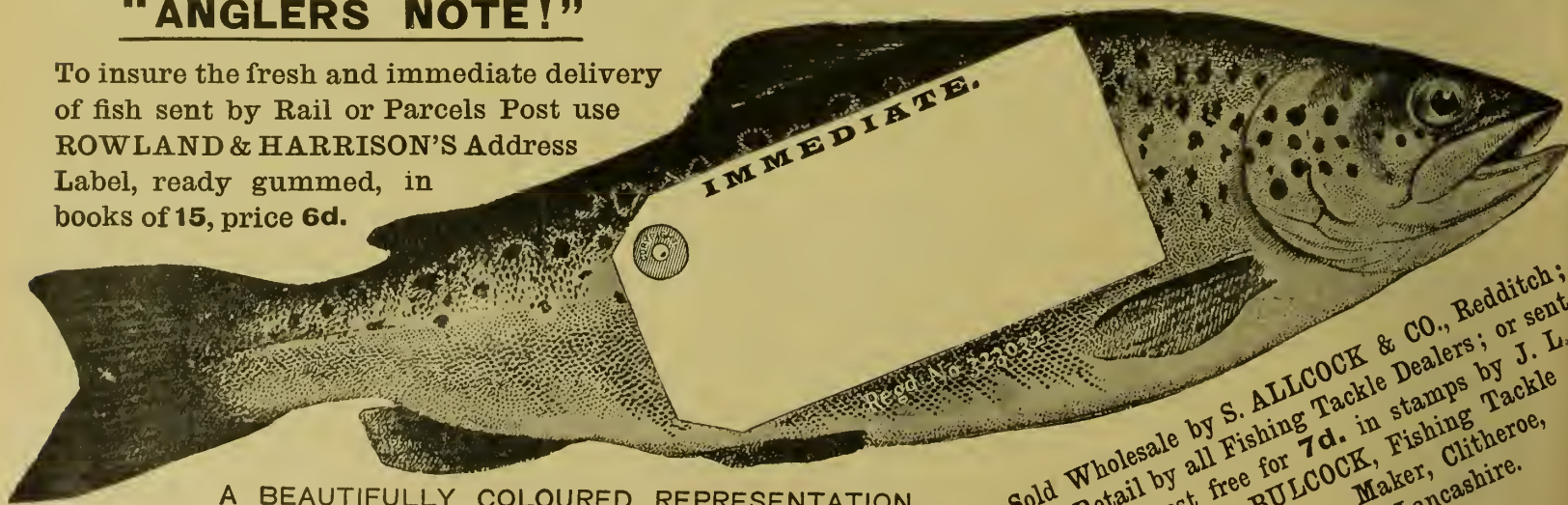
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evening last, at the Plough Inn, Silver-street, and was very largely attended, nearly every delegate being present. The president, Mr. L. Higgs, occupied the chair. The meeting was called to consider the case of some members who had broken rule 3 by taking coarse fish during the close season. Mr. W. Bridges objected to the meeting as it was a special meeting, and the requisite fourteen days' clear notice had not been given. He also objected to the formation of rule 3, and the power to deal with the matter under the existing rules.

FROM YORK AND DISTRICT.

All was bright and beautiful at the time of penning these notes a week ago, for the north-east wind seemed to have spent its rage, and southern breezes were in the ascendant; but the cold quickly reasserted itself, and chilling rains having fallen in plenitude. Whereas rivers were running low, they are now mostly bankful and discoloured, and trout anglers must wait yet a little while ere they have complete enjoyment of sport. Though at the moment of writing the outlook is more settled than of late, it is unsafe to prophesy even for a day. Warmer weather is wanted by anglers as well as by agriculturists, insect life on the streams being backward. Trout are plentiful on the best rivers, but have not, so far, given experienced anglers anything like a fair chance, lurking in the deep waters and refusing to rise to the most tempting lures. Should warmer weather set in fishing with such casts as the Orange Partridge, Poult Bloa, Knotted Midge, and Light Watchet may be expected to yield satisfactory results. On the night of the 13th inst. a large number of York fishers assembled at the Bay Horse, Mary Gate, to do honour to Capt. Key, J.P., a veteran patron of the gentle art. They held a "smoker," and presented him with an illuminated address in recognition of the kind services he has rendered to anglers generally. They are proud of having at their head so enthusiastic and so true a disciple of Izaak Walton. At a meeting of the York North-Eastern A.A. a letter was read from Col. Meysey-Thompson offering a handsome present to the association for competition at the next match. It was decided to fish the first match at Elvington, by permission of Mr. Carr, on June 17. At Leeds, recently, Mr. Jas. Brown, president of the Leeds Fish, Game, and Poultry Association, and proprietor of the Albion Hotel in that city; Mr. Charles Brown and Mr. Albert Brown, trading as Messrs. Brown and Son, fish and game dealers, were summoned under the Fresh-water Fisheries Act, at the instance of the Yorkshire Fishery Board, for, as was alleged, having exhibited for sale grayling after the beginning of the close season, on March 16, 17, 18, and 20. The summonses against Jas. and Chas. Brown were withdrawn, it being pointed out that they were in favour of protecting the fish, they being partners in the firm of Brown and Son, whilst the other defendant was a paid servant. The Bench considered that the case against Albert Brown was a most flagrant one, because he continued to expose the fish for sale after he had been warned. He was fined 40s. on the first summons, or seven days' in default; and was mulcted in the costs, or three days' imprisonment on each of the other three summonses.

ANSWERS TO CORRESPONDENTS.

T. H.—"Bambridge, Eton," is a sufficient address.
J. J. FRY.—The Piscatorial Society's water does not belong to the Anglers' Association.

Correspondence

[We do not hold ourselves responsible for the opinions expressed by our Correspondents.]

ZEBRA TROUT.

DEAR SIR,—In the *Fishing Gazette* of April 22 I notice that G. H. Ward submits a query re great zebra trout. Two years ago we placed in the reservoir at Pen-y-Cae fifty zebra trout, two years old, which the Howietoun Fishery Co. described as a cross between trout and *fontinalis*. These we placed in the above water. Our experience of them was unsatisfactory, as they did not rise well nor fight much when hooked. With these fifty we had fifty two-year-olds of a cross breed—*S. salar* and *S. leuvenensis*. These have turned out remarkably well, rising boldly and struggling to the last. They grew fast, and have given the best sport of the many trout we have stocked this water with. We shall have no more zebbras.

RD. WOOLFALL
(Sec. Liverpool Angling Society).

THE TRENT AS A TROUT RIVER.

SIR,—The executive of the Nottingham Wellington Angling Society have had under consideration the practicability and advisability of stocking some portion of their extensive stretches of the river Trent with two-year-old trout, and I would like to lay before my executive the opinions of your expert readers and trout breeders on this matter.

The upper part of our Shardlow stretch of water is, as far as physical features and conditions are concerned, a natural trout home. Long stretches of bright, clean gravel and sand beds, shallows, rapids, deep pools, innumerable weed beds, well wooded banks (Willow Fly), stonework, and fairly pure water are a few of the commendable points. The preliminary points to settle appear to be the following: (1) The purity of the water. (2) The pike and chub. (3) The straying of the fish. (4) Ways and means.

(1) With respect to the polluted state of the river in

this particular locality, I got our keeper, Mr. Bailey, to procure for me two samples of water—one on April 4, out of rapid water, on its clearing after a rise; and sample two on April 7, out of a sluggish pool at the bottom of a long stretch of gravels. I took them into the laboratory, and asked my scientist to put them through the usual analytical tests, and this is his report:

Sample I., collected April 4, 1899: "I find this water contains suspended matters amounting to 3.4 parts in 100,000, which consists of undecomposed vegetable matters, fine sand, and aluminoid growths; the latter is the most dangerous constituent, yet it is present in such minute quantity, not more than 1 part in 200,000, as not to be injurious, unless the quantity be largely increased. The dissolved solids amount to 50 parts in 100,000, or 35 grains per gallon, and consist of:

	Grains per gallon.	Parts in 100,000.
Calcium carbonate	4.27	6.10
Calcium sulphate	10.37	14.81
Magnesium carbonate	4.92	7.03
Sodium chloride	9.70	13.85
Silica	1.02	1.46
Iron and alumina	0.45	0.64
Nitrates	0.82	1.19
Ammonia	Trace	Trace
Organic matter	3.35	4.80
	35.3	49.88

The removable hardness amounts to 6.5 grains per gallon."

Sample II., collected April 7, 1899: "I find this second sample to differ but slightly from No. I. The suspended matters are alike in amount and nature. The dissolved solids are slightly more, amounting to 52 parts in 100,000, equal to 36.5 grains per gallon, and consisting of

	Grains per gallon.	Parts in 100,000.
Calcium carbonate	4.31	6.14
Calcium sulphate	10.55	15.07
Magnesium carbonate	6.08	8.70
Sodium chloride	10.10	14.42
Silica	0.74	1.05
Iron and alumina	0.50	0.71
Nitrates	0.85	1.21
Ammonia	Trace	Trace
Organic matter	3.41	4.87
	36.54	52.17

"The samples of water contain much less dissolved solids than water taken near the Trent Bridge, whilst the amount of organic matter is about the same. From the amount of sodium chloride in solution, and high percentage of nitrates, together with the absence of nitrites, and small quantity of ammonia, I am led to infer that these waters have contained a much greater amount of organic matter, which has undergone oxidation by passing over long stretches of gravel where the water has no great depth. The amount of iron and silica present tends to confirm this view. I should consider that the lower reaches of such gravel would be highly suitable for the breeding of trout.

"The physical properties of the water are all that could be desired; it is transparent, free from clay, and its sediment rapidly subsides, and I find nothing in the contained gases or dissolved solids that would be detrimental to trout life.

"I append results of analysis from other sources for comparison:

	Above Trent Bridge.	River Dee, near Chester.	Thames (middle).	Don (Scotland).
Calcium carbonate ...	0.32	0.85	10.80	2.23
Calcium sulphate	21.55	0.12	3.00	0.13
Calcium nitrate	Trace	—	0.17	—
Magnesium carbonate	5.66	0.36	1.25	1.07
Sodium chloride	17.63	0.72	1.80	1.26
Silica	0.72	0.14	0.56	0.52
Iron and alumina	0.50	0.16	0.27	0.27
Organic matter	3.68	—	2.36	3.06
Calcium phosphate ...	—	Trace	Trace	—

Grains per gall. 50.06 ... 3.89 ... 20.21 ... 8.54

From this report of the state of the water in the district in question, your readers will be able to form some opinion as to its merits of purity."

(2) Then, as regards the natural enemies of trout, viz., pike and chub, there are any amount of such fish in the water; but would not two-year-old trout be fairly well able to take care of themselves? Dace are a dainty pike dish, and yet dace seem to thrive and increase. And if the members thought it advisable, the pike family could be "picked off" by special attention from time to time. In fact, if trout be introduced successfully into this beautiful Shardlow water, by and bye, nothing will disgust one of our members more than to hook a "loggerhead" of a pike when spinning for a trout, and wish the family not at home.

(3) Will some of your gentle readers kindly advise us as to the kind of trout that would be suitable for the experiment in contemplation? They must be of the "homing" kind, more disposed to work up the river than down, and also of rapid growth, and attain in years goodly proportions.

(4) Any other information which suggests itself as being useful to my society, I shall be thankful to receive, and if this letter meet the eye of any fishery proprietor or proprietors, tenders for the supply of a couple of thousand

ORIENTAL BOOKS formerly issued by W. H. Allen and Co.) now published by Sampson Low, Marston and Co., Limited, 25, Dunstons House, Fetter Lane, London, Publishers to the India Office.—A CATALOGUE of these Text Books, Class Books, Histories, and Indian Government Publications can be had on application

would break the ice in that direction; and, better still, small donations of live fish would be thankfully received and acknowledged by—Yours sincerely,

W. GASKELL,

President of the Nottingham Wellington A.S.

Forest-road, West Nottingham.
P.S.—Our good sportsman, T. Wood, Esq., lessee of the renowned King's Mill Fishery, has promised to act in unison with the Wellington, and put a good head of two-year-olds in his adjoining reach.

(If he can get them, we strongly advise Mr. Gaskell to stock with fish bred from native English trout (*Salmo fario*), the fish which made the reputation of the trout as a game fish, and undoubtedly the naturally most suitable fish for English trout streams. Given plenty of food and water, our common trout will grow to 10lb. or 15lb.; its descendants in New Zealand grow to 20lb. and even 30lb.—Ed.]

THE DARENTH.

DEAR SIR,—In reply to your inquiry as to the May Fly prospects on our little Kentish trout stream, I will tell you the plain, unvarnished truth. Thanks to mill pollutions and pike, the Darenth fishing has gone to the dogs. Nothing short of concerted and sustained energy on the part of riparian owners and tenants of fishing rights will restore this stream to its former place as the most prolific trout river in the South of England. When I tell you that I have myself killed a hundred pike this spring on little more than a mile of the Darenth, you can well understand what chance the trout have against such odds. But we have done our best so far as our Eynsford length of water is concerned, and have put 1000 two-year-olds in after getting the pike out, some of the brutes up to 12lb. And we mean to keep pegging away until we make this the finest piece of trout fishing in the South of England. But it is very uphill work, so long as other people above and below us fail to do anything to rid the stream of the vermin which infest it. Eighty pike were killed from the lake in front of Lullingstone Castle—in addition to the 100 I killed—a few weeks ago; and it is useless to cry "Peace! peace!" when there is no peace, and to talk of good trouting prospects in the face of such ugly facts. The Darenth has been shamefully neglected of late years; and as "soft words butter no parsnips," it is better to tell the truth, in the hope that those responsible will rise to a sense of their responsibilities for this deplorable condition of things. The whole of the Darenth, with the exception of one short length, is now in private hands, extravagant rents being paid for the shortest lengths of fishing. But still the paper mills continue, at intervals, to poison the fish wholesale, and no serious efforts are made to rid the stream of the pike which infest it. No one loves the Darenth more sincerely than yours truly, and no one deprecates the existing condition of things more than I do; but something more than individual effort is necessary if our queen of Kentish trout streams is to be restored to its former fame. Personally, I am doing my best to retrieve its reputation; and, so far as the Eynsford section is concerned, no efforts are being spared, but the same cannot be said of those who own adjoining sections of the stream.—Yours truly, C. W. GEDNEY.

Bromley, Kent.

THE THAMES AS A SALMON RIVER.

DEAR SIR,—May I explain to Mr. Thudichum, who apprehends that my "desires have outweighed my judicial instincts" in this matter, that my connection with and interest in the Thames is as purely Platonic as any sentiment which partakes so largely of admiration can be. I possess no property in England, save a house in London, which I scarcely think will entitle me to share, either as an angler or otherwise, in any benefits which may accompany the possible return of salmon to the Thames. I was invited to join the Thames Salmon Association because it was understood that I had given some attention, extending over a larger number of years than I care to contemplate, to the habits and requirements of salmon in rivers of very different character. Perhaps if Mr. Thudichum were aware of the nature of my small influence I have exerted in the deliberations of the committee, he would acquit me of having been too sanguine, and of having erred on the side of precipitate counsel. The utmost that I have said is that the time seems to be at hand when it would be not imprudent to undertake the experiment.

I do not for one moment question the accuracy of Mr. Thudichum's statistics down to 1897—I am wholly disqualified from doing so—and I recognise fully the formidable obstacle of the zone of maximum impurity. But I do not understand that Mr. Thudichum maintains that this zone persists throughout the year. It seems to depend chiefly on the flow of land water, which sinks to a minimum in August and September. At such times I freely admit that the river is barred, under present conditions, to the ingress of sea fish. But in how many British salmon rivers is there an "open door" at all times? Certainly in nineteen out of twenty of them salmon can only pass beyond tidal influence in times of flood; and it is precisely in those rivers which depend most upon wet weather, as, for example, the little streams of the Lewes, that there is still to be found a heavy stock of salmon and sea trout. In such estuaries the fish just have to wait for a suitable time to make the ascent.

In the Tyne, which is a river of grander proportions than the little streams of the West Highlands and islands, and which present a zone of impurity of far greater intensity than the Thames, although not of equal extent, salmon are often detained by drought for weeks seeking entrance. I have killed them in the autumn with their jackets quite red, yet with the sea lice still upon them, ten miles above Hexham, showing that they had been kept in the sea long after they desired the fresh water. There is another feature in the Tyne which bears on the subject of

pollution. It may have been modified of late years, but when I used to fish that river it existed in full force. The main stream is formed by the junction at Hexham of the North and South Tyne, both appearing equally attractive angling waters. But the South Tyne twenty years ago, whatever it may be now, was devoid of fish altogether, being thoroughly poisoned by waste from lead mines. The South Tyne bears a far larger proportion to the main river than the outfalls at Barking and Crossness do to the estuary of the Thames at these points; but it does not interfere with salmon entering the North Tyne in large numbers. In 1872 I killed, with fly, in that river forty-six salmon in five consecutive days.

I incline to the opinion that at the present time the Thames is accessible for salmon, except at such times when the land flow is so weak as to be overpowered by the tides, and the column of impure and de-oxygenised water forms a block in the channel.

Greatly as I respect Mr. Thudichum as an expert in analysis, I venture to differ from the conclusions he draws from the presence of the smelt. "The smelt," he says, "is distinctly a foul feeder, and, according to John Bickerdyke, should, as a rule, be looked for in the immediate neighbourhood of a sewage outfall." Now, I submit that the smelt is a foul feeder just as much as, and no more, than the common river trout. In Scotland the smelt, or spurling as we call it, abounds in many estuaries where there is no pollution or sewage at all. Trout also are usually associated with pure waters, but in unregenerate days, when sewers were allowed to pour their treasures into the Thames, the mouth of one of these was a sure place to look for a big trout. Does Mr. Thudichum know the outfall at Romsey, on the Test? In the pool immediately below this very large trout, nourished by their unhallowed diet, are taken each year by minnow or prawn. I have seen one of these which weighed 1½ lb., and I have one in a case before me as I write which weighed 8 lb. Is the common trout therefore to be designated as "distinctly a foul feeder?" Rather, like the smelt, he is a general feeder, but neither species is fastidious, and both will repair to those places where food is most plentiful.

The fact is, that both smelts and smolts are organised so as to pass through, or even to sojourn in, water which appears to us impure because it is turbid, as water must always be in a muddy or sandy estuary. Mr. Thudichum must not suppose that I underrate the importance of a due proportion of oxygen in the water. All that I maintain is that there is not a shred of evidence to prove that smelts can endure more imperfectly aerated water than salmon smolts.

HERBERT MAXWELL.

COOPER'S FANCY.

DEAR SIR,—A letter from Mr. Henry Cooper in last Saturday's *Fishing Gazette* concludes with so personal a reference that it calls for a line from me by way of clearing myself of an implied deficiency of courtesy.

The implication is somewhat singular, but in order to dispell it I may put forward three pleas: 1. That when reference has been made to the good little fly (Cooper's Fancy) in the presence of various angling friends, I have frequently explained that it owes its origin to Mr. Hy. Cooper, of Matlock Bath. 2. That as I have not hitherto had the pleasure of a personal communication with Mr. Cooper, there has been no opportunity of displaying my "courtesy" and also my appreciation of the fly and its inventor in the direct manner Mr. Cooper's letter leads me to suppose is his desire. And, last, but not least, that in a previous letter to you, Mr. Editor, you will remember I referred to the fly as bearing the "name of its inventor, a Derbyshire angler, who is not unknown in the annals of angling," or words to that effect.

Trusting the above will smooth the ripple in Mr. Cooper's mind, and subscribing to the principle that *Honos alit artes*.—I remain, faithfully yours,

Hanley, Staff.

F. W. DALE.

COOPER'S FANCY.

DEAR SIR,—I enclose you a dozen of my particular fancy to try. It is not a beauty, but the fish come to it. There seems to be a lot of interest taken in it.—Yours faithfully,

Parade House, Matlock Bath.

H. COOPER.

[We are much obliged to Mr. Cooper, and will introduce his fancy to some very particular south country trout presently. Mr. Cooper is secretary of the Matlock Angling Association, which has many miles of water, and lets day tickets to visitors for fly fishing.—Ed.]

LARGE BREAM.

SIR,—With respect to the weight of the largest bream on record, J. H. Keene, in his "Practical Fisherman," says (page 96): "Blakey asserts that it has been known to attain the enormous weight of 20 lb. in the north of Europe; and Bailey, in his 'Angler's Instructor,' mentions one of 17 lb., taken from the Trent. It may attain the enormous weight of 20 lb. in the north of Europe, but in referring to Bailey's book it says: 'I have known a keeper on the Trent to catch no less than 18 cwt. (2016 lb.) at one draw of the net; two of the lot weighed 16 lb.'" I opine Keene must have written by guess work. In Couch's History of British Fishes, vol. iv., p. 38, it says: "Rondeletius professes to have seen a specimen which measured two cubits in length, 12 in. in depth, and weight (how much do you think?) 14 lb. The cubit is equal to 18 in. English measure; so, this bream that was one yard in length and 1 ft. in depth weighed 14 lb. So much for Rondeletius."—I am, &c.,

MARK.

FISHING IN CO. LEITRIM, IRELAND.

DEAR SIR,—In reply to "Young Angler," in last issue, might I suggest that the combination he requires—professional fisherman and boat proprietor, lives within one

mile of Kinelough. With regard to reliability, if required I can send him the addresses of sterling English gentlemen who will satisfy him with a recommendation of me. If he communicates with me I shall send him all information required.—Yours truly,

Rossfriar, Kinelough, co. Leitrim.

P. GALLAGHER.

FISHING IN CO. LEITRIM, IRELAND.

DEAR SIR,—In reply to the inquiries of "Young Angler," in your issue of 13th inst., permit us to recommend Garrison as the most suitable place "Young Angler" and his friends could stop at while fishing Lough Melvin, for the following reasons: First, the village of Garrison is within a gunshot or so of the lake shore. Second, Mr. A. Scott, the proprietor of the Angler's Hotel there, supplies good boats and experienced men at a very moderate charge, and for comfort and attendance "Young Angler" will find Mr. Scott's hotel at Garrison everything he can desire. Third, the Garrison end of Lough Melvin is much the best fishing part of the lake, either for salmon, grilse, or gillaroo trout and brown trout. Any further information required we shall be pleased to supply. The following is the hotel proprietor's address at Garrison: Mr. A. Scott, The Hotel, Garrison, Co. Fermanagh, Ireland.—Yours, &c.,

M. ROGAN AND SONS,
Fishing Tackle Makers, Ballyshannon.

RAINBOW TROUT.

DEAR SIR,—The interesting article by "A. H.," in your last issue, entitled "In the Tasmanian Bush," should be particularly noticed by anyone interested in rainbow trout. He says on p. 325: "Now, the rainbow trout in Tasmania are very exclusive, and evidently do not care to associate with their less gaudy coloured kinsmen, the brown trout, for after being turned out of the New Norfolk Fisheries, where they were hatched and brought up, they made off up the Derwent, till they reached the Russells Falls river, which stream they invaded and took possession of, to the exclusion of all other fish." The italics are mine.—Faithfully yours,

CHARLES H. WHEELLEY.

EATON AND DELLER'S SPECIAL DRY-FLY BOX.

DEAR SIR,—In a recent issue of the *F. G.* attention was called to a special eyed box, sold by Messrs. Eaton and Deller. This same arrangement we have sold and shown in several exhibitions during the last twelve years, and, as far as we know we are the originators. You kindly



noticed this dry-fly box in the *Fishing Gazette* of May 22, 1897. The block we are sending you is from our catalogue.—Yours faithfully, F. T. WILLIAMS AND CO.

Great Queen-street, W.C.

[Now that Messrs. Williams remind us, their box is certainly much like that of Messrs. Eaton and Deller.—Ed.]

TESTIMONIAL TO BEN ABRAHAMS.

DEAR SIR,—After many years ardent work in connection with various Anglers' Benevolent competitions, and secretary and founder of the Allason United Brothers' Angling Society, it was our duty of the latter society to start a fund, open to the London and suburban anglers, to subscribe their mites to the lists which will in due course be sent to all societies, and with the sum so collected we shall purchase Ben a gold chain, to wear with the gold watch presented to him in the year 1896. I'm sure all anglers know how Ben works for any cause, and when I state that Ben, through his energy as honorary secretary to the various angling benevolent competitions, has paid into the Anglers' Benevolent Society the sum of £107 1s. 5½d., that alone speaks if he is a worker. I shall be pleased to receive any mite towards the fund, for which, up to May 16, I have received the following amounts: Per members of the Allason United Brothers' A.S., £2 0s. 6d.; J. W. Blakey, of the Angler, 5s.; A. R. Matthews, 2s.; J. Hardie, 1s.; A. Etheridge, 1s.; per G. Bence, 2s. Total, £2 11s. 6d. The trustees are J. W. Harris (Western District visiting officer) and G. Bence (secretary Jubilee Angling Society), and the secretaryship will be undertaken by—Yours faithfully,

E. JACKSON

(Chairman of the Allason United Brothers' A.S.).

2, Bulmer-place, Notting-hill Gate.

Where all communications should be addressed.

HINTS ON DAM BUILDING WANTED.

DEAR SIR,—Will you or any of your readers instruct me how to build a practicable dam? The stream is about 18 ft. wide, banks 4 ft. high from bed of stream. All hints will be gratefully received by—Yours, &c., A NOVICE.

FISHING QUARTERS IN DONEGAL WANTED.

DEAR SIR,—I shall feel greatly indebted to you or any of your correspondents if they will kindly tell me of any good, clean lodgings, or house, with attendance, in the best fishing centre of Donegal. They would be required for a party of six from July, for two or three months.—Yours truly,

CONSTANT READER.

TROUT FOR THE SUFFOLK STOUR

DEAR SIR,—The river Stour in this part of the country, although affording excellent sport among coarse fish, has never been regarded as one likely to produce trout. An experiment will therefore be watched with keen interest by those anglers and others living in the districts as to whether trout will thrive.

On Monday last 2000 yearling trout were placed in the Stour, near Sudbury, by a gentleman, to whom the thanks of the local anglers are due for thus trying to increase the sport in the neighbourhood.

Time will show if and what success this action meets with, and no doubt reports later on will duly reach you.—I am, dear sir, yours faithfully,

LEONARD B. WRIGHTSON.

Gresham Angling Society.

[The upper waters of some of the east Anglian rivers are admirably suited for trout, and we hope the experiment will succeed.—Ed.]

THE MAY FLY PROSPECTS ON THE LUGG, HEREFORDSHIRE.

DEAR SIR,—Replying to your query re prospects of coming May Fly season. As far as can judge at present rivers will be in good condition, with a rather full flow of water. The floods of last winter, which were heavy and continued, have altered the bed of the rivers very considerably, in some places deepening and others silted up, from which am of opinion the larvae of the May Fly has suffered to a considerable extent, and expect to see the rise of fly patchy, yet sufficient to induce the trout to look after them, in which case sport should be quite equal, if not better than usual. Will advise advent of the May Fly.—Yours truly,

R. T. WILLIAMS.

THE GREEN DRAKE (MAY FLY) ON THE SNIR IN IRELAND.

DEAR SIR,—I first saw the Green Drake on May 13 on the river Snir; to-day they were on in considerable numbers, also the yellow May Fly, but trout taking neither, being mad for the Blue Bloa or Iron Blue Dun, which swarmed, and I could meet only an odd one here and there, dry fishing up out of a cot. The eel fry have run up four or five times this spring, spoiling trout fishing very much, but consequently the latter are in first-class condition. However, they generally bring up a fresh stock of trout from the tide, which comes to within eight miles of Clonmel. I caught a big female Stone Fly on Saturday, which probably found its way to the Snir from some of the numerous mountain feeders, as the big river does not breed them.—Yours, &c.,

WATCHET.

MAY FLIES SEEN ON THE ELWY.

DEAR SIR,—In reply to your request, I beg to inform you that I saw two May Flies on the river Elwy, N. Wales, on Saturday, May 6, and I was told some day or two previous that the May Fly had been seen on the river Clwyd, N.W.—Yours truly,

F. M. LESLIE.

RAINBOW TROUT IN THE ALYN.

SIR,—Two members of our association fished the river Alyn, at Rossett, on the 7th instant, and one of them was fortunate enough to catch a rainbow trout weighing about 6oz., and beautifully coloured. The fish was full of spawn. There appears to be considerable doubt here as to how a rainbow trout happens to be in this river, and if this is the first caught. Perhaps some of your readers having information as to this will kindly supply same to—Yours truly,

GEORGE W. HANN.

FISHING AT EDENBRIDGE.

DEAR SIR,—I should be obliged if any of your readers could give me any information as to fishing at Eden Bridge. I think of staying there for a short time next month, and shall be glad of any information about fishing, as regards payment or otherwise.—I remain yours truly,

W. A. R.

FISHING IN S. WALES.

DEAR SIR,—Could any of your readers kindly tell me what trout fishing can be obtained at Newcastle, Emlyn, S. Wales? I should be very grateful for a little information about the same.—Yours truly,

T. H.

SEA FISHING IN AUGUST.

DEAR SIR,—I should be greatly obliged if you could inform me through the columns of your interesting paper where I can obtain good sea fishing—bass, pollack, or sea bream—in August. Any part of the United Kingdom would suit, as long as it is comparatively quiet. The less known the place is the better. Any information with regard to accommodation, boats, &c., would also be welcome.—Yours truly,

SPRATS.

SOFT DRESSING FOR SILK LINES.

DEAR SIR,—In answer to "Iron Blue's" query of last week re a dressing for silk lines, we beg to advise the use of a preparation called Ceroleum, a prepared dressing which has been used for some years with every satisfaction. It is very easily applied, the *modus operandi* being as follows:

Place a small portion of the dressing upon a piece of flannel, and rub well into line, leave for a short time (if convenient in a warm place), then remove any dressing left on surface of line with a piece of soft cloth.

We shall be pleased to forward "Iron Blue" a sample on receipt of his name and address.—Yours truly,

A. CARTER AND CO.

Several letters unavoidably held over.

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NOTICE.

THE FISHING GAZETTE is published every Saturday, and can be obtained at Messrs. W. H. Smith and Son's Railway Bookstalls and of the principal Newsgents and Fishing Tackle Dealers in London and the Provinces.

Communications relating to the Literary Department, Fishing Tackle for Notice, Books for Review, &c., should be addressed to R. B. MARSTON, Editor of the FISHING GAZETTE, St. Dunstan's House, Fetter-lane, London.

Correspondents are requested to write on one side of the paper only, and give their real names and addresses, not necessarily as signatures to their letters, but as a guarantee of good faith. Unless this rule be adhered to no notice will be taken of such communications.

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For One Year, post free to any part of Great Britain and Ireland	10s. 6d.
Mon'tly ditto	5s. 4d.
Three Months ditto	2s. 8d.
To America and the Continent, annual subscription, including postage	12s. 6d.

Scale of Charges for Advertisements.

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Telegraphic Address—"RIVSAM, London."
TELEPHONE, No. 83 Holborn.

The

Fishing Gazette

WITH WHICH IS INCORPORATED

ANGLING AND CLUB GOSSIP.

SATURDAY, MAY 27TH, 1899.

SPRING RAMBLES.

By THE AMATEUR ANGLER.

My days for fly fishing are few and far between, and when they come round they are generally the worst days in the month. Trout fishing on "The Teme" begins in March, so I thought that by the end of April I might have a chance. Having the privilege of fishing some preserved water, I ran down there. I fished the whole length, about two miles. I never saw a fly on the water or a single rise. What can one do with floating flies in such a case? I met the keeper—he was fishing—he said he had fished that stretch of water, man and boy, for fifty years, and he had never known such a season as this. He had fished that morning for two hours, and, like me, had caught nothing. He was fishing wet fly, and he knew how to do it. I was immensely consoled, for I had seriously begun to consider whether it was my fault or the fish's, that I didn't catch them. The wind was blowing cold from the north; keeper said east was the wind for him—he could always kill fish in an east wind.

I gave it up. I had only another day, and that I devoted to long walks across green fields, through

rugged lanes with high banks clad with primroses. I strolled through the park, lovely and picturesque as could be found even in this picturesque country of ours in this springtime of the year, when all nature is alive with the singing of birds and the springing up of buds and flowers. The park lies on a hill, here and there clad with clumps of pine and firs, and dotted with small enclosures for game, and bosky dells inlaid with ferns just throwing out their curly fronds above the brown dead leaves of other days. There were small herds of fallow deer scattered in different parts, and browsing in the open glades. Climbing over the top of the hill, under a spreading oak and hard by a clump of firs, I came upon a singular sight. Many of your readers, I am sure, have never seen a dead donkey—for it is a well-known tradition that they never die within the range of mortal ken. I have never seen one, but here in the midst of the forest I came upon what seemed to me to be a still more singular sight, for there, under the oak, lay the dead body of "a poor sequestered stag"—(only it was a doe). It must have lain there for some days, for the green grass was springing up around the carcase. How came she to lie there? How was it that keepers and keepers' dogs had not long since found her out? Was she a victim "that from the poacher's hand had ta'en a hurt," and then, lost by him, had found a last refuge on this distant hill? Had she died from some poisonous weed or wicked reptile? She was not a poor starved thing, exiled intentionally from the herd: she was fat and well liking. I am sure it is a case where an apt quotation from "As You Like It" may be admissible. Shakespeare's deer, it will be remembered, had come to languish "under an oak, whose antique root peeps out upon the brook that brawls along this wood." Mine had fallen on the hill-top, far away from any brook; but then you may be sure that there, as the melancholy Jaques bemoaned, she

"... heaved forth such groans
That their discharge did stretch her leathern coat
Almost to bursting, and the big round tears
Coursed one another down her innocent nose
In piteous chase.

"... then being there alone,
Left and abandon'd of her velvet friends:
'Tis right,' quoth he: 'thus misery doth part
The flux of company.' Anon a careless herd,
Full of the pasture, jumps along by him (her),
And never stays to greet her. 'Ay,' quoth Jaques,
'Sweep on, you fat and greasy citizens;
'Tis just the fashion: wherefore do you look
Upon that poor and broken bankrupt there?'"

I left the poor stricken deer as I found her. Dead she was, but how she came by her death is a mystery I had no time to inquire into.

I found my way down the pathless hill, disturbing thousands of rabbits, through a wood, and across green fields into the turnpike road. The only thing I noted was what seemed to me a curious fact, that rooks, those singular birds, should have established a rookery at a corner where four roads meet, in the elms overhanging the turnpike road. Why could they not go away into the woods, far from the haunts of men? No, here they were, here they had been for many years, with their nests just over the heads of every passer by who chose to pot them or their young ones sitting outside the nests—the truth is they are sociable birds, they love the haunts of men, in spite of the instinct, the knowledge they possess, that man is their worst enemy, and will shoot them whenever they come within reach of his gun. It is not as if they were ignorant—they know exactly whether it is a gun or walking stick you point at them. A quarter of a century ago a number of pairs of rooks established themselves in some elms above a new house then being built in the village of Hampstead; they were, of course, the cause of its being called *Rookwood*, and there in those trees they have nested and reared their young in undisturbed happiness till the beginning of this year. Then it was that a large board was put up on the garden wall announcing the fact that the place—their place—was to be sold or let.

At this board they took great offence; they immediately gave their unfeathered bipedal tenant down below notice that they would quit their ancestral trees. They began at once to pull down their old nests, cleared them right away, and now they have disappeared entirely.

Last week my bad luck as to weather pursued me down to Hampshire. Hither, to my old haunt on the *Itchen*, I came, full of hope, for some Whitsuntide trout fishing. I have had a bad beginning. On Friday afternoon the wind and rain were dead against me, and there was nothing doing to encourage a dry-fly man to hope for the most modest success; not a rise could be seen, and yet there was apparently an abundance of flies, driven hither and thither by the ceaseless wind. The swallows were outrageously greedy. Over and over again would they pick up my fly from the water, and drop it like a nasty thing. I had armed myself, to begin with the fly so highly spoken of by Sir E. Grey, and which may be called *Sir E. Grey's Black Spider*.* With it I soon captured a brace of grayling, which I did not want. Thinking it was perhaps more attractive to grayling (which abound), I rashly changed it for a nice Yellow Dun. I played at floating fly in a "chuck-and-chance-it" sort of way—for what else can a dry-fly man do when there is nothing visible over which to display his skill?—but nothing came of it till I came down to the *Pub.*, that is to say, a fine ash tree, now beginning to show its curling leaves (away behind the oak, which is in full leaf). Below this tree, lying just atop of the water with a bunch of weeds hanging on to it, a wicked barbed wire crosses the stream, and there close up to this wicked wire a big trout was rising, I might almost say rubbing his nose against it.

It was a long cast, right in the teeth of the wind; and with the fear of catching hold of that accursed wire, or being entangled in the weeds, always before me, I made many a cast before I could put my fly over him. He saw my lovely Yellow Dun, he came at it, and he was nicely hooked. He did not like it at all. His first move was to spring out of the water half a yard or so, and then into the weeds below, and there I left him with my pretty Dun sticking in his gills. That was the only Dun I had of that exact pattern. "To-morrow," I said, "I mean to have that Dun again, and you, too, my friend." And so I went home, for it rained and blew, and there was nothing else to do.

Next day being Saturday, my good landlady—for she is good to me, looking after me like a mother, though she is forty-five years younger than I am—asked me what I would like for dinner, not only for that day, but being Whitsuntide she had to provide for Sunday and Monday as well. I could only say "My dear Mrs. B—, you know exactly what I like, better than I know myself; I leave it entirely to you." That is the way we always settle that important question when I am here alone. Of course, when the *Professor* is here, things are quite different, then he rules the roost.

And so, in spite of wind and despite of weather, I and my little Sancho sallied forth again for further adventures. It was a day; if Friday was bad, Saturday was far, far worse. Sancho valiantly carried my impedimenta. The rain it rained, and the wind it blew, and now and then the sun shone out for a few minutes, and I cast my insect on the troubled waters; as well may I have cast it on the turnpike road.

I came at length to the barbed wire, and there was my friend as lively as ever, so I sent my barbed betrayer to look after that Dun in that trout's mouth, and, forgetful of the little game he had played yesterday, he tried it on again to-day. I hooked him, he adopted his old manœuvre—my line and fly came away without the trout, and he is still free to wriggle up against that barbed wire. But Whit Monday is coming, and I don't want to go home without that trout and the fly that is in him.

We were glad to get out of the rain and into the mansion sacred to fishermen. There we ate our luncheon, and watched the dappled cows across the water. My young philosopher told me all about them. He gave me their names and fighting qualities. "See that cow there, down by the water, she's called *Draper*? She's the leader of the lot—if any other cow goes into her stall she'd kill her. She fought her way to the top, and now they all respect her as the head cow;

* The "A. A." should kindly note that Sir E. Grey only recommends the Black Spider for a warm, quiet evening when the trout are rising, but refuse the ordinary Duns.—Ed.

and so it is with the second, and third, and fourth down to the last, every one has had to fight for the position she holds. See that red cow yonder? She is No. four. She broke both her horns off fighting for that place. Of course, she can't fight any more now, but she keeps the place she won in fair fight."

Now, that was a lesson for me, for I had no notion before that cows were so punctilious and jealous of the position they had fought for. There are a score or more of them, and each one of them knows her own stall, and keeps it till she has promoted herself by her valour. As a rule there is perfect harmony amongst them when once the question of precedence is settled.

Now let us home to dinner. It is a pleasant thing to be hungry, and at the same time to know that a good dinner awaits you. I knew that much, but I had not the remotest idea of what that dinner would consist—and it was a dinner. Why, O Professor; why, O Piscator Major, were you not there to partake of it? It was too good to be eaten alone! It was a feast for a round tableful of jolly anglers. It was a feast such as I had not tasted, or perhaps even heard of, for sixty years. What was it? It was four-and-twenty black birds baked in a pie! I do not vouch, however, for the exact number. The last time I tasted a pie like this, and the flavour of it remains with me to this day, was when, as a boy, I shot the birds myself (Anno Domini 1840), and never have I tasted *rook pie* since. I had come to regard the shooting of young rooks as a merciless cruelty, but now—surely the end justifies the means! Let no angler in future compound for his sins who hooks the trout by condemning man or boy who shoots the rook.

Sunday—a *dies non* for all anglers who have conscientious scruples, or who respect the conventionalities—a lovely morning, soft and balmy, no wind, only a gentle S.W. breeze, an ideal day for fishing; trout rising freely all down the river as far as I could see. May Whit Monday be as gracious; but the evening is wet and ominous.

Whit-Monday was really a splendid day for holiday makers in these parts,* and I fancy for anglers in some places. Between 10 and 11.30 there was a fair rise of small fish, after that I saw scarcely any up to four o'clock, when I left off.

Of course I looked after my trout at the barbed wire—there he was as lively as ever. I changed my fly twice, and covered him fifty times, till at last he came at me with a dash, seized the fly, was hooked, and he made such a fluster in and about that bed of weeds—for he is a big one—that his lip gave way, and he returned my fly safe and sound. He has taken up more than half an hour of my precious time, and I am loth to leave him.

I hope when the May Fly is up I may have another tussle with him. Three times have I had that trout within my grip, as it were, and thrice has he eluded me. Surely it will be my turn next.

Tuesday morning, before leaving for London, I walked down to the barbed wire (without my rod) on the opposite side of the river. There I could see him plainly, gay and frisky as ever. I think I shall find him there when I come again, for, happily, he has chosen a spot not easily accessible to even an expert angler from this side.

My success has been of a negative kind, for I lost several big trout and caught only one brace, and two brace of grayling—two of them big fellows, but certainly under 2lb. each. They gave me a little sport, and I gave them their freedom. I am not disappointed, because I did not expect to do much. On the contrary, I have found "books in the running brook, and good in everything."

PANORAMA OF THE RIVER THAMES.

THE Woodbury Permanent Photographic Printing Company are about to place on the market an excellent shilling "Panorama of the Thames." The whole of the river is shown in blue, and the rest of the map is in a photographic brown, and there are about a score of views on the river scattered along its banks. It is nearly 4ft. long, 9in. wide, and folds up into a stiff cover. All who want a good map of the river should see this.

* It was a gloomy, wet, dull day in London.—En.

FISH CATCHING HOLD OF WEEDS WHEN HOOKED.

In noticing Sir Edward Grey's book on "Fly Fishing" recently, I quoted the foot-note in which the editors (the Marquis of Granby and Mr. G. A. B. Dewar) referred to the author's remarks about trout, when they have weeded you, sometimes taking hold of the weeds in their teeth to prevent you pulling them out.

Sir Edward says, on page 85, "A trout's method of resisting in weeds is, I am convinced, to lay hold of them with its mouth." He adds, that he was incredulous that this could be so at first, but carefully watching what took place has convinced him that trout do attempt to resist the strain of the tackle in the way described.

The Marquis of Granby and Mr. G. A. B. Dewar add this note:

"It would surely be hard to over-estimate the importance to the angler, and the interest to the naturalist, of this theory of Sir Edward Grey's. The resistance often offered by trout of a moderate size when they have reached a small patch of weeds in a chalk stream is quite mysterious."

In connection with this question I mentioned that in an article about pike fishing in the April number of *Hammsworth's Magazine*, published before Sir E. Grey's book had appeared, I had referred to the fact that, when pike fishing with Mr. Alfred Jardine, we had noticed that pike will at times hang on to weeds to prevent being pulled out of them.

In looking for the dressing of the Cinnamon Sedge* in that best of angling books ever published, "A Book on Angling," by Francis Francis, I was amused, though not much surprised, to find that this question of fish hanging on to weeds was all clearly set out by him thirty years or more ago! The fact is, Francis Francis had such wide and varied experience during his more than forty years' career as an angler, that there can be very little that he did not know.

I have occasionally heard it said that Francis was not a good fly fisher; but this is perfect nonsense. I doubt if any man ever killed better baskets of good fish over such a long period of years as Francis. The following advice for playing a fish in a weedy place is admirable:

FRANCIS'S ADVICE FOR PLAYING A FISH HOOKED IN A WEEDY PLACE.

"When the angler hooks a fish in a very weedy place, the best policy is a bold one. Let him at once, before the fish is aware of what has happened to him, put on a heavy drag, and pull him through or over the weeds into safe water. I assure the angler that this is much easier and safer than it either sounds or looks. It is one thing for the angler to take a fish through weeds, but quite another thing for the fish to take himself through them. In the one case he does not see where he is going, and yields to the impulse, while his fins offer no resistance; in the other, these circumstances are reversed, and he holds the weeds by his outspread fins, and very often also by his mouth. I am frequently obliged to exert my persuasive powers in this respect. I was once fishing in a very weedy river, and to the great astonishment of the keeper I hauled four fish, one after the other, out of very dangerous holes through heavy weeds into safe water, and landed them; three of them weighed 1½lb. each, and the fourth 2lb. "Never see anyone so lucky as you be, sir, w' big fish; don't seem to care about the weeds, not a mossel," said the keeper; and certainly some of the places were as nasty-looking places to hook a good fish in as anyone could desire to see; but prompt measures succeeded where a timid and hesitating hand on the rod would have been sure, sooner or later, to have ended in the fish bolting into a weed of his own accord.

"Should a fish run up under a weed in his efforts to escape, it is manifest, if the angler pulls against the stream and the lay of the weed, or even endeavours to pull the fish up through the weed,

* I have often had fine sport with this fly all through the May Fly time especially when the fish are getting a bit shy of the artificial May Fly, and I prefer the dressing given by Francis, viz.: Body, dark barm coloured silk; legs, a light or dirty brown hen's hackle, with a darkest centre; wing, any reddish cinnamon coloured feather, or yellowish hen landrail or owl. Should be dressed on a fine wire-eyed hook, ½in. long, with the wings ¾in. longer than the hook.—R. B. M.

or sideways out of it, that he will fail. The only way to extricate such a fish when he has succeeded in hanging your tackle up is to get well below him, let out a longish line, sink the point of the rod to the level of the water, and put a steady strain on straight down stream. The fish may, perhaps, for a time be able to resist this strain, but patience and perseverance will often fetch him out at last. *Even if he has gripped the weed in his mouth, as fish will do, he must open his mouth eventually, particularly as he has the fly in it straining and pulling at him.*

"I do not say that this plan is always successful, but it is the best plan you can adopt, while to attempt to pull the fish against or across the weed is almost certain destruction. A gentle sawing motion may at times be used with excellent effect if the angler has reason to suppose that the weed hangs at all on the line. Poking or stoning a fish is a very uncertain remedy, and unless you can see and manage the weed very well, cutting or hooking it up is unsafe, and sometimes results in cutting the line. If you get thoroughly hung up, and there is nothing to do for it, try patience; take off the strain and leave a moderately slack line, and the fish . . . will probably come out of his own accord."

There can be no doubt from the remarks in this extract which I have put in italics, that Francis was quite certain that fish will try to save their lives by hanging on to weeds with their teeth, and that he published his knowledge of the matter thirty years ago.

I have read Francis's work many times since it was first published in 1867, and I often find that things I thought I had discovered for myself I really owe to his invaluable book. We absorb ideas and forget them, and then some day the required conditions are present, the idea comes, and we think it is our own, when really the seed was sown perhaps twenty years before.

I knew Francis Francis, and fished with him, and when I hear anglers refer disparagingly to his skill, I know they have spoken ignorantly or jealously; he spoke his mind very freely, and consequently made enemies, often without knowing it. Some people have an idea he always fished with a double-handed fly rod for trout; this idea got abroad because he recommended, and often used, a 14ft. rod, especially on big waters, and in the later years of his life, but he was a master of the single-handed fly rod, and with another man's rod of that description cast twenty-six yards on the Old Barge Canal at Winchester, the other man being his friend, G. S. Marryat, who cast the same length of line.

R. B. MARSTON.

SIR EDWARD GREY'S BLACK HACKLE.

In my notice of Sir Edward Grey's delightful book on "Fly Fishing," I expressed a wish to have a pattern of the Black Hackle fly, with which he often does so well in chalk streams.

Sir Edward has most kindly sent me patterns, and informs me that it was not a special pattern of his originally, but was sent to him some years ago by Messrs. Hardy Bros., of Alnwick, from whom he continues to get it, in fulfilment of an order for Black Spiders (it is a Black Spider, but with a more sombre body than usual). Sir Edward adds: "If you care to try the Black Hackle as a dry fly over rising fish between six and eight o'clock in warm, still evenings in June and July, I should be very interested to hear whether you find it successful. . . . My experience is that trout either ignore it or take it well, and that I do not get many short rises at it."

I have had some Black Hackles dressed by Messrs. Hardy, and shall certainly give it a good trial when I get the chance. I must confess that I have never had much faith in Black Spiders, and have very rarely tried them.

Since hearing from Sir E. Grey, I have also received some nicely dressed samples of his Black Hackle from Messrs. J. Bernard and Son, 5, Church-place, Piccadilly, London.

R. B. MARSTON.

FOREIGN BOOKS AND PERIODICALS.—Messrs. Sampson Low, Marston and Co., St. Dunstan's House, Fetter-lane, London, supply the Trade with Foreign Books and Periodicals. Fast train consignments from their Continental agents twice a week. Catalogus gratis.

"HAIR, GUT, AND WIRE LINES."

It may not possibly be known to the generality of the disciples of Isaac Walton, that anglers, like violinists, may be divided in two classes. In the latter division a once celebrated instrumentalist included—First, those who played upon the violin, and secondly, those who did not. Similarly it might be said that anglers might be divided into two sections, viz., those who pin their faith on gut as a medium for bringing the denizens of the deep to the bank, and those who rely upon horse-hair to effect the same purpose. Occasionally, principally, more by private notification than by the instrumentality of the publicity given by angling journals, the question of gut v. hair crops up, and I have been fairly astonished of late at the number of rodsters who strenuously advocate the superiority of the latter over the former, in spite of the various improvements that have taken place in the manufacture of the former-named commodity. They maintain that with a rod specially built for striking, a greater number of fish up to three pounds in weight may be safely landed. Residing, as I do, in a town where a goodly number of thoroughbred horses are constantly trained, I have been much surprised at times at the number of applications which I have received from angling friends for a supply of horse-hair of the white, chestnut, bay, and sorrel colours. To many of these I have forwarded the best of the kind mentioned that I could procure; but, at the same time, I have asked the recipients to favour me with their reasons for their predilections. At first the combings, or pullings, of the tails that I forwarded were not satisfactory, and I began to imagine that the tails of thoroughbreds were unsuitable for the purpose; but as time wore on, and as I gained a little more experience, I was able to remedy the faults, which were of my own creation, so that I am able now to pass an opinion on what is, or is not, a suitable strand. The rod for the purpose must be specially built. It must not be too stiff, or the hair will part at the first stroke probably; but it should be light and supple, with a top joint that will readily give and accommodate itself to the "drawing" stroke of the angler. Regarding the hair itself, that should be put through the mill in the following manner: Let each separate length be taken, in making up the cast, between the left and right hands (fingers and thumbs); draw the right finger and thumb down the length, with the thumb nail just scraping the hair, at the same time testing its capability of holding fish of the weight to be angled for. Should the hair break, cast it on one side, retaining only those strands that have proved satisfactory. In making the selection the experimentalist will be astonished to find that the elasticity of hair will be much greater than that of gut, and in this is the principal safeguard of the hair-line fisher. If it passes through the ordeal of the "strike" successfully the battle is more than half gained, and it is odds on the fish being grassed. For clear water the best hair for use is the white, as it is far more transparent than gut or any other kind of horse-hair. In the sandy beds of rivers or ponds a chestnut colour may be used to advantage, as it cannot be distinguished by the (human) naked eye when drifting over the yellow bottom. For gravelly bottomed streams an even darker colour may be utilised. As regards the takes or bags of the hair angler some very heavy ones have come under my notice. Not many months ago an account of a splendid take of roach was given in the *Fishing Gazette*, it also being asserted that the fortunate angler used a horse-hair cast, the lengths of which had been pulled from sorrel colts. The hairs from the tails of mares are inferior in strength to those pulled from colts or stallions. An angler with whom I have lately been in correspondence says that occasionally his takes have been extraordinary. Upon one occasion he and a friend had eighty-three brace of trout, four of grayling, and one good chub, in one day, fishing with chestnut hair. Some few years ago I used hair in preference to gut, and in the Witham, at Great Ponton, near Grantham, I took, in three hours, eleven and a half brace of trout, while fishing from a meadow near the mill. This meadow was so situated that I was able to keep my body below the bank of the river, and to bring my eyes to its level to watch the top of my float as it drifted

slowly towards the mill. The miller was very wroth with me, and threatened proceedings; but I was not upon his land, and his powers as "bank mender" did not include this particular meadow, or I should have heard more about it.

The use of gut is so widely known, and its popularity as a factor of fishing furniture is so evident, that any fresh information regarding this commodity is extremely welcome. From amongst the gut workers of Spain the produce of the worm is sent over to England in three distinct sorts, viz., "Selecto," "Superior," and "Estriada." On its arrival in England it again goes through a second inspection and selection by our tackle-making experts. There are also other names which seem to indicate the quality of the gut, for instance, "Refina," "Fina," and "Corta." Great care is absolutely necessary in the pulling of the gut, and even the most experienced workers in this class are apt to pull unevenly, and so to disadvantageously taper it. This work is only entrusted to the most skilful pullers, who perform the tension from left to right. By uneven pulling the tapering comes in at the point that it is not intended, and the consequence is that the strand is weakened so much that it may be only of equal strength to the quality in the next inferior class, just as the weakest link in a chain represents the full strength of it. In many tackle maker's workshops the gut, as I said before, is again examined and re-selected, for which work skilled labourers are sometimes paid as much as 15s. per week. In selecting and re-arranging the gut an instrument called a gauge is used, which resembles in shape the bridge of a violin. In the topmost ridge of the gauge are five slits, and through these the lengths of gut are passed and sorted. But with some tackle makers this process is not in operation, and the consequence is that the selection has to be made entirely by the eye. One may easily understand how it is therefore that casts, especially salmon casts, are not of equal strength as regards the selected lengths. We may also clearly understand that, with no skilled workwomen (for the selecting is performed by women) to pay, a tackle maker may place casts upon the market much cheaper than the maker who does his work effectively by employing gauge workwomen. The best gut is perfectly round, free from marks, and not at all flattened in any portion of its length. The second quality is marked, more or less, and a little flattened in various parts, while the third quality has all the bad marks in a greater degree. We will consider now the lengths. It is, of course, obvious that the longer the strand the greater will be the value of the cast generally. To put a value upon lengths, we should say that a hank of 8in. gut would be worth about 15s. wholesale; but a hank of 11in. of the same kind would fetch as much as 95s. "Hebra" gut, of 8in. strand, is worth probably 40s. per hank; but 11in. lengths, of the same class, would fetch about 225s. per hank, thus showing that an increase of 3in. in the length of the strand increases the value sixfold nearly.

Before the gut is exported great care has to be taken in what might be called the seasoning or bleaching. This process takes place in the sun, and here, again, the skilled artisan comes in; for should the gut be exposed for too long a time it deteriorates, and may possibly become worthless. Then comes the polishing process. This is always done with pieces of chamois leather, which have to be used very judiciously, for too much friction will generate heat, which would have the same detrimental effect that a too long exposure to the sun's rays would have. In the course of my long experience as an angler (1842) I have, even from the best tackle makers, had casts which have proved worthless. Once, at Wraybury, I had soaked my casts well; but a small dace of 4oz. broke the first, and a quarter of an hour's use settled the other. The casts that I have used for years are those denominated the "Hercules." I can always rely upon them; in fact, I have handled them so long that I could, with my eyes closed, pick them out from amongst other casts placed before me. The preparation which they undergo renders them so soft and pliable that they cannot be mistaken for others.

And now as regards wire. I am of opinion that there is a future before it. I have, in thick water, tried lines of this kind of my own making. With a fine wire line one may altogether dispense

with small shot and leads between the float and the hook. Casting may also be performed with greater facility. The chief difficulty with wire (proper) lines seems to be in the kinking. This might be avoided by the use of a small swivel or two, and by carefully winding or unwinding the line. My practice is to purchase three reels of very fine wire at the ironmonger's (fine, finer, finest). With these I construct my cast below the float, using a prepared silk back-line. The finest wire will hold fish under 5lb. When done with for the day throw the wire away, and make another for the next occasion. No shot is required. I have at times done very fairly as regards catches with lines of this description; and I hope to see the time when wire will be used as well, and as often, as either hair or gut.

STRAW HAT.

FISHING IN INDIAN WATERS.

PART IV.

"THE ANDAMAN ISLANDS."

"'Tis a far cry to Loch Awe," is a well-known Highland proverb, and a far cry it no doubt is from Aden to Port Blair, from the spot I last introduced to your readers, to that to which I would now draw their attention. The one is also a complete contrast to the other. While the ragged and barren outlines of the Aden rocks at first sight tend to repel, the first view that one gets of the Andamans coming in from the sea is almost fairy-like in its fascination. A group of islands wooded down to the very water's edge (except where the settlement clearances have been effected), with a luxuriant growth of tropical foliage, and set in a sea of brilliant cerulean hue, they are indeed a picture of surpassing loveliness, and besides that they give one the impression of perfect peace and calm. Not that the sea here is always calm; far from it, for these islands are the cradle of those terrific cyclones which often form and sweep with irresistible violence up the Bay of Bengal, and breaking upon different parts of the Indian and Burman coasts, cause infinite devastation to the districts over which they sweep. Curiously, the islands themselves do not always escape. In November, 1891, a terrible cyclone swept over them, and the effects were such that many of the hillsides were swept bare of trees and vegetation, and twenty years will certainly not suffice to repair the damage done in less than half as many hours.

Lying as they do in the fairway of the traffic up the Bay of Bengal, they have, of course, been known for many centuries, and at one time were, together with the lesser group, the Nicobars, in the possession of the Danes, who established certain missionary settlements in them, but of these settlements there are no traces, unless it be in the curious blue eyes and fair hair which are occasionally seen in individuals of the Joruas, a negroid tribe who run wild in the Nicobars, and also in the strain of wild cattle, which are to be found there. Malays and Chinese have traded with these islands from time immemorial, but the islands were never seriously taken in hand until somewhere in the early fifties, when they were chosen by the Indian Government, as a fit and proper place to establish their penal settlement. They are administered by a chief commissioner and a staff of settlement officers, and rule and order is maintained by a body of about 800 Sikh police, a small body of European troops (two companies generally from the regiment stationed at Rangoon are detailed for this duty), and half a native regiment of Madras infantry. The criminal population is about 15,000. Many of these latter, the better behaved ones, are allowed to marry, and have plots of ground allotted to them, and settle down on these clearances, and cultivate the soil. But by far the larger number are kept in durance vile all their lives in immense prison buildings erected in different parts, and their labour is utilised for the benefit of government.

The aborigines are unique. A negroid race, utterly unlike the inhabitants of the neighbouring countries, their very existence is an ethnological puzzle. Where they came from, and who and what they are, is a problem which has not yet been satisfactorily solved. An adult male Andamanese stands from 4ft. 3in. to 4ft. 7in. in height, and a female from 4ft. to 4ft. 3in. Though so small, they are perfectly formed

miniature men and women. The men are pleasant to look upon, and very strong and muscular; but the women, as a rule, are singularly ill-favoured. They live in small communities in the jungles, exist almost entirely by the chase, and as hunters are extremely expert with their primitive weapons; while their dexterity with the bow and arrow, both on land and on the water where they hunt, shoot, and spear the fish, is simply incredible. Like most aboriginal savage races, since coming in contact with a higher civilisation they have deteriorated physically, and are rapidly dying out, and before very many years will probably have disappeared, leaving behind them absolutely no trace of their existence. There is one officer of the settlement who has been placed specially in charge of them, and he is devoting his whole life and energies to the task of recording their history, and in future days his voluminous notes, his most excellent

it is, however, that I wish to draw your attention to it, and from this point of view it is unsurpassed. As in the case of Bombay and Aden, in each of which places, as I have before noted, one fish is found to engross the angler's attention, so here it is the same. However good the general fishing may be, and very often is, either with the mullet, gar fish, seer, barracouta, and horse mackerel, still the main stay of the fishing, and the fish for which the angler generally looks, is what is locally known as "Khokhari."

Caranx carangus, or *Malabaricus* (and Sketch No. 1 will give your readers an idea of what this magnificent fish is like), are the commonest and most often got, but there are altogether nearly thirty sorts of caraux, and often enough one may come across others of the genus than those named above. It is somewhat difficult to describe our friend. A deep, full-bodied fish, something like a perch, body oblong and more or less com-

fish into the shallowest water; and a very favourite place to angle from, and one of the best when the fry are about, is the principal pier or landing place for Ross Island. Standing there and looking down into the pellucid waters, one can see, and almost count, every fish that comes near. Then a time comes when you see the ordinarily white sandy bottom clouded and darkened in colour; and unless you were prepared for it you would hardly realise that the darkness was caused by a dense mass of small fish. Such, however, is the case, and where these are our friend the *caranx* is sure to be.

Naturally, also, it follows that the very best bait for him at such seasons is the sardine or smelt; and it should be just lightly hooked, and allowed to roam. Such a bait is irresistible, and many and many a good fish have I had in this way. Of the two species noted above, the *caranx carangus* is by far the better. He grows much bigger, and

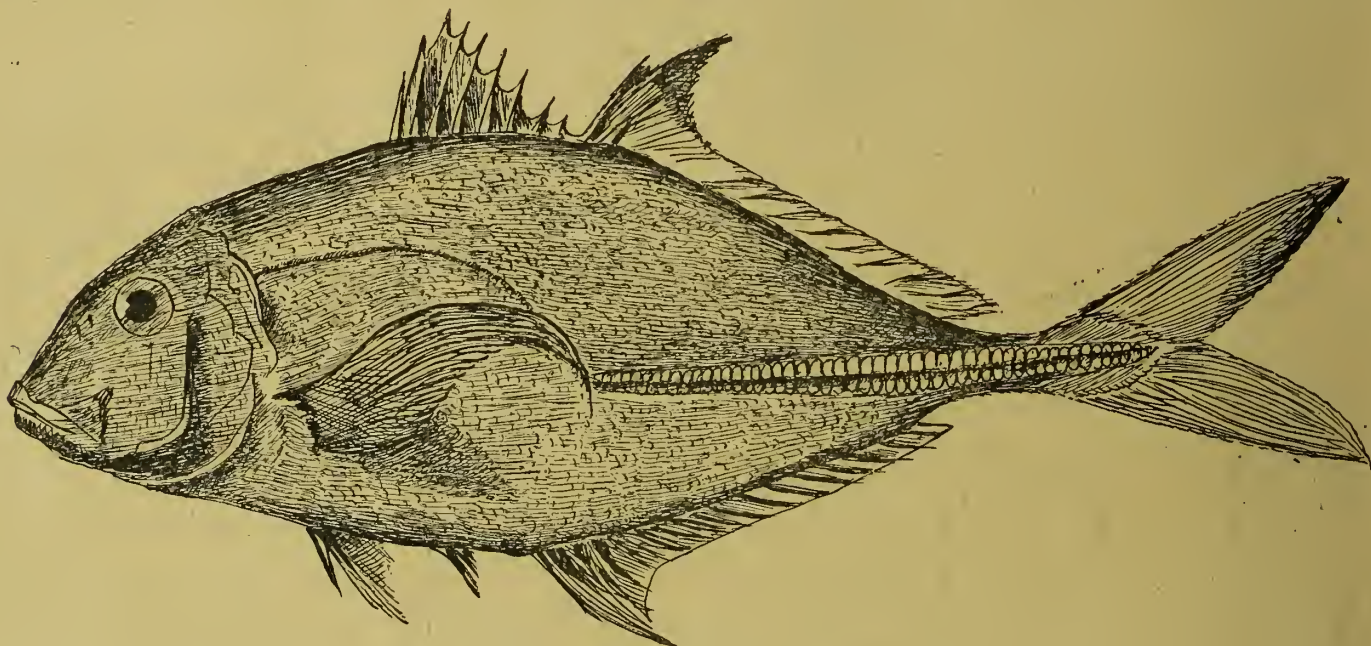


FIG. 1.—*CARANX CARANGUS* (locally known as "Khokhari").

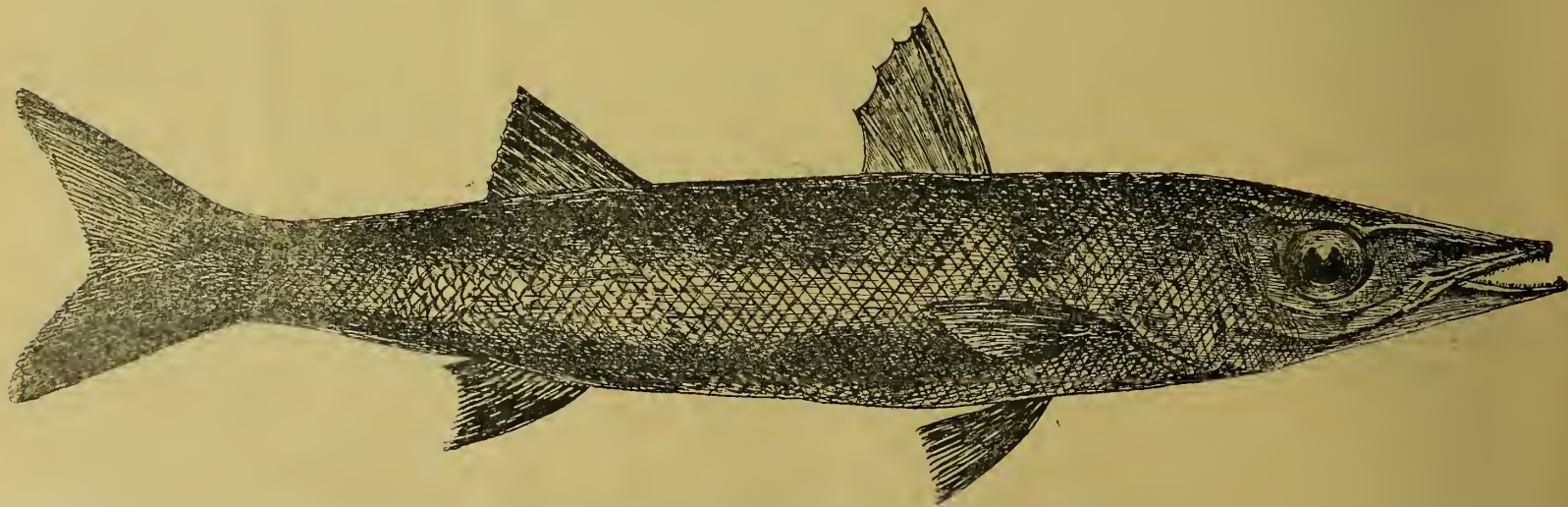


FIG. 2.—*SPHYRENA OBTUSATA* (better known, perhaps, as 'Barracouta').

collection of photographs, and his wonderful museum of their instruments, both of war and peace, of all sorts, will be all that future students will have to enable them to form an idea of what this most interesting and curious race was like.

The headquarters of the settlement are on Ross Island, better known, perhaps, as Port Blair, and there are also considerable settlements at Aberdeen and Viper Islands, and also at Port Mowatt and Hope Town. This latter place was the scene of the assassination of the then Viceroy of India, Lord Mayo, who met his death at the hands of a fanatical Mussulman convict in 1872. There is a small pier or landing stage here, and it is the landing place for and on the way to Mount Harriet, the Government Sanatorium. It was here, on returning from a visit to Mount Harriet, that the tragedy took place. As a fishing resort,

pressed, with resplendent scales, high shoulders, a small and shapely head, provided with very powerful tail and fins, lateral line in some species wholly, and in others only partially formed of platelike scales, each of which is armed with a lateral spinate, keen edge, and two dorsals. He is of a distinctly pugnacious and omnivorous nature, appears always ready to be hooked, and, like the Irishman, always spoiling for a fight, and what is better still, there is no trouble in finding him, he is always all over the place.

There are times and seasons, just as at Aden, when the waters swarm with the small sardine or fry of many sorts of fish, chiefly, I believe, of the atherinides, large quantities of which are caught in the nets, and are eaten by Europeans and called "Whitebait," and then the "Khokhari" is at his busiest. He will follow the shoals of small

is also the handsomer fish. In colour he ranges from a bluish silvery sheen on the back to a golden colour below, and in season his fins appear to be of beaten gold. Scales, not particularly large, are inclined to be loose, and come off easily; while, curiously enough, at times they disappear altogether along the anterior portion of the abdomen, and up to and around the pectoral fins; and on the smaller and immature fish are four or five vertical bands, very like what are seen on a perch. His size may be anything from 3lb. to 70lb. Very ordinary fish run from 16lb. to 25lb. The record "Khokhari" was killed, I believe, in 1893 or 1894, by Lieut. A—, in the 14th Madras Native Infantry, while stationed there, and weighed 72lb. This fish was not caught from pier, but a little further out, where the small station steamer was lying at anchor. The officers

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CURIOUS AND INTERESTING FACT

CONCERNING AN

ITCHEN TROUT AND THE MAY FLY

The "Fishing Gazette," April 16, 1898.

"The Major caught a brace of trout and several trouble-some grayling; the largest trout was about 1½ lb., and by this trout there hangs a tale.

"When I was fishing in the same meadow last June I lost many a trout and many a May Fly; now it so happens that in the gill of this trout was found, firmly hooked, a very perfect May Fly—the G.O.M.—with 6 in. of gut. He has worn and no doubt been proud of this distinctive decoration ever since. It seems to me to be a very remarkable thing that fly and hook should have been in that fish for more than nine months and now as perfect and fresh as if it had been in my pocket-book all the time; the gut is rather rotten. The gold tinsel round the body is as bright as ever it was, one wing is slightly mangled, as if other envious trout had tried to nibble it. I fully believe that fly is mine, that I lost that fish on that particular spot last May; the only doubt I have about it is that I then estimated the fish I lost as at least 1½ lb.,

whereas this one, after nine months' growth, now weighs only 1½ lb.; on the other hand, you know how much larger are always the fish you lose than those you take! I find there are other claimants for this fly. The Professor, who

is not here now, has certainly a claim. I can only say, 'Palmar qui meruit ferat,' if it can only be proved. It is distinctly a G.O.M. of Mrs. Ogden Smith's make."

THE AMATEUR ANGLER.



The "Fishing Gazette," April 30, 1898.

"Here is a picture of the G.O.M. May Fly imitation, after it had been worn in the gill of a trout for about eleven months, as described by me in the *Fishing Gazette* of April 16. Of course there is no novelty in finding a fly in a trout's mouth; but it is somewhat of a novelty to be able to identify the fly, and also to find it in such a perfect state of preservation after so long a time of wear and tear."—AMATEUR ANGLER.

THE "GLADSTONE" MAY FLIES,

The invention of Mrs. OGDEN SMITH, were the most successful flies used last season, proving more killing than any other pattern, especially on the Hampshire streams. They float remarkably well, dry very quickly, and can be had in twenty varieties of shade, both in the body and wings. Price 4s. per dozen. To be obtained only at OGDEN SMITH, 6, Park Side, Hyde Park Corner, S.W.; and 34, St. John's-hill, Clapham Junction, London, S.W.

MAY FLIES

4/- per doz.

G.O.M.

MAY FLIES

4/- per doz.

OGDEN SMITH,

6, Park Side,

HYDE PARK CORNER, S.W.,

And at 34, St. John's Hill, Clapham Junction, London, S.W.

on board were at breakfast. A rod had been left over the side, when the bait was suddenly taken. Eventually Lient. A—had to take to a dinghy, and follow the fish about, but it was landed in the long run after a contest lasting considerably over an hour. Bait, I believe, but of this I am not quite sure now, was a half-boiled potato. The other species, viz., *caranx malabaricus*, is also a good fish and a handsome fish, but is said never to grow anything like as large as his *confrère*, nor is he so brilliantly coloured. His back is a dull bluish grey, sides silvery, shot with purple, while his fins are a pale yellow, dorsal fins and tail grey, with spots. Both species, however, give very fair sport. When hooked, there is just a whisk of the tail, and they are off, and their first rush is grand; any check, and you lose the lot, but they do not fight brilliantly up to the end. After the first run or two they are given to boring heavily round and round, and, if you have a heavy fish on, your rod is likely to suffer a great deal more from them than from any other fish I know, for towards the end it is a case of "pull devil, pull baker" to get them within reach of net or gaff.

But the *caranx* is by no means the only fish that the angler has to depend on. As in Aden, so here, when the sardines appear large numbers of barracouta (*Sphyræna obtusata*), sketch No. II., seer fish (*Cybiium gallatum*), sketch No. III., and large gar fish and horse mackerel appear also, and you may vary your sport considerably by taking a boat, and towing a live bait about slowly—a form of fishing very similar, in fact, to what is known in Scotland as "harling." Then, again, on the outlying reefs you will, if you fancy it, get the red rock cod known locally as "gobra." These often run very large and very heavy. One big fish for a long time took up his quarters among the piles of the landing stage at Port Blair, and, though often hooked, always eluded capture by breaking away in among the piles. Apparently his favourite amusement was to lie "dog o'," and as soon as he saw any other fish in difficulties, struggling at the end of a line, for instance, as he often did, he just used to open a huge carpet-bag of a mouth, and, closing it on his unfortunate victim, to clear out with the best part of a fish, and leave only the head to the angler. I have known of his taking fish up to 6lb. weight thus when they were hooked, and the curses that were launched at his devoted head were many and deep. He fell a victim himself eventually, I believe, to a havildar, or sergeant in the police, who inveigled him into taking a bait about 2lb. in weight, upon what was practically a small shark hook, mounted upon stiff wire, and he weighed somewhere about 65lb.

It is difficult within the limits of a short paper to enumerate all the different fish that can be got here, and to specify also the different means for "sarcumventing" the same, but to your angling readers this will not be at all necessary. Any man who is a keen angler, on finding himself in such a place will most certainly very soon find out for himself all that is really necessary, and thereafter his innate power of inventiveness will lead him on until he will probably become a great deal more expert than I am, and will know more than ever I can hope to teach him. Of the fishing for mullet and gar fish I have written in detail on a former occasion, so will not refer to it. It is generally only necessary to give hints, &c., but I do not think that any mention of Port Blair fishing would be complete without a passing reference to the atherine (or smelt) fishing that is occasionally to be obtained. Whether or not the fish I refer to are true smelt I know not, but all I know is that they are very like them; and also that, as a change from the heavy coarse fishing I have been describing, it is a real treat to turn away at times from the large sea rod, reel, and lines—which are so necessary for *caranx*, barracouta, seer fish, and gobra—and taking down one's 10ft. toy to go down and have a turn at something smaller and more delicate. From my own personal knowledge there is only one place where these fish are to be had, though I have no doubt that there are many other quiet nooks which these fish affect; but the place I refer to is not far from the landing-place on Aberdeen Island. The tide, or surf, breaks very quietly in there, and there is a fringe of semi-submerged rocks and sand, upon which the waves break, and here sometimes the smelt are to be found in great numbers. I used to use the soft tail part

of a hermit crab for bait, a two-hook Stewart tackle, an ordinary trout gut cast, and cast for them as one would do when clear water worming just outside where the line of foam—caused by the break and wash of the tide—appeared, and if they were there one could very soon fill one's creel; and they were excellent for the table.

FRED. ORD. GADSDEN.

(To be continued.)

FLY FISHING IN A FAIR.

LONDON fly fishers who have been accustomed in past years to run down to Eynsford and take a day on the much whipped waters then belonging to the Plough (now, alas! no more open to the public at any price), will be apt to fancy that this article refers to that fishery. The title certainly is applicable to the sort of sport one used to enjoy on this public—very public—part of the Darent.

First you whipped out a little trout from the stream into the road, and then you reversed the process, perhaps, with a lady's bonnet. This was at least possible.

And then the school treats held in the river during July and August, and the great variety and abundance of the children always in the neighbourhood! It was seldom indeed that one could cast a line in quiet, though I must say that the boys who were throwing stones all day usually avoided intentional disturbance. The curious thing was that trout could be caught in spite of all, and many a dozen have I had out of that little bit of water in old times.

But it was not mainly of the Darent that I was thinking of when heading these jottings.

There is another little river, even nearer to town, which yields similar sport, and a visit which I paid to it the other evening may be worth a brief description.

Wild horses should not drag from me the name of the village through which this stream ripples and dances, for it is only by favour of the miller that leave can be obtained, and I do not wish to compel him to employ a secretary.

After showing my order to the manager, I started in the little mill pool with a Wickham and a Red Quill Gnat; and before long found two feeding fish in an eddy, and promptly hooked one with the Wickham. Being only a 9in fish, I returned it, pitying "his youth and the short time he had enjoyed the vital light of heaven."

I fear he took advantage of my clemency to turn informer, for it was long before I had another rise. After much fruitless casting I looked up, and found myself the centre of attraction for half the village, to say nothing of all the passing cyclists.

However, the spectators were quiet enough, and, though standing on the bridge within 10yds., did not in the least disturb the rising fish. Even when a waggon and two or three horses was driven into the pool and round and round it, the trout seemed to go on rising just the same, and I even rose a fish within a yard of the horses' heels; and this happened repeatedly.

For an hour one decrepit animal was tethered to a post in the water, soaking its legs; but nothing seemed to stop those trout, and eventually I caught eight of them, after rising, I should say, eighty, and hooking a lot which escaped—the big one among them, of course. The Red Quill Gnat was most effective, and had to be fished dry; but the Wickham and Alder also did execution, and also the Coachman towards his own time, though I had to leave before he was quite due.

The boys here are fairly civilised, and when it is explained to them that if they stop playing ducks and drakes there is a better chance of seeing sport, they sometimes do so.

Also one can cast from the mill yard, and need not endanger the hats of the passing lady cyclists, though a little carelessness may easily end in disaster.

It may be noted by anglers having perhaps an hour to spare in some country place, with a preserved stream, that very often whipping from a bridge is tolerated, if not openly allowed; but I believe that is not the case here. The stream and pool are very small, and do not afford room for more than one rod to work comfortably.

J. PAUL TAYLOR.

DEEP SEA FISHING IN THE SOUTH PACIFIC.

I HAVE lately received a very interesting letter from a nephew of mine, Mr. J. Arthur Shaw, who has for many years resided at Savu-Savu, one of the Fijian group, South Pacific. He owns that island, with its cocoa palms, bananas, and bread-fruit tree plantations. In the slack season, when not making copra and palm oil, &c., he indulges in deep sea fishing, or fishing among the coral reefs and atolls of this group of the Melanesian archipelago. An atoll is a more or less circular ring of coral, enclosing a deep water lake or lagoon, communicating with the outer sea by a breach in the coral ring. Some are of large size. Bow atoll is thirty miles long by six miles broad, Rimsy is fifty-four miles long by twenty across, Suadiva is forty-four miles by thirty-four. These atolls are infested by sharks of large size. As Mr. Shaw's description of the sport to be had is unique, and likely to be interesting to English anglers, I feel pleasure in giving readers of the *Fishing Gazette* an account of it, supplemented with some extracts from that excellent work, "Wild Life in the Southern Seas."

My nephew says: "As to fishing, there is any amount of it to be had round these islands. Not much science is needed, as the fish almost hook themselves. We frequently get them up to 120lb., and at times much heavier; but it is tremendous work getting them to the boat or canoe after they are hooked."

Among the various fish of the South Pacific which are caught in the vicinity of the Melanesian and Polynesian archipelagoes, are the *palu*, the *tau-tau*, and *takuo*. All are semi-nocturnal in their habits, and feed best just before dawn, or an hour or two before sunset. They prey on flying-fish which swarm about the coral reefs; the islanders catch and use flying-fish for baits. All three kinds of fish mentioned are sport giving, and appreciated as palatable food. The *tau-tau* is in appearance very much like a salmon, except that its head is covered with hard bony plates, and the jaws armed with large serrated teeth. The *palu* is a deep water inhabitant, varying from 3ft. to sometimes 6ft. in length, is scaleless, but covered with horny projections that curve backwards. The *takuo* is a species of albicore, and is frequently caught of 120lb. and upwards. There is another fish called *pala*, of no affinity to the *palu*, inasmuch as it is a surface-swimming fish, and is never caught at night; *pala* attain the length of 7ft., but are slender. The flesh is coarse, and seldom eaten, even by the natives of the islands; but they are beautifully coloured fish, the back dark blue, and sides silver grey, and in shape like mackerel. The head is composed of bony plates, and their long jaws are fitted with terrible teeth, sharp and saw-like, the bite of which would sever a man's arm, like a shark's. The islanders display much skill when fishing for *pala*, which is exciting sport, because of the immense strength of even a moderately sized fish. The tackle used is a four-plait cord made of coconut fibre, the end 3ft. of which is bound with wire, so as to prevent the fish's teeth severing the line. A small shark hook baited with a flying-fish is towed thirty or forty yards behind the canoe. One man attends the line, while four paddle swiftly along, at about two miles from the shore. Bits of flying-fish thrown overboard occasionally attract the *pala*, and soon a splash shows that one is following astern, and devouring the pieces of fish. Another splashing swirl still nearer, and the fisherman hauls in the line with both his hands, while the paddlers put on increased speed; suddenly the line tautens, and a tremendous commotion shows that the *pala* is hooked. Then the paddlers instantly reverse their positions, and face the other way; the bow of the canoe has become the stern, the man attending the line takes a "bend," or "turn," with it round a thwart, and the men paddle at top speed after the *pala*, which is immensely strong, and tows the canoe along a mile or two before it is exhausted, and got near enough for a bowline noose to be slipped over its body. The strain ceases, the *pala* is pulled near, but it has only rested for a few seconds, and away it darts again, and drags the canoe and its occupants at terrific speed for another mile or so; the speed decreases, and the line is hauled in until the

gleaming body of the fish is visible; but it may yet have strength enough to dive down under the canoe, and perhaps foul the outrigger and capsize the crew. At last the big fish is got to the port side of the canoe so as to avoid the outrigger, which it might break in its dying "flurry"; the fisherman deals a heavy blow with a club on its bony head; the fish, although half stunned, is still strong, and throws itself aloft, to fall back on the water with a resounding smack; then with a last short struggle is hauled alongside, killed, and towed ashore, if its length is such, as is often the case, that it cannot be taken into the canoe.

The clergyman of a coast village in South Cornwall jumped out of his pulpit one Sunday evening, and, saying to his congregation "start fair," raced with them to the beach, divesting himself of his vestments on the way, for shoals of pilchards were coming into the bay. Similarly my nephew, as the mission bell rang for evening prayers, gathered his crews together with their canoes and made for beyond the reefs, where was the prospect of good sport among the flying-fish.

On one side of each canoe a bamboo framework is "outriggered," on which is placed a bundle of torches made from dried leaves of the cocoa-nut palm; these torches are from 6ft. to 8ft. in length, and are quickly made by the women. The crews consist of five men—two to paddle, one to steer, one the torch bearer, and the other to use a scoop net stretched on a large ring of cane, and mounted on a 12ft. pole. Sometimes a score canoes are employed, and the little fleet dash over the surf on the reefs into the deep water beyond.

A small torch made of resinous fibre, in which gleams a spark of fire, is carried to ignite the larger torches with; the fleet divides, some going to the south, the others to north of the island. Every now and then flying-fish leap out of the sea and skim away into the darkness, to fall with a splash a hundred yards away. At length the order is quietly given to "Light up!" A torch is passed amidship, and one of the men thrusts the smaller torch into the end of the big one, and blows on the spark till it bursts into flame; this is done in the other canoes. The torch bearers stand up, and glares of red light illumine the sea; a man stands in the bows of each canoe with the scoop net. A minute more and the fleet is among the flying-fish swarming on the surface of the sea, dazzled by the blinding light. With a rapid sweep of the net the man scoops the fish up, gleaming of burnished silver and blue; reversing the net he tumbles a dozen into the canoe, where, with quivering tails and outstretched fins, they expire.

Splash, splash, and the netsmen scoop up more fish until the canoes are filled, the torches have burnt out, and the sea is dark again; then the fleet, merry with success, make for the island, where the wives and sweethearts meet them and join in congratulating the men on their grand capture, for the flying-fish are welcome fare to the islanders, even the white population eat them with relish, for the fish are very toothsome and wholesome. A few dozen are kept as baits for *tau-tau* and *takuo* fishing, which I shall describe in my next article.

ALFRED JARDINE.

(To be continued.)

NATURALLY VENTILATING WATERPROOF KIT FOR ANGLERS.

MESSRS. BURBERRYS, of Basingstoke, and 30, Haymarket, have sent us a most attractively illustrated catalogue of their latest inventions and designs for the benefit of those who engage in sports and outdoor pastimes.

We can strongly recommend the goods made of the patented gabardine combination materials, in which the outside is gabardine, and the inside tweed or homespun.

"This is the plan of uniting gabardine and its advantages—strength, thorn and rain resistance—with wool and its advantages—warmth and general comfort—the outer texture being gabardine, the wool tweed coming next the body, both fabrics waterproofed.

"This plan of making establishes gabardine as a weatherproof material in advance of any other form of mackintosh or rainproof cloth, affording, as it does, healthful comfort under the most varied conditions and maintaining the normal heat of the body, whether the exercise be violent

or light. Thus the essential requirements of sport are met, and one may start in the morning with the weather fine, knowing that should it change and the rain pour down later, he will still be as comfortable as it is possible to be under such adverse circumstances.

"Proof against rain, sleet, snow, thorns, brambles, fish hooks, hot or cold winds, yet porous as ordinary cloth, and therefore naturally ventilating.

"It is essential that gabardine should be made in combination in all cases where rainproofness is the primary consideration; gabardine unlined being recommended for colonial wear, and for shower-proof garments where extreme lightness is a necessity."

Having for years used and had experience of the excellent qualities of gabardine for all kinds of outdoor sport, we have no hesitation in recommending anglers who are not acquainted with it to send to Messrs. Burberrys, 30, Haymarket, London, for their new catalogue.

ANOTHER PART OF THE WANDLE THREATENED.

WE are sorry to hear that the river Wandle is again in danger. This time it is not the Croydon authorities who are the guilty parties, but the village of Carshalton, which is pouring a disinfectant into the hitherto pure branch of the river, which rises in its midst. Within the last ten days nearly all the yearling fish have disappeared, the older ones only being able to hold out against the noxious fluid.

We understand that steps are to be promptly taken to bring the offending parties to book; but surely it is the business of the Surrey County Council also to take the matter up.

A BIG PROJECTED GAME PRE- SERVE.

THE *Daily Chronicle* says: "A number of sportsmen in Canada have in contemplation the establishment of what, if the project is realised, will certainly be the largest game preserve in the world. The club, which will bear the title of the Lake St. John Limited Privileged Club, will have rights to the fishing and hunting in 30,000 square miles of territory, and the outlay on the preserve is expected to be about a quarter of a million sterling. Already £80,000 has been spent in acquiring the rights of most of the trout and other fishing waters of Lake St. John and its tributary rivers and lakes, as well as in erecting hotels, &c., which will be under the supervision of the club. Arrangements are, it is said, also being made with the Government of the province of Quebec to secure two tracts, each a thousand square miles in extent, for game parks for the club. These are to be stocked with moose, elk, red deer, and caribou, as well as the best species of foreign game birds, which live under similar climatic conditions to those of Canada. The admission fee is expected to be £100. Many prominent Canadians and Englishmen are interested in the scheme."

CONCERNING SHALLOW SWIMS AND COLOUR OF RODS.

No one would believe the number of anglers I have seen fishing in clear, comparatively shallow water, when every movement of both the rod and angler could be distinctly seen, and then wonder why they were not successful. When one considers that even such fish as dace will rush off at the sight of one, whilst our old friend the chub will dart out of sight under the first bush, willow root, hollow bank, bunch of weeds, or even a hole in a stone wall, I think it strange that anyone calling himself a fisherman should expect to catch fish when angling with a highly varnished, white, glittering rod, constantly moving over the swim, and the shadow from some of these long formidable rods is very pronounced. I have seen anglers fishing with a tight line in bright, sparkling water, not more than 2ft. or 3ft. in depth, when I have no hesitation in saying that every fish in the swim could see every movement of both rod and angler, and I firmly believe that on these occasions even a hungry fish, once fairly

frightened in the manner described, would be more likely to refuse a bait than a much less hungry fish when offered a bait where he could examine and, if necessary, test the lure free from danger and suspicion. I have frequently caught fish in shallows, 5ft. to 6ft. from the rod, in a discoloured water, where one would stand a very poor chance of taking a single fish in the same style in a bright, gin-fine water. A novice not in the know might fancy there would be no difficulty in the matter, but let him strike, say, a chub and play it to the net, and he might stay there until the cows come home before he could catch another.

On innumerable occasions fishing "fine and far off" is excellent; in fact, is the only method one can adopt. On the other hand, the young angler should not forget that there are certain bank swims easy to command in certain rivers in which he should make it a rule to catch the fish nearest to him first.

After hooking and playing some good fish a short distance from the bank, and thereby disturbing the swim, the fish naturally move lower down the stream, where by judicious ground-baiting, and by swimming the float with care and caution, he can often try for them with success, and so catch all that was possible within a certain distance; but with respect to fishing fine and far off it requires considerable skill and practice to strike a fish forty or more yards from the bank. With several anglers that I have seen it has been a case of attempting the impossible. Neither the rod, reel, or line were adapted for the work; the latter, from not being prepared previously, has clung to the rod in a most provoking manner. Fish after fish has been missed, because the strike was much too weak, and often did not even reach the float, let alone the fish, and that at a depth ranging from 6ft. to 7ft., and even more.

If these clever gentlemen had been content to catch their fish in a run down of 20yds. they would probably have been more successful. They would have struck with better effect, and certainly have avoided the nuisance of the line constantly clinging to the rod.

By keeping a good backward pressure on the float it can be kept straight in a line with the rod top, the bait kept well in front of the tackle, and the fish given a better chance of taking the lure.

Some distance before the float had travelled 40yds. it had gone off at a tangent; in other words, all command over it had ceased, and a considerable amount of slack line had sometimes to be struck up, thereby greatly impeding the force of the stroke, and the line did not make the water hiss. I may just mention for the benefit of the novice that one angler can, and will, often make a run down of 20yds. last as long again as another angler will a swim of 40yds., simply by allowing the float to creep, instead of cut through the water like a thing of life; and I have an idea that the former method holds out more hope and expectation of success; but this may be a mere fancy. At any rate, for more reasons than one I am rather partial to putting plenty of pressure on the float; it gives any fish inclined to feed time to take the lure, keeps the tackle well slanted, and it is capital practice for beginners. Harking back to the colour of rods, these highly-varnished, white, glittering roach poles, although they look so pretty, are an abomination, more especially when manipulated even in the most scientific and skilful manner over clear and shallow swims. All the science does not prevent the weapon flashing, nor the skill allay the fear of the fish; and consequently they bolt, and the angler is left alone in all his glory, often without being any the wiser.

I recollect perfectly well Bailey, of Nottingham, making me a rod, nicely tapered, strong, and lissom, three joints of which were perfectly black, and the top joint the colour of an ordinary fly top, whilst an old relative of mine always used rods painted green from end to end, and would use no other colour. On asking him the reason he would reply: "What colour are the rushes near which you often fish, the grass on which you sit or stand, and several weeds through which the fish roam?" "Why, green, of course." "Very well, that is the reason why I use a rod painted green. And do you suppose, young gentleman," he would say, "that the heron would be such a successful angler if it were the colour

of a flamingo?" "I suppose not, sir." "You suppose; why it would frighten every fish in the place."

After all who, may I ask, absolutely knows that a rod painted green from end to end may not be as bad as the worst flashing fly rod, or a highly-varnished, white, glittering roach rod?

OLD ANGLER.

BOSTONIAN ANGLING SOCIETY.

IT was, as usual, for the good old cause that the members of the Bostonian Fishing Club met at their headquarters on the evening of Wednesday, May 17, to assist the fund being raised for the benefit of the widow and children of the late Mr. Harry Patman, a respected and now lamented brother of the rod, who himself in life was foremost in every philanthropic movement. At first it had been proposed to have a subscription list, but eventually that good and proved trio, Messrs. Taylor, Ward, and Jones, offered their services with a lantern *soirée*. Although a series of pictures had only recently been shown, these before-mentioned princes of the magic art drew on their treasury of many past seasons, and produced a dazzling array of scenes which met with an enthusiastic reception alike from the home birds and the visitors. Music goes well with every art, but not every art can command the services of such music as was happily at the call of the founders of this feast. It is not every day, for instance, that a gold medallist can be expected to charm at such an unpretending affair; but Mr. Bert Jones (violin), the indefatigable Mr. Alf Jones (cello), the piccoloist known as the great C. B., and Mr. Upton, at the piano, supplied a no mean share in the pleasure of the evening. The chairman, Mr. Joe Jennings, who is always to the fore in the manly work of benevolence, was not lacking in appreciating and explaining the various phases of life presented on the screen—he knew every detail, and could do so—look, stock, and barrel, especially the *lock*. The songs of the evening, as usual, fitted to a nicety the subjects illustrated. When the contribution box was opened it showed a cash total of £6.

GREAT YARMOUTH PISCATORIAL SOCIETY.

THE members of this well-known club met for their annual dinner recently at the Bath Hotel. The mayor made an ideal chairman, his quips and jokes continually adding to the merriment. Amongst those present were Messrs. C. G. Baker (the chairman), H. R. Atkins (vice-chairman), L. P. Garrett (hon. treasurer), W. Kirby (hon. secretary), T. Green, Harry Moore, J. Ellis, J. H. Fortescue, G. Sill, F. Allen, A. C. Bradshaw, L. B. Garrett, E. W. Buckingham, G. H. L. Blake, C. Pitcher, W. C. Steward, C. Rowland, J. A. Williams, M. Simpson, A. E. Bond, S. Allen, A. Pank, E. Hayden, A. Beavor, W. H. Draper, W. Staff, R. H. Tooley, P. Search, W. Harwood, J. Read, S. Hassall, P. Musket, C. Ellis, G. Sherman, A. Ellis, R. Beazor, A. T. Dawson, R. Mond, C. H. Harrison, E. B. Freeman, W. Marjoram, A. J. Penny, R. B. Thompson, T. Shreeve, S. Graystone, J. Steel, J. Brett, R. Taylor, J. Buck, H. Freeman, J. Blanchflower, J. English, Capt. Darnell, G. Hughes, T. Royal, and others. The menu and programme were set forth in a manner exclusive to the G.Y.P.S.

After the discussion of the toothsome edibles, served up by Mr. Foulsham, the company abandoned themselves to toast and song, the *post prandial* proceedings of course opening with the "Queen."

Mr. Stewart proposed the "Mayor," which toast was received with musical honours.

The Mayor said that if there was one thing calculated to take away one's breath, it was very conspicuous kindness. He had known such acts to bring tears into a person's eyes. They did not have that effect on him as a rule, but rather deprived him of the power of speech. He very thoroughly appreciated the kind and generous way they had received the toast. He did not know whether the town was fortunate in having him as mayor, but he really did love the old town, because he was greatly indebted to it. When he was a medical student he was such a miserable figure that they called him "The Spectre," but twenty years of hard work, prosperity, and happiness in Yarmouth had altered all, and they called him "The Spectre" no longer.

"Success to the Piscatorial Society" was the toast of the evening, his Worship, in a very witty speech, congratulating the members on the proud position they continued to hold in the angling world.

Mr. G. H. L. Blake ably responded.

Mr. O. G. Baker proposed the health of the treasurer, Mr. L. P. Garrett, and said that that gentleman had held that post for some eight years, and they had found in him a very capable and efficient officer. He had looked well after their financial matters and had not allowed opportunity to stray in the wrong direction, and that was a great thing to say of any man. His books were a model and very easily understood. He had given no trouble to the auditors, but had carried out his duties in an able manner. In fact they had been very happy in their treasurer, and felt they had in Mr. Garrett a capable man. But as time rolled on Mr. Garrett found it necessary for business purposes to move nearer London. On leaving the society he was presented with a handsome testimonial, subscribed by the members, in the form of a pair of pictures painted by Mr. C. H. Harrison, in his best style, and handsomely framed, one being a piece of Fritton Lake and the other Potter Heigham.

Mr. L. P. Garrett suitably replied. He said his office had always been a pleasant one, and he had had no diffi-

culty in inducing the members to think in the same way as he did.

A pleasant interlude was the presentation by the mayor of the prizes won during the year.

The remaining toasts were "The Visitors," proposed by Mr. H. R. Atkins, and responded to by Mr. E. Hayden, and the "Host."

The musical programme was of exceptional attractiveness. Mr. W. Baldwin sang some delightful bass songs, and also collaborated successfully with Mr. Ernest Collinson, whose sympathetic and tasteful singing was also heard with unmistakable enjoyment. Mr. Sam Allen was another popular contributor, while Mr. George Jenks and Mr. Haines Read maintained the continuity of variety with admirable effect; and Mr. C. B. Diver received a warm encore for his violin solo. An excellent gramophone was manipulated by Mr. W. Sbearman, and it only remains for us to say that the accompanying was in the efficient hands of Mr. W. R. Hunn, to show that in every sense the programme was perfectly ordered and perfectly carried out.

WYE BOARD OF CONSERVATORS.

THE annual meeting of the Conservators of the Wye Fishery District was held recently at the Shirehall, Hereford. Mr. J. Hotchkiss (vice-chairman) presided, and there were also present Sir George Cornwall, Mr. C. P. Evans, Mr. A. Battiscombe, Mr. Hope, Rev. F. J. Aldrich Blake, Mr. H. C. Moffatt, Mr. J. A. Miller, Mr. T. Miller, Mr. D. Miller (Chepstow), Mr. D. Miller (Llan-dogo), Mr. R. Lewis Lloyd, Mr. H. Haywood, Col. Davies, Mr. G. Seys, Mr. J. F. Symonds, Mr. M. K. M. Power, Col. W. J. Thomas, Mr. A. G. Vaughan, Col. Cnre, Mr. W. Hughes, and Mr. Evan Owen (clerk). It is quite impossible in the space at our disposal to give anything approaching to a detailed account of the vast amount of business that was transacted, but in brief:

The chairman, in feeling terms, spoke of the loss the society had sustained in the death of the Duke of Beaufort, who for nineteen years had been their chairman; and the present Duke of Beaufort was unanimously elected chairman, and Mr. Hotchkiss vice-chairman for the ensuing year.

The clerk produced the series of questions issued by the Board of Trade with reference to the salmon and freshwater fisheries within the district, and the replies thereto. From these it appeared that the take of salmon during last year was below the average throughout the district. No salmon disease was reported. The licenses issued for instruments numbered 1,455, which brought in a revenue of £285; and the licenses used for rod and line numbered 192 for salmon, bringing in a revenue of £186 10s., and 3,394 for trout, bringing in a revenue of £169 14s.

The chairman then moved the following resolution: "That in the opinion of this board the time has arrived when a Royal Commission should be appointed to inquire into the state of the salmon and trout fisheries of England and Wales, and into the working of the Salmon and Trout Fishery Acts, 1861 to 1896." He said every member of that board would allow that the fisheries had decreased in the take of fish very considerably, especially in the river Wye. However, he did not only base his request for a Royal Commission upon statistics of that river alone, but he took the returns which were given them by the Chief Inspector of Salmon Fisheries for the whole of England and Wales from 1886 to 1896, and what he found was this—that from 1886 up to 1896, taking the whole of England and Wales, there were only four years in which the take of fish was above the average. There were only two years in which the take of fish was about the average, and there were five years in which the take of fish was below the average. With regard to the Wye itself it was a still more serious matter.

A long discussion ensued, and the question of pollution was also brought forward.

The quantity of coarse fish, and how to net them out of their waters; the question of water bailiffs, and other matters were lengthily and animatedly discussed, and a very busy meeting was brought to a close.

YARE AND BURE PRESERVATION SOCIETY.

THE forty-second annual dinner of the above society took place recently at the Maid's Head Hotel, Norwich, when there was a very full attendance of members and friends. The dinner was splendidly served by Mr. H. L. Clark, and during the dessert the usual toast list was proceeded with.

The president (Major Jary) having given "The Queen," and "The Prince and Princess of Wales and rest of the Royal Family," in felicitous terms, proposed "The Army, Navy, and Reserve Forces," and said that writers in certain newspapers had complained of what Gen. Gatacre said at a recent dinner in Norwich as to the desirability of cultivating a military spirit in this country. But the general was right. It was no use bringing up boys to be milkops, for there was no knowing how soon Great Britain might have to fight to retain her possessions.

Lieut. G. B. Kennett responded to the toast.

Mr. G. Hustler Tuck, in a humorous speech, proposed "The Mayor, Sheriff, and Corporation," and said he was afraid the county would be very badly off if it had not the city in its midst. He commented jocosely on the way in which the corporation effected improvements in the city, but remarked that the authorities were to be congratulated on having nearly reached the completion of their sewage scheme, one result of which would, he hoped, be that no more of the drainage would flow into the river. With the toast he coupled the health of the Sheriff.

The Sheriff, in the course of a brief response, said that Mr. Tuck had made some rather caustic remarks upon the

action of the Corporation in various matters, but as he was not a member of that body he was not responsible for what had taken place. He believed, however, that the Corporation had done their best in the interests of the citizens, and with the new technical schools, the improvements that were being made in the streets, and the better provision that was being made for the housing of the working classes, he thought the old city would bear favourable comparison with any other of its size in the kingdom.

Mr. R. J. Colman next proposed "The Yare and Bure Preservation Society and the Health of the President." He applauded the work done by the society in preserving the rivers so as to provide sport, not only for the citizens, but for visitors from a distance, and said that the same idea was being carried out in other parts of the kingdom, for they were endeavouring to re-introduce salmon fishing into the Thames. He trusted that the purification of the Norwich river would lead to the production of more fish, so as to enhance the opportunities of sport, and coupled the name of Major Jary with the toast.

The President, in response, said he feared that the supply of fish in the East Anglian rivers was decreasing in quantity, and various reasons were advanced for this result. Of course if they were constantly taking the fish from the rivers in large quantities there would not be so many left, but one of the causes urged for the depletion was the influx of salt water. They had importations of many things from Germany, and now they had the German Ocean. It was said that Germany was a progressive country, and so it seemed, if, as was stated, the German Ocean invaded our rivers. As to the sewage that Norwich deposited in the river, he had heard it said that this fattened the fish, and he really did not know how they would get on when it was removed from the stream. He appreciated the honour that had been conferred upon him in his election as president of the society, and in recognition of it he invited the members to fish upon his broads during his year of office. With regard to visitors from a distance, he found that they were not excessive in their display of gratitude, for he understood that last year only about 18s. 9d. was contributed by them in return for the sport that the society provided, and if they would leave their guns at home he would be much obliged to them.

Mr. G. M. Chamberlin proposed the health of the "Visitors," and Mr. W. Warner Cook ably responded.

Mr. R. B. Morgan proposed the "Hon. Treasurer (Mr. Geoffrey F. Buxton) and Hon. Solicitor (Mr. J. C. Chittock)," and expressed the hearty thanks of the society to those gentlemen for their services. The toast was very cordially received.

Mr. G. M. Chamberlin proposed the "Secretaries," and said that both Mr. Greene and Mr. Rudd were held in high esteem by all fishermen. (Cheers.)

Mr. Greene, in reply, said that this was the twenty-ninth consecutive occasion on which he had responded to this toast. The society had lost many friends of late by death, and he would like to see more members come forward to take their places, as there was a difficulty in making both ends meet. It was true that the society had a balance at the bank of £100, but they did not know how soon they would require this to oppose some bill that might be brought forward in the House of Commons, and which would be inimical to their interests. They had beaten Mr. Mundella on one occasion—(bear, hear)—and a similar battle might have to be fought again. Mr. Greene also called attention to the fact that when the Bure Society was received into the Yare Preservation Society, it involved the latter in an expenditure of £60.

M. A. J. Rudd also responded, and read letters of apology for absence from several prominent gentlemen.

A MENACE TO LONDON.

THE report of the Hydrographer to the Admiralty reveals the fact that a hitherto unsuspected risk menaces London. This is nothing less than the sitting up of the Thames estuary. In less than twenty years the chief channel has decreased in width from one and a half miles to half a mile, and, adds the Hydrographer's report, "the operations of nature in the estuary are far too great to be controlled by works."

In the twentieth century we are confronted by the cheerful possibility that London will be another Sandwich or Winchelsea, so far as shipping is concerned. The thought that even the Thames, our old familiar friend, is slowly but surely being taken from us by the steady and continued aggression of alluvial deposit, is such as to warrant the darkest forebodings as to our future.

One remedy is to stop the hase uses to which the river is put by a large part of the riparian population as a convenient dumping-place for rubbish. Father Thames must flow to the sea unencumbered with the dead dogs, river-side garbage, ashes, and sewage which he at present is compelled to receive into his none-too-capacious bosom. Another remedy would be to undo the drainage work of the last twenty years in the river basin, which results in heavy floods, bringing down a large deposit of silt.—*Daily Mail*.

THE Royal Aquarium holiday programme has met with tremendous success, and is to be repeated daily next week. On Tuesday next, in the St. Stephen's Great Hall (adjoining Royal Aquarium), a great International Chess Congress will commence, and continue until the middle of July. Play will take place daily from 12 until 4.30 p.m., and from 6.30 to 10.30 p.m. The congress is organised by the British Chess Club, and is under most distinguished patronage. £2000 is to be given in prizes.

REPORTS FROM RIVERS, LOCHS, &c.

ENGLISH AND WELSH REPORTS.

Lower Thames.—GENERAL REMARKS.—Whit Monday has always been the starting point of the world-be anglers of the Thames who know nothing of the bye-laws of the river nor the seasons and sizes of the fish, and were always disappointed, after their investment in fishing tackle, when they were warned against using it by the river keepers. I always regarded it as a portion of my duty to assist the officials at that time, and never found it an unpleasant or disagreeable work. I will say this much for the would-be anglers who, though under a feeling of disappointment, were always ready to give up the pursuit, as it was done in perfect ignorance and with no intention of violating the law. During my forty years' work on the river I never gave the anglers occasion to offer me any abuse, as I always cultivated the advantage I had acquired of possessing a polite and courteous education, which carried me through every difficulty, and it is a very useful lesson for others to learn who have shown the want of it. I am very glad to notice in last week's *Fishing Gazette* an effort is being made to give a further appreciation, or addition, to the valuable and praiseworthy services that have been so ably and willingly given by Mr. Ben Abrahams for the benefit of angling and anglers, with special reference to the Anglers' Benevolent Society. I can very well remember the time when he was most desirous of working for the T.A.P.S. in asking for a deputation, and of getting up a competition in the lower Thames. The feeling of the committee was that he was living too great a distance from their portion of the river to be able to do anything for it, and, as regards the competition, it will be remembered by some that such competitions did exist in connection with the clubs on a Sunday at Penton Hook, and great complaints were made of the quiet and peaceful character of the locality being disturbed by the van loads of competitors that came down and took possession of the river. The committee were of opinion it would do them more harm than good, and therefore could not entertain it. They fully appreciated the kind offer of Mr. Abrahams, and regretted their inability to meet his wishes. I hope the present movement will be a successful one, and some of the members of the T.A.P.S. will support it, as, from what I have stated, he had evidenced a willingness to do something for it.—B.

—(Goring).—A gentleman took a trout at Cleve on Tuesday, weighing 3lb. 13oz.—H. J. GARDINER.

—(Hampton Court).—William Milbourne writes: "Mr. George Woods, of East Molesey, during the last week has creel'd three trout at the weir, weighing respectively 5½lb., 3½lb., and 2lb. The water is in good condition and the fish well on the feed. There are more trout at Hampton Court this year than I have seen for the last ten years. The only anglers I have seen are those fishing in private boats, and the professional men have not got anything to do, as no one comes to go out with them."—B.

—(Hampton Wick).—Head river keeper, W. Douglas, reports he had heard of a trout having been taken at Sunbury, but on inquiry there nothing was known. The trout are well on the move in different portions of the river. The greater portion of gudgeon have spawned, and the river in good condition for fishing.—B.

—(Shepperton).—George Rosewell has succeeded in adding another brace of trout to his list, one of the fish, weighing 3½lb., taken by Mr. Robert Smith; and the other, weighing 7½lb., by Mr. Henry Hills. On Wednesday Mr. C. B. Seils, of Giffordford, fishing in the Tumbling Bay, creel'd a lovely trout of 7lb. 10oz., measuring 24 inches in length and 16 inches in the girth, and, being landed on the Queen's birthday, my kind informant rightly describes it as his "first Victorian trout"—B.

Ancholme District.—The weather remains in a very unsettled state, but as it is much warmer the conditions are not altogether unfavourable for trout fishing for those who do not mind a shower or two. The Alder fly has been on in full force for about ten days, and the Black Gnat is on in limited numbers, which will be augmented probably to myriads in a few days. By the time this is in type we shall doubtless have a few Hawthorns. There are not, as yet, many Duns. The Freckled Dun, which is a fine fly, is in evidence, and so is the Checkwing. The angler cannot get wrong with any of the above, but he may also add the March Brown and Cowdung to select from. I have not yet seen the Green Drake; flies are late this year.—THOMAS FORD (Caistor).

Coln, Leach, &c., East Gloucestershire.—A large number of trout fishers have been out on Gloucestershire streams during the Whitsuntide holidays, and in some instances good sport has been had both on hotel and private waters. May Fly has been up in some parts, but not generally as yet, Alder and Yellow Dun being the killing fly, as well as Red and Sherry Spinner. Cold rain and rough weather has checked rise of May Fly very much. Saw Capt. Bartholomew bring in a nice leash of trout at the Swan, at Bibury, on Tuesday. The Duke of Leeds has been having fair sport on the Williamstrip water. Mr. Yeates has been fishing the Bibury Court and Swan waters. Drake will be full on about June 1.—PAN.

Cornish Streams.—The grand rain of last week and this has brought rivers up to a capital level, and some very good baskets of trout have been made. One rod, fishing the Camel, got seventeen trout, the heaviest weighing 1lb. 9oz. Other rods on the same river got from thirty to forty at a single catch. Mr. Jago got a basket of 6lb. On the De Lank stream, Mr. Reffell, staying at Glen View, St. Breward, near Bodmin, got thirty-six trout (with Coch-y-Bondhn and March Brown. The local papers report a trout of nearly 3lb., caught in the neighbourhood of

Lanncoston. Peal are beginning to run, and anglers of the Fowey are trying daily for these fish. The Fowey is rather earlier than the Camel for peal, but below Nanstallon, in the latter river, there should be sport during the coming week, especially after this spring tide.—BODMIN.

Darenth (Horton Kirby, South Darenth, &c.)—Very poor sport was the rule on Bank Holiday, the day being generally unfavourable. Several anglers that I met had scored blanks, and reported no rise on, and only an occasional Jenny Spinner visible. By good luck I got two fish during a brief rise in the morning. Both took the Olive dry. One, being a rainbow, I returned. The other was a nice bright fish of 3½lb. and gave good sport. The water is now higher, and the rain falling to-day may bring a little fresh.—J. P. T.

Dart (Totnes and District).—A good number of salmon have been killed by the nets lately, hauls at the weir running up to a dozen, whilst lower down some fair catches have resulted. On Monday, however, Mr. W. Holmes, an experienced salmon angler, was out, and could not rise a single fish, although it is reported that salmon are numerous in the pools, in one of which a keeper counted no less than nine salmon and twenty-five trutt at one time. Trouting has afforded some nice occasional takes. Mr. E. Ackrell was out early on Saturday morning, after the flood, and killed eighteen splendid fish (about the finest lot caught this season), and Mr. Full basketed ten. Mr. E. Distin secured nineteen on Monday, and Messrs. Martin and Densham have had good sport on the moor. Small lots have been creel'd by Messrs. H. T. Distin and Brelly, whilst Mr. Rogers killed some nice lots by evening fishing at Buckfastleigh. The last named rod also killed a 12lb. salmon, and Mr. Martin secured a 14-pounder in the Double Dart. The Midge are on the water, the black being most prominent, Childer's Fly and Popham being useful for salmon.—DEVONIAN.

Devonshire Streams.—A fair number of holiday rods were on the streams, but the weather was anything but settled, whilst the rivers were also in flood, and sport generally was consequently quiet. A few salmon have been killed in the upper reaches, and a 5-pounder was taken on the Axe with a trout fly. It is worthy of mention that this is the largest fish killed in the Axe for some time. Trouting has not provided large baskets, the best not exceeding a couple of dozen, the flies used being varied. The Avon (South Brent and Kingsbridge) is under the control of the association and a board of conservators. The price of the two tickets is somewhat high, and, in addition to this, the association, which has the best of the river, only dispose of a limited number of permits, and these have been taken up. Naturally, intending visitors stand but little chance of getting much sport.—DEVONIAN.

Eden (Carlisle).—Since April 20 there has been very little salmon angling attempted owing to the scarcity of fresh run fish; but in the last week in April a few fish took the river, and some seem to have made for the upper waters, for between May 17 and 22 Mr. Branson, of Leeds, killed two, 8lb. each, in the Edenhall water, and another gentleman one of same weight. If the salmon pass at Armthwaite into the lower reaches of the river, the anglers there will have an incentive to deal kindly with the young smolts, such as they have not hitherto had. Good baskets of trout are being made with the fly owing to the dull, showery weather. Mr. Raine had nearly 20lb. on Whit Monday. Sea trout are running pretty well, but salmon are scarce. It is held by some that, as the swallows were this year about a month late, the salmon may yet come on in good numbers.—SILVER GREY (May 24).

Esk (Whitby).—With the recent rains this river has been running in moderate flood during the whole of the week, which has enabled some fresh run salmon and sea trout to get up the stream. A fair number of anglers have been out, and, taking into account the time of year, sport may be said to have been fairly brisk. All the salmon landed have been caught with worm, minnow, and fly. The catches to hand are: Dr. Dreaper, one salmon of 5lb.; Mr. H. A. H. Rastall, one salmon of 7½lb.; Dr. English, three salmon, of 4½lb., 4½lb., and 7lb.; Mr. Baker, one salmon of 9½lb. (caught with fly) and eight brace of trout; Mr. Scoones, two and a half brace of trout; Mr. F. Schoefeld, two and a half brace; Mr. A. Stanforth, four brace. Some capital sport has been had on the Esk, at Lealhome. Mr. J. Bradley, of West Hartlepool, landed nine brace of trout; Mr. J. Turnbull, of Heckmondwike, three and a half brace; Mr. A. Bell, two brace; and Mr. J. Calvert, six brace. Whilst fishing on Monday, Mr. Calvert, in the act of casting, caught a swallow, the bird having swooped down upon the fly in its flight, and became hooked and entangled in the line.—J. JACKSON.

Exe and Canal (Exeter).—Bank Holiday proved a fine day for all, but sport was not very fast in this district, bags proving light generally. Among those who scored were Messrs. Snell, Taylor, Theeuwissen, and Roberts, the trout making up in quality what they lacked in quantity. Mr. J. Coombe was fortunate in securing a fresh run salmon of 10lb. from his private water at Thorvorton. To-day (Wednesday) heavy rain has fallen all the day, so expect rivers will be in spate for next day or so.—RED PALMER.

Fen District (South Lincs. and Cambs.)—Bank Holiday proved a great disappointment to trout fishers in the midlands. Cloudy, cheerless, and cold, with a temperature just the same as Christmas Day, a rise was next to impossible. Several local experts had arranged for a holiday visit to some noted water, whilst others had determined to flog the local streams. It need hardly be said the enterprise proved a frost. A few captures were reported for the previous week. The grub is still the favorite bait.—LIMPET.

Frogny (Anglesey).—This small lake, but little known, is patronised by anglers from Llangefni, and very good baskets have been taken by Mr. Thos. Hughes, Mr. Crewdson, Mr. Jones, vet. surgeon, and Mr. Jones, the Bank—W. H.

Idle District (North Notts.).—It is seldom that the Whitsuntide holidays have opened more inappropriately than has been the case this year. Cold and cloud has followed sunshine and storm, and though many went into the district for the holiday few have come out of it burdened with fish. Locals report a blank, and though water is all that can be desired, whipping it with flies is like flogging a dead horse. Surely we shall have a change soon, for are we not on the eve of the May Fly season? Aquatic flies are scarce, and land flies are "daft." A few fish fell to the bottom artist on the Idle last week, but they are not worth a report.—L.

Lake Coron (Bodorau, Anglesey).—Messrs. Evans and Smith, Holyhead, had fine baskets of fifteen and thirteen trout respectively, caught in the evening rise with a fly. The writer took seven on Saturday (best fish, 1lb.), which took a Mallard, scarlet body. Lake too high for good sport.—W. H.

Lake Vyrnwy (N. Wales).—Nothing could have been worse than the weather during the past week. Incessant rain, accompanied by high winds, practically made fishing impossible. Only the keenest of anglers made any attempt to venture on the lake for more than an hour or two. The fishing in the rivers, however, has been up to, and perhaps better than, the average. The take for the week on the lake has been only 156 fish, weighing 94lb. On the 17th, twelve fish were killed, scaling 7lb. 14oz. On the 18th, twenty-two fish weighed 14lb. 9oz. On the 19th, fifteen fish, 9lb. 8oz. On the 20th, seventeen, 10lb. 1oz. On the 22nd, when the weather was not as bad as on other days, forty-nine fish were killed, weighing 29lb. 1oz. On the 23rd, forty-one fish scaled 24lb. 1oz. The following are the best baskets on the river: Mr. Graham, thirty-two fish; Mr. Henty, seventeen; and Mr. Mason, twelve.—LONGDRIFT (May 24).

Lea and Tributaries.—The river on Wednesday was in condition for trout fishing, but sport during the holidays was of the most disappointing description. The stormy, unsettled weather and cold nights quite put the trout off feed. Eels are not yet running properly, owing to the cold weather, but a few have been caught up to 1lb. Coarse fish, especially roach, have been seen in considerable numbers, and if there is a good flow of water the summer angler should do well with "cads" among the dace and roach. The season for the former fish begins on the 16th prox., and the roach can be taken on July 1. The tributary, Beane, has yielded a few nice trout, the best brace reported 3½lb. In Oram's water a 2lb. trout has also been landed. No sport is reported from the Rib or Stort and tributaries. All have been well flushed.—JAZAK WALTON.

Lugg and Arrow (Leominster).—Both these celebrated trout streams have been visited this week with some very heavy falls of rain, which has caused them to rise a little, and there has been a stain on them, but it will soon run off. The rain has improved the water, and has brought the fish more on the feed, and they have been rising fairly well at the Iron Blue, Hardy Brown, Spinners; Alder, Yellow Dun, and Stone Fly, and a good few rods have been out during the holidays, and some very nice lots of trout taken. The trout are feeding on bottom baits and the caddis, and with a few warm days we should no doubt see the May Fly, as it is due now, only the weather has been cold. The Pinsley is running in good order.—GWYNNE.

Lugg, Arrow, and Pinsley (Kingsland).—Wind and weather very variable, with occasional heavy storms, which have rose the rivers nearly a foot of deeply stained water. To-day (Wednesday), running down and clearing. We have had slight frosts most nights, which has checked sport. To-day saw the first May Fly on the Lugg, though these appeared on Pinsley on Monday last. Judge it will be the 29th at the earliest before anything will be done with it. Alder, Yellow Dun, Stone Fly, Orange Palmer, Coch-y-bondhn, Iron Blue, and Hardy Brown, with Spinners, Female Yellow Dun, and caddis, for evening, are the best flies just now.—R. T. WILLIAMS.

Mid-Taw (Eggesford District).—River is now in good order, and large baskets are being made. W. T. A. Radford and Rev. R. D. Wade, on Thursday, took twenty-seven very fine trout with the minnow.—F. A. M.

North Staffordshire Rivers.—The Whitsuntide holidays have proved disappointing, through the cold winds and rain, and sport generally has been of a moderate character. On the Churnet, Messrs. Dewis, Goldstraw, and Bowyer took fish up to 1lb. weight. On the Blythe, Mr. Morewood had pretty sport to Partridge Hackle. The Dove has fished best to Olive Dnn. Prospects are rather down until the weather takes up.—F. W. DAVE.

Ouse (Denver).—That the sea trout referred to in recent report from here as being in evidence, causing several inquiries to be made in relation thereto, was practically demonstrated during the holidays, for, notwithstanding the downpour of Saturday to Monday, several enterprising anglers from London paid the river a visit. A brace of trout, scaling 6lb. and 4lb. respectively, was secured from the tide-way by two of the visitors staying at the Jernys Arms Hotel. Bleak would appear to be a most alluring bait. The weeds, I regret to say, are somewhat troublesome, but not so numerous, I think, as in the past season. Weather (Wednesday) improving.—WATER WAGTAIL.

Plymouth.—The rivers are still full of water, but there are complaints of the scarcity of trout. The fish do not seem to be sporting this year so well as last, whether it is from decrease in numbers or any other reason I cannot say, but one thing is certain, that if some hundreds of dozens are taken out from the rivers, they should be

replenished with fresh blood. I hear sad grumbings from the fishermen. The floods have allowed the peal and salmon to run up both in the Dart and Tavy, and some fine fish have been caught, principally with a minnow.—WILLIAM HEARDER.

Seven, Vynwy, Tanat, and Cain (Llanymynech).—More unfortunate weather for holiday visitors than at present could not be imagined. At the end of last week everything pointed in favour of anglers, as the rivers were all in good condition, the weather warm, and flies on the rivers more numerous than has been observed all the season. Since that time everything has undergone a complete change. Cold winds, wet, and very unsettled weather has been the rule, getting worse day by day, until at present the rivers are all more or less flooded, and all the sport possible for anglers is trolling for pike, and of those river pests not a few have been captured during the past week in the Severn and Vynwy by angling visitors, in fearfully bad weather. They deserve all praise for their pluck and perseverance, in lessening these unwelcome habitants from the streams in this vicinity. Anglers who are in the habit of visiting this neighbourhood will hear with sincere regret that the Rev. Elias Owen, vicar of Llanyblodwell, died very suddenly on Friday in last week. He was the most unselfish of men, and not only enjoyed angling himself, but was only too pleased to grant permission to any gentlemen visitors to the Tanat to angle in that part of this noted trout stream over which he had the control.—VYNWY.

Sussex Rivers and Chichester Harbour.—During the holidays a number of anglers were out, but the high wind was a great drawback to all kinds of angling. At times it was almost an impossibility to get a fly on the water. A few dace were taken below Hamsey on the Ouse with Coachman. Some very good trout have been taken from the Sloop, a backwater of the Ouse. From the main river, below Fletching, a nice trout of 2lb. was taken with spinning minnow, and from the streams in the vicinity trout up to 10oz. by worming. From private water in west Sussex three brace of trout, averaging 1½lb., were taken on Monday, but here we have no rise of May Fly. From the Rother a brace of 1lb. trout were taken, and a fine perch of 3lb. was returned to the water. The harbour at Chichester had a few patrons, but the bulk of smelt seem over. A few bass have been caught with rag worm, heaviest ¾lb.—GEORGE F. SALTER.

Taw (North Devon).—The waters are in good condition. I have seen one or two nice baskets of fish, and hear of some good sport on Saturday and Monday, one angler having thirty fish and another twenty-four. Two of our best rivers are closed, but will be open in a month. Salmon are still scarce. The spring flies still in use are the Yellow Badger and Pinkett.—RUSTY GAME.

Teifi (Lampeter, Cardiganshire).—Water in fine condition; good baskets of trout caught daily, visitors in the town having very good sport. Salmon fishing not so good.—H.

Teme (Ludlow).—The Teme in this part is now running clear and a nice height, and in good order for either fly or bottom fishing. The weather during the holidays has been anything but suitable for anglers to get out, and heavy falls of rain have been had, with occasional sunshine, which has caused the fish to move better, and they have been rising well at the fly. The best killing flies are the Blue Dun, Red and Grey Spinner, Hardy Brown, Stone Fly, Alder, Coch-y-Bondhu, and Iron Blue. Bottom fishing since the rain has been very successful, and some fine dishes of trout have been landed. The trout are evidently feeding on the caddis bait at the bottom, and if there was a few fine days the May Fly, which is now due, would be up, and some good sport had with it. On Saturday, with the worm, a nice lot of trout were taken. Fishing on Monday morning a nice dish of trout, averaging from 1½lb. to 2½lb. each, were landed. With the Alder and Iron Blue some fine trout were taken near Ludford. Fishing on Tuesday with the worm and fly was good, and some very fine trout were landed. More trout have been on sale at the fishmongers this week than have been since the trout season opened; price, 1s. 4lb. per lb. The Ony, Corve, Clun, and Ledwyche are all clear and in order, and sport has been had in them with worm and fly; prospects good.—S. LUDLOW.

Teme (Tenbury).—The Teme in this part is still running in good order for fishing, being a nice level and colour. The weather has been very unsettled, and heavy rain has been had, which has made it uncomfortable for anglers to get out during the holidays; but there has been a fair number of anglers out, who have used fly and bottom baits. There was a slight stain on the river on Wednesday, and more rain threatened. The fish have been well on the feed, and have been rising well, and some good lots of trout have been taken. The best flies are the Blue Dun, Iron Blue, Alder, Coch-y-bondhu, and Spinners. Bottom fishing has been good, and some nice trout have been landed. The Rea, Kyre, and Ledwyche are all in order.—WORCESTER.

Witham, &c. (Mid-Lincolnshire).—Hopes had been flattered for the Whitsuntide holidays by a more genial outlook, but after Saturday came another change, which was disappointing, to say the least of it. Monday was as cold as Christmas, and though Tuesday was brighter, thunderstorms were not absent. Those who tried for sport were grievously disappointed on the local streams, but a few fish were brought from the holes by the bottom fishers. The weather is so changeable one does not know what to recommend. The condition of the water is all that can be desired, but the rise of fish depends more on the sunshine, which is so very often absent.—LUCI.

Wye and Derwent (Derbyshire).—The weather during the past week has been very unsettled, that angling pursuits have been uncertain. There has not been sufficient rain to make the rivers unfishable, but it has

been uncomfortable fishing, thunder and heavy rain with hail, and a cold east wind on some days. The few gentlemen who have fished the Wye have only had moderate sport. The same remarks may be said of the Chatsworth, Hathersage, and upper reaches of the Derwent. Reports from Darley Dale are rather discouraging for fly fishing. Where bottom fishing is permitted a nice lot of good sized trout have been taken from this latter club's water, also from private and free water about Matlock Bridge during the holidays. Several baskets of trout were obtained from the Matlock and Cromford Angling Association's water. A gentleman from Nottingham took one trout, 1½lb.; another visitor took one the same weight on Saturday. There is now an excellent woodland water for bottom fishing, and those who have ants' eggs for bait will no doubt be well rewarded, as this is the best bait that can be used for trout. Several good fish have been taken with minnow and worm. Mr. Edgar Buxton, with the latter, obtained a very good trout, 2lb. 2oz., near the old petrifying well, Matlock Bath; also the Holmesford and Whatstandwell reaches of this river have yielded some nice fish, mostly by bottom fishing. When the river is fined down good sport may be expected with the fly. The May Fly has not been seen on these rivers at present. Trout seldom take the dace here until June 3rd or 5th. Useful flies: Yellow Dun, Cooper's Fancy, Ash Dun, Furnace Fly, Sand Fly in the evening, and Claret Bunnies.—DOTTEREL (May 24).

Wye (Builth Wells).—River has been in flood since Friday last, and, if no more rain, will be in order end of the week. Both salmon and trout anglers should have good sport for some time. Brook fishing has been good. Baskets of trout, 7lb. to 10lb., have been had with the minnow and worm.—W. B. ROBERTS.

Yore, Swale, Wharfe, Nidd, Dove, &c. (Yorkshire).—The weather during the Whitsuntide holidays has been utterly wretched; and, with the exception of a day or so, May has so far falsified the eulogies of the old writers, that angling in Yorkshire has been followed with the discomforts and disadvantages that thousands of holiday people have experienced all over the country. Nearly all the anglers I have come across during the past ten days are clothed *cap-à-pie* with waterproof garments; and they need them, for the rain has fallen almost hourly, and the bitter cold north-east and easterly winds have been something cruel. I need hardly say, therefore, that fly fishing has been at a discount owing to the frequent heavy freshets that have run into our trout streams; and we have had any amount of "winter scowls" but precious little of "summer shines," and I cannot call to mind a season like this. We had snow on all the hills on Monday morning, and to-day a cruel north-east wind, a leaden sky with rain at intervals, is the Queen's birthday weather that we are experiencing. The worm fishermen have had the best of it during the week, but some good dishes of trout have been caught with the minnow in the upper Yore, where James Blades, with visitors staying at the Crown Hotel, at Hawes, have on some days done fairly well, and a basket or two have fallen to the fly on days the weather could be caught right, all the very early spring flies killing better than the lighter duns and brighter browns generally in request at the end of May. Mr. Dennison, of Leeds, staying at the Rose and Crown, Bainbridge, and other anglers fishing the river there have done fairly, so has Mr. George Helliwell, at Redmire, but sport below there down to Middleham has not been remarkable, and there has been too much water to make it good at Tanfield or Masham. I had very fair sport up the Cover on Monday, catching nine nice trout with the minnow. Another angler I came across had seven with the worm; but Mr. Booth, of Catterick, and two friends had not done so well with the fly, and Mr. Middlemost and party had only moderate sport. Sport in the Swale has not been at all had, considering the bad weather and unsettled water. Mr. Booth and Mr. Gill, of Catterick, have done well in Skeby Beck, the latter well-known angler getting thirty-three trout on one occasion. Mr. C. Musgrave one day caught 9½lb.; and the Rev. A. Vasey, Mr. A. Elwood, Mr. A. Gregory, Mr. Wallace, Mr. Parkin, and a number of visitors have had no cause to complain. Up to to-night's post I have only meagre reports from the Wharfe and Nidd, too much water and too cold weather being generally the summing-up of my correspondents' communications. The most killing flies have been the Dark Watchet, Waterhen Bloa, Orange Partridge ribbed with tinsel, March Brown, Snipe and Purple, Thompson's Fancy, and Cooper's Fancy, and on the first named river Mr. Richardson, J. E. Miller, jun., Mr. J. P. Walker, and others have made nice dishes. Dr. Leonard Masters speaks well of the sport he has had on the Dove during the holidays, and highly recommends my minnow and the Black Swan Hotel at Kirbymoreside to all brother piscators. Heavy rains and thick waters have, of course, interfered with fly fishing on that river and its tributaries, the Hodge; but streams have been well putronised, and Mr. D. Stoor and son, Mr. E. Hill, Mr. M. Snowdon, Mr. C. Russell, Mr. J. Hebron, Mr. Allen (of London), and other visitors have made good baskets.—J. E. MILLER, Northern Anglers' Depot, 19, New Station-street, Leeds.

By TELEGRAPH.—There is an improvement in the weather to-day, but it is very cold, and the wind is north-east. The main rivers are in good condition for spinning minnow, with which bait some good dishes of trout were caught yesterday. The tributary streams are in good condition for fly fishing. Salmon fishing in the Esk has been very fair, and several fine fish up to 9½lb. have been caught during the week. The best flies are the Dark Watchet, the hackled pattern of the Iron Blue Dun, Thompson's Fancy, Dotterel and Yellow, Snipe and Yellow-legged Bloa, Woodcock and Orange, and March Brown. Prospects for next week good.—J. E. MILLER, Northern Anglers' Depot, 19, New Station-street, Leeds.

SCOTCH REPORTS.

Border Esk and Liddle.—Rain fell more or less during last week. On Thursday there was a steady down-pour all day long, and both rivers were considerably swollen. Sea trout are now ascending to the upper reaches of the Esk, and some fair catches have been made, principally by local anglers. In the Langholm division of the Esk, Sergt. Bell, Langholm, killed three sea trout. Mr. W. Ross, of Langholm, creelred three sea trout in Glenfira; and Mr. Wm. Bell caught a sea trout weighing 1½lb. nigh the Skippers Bridge. Good baskets of yellow trout have been got in the Langholm water, also in the Ewes and in the little roaring Tarraz. Mr. Johnstone, Langholm, had two dozen yellow trout at a fishing. Anglers in the Caunobie water have been doing fairly well. Mr. Beattie, Wigan, had a basket of 8lb. yellow trout, and he killed two sea trout, weighing 2lb. and 1½lb. Miss Church, Park House, caught a sea trout, 1½lb., and a number of yellow trout. Mr. Wm. Law, Canonbie, had a sea trout, 1½lb., at Jock's Pool. Mr. Wm. Edgar, Rowanburn, landed one of 2lb. from the Hush pool. Mr. Murray, Canonbie, had three sea trout, weighing 6lb. Mr. David Murray, Rowanburn, had a nice sea trout and some yellow trout. Mr. Wm. Riddle, Canonbie, caught two sea trout and a dozen yellow trout. Mr. R. Steel, Bowholm, had two sea trout and a nice basket of yellow trout. Mr. Wm. Beattie, Bowholm, creelred two sea trout and 6lb. of yellow trout. Mr. D. Little, Claygate, had two sea trout and a number of yellow trout. Fishing near Canonbie bridge, a visitor caught two sea trout, 1½lb. each. Some good takes of sea trout have been made in the Longtown and Metal bridge sections. Good sport is being had in the Liddle with yellow trout; Messrs. J. Smith and J. Murray have both had good baskets in the upper reaches. Rivers in good order.—GILNOCKIE.

Carron (Easter Ross, Ardgay, N.B.).—Mr. Thornley (London), Mr. Boosey (London), and Mr. Marcus, all from Balmagown Arms Hotel, have landed a few salmon; also Mr. R. T. Coupland, of Grunards. On the Glencalvie waters, Mr. W. Allis-Smith, of Glencalvie, got a fish of 9lb.; on 17th, a 13-pounder; on 18th, three salmon, of 8lb., 8½lb., and 14lb.; and on 19th, one of 9lb. Weather most unseasonably cold, and in every sense unfavourable.—B.

Deveron (Banffshire).—Towards the end of last week the weather became very rough and unpleasant. A strong gale was blowing from a northerly direction, and on the coast at the entrance to the river there was a heavy sea running, which would deter fish from entering. The river was in flood on Saturday night, but the water fell in the beginning of this week. A run of fish was expected, but the experiences of the net fishermen on the two first days of the week were none better than that of the former, and only a few salmon were got, and no grilse. The water was too discoloured for successful angling, and little was done at the trout fishing. On the Blairmore section of the river, on the 18th, Mr. A. Gould, keeper, had a fresh run salmon of 7½lb. Owing to the storm on the coast, the cohes could not get to sea to visit the nets on Saturday, and as has frequently occurred since the opening of the fishing this season, the leaders remained in position over Sunday. Only at one station did the fishermen get to sea on Monday, and a fine shot of a score of salmon, including four grilse, were got. Grilse continue very scarce, only half a dozen having as yet been got this season. On Monday a large box was consigned to the market, and a couple on Tuesday. On Saturday a box of 1½cwt. was sent from the fishing at Gardenstown.—H. W.

Dochart (Luib Hotel).—On Monday, the 22nd inst., Mr. S. M. Normand had seventeen trout, 9½lb., five largest weighing 5½lb.; heaviest trout 1½lb.—D. MCNAUGHTON.

Durossness.—A visitor staying at Messrs. Henderson's boarding house has had fair fishing considering the cold weather, taking 41lb. of trout in nine days, including one of 3lb. and one of 2lb., all with the fly. Green and Teal doing best.—R. and T. HENDERSON.

Laig (Alnaharra Hotel).—Angling on hotel waters, May 22, Mr. and Mrs. Straker, Loch Break Bui, fifteen trout, 4lb.; Mr. Day, Loch Meadoie, fifteen, 5lb.; Mr. Kirkbride, Loch Meadie, twenty, 6lb. May 23, Mr. and Mrs. Straker, Loch Hallam, twenty-three, 10lb.—W. D.

Loch Katrine (Stronachlachar Hotel).—Out from Stronachlachar Hotel, on Saturday, Messrs. Clegg caught ten trout; Mr. James Menzies had a fine basket of thirty-seven splendid trout. On Monday, Rev. Mr. Cut-hill caught eleven trout; Mr. James Menzies had another nice basket of twenty-six trout; the Messrs. Clegg caught seven trout, heaviest fish weighing 1½lb. and 1½lb.—H. M.

Lochleven (Kinross).—Rain fell in torrents towards the close of last week, and the loch, which has been very high since the opening of the fishing, rose to a height unprecedented at this season. The water was on a level with the top of the pier, and the oar shed was flooded. Had it risen a few inches higher the office would have been flooded. The cold has been such as to make anglers glad to return. The dirty state of the water and the adverse weather kept fish from taking, and those that were got were mostly small. A good number of anglers are here at present from England, and are having a very disappointing time. Should the weather remain dry for a few days better sport should be got, as the water is clearing, and subsiding at the rate of fully an inch each day. Sir George Elliot, in two days, had thirty-three trout, 18lb. 8oz.; Mr. Chas. Elliot and Mr. Hugh Maughan, Yorkshire, on the same time, had twenty-four trout, 18lb.; Mr. Rushworth, Colne, two days, twelve trout, 11lb. 4oz.; Mr. Bramwell and friends, Newcastle, thirty-three trout, 27lb. 8oz.; Mr. J. A. Railton, Manchester, nine trout, 6lb.; Mr. Scott, Newcastle, two days, eleven trout, 7lb.; Mr. R. W. Armstrong, Newcastle, eight trout, 5lb.; Mr.

Annan, Helensburgh, and Mr. Stevenson, Stirling, sixteen trout, 13lb.; Mr. Riddal, London, and Mr. Cameron, Armadale, two days, twenty-six trout, 20lb.; Dr. Allum and Mr. Smith, twelve trout, 11lb.; Mr. Hardie, Edinburgh, fourteen trout, 11lb. 8oz.; Mr. Annan and Mr. Sheriff, Helensburgh, sixteen trout, 12lb.; Mr. Macleod, Edinburgh, sixteen trout, 10lb.; Mr. Thomson, Edinburgh, seventeen trout, 11lb.; Mr. Hugh Barr, Glasgow, fourteen trout, 11lb.; Mr. Brown, Edinburgh, thirteen trout, 12lb. Club competitions have been held daily. The most successful was that of the Edinburgh Amateur Club, the catch to seventeen rods being eighty-nine trout, 45lb. 7oz. The heaviest prize basket during the week was got by Rev. J. King, of the Clackmannan Club, who had with fly nine trout, 6lb. 15oz.—ROBERT LAING.

Lyon (Fortingall Hotel, Glen Lyon, Perthshire).—Fishing from the Fortingall Hotel, Col. Burn landed a beautiful salmon, weight 14lb., on May 15. River in good ply. Trout rising freely.—C. W. R.

North-East of Scotland.—The weather has been somewhat unsettled and cold. Snow quite common on the high grounds, although not lying long; rain in torrents on the low grounds, and the rivers and streams in spate. On the Braemar waters, Mr. Farquhar had a salmon of 6lb. on the Invercauld private waters on Thursday, and two, of 7lb. each, on Friday. On the Fife Arms Fishery, Mr. Wybergh had one of 8lb.; and on the private section of Inver water, Mr. Neumann creel one of 8lb. Her Majesty's Balmoral reaches were never so tempting at this season, and the Court officials should have excellent sport during the next few weeks. On the Ballater section, Mr. McGregor's guests finished up a very good spring season on May 26, Mr. McGregor's tenancy expiring on that date. On the Glentana waters, Mr. Bulteel creel one of 5½lb., one of 5lb., four, of 7lb., 7lb., 8lb., and 8lb., and two of 11lb. each; while Mr. Farrar had two of 5lb. and 9lb., and one of 8lb.; and Mr. Jameson, one of 6lb. and one of 8lb. Mr. Larning had two, of 8lb. and 14lb.; and Sir William Brook's keepers a few of average weights. On the Huntly Arms water, Mr. Crawshaw, Mr. Whitelaw, Mr. Watson, and Mr. Fife-Jameson had one each, ranging from 6lb. to 22lb. On the Kincardine O'Neil section, John Harper had three on Desa water, scaling 7lb., 7lb., and 8lb., while Captain Brooke had also one of 8lb. On the Lodge water, Mr. James G. Orr creel four, of 7lb., 8lb., 12lb., and 18lb. On Carlogie section, Mr. J. C. Haslam landed three, of 7lb., 9lb., and 22lb.; and Mr. Lewis Haslam, two, of 7lb. and 15½lb. On Borrowstone, Lord Garrioch creel two, of 6lb. and 6lb. On Ballagie water, Mr. Crawford Logan had two, of 8½lb. and 16lb.; and Mr. Levett, two, of 8½lb. and 11½lb. On the Comonty, Sandy Ross creel two, of 7lb. and 22lb.; and John Mortimer, on the Woodend section, four, of 6lb., 7lb., 9lb., and 14lb. Mr. Burrows has now arrived for the late spring and summer season. On the Kinneskie water, Mr. James Berry had one and two daily, of average weights. This section is now vacant till end of July, in Mr. Berry's (Banchory) hands. On the Upper Blackall water, Mr. Smith, Feughside Inn, had four of 8lb., 10lb., 10lb., and 12lb., on Thursday and Friday last. Mr. Davies and friend creel twenty-five fish on this section during April, and two for the first week in May. It is to be let for first two weeks in June. On the Durriss water, Mr. Baird and party had several fish last week, and up to date have creel upwards of eighty fish on the lower beats. On the Park waters, Capt. McLean and friends are getting an occasional fish. On the Kingessie, Mr. and Miss Fortescue are having one or two fish every other day, but most of the other sections are blank. The salmon supply is still very poor. Grilse are scarcely quoted in the market lists, and sea trout are about as dear as salmon. On the Ugie, Mr. Ingram, Peterhead, made the best basket one day last week, having twenty-five trout weighing 18lb. On the Ythan anglers have been out of it, owing to the unfavourable turn in the weather. The same with regard to the Don. Weather steadily improving; sport getting better. On Tuesday a few fish were got on the Banchory reaches of the Dee; and Mr. James Berry had one of 12lb. on Kinneskie water, to the fly, at Roe's Pott.—G. M.

Shin (Inveran, N.B.).—Since last reported the following sport has been obtained: On 6th inst., Sir John Shelley, Bart., of Michelgrove, Sussex, landed a 10lb. salmon; Sir Redvera Buller, one of 9lb.; and Sir John Ferguson Davie, Bart., of Credeney, Devonshire, a 13-pounder. On 8th, Sir Redvera Buller caught a 14-pounder. On 10th, Sir J. Ferguson Davie, one salmon, 11lb. On 11th, Sir John Shelley, one, 13lb. On 12th, Sir John Ferguson Davie caught a salmon weighing 21lb.; and Sir Redvers Buller, one of 9lb. On 16th, Sir J. Ferguson Davie landed two salmon, averaging 19½lb. each; and on 17th, two, of 10lb. and 15lb. On 18th, Mr. H. Ferguson Davie had four salmon to his own rod, 23lb., 15lb., 10lb., and 11lb.; and Sir John Ferguson Davie, two, of 14lb. and 11lb. On 19th, Sir John, a 10-pounder.—B.

South of Scotland.—In this part of the country a great deal of rain has fallen since last week's report. With the rivers running bank full, very little fly fishing has been had. Worm fishers have been getting good sport among yellow trout this week, and more sea trout have been landed. The weather keeps cold and unseasonable for the end of May. With a low barometer and watery looking clouds we are likely to have more rain. The rivers are in capital order for sea trout running from the sea, and it may be remarked that the run of trout is much better than that of last week. The month of May has been the coldest for a great many years. Unfortunately the cold weather has kept the fly off the water, and yellow trout are not yet in such good condition. Apparently it will take another fortnight's fine weather to bring the trout into order. The following is a note of the sport on the different rivers of this district since last week. **THE ANNAN.**—This river was in flood on Thursday. Heavy

rain fell again on Friday, and the river overflowed its banks on Saturday morning. While the waters remained muddy bait fishers were out in numbers, and many fine catches were made with the worm as a lure. Fishing above Annan Bridge on Saturday afternoon, Mr. David London, jun., killed two sea trout, of 2lb. and 1½lb., besides a good number of yellow trout, all caught with the common garden worm. Another local rod had a big catch of thirty-two yellow trout, the heaviest weighing 1½lb. Mr. McGiverin, fishing in the Craigdale water of Northfield, had a few burn trout with worm. He also hooked a grand yellow trout of about 4lb., but lost it. Mr. Thomson had a number of nice fish, and Mr. Jas. Loudon killed nine or ten above the town bridge. In Mount Annan water, Mr. Pasley Drom's keeper had a couple of sea trout last week, and Mr. Thorburn was also reported as having a few yellow trout. In the upper portion of Mount Annan water, on Monday, Mr. John Rae killed two sea trout and lost three. They were taken with the Silver Devon Minnow in Luce stream. The same gentleman had some fair sized yellow trout. Other rods had fair sport with worm bait. In Hoddon Castle water a few sea trout have been caught. Mr. Learmont and Mr. McDonald were reported as having killed one each last week, and another angler had one. A fair number of yellow trout were caught with bait on Saturday. In Sir Robert Jardine's portion of Castlemilk, as also Murraythwaite, Dormont, Jardine Hall, Wamphray, and Moffat waters the sport has been fair for the period of the season. All the tributaries were in order for worm fishing, and baskets of trout from six to a couple of dozen were killed. **THE NITH.**—This river was in flood on Saturday, and quite a number of rods were out fishing with worm bait. The catches were not of much importance in the lower waters, but further a-field anglers met with better sport. In some of the semi-private reaches a number of good trout were taken. In the Mid-Nithsdale waters the prospects are now better, and sea trout are running. The tributary streams have been doing better, more especially the Cluden and Cairn. **THE GALLOWAY RIVERS AND LOCHS.**—On the rivers of this district some good sport has been obtained, chiefly with the worm bait. On the Ken above Carsphad a local rod killed thirty yellow trout. On the district lochs of Galloway the cold weather has been against trout rising, and little or nothing has been caught this week. **AYRSHIRE LOCHS AND DISTRICT.**—Not many rods have ventured out on the lochs owing to the cold and unsettled weather. On Saturday, Mr. Graham, Manchester, out from the Eglinton Hotel, Dalmellington, killed sixteen yellow trout on Loch Doon with fly. The rivers have not been doing much of late. On the river Gryffe a number of Paisley anglers belonging to the Abercorn Club had fair sport on this water. An angling match took place between six members of the club and a similar number belonging to the Bridge of Weir Association. The strangers (Paisley) won, but only 8lb. 15oz. of trout was caught against 7lb. 12oz. by the Bridge of Weir Club. On the Stinchard and Glangarnoch streams moderate baskets have been had. **THE SOLWAY.**—A remarkably late run of spring salmon took place in the Solway on Thursday last. These were beautiful little fish of 9lb. on the average. Such a late run of spring salmon has not occurred in the Solway for a great number of years. Sea trout are making a better show in the nets this week, and the trout have increased in weight.—HEATHERBELL.

Tweed, Teviot, and other Border Rivers.—Matters piscatorially have not favoured the angler in the Tweed in the Kelso district during the past week. Floods, more or less, have been the predominating feature, and fly fishing has not been what it ought to be at this season of the year. Cold easterly and north winds have prevailed to a great extent, and the want of sunshine has been the means of causing few or no flies to be on the water; and the trout that have been killed were mostly got with worm and other ground-bait, while a few have also been killed with minnow. For the season of the year the fish are not in the condition that one expects just now—plump and full—as they are still lean and lanky, as a general rule. On the Eden, however, which is a more sheltered river than the Tweed or the Teviot, the trout killed there have been in better condition, more natural feeding having an influence to this end. However, notwithstanding all the various diemical causes that have militated against the disciple of old Izaak, some fairly good baskets have been made when the opportunity offered itself, which anglers were not slow to take advantage of. Little has been done in the way of salmon angling during the past ten days, but the recent floods may have been the means of bringing up a few clean fish to the middle reaches. Yesterday, on the Teviot, Mr. Frank Stephani, Kelso, hooked, but unfortunately lost after a twenty minutes' run, a good big salmon, guessed at 16lb., clean run, his tackle (trout fishing) being very fine. Of those who have been most successful in trout fishing during the past week were: On Tweed, Mr. Mercer, on Tuesday, 10lb.; and on Wednesday, 8lb.; and on Saturday he had 8lb. on the Teviot. This week he has had baskets ranging from 3lb. to 6lb., killed on Eden and Tweed. Mr. Mercer's takes were mostly got with worm. On the Tweed, Mr. G. R.-id, 9lb.; Mr. George Watson, Kelso, 8lb.; Mr. Jas. Robertson, 7lb., 7lb., and 9lb.; Mr. Robertson, three baskets, of 6lb., 5lb., and 8lb. At the "Cradles" cast, on the Tweed, yesterday (Tuesday), Mr. William Currie, Kelso, had a fine trout of 2½lb. weight. On the Eden, on Tuesday, Mr. Archibald Steel, jun., Kelso, had 8lb.; Mr. George Robson, on the Tweed, had 4½lb., and on the Tweed he had two baskets of 3½lb. and 6 lb. On the Tweed, Mr. John Wright, Sprouston, with fly, had 12lb. on Monday. On Monday, on the Kale, Mr. Foster, The Felling, Northumberland, had 6lb. of nice trout. On the Kale, Mr. Handyside, Cupar, had 6lb.; and Mr. James, Dalkeith, 8lb. On the Bowmont,

on Monday, Mr. John Currie, London, killed 8lb.; Dr. Currie, London, 7lb.; Mr. Jas. Thompson, 6½lb.; Mr. C. West, Kelso, 4½lb. On the Tweed, Mr. W. Shiell, Kelso, had sixteen trout, weighing 6lb. 4oz.; Mr. G. Robson, on the same river, 4lb. The fishing competitions on the Borders are still in full swing, and the best basket got in the Galashiels Working Men's Club was one of 6lb. 7oz., by Mr. John McInnes. The other baskets ranged down to 2lb. St. Ronan's Club, Innerleithen, had a good turn out, and Mr. James Anderson won with 8lb. Other baskets down to 2½lb. On the Whitadder, on Friday week, Mr. William Martin, station master, Mossend, Berwickshire, killed 16lb. of fine trout on the above river, with fly, and he only fished the Ellenford water.—MAX-WHEEL.

IRISH REPORTS.

Ballina (Imperial and Royal Hotels Private Water, and Gormorabney Hotel, Lough Conn).—Weather altogether most unfavourable for fishing, consequently a very poor report this week. Mr. Little, for the week, killed twenty trout, the largest weighing 4lb., and one salmon. On the 22nd, Mr. Whetherell killed a few trout, the largest weighing 3½lb.; Mr. Garvey also killed a few trout, the largest 2½lb. The weather still against angling.—MANAGER.

Ballina (Private Waters, Moy Hotel).—Since last report weather cloudy and occasional showers. Water in good order. Fish getting more plentiful on the river. On the private waters of the Moy Hotel there is a good show of fish. Anglers coming this way may expect good fishing. Major Brooke Colliogwood, Mr. McKenzie, and Mr. Kempsey had some nice baskets of trout at Runagry. (May 22.)—JOHN DEVERS (Ballina).

Bann.—There has been very little done on this river for the past week, as the water was constantly discoloured. It has not ceased raining for the past four days. Lough Neagh is now full, and the river at winter level. It will require a week to bring the water into angling order. There are salmon on all the reaches.—DANIEL O'FEE.

Belfast.—On Tuesday night a heavy thunderstorm was followed by torrents of rain, which sent the rivers rapidly into flood and out of order. Previous to that trouting was fair on the Dams, Capt. E. R. O. Ludlow killing two dozen fish in one day. All over Antrim and Down the rivers are in flood to-day (Wednesday).—J. A. B.

Caragh Lake (Kerry).—Sport has greatly improved here since last report. Anglers staying at Southern Hotel have had some good baskets of trout. Mr. Day and friend killed, on the 20th, one and a half dozen; 21st, two dozen; 22nd, four and a half dozen. Peal are now running into the lake. Salmon anglers can get tickets at the hotel at 2s. per day, to fish both sides of the river. All the lakes in this district are free to anglers.—G. C.

Cork Rivers.—Though the weather has been generally favourable, and the waters in fair order, sport has not been up to anticipation, but the prospects for the next few days are much improved.—T. J. D.

Corrib and Tributaries (Galway).—The variable weather has had its usual effect on the Corrib, for, although the river is full of salmon, and in pretty fair order—a bit high—they do not seem inclined to rise readily to the anglers' lures. Peal are putting in an appearance rather slowly. Since last notes the brothers Lydon killed several fish; Mr. Goddard had four; Commander Law, R.N., four; Capt. O'Hara, three; Mr. A. Jesson, two; and Mr. Shackle, two. Major Barton, Capt. O'Hara, and Mr. Jesson had several nice dishes of trout on Lough Corrib.—J. A. B.

Cammeragh and Inney.—Sport is now good on the above waters at brown trout, and a few good sea trout have been had during the last few days on the latter water, but none, so far, on the former. Salmon and peal are numerous in the tidal section of the Inney.—T. J. D.

East Tyrone Rivers.—The Blackwater and Ballinderry are in a desirable condition for bait fishing, but too high and coloured for fly fishing. There is not much to report from either. No salmon have yet appeared, though they are up the Bann.—J. A. B.

Enniff.—The river is now open for angling. It is a well-known salmon fishery. Dr. Allman caught three salmon on Saturday, weighing 21lb., 18lb., and 18lb.—MACKKOWN (May 22).

Erne (Ballyshannon and Belleek).—Although the Erne has been in high flood for the greater part of the past week, some splendid trout were taken on it by the following anglers: Mr. E. A. Ralli, during the past week, killed eight trout, weighing from 1½lb. to 4½lb., three of this lot 3lb. each, and largest 4½lb.; Mr. C. C. Ralli killed nine trout during same time, weighing from 1lb. to 3lb., in this lot there were two trout of 2lb. each, and one of 3lb. (heaviest); Miss Cornelius, in same time, killed five trout, largest 2½lb.; Mr. T. M. Pike and Mr. G. Antonini also took a number of trout during the past week; Mr. W. H. Woods took one magnificent trout, weighing 6lb.; Dr. Fred. Condon, another fine fellow of 6½lb. On 20th inst., Mr. Wm. Neely and Mr. P. R. took upwards of half a dozen of fine trout since last report, weighing from 2lb. to 4½lb. The first salmon taken with rod and line on the Erne this season was landed by Sir William Williams on 23rd inst., a beauty of 15lb., after a gallant fight of five-and-twenty minutes. The May Fly has appeared on Loughs Erne and Melvin, but not in any quantities up to time of writing.—M. ROGAN AND SONS.

Killarney.—Sport is now pretty good, generally speaking, and the prospects for the coming week are much improved. On the mountain lakes sport has been very good at the small—but game—brown trout of those waters. On the rivers in the Castleisland, Castlemaine, Killorglin, and Caragh districts good accounts have come to hand of the prospects of the summer fishing.—T. J. D.

Lee (co. Cork).—The river has been keeping in a very high state for past week, owing to the continued wet weather. A large number of fresh fish have passed to the upper waters, and excellent sport may be looked forward to. On Lee Mount Fishery, S. O'G. Roche, 12½lb., 7½lb.; on Mashanoglass, Mr. F. Barry, 10½lb., 9½lb., 9½lb., 7lb.; on Ashton, J. L. Peach, 10lb., 7½lb., grilse 3½lb.—W. HAYNES AND SON.

Lough Currane (Waterville, co. Kerry).—Sport is slowly improving. Four salmon have been had by anglers since last report, weighing respectively 12½lb., 11½lb., 11lb., and 10lb., and those fish have been rising much better at time of writing. The brown trout fishing is now giving good sport, especially in Coffey's Bay, Eddira Bay, Cummeragh Bay, and around the Rabbit and Tub Islands. Peel and sea trout are now coming up.—T. J. D.

Lough Mrik and Callow (Coghlan's Hotel, Foxford).—Very good trout fishing on the above loughs. Dr. Luther and friend got sixty-two trout in two days; Mr. Mitchel and Mr. Birch, twenty-five in one day; Mr. Schargill, some nice baskets of trout last week. River out of order, but any amount of fish up. Good sport on clear of water.—ANGLER.

Lough Mask and Corrib.—The following anglers, fishing from Mount Gab'e Hotel, Clonbur, are getting excellent sport: Major and Mrs. Ferguson, Capt. Talmer, Messrs. Drake, Haynes, Alington, McCausland, and Fletcher, Major Ferguson making the largest basket, seventeen trout, weighing 28lb.; Mr. Alington caught sixteen, weighing 25lb. (largest trout, 4lb.); all on the fly; some large pike also.—J. A. J.

Lough Melvin.—Owing to the almost incessant heavy rainfalls in this locality since last report, sport on this lake was not up to the average, in consequence of the unsettled state of the water, which has been much discoloured and some days unfishable during the past week. The following are the particulars: Mr. K. H. took one salmon of 8½lb. on 18th inst.; Mr. H. Philips, another of 9lb. on 19th; Mr. James Gallagher, a trout (*Salmo ferox*) of 7lb. on 20th; Mr. P. Gimes, another of 4½lb. on 22nd; Mr. E. Mulhern, one salmon of 10½lb. on same day; and Mr. A. Gilbride, one salmon of 8lb. on 23rd. Several baskets of trout were taken in the early part of the week. The heaviest basket was taken by J. W. Pane, weighing 13lb., and contained nineteen trout.—M. ROGAN AND SONS.

Lough Sheelin.—The Green Drake is putting in an appearance on Lough Sheelin, and by the end of the week will be well on. Heavy rain fell this week.—J. A. B.

Mountain Lakes (Waterville, co. Kerry).—Sport has been very good since Saturday last, when rain fell heavily. On Saturday evening and throughout Sunday, Monday, and Tuesday the brown trout rose readily, and three were frequently had at a cast on Loughs Drenane, Cummeravanig, Fílealougha, and Coomcateun. No sea trout can enter the mountain lakes owing to natural obstructions.—T. J. D.

Moy, Loughs Conn and Cullen (Bailina, co. Mayo).—Still no improvement in the weather or angling in either lough or river. Plenty of fish in the lower pools of the river, but not even a minnow could entice one of those beauties. Fine weather is all that would be required, and good sport would be sure to follow. A good number of trout anglers are fishing lough daily, and their best bag is from three to six trout daily, and many bags empty. The lough has risen over a foot since my last report.—PAT HEARNES.

Shannon and Lough Derg (Killaloe).—There has been a great rush of anglers here this week for the lake trout. If some of them have been disappointed they have only themselves to blame. Why will people permit themselves to be led astray by persons who know nothing about fish or fishing? Own affair. There have been a few good baskets made this week, some of them weighing from 5lb. to 16lb., 20lb., and 22lb. The Rev. J. L. Peach, England, killed on Thursday, on the lake, eleven trout, weighing 19lb., and on Friday, six, 11lb.; Head Constable Carbery, Tulla, amongst other fine trout landed one, 7lb. I have just seen a beauty landed, 8½lb. Weather has been very wild and cold both on lake and river. Quite a flood in the river to-day. Just what we like. Salmon will run up in goodly numbers; grilse ditto. First grilse of the season landed to day. Next week I shall hope to send you a better report.—S. J. HURLEY.

Shannon (Castleconnell).—We have again had a very heavy rainfall, and consequently the river is in high flood. Sport has been very poor for the week. On Doonass, Mr. G. C. Williams killed one salmon, 14½lb., on 20th. On Woodlands, Major C. Hayes, Newington, killed one salmon, 7½lb., on 19th. There has not been many trout anglers out, but some very nice fish have been got.—J. ENRIGHT AND SON.

Upper Lakes (Waterville, co. Kerry).—Sport has shown much improvement at brown trout on all the above waters since last report, and the fish had were generally of a better size and in very fine condition.—T. J. D.

Westmeath Lakes (Mullingar).—Up to date, May 23, I can only speak from experience of one of these lakes, viz., Lough Ennell or Belvedere, as the rise of the Green Drake is usually a week earlier than on Derravaragh, and a fortnight or so before it becomes general on Lough Owel. The fishing has been of the most disappointing character, sport being very poor. The only reason which has been assigned for this is the abnormal rainfall for the season, in consequence of which the lake has risen considerably, and become in many places near the influx of streams partially discoloured. It is hardly worth while giving particulars of "takes." On Wednesday evening, 17th inst., a friend and self got four trout, weighing 12lb.; and on 20th, self, two fish, 6lb. A very large number of tourist anglers have arrived, including a big sprinkling of ladies.—T. J. W.

MAY FLY PROSPECTS.

THERE has been no rise of May Fly to justify the sending of special reports, but we gather from some of our river reporters that—

"The Midges are on the water (Dart), the black being most prominent."

"Surely we (Idle, North Notts) shall have a change soon, for are we not on the eve of the May Fly season? Aquatic flies are scarce, and land flies are 'daft.'"

"The trout are feeding on caddis, and with a few warm days we (Lugg and Arrow) should no doubt see the May Fly." From the Teme, Ludlow, the same report is given.

"The May Fly has not been seen on these rivers (Wye and Derwent) at present. Trout seldom take the Drakes here until June 3rd or 4th."

"Green Drakes appeared on the north end of Lough Mask in the first week of May, and are to be seen every day till the middle of September, more or less. There is not such a great rise of Drakes on Lough Mask as on the dipping lakes."

"The May Fly has appeared on Loughs Erne and Melvin, but not in any quantities."

Angling Fixtures.

May 29.

Hearts of Oak: Annual supper.

May 30.

Bermondsey Brothers: Dinner and distribution.

Clapham Strollers: Distribution.

Islington Brothers: Distribution.

Izask Walton: Sea fishing outing.

Ormonde: T.A.P.S. concert.

Royal Oak: Concert and distribution.

Silver Trout: Dinner and distribution.

Wellington: Distribution.

May 31.

Cosy: Concert and distribution.

Crown and Buckland: Distribution.

Duke of Norfolk: Supper and distribution.

Great Northern Brothers: Annual supper.

June 1.

Duke of Norfolk: Dinner and distribution.

June 4.

Dalston: Annual dinner.

4.—Original Alexandra: Annual dinner.

4.—Royal Oak: Annual dinner.

5.—Clerkenwell and District Visiting List: Smoking concert at the Empress, St. John Street-road.

5.—Good Intent: Visit.

5.—Harcourt: Annual dinner and distribution.

5.—Hearts of Oak: Annual supper.

5.—Jubilee: A.B.S. concert and distribution.

5.—Nottingham Wellington: Annual dinner.

6.—Brunswick Brothers: Dinner and distribution.

6.—Elgin: Distribution.

6.—Victoria Brothers: Visit.

6.—Ye Olde Clapham Rovers: Supper and distribution.

7.—Camden: Supper.

7.—Duke of Norfolk: Annual dinner.

7.—Greenwich: Annual dinner and distribution.

7.—Izask Walton: Distribution and supper.

7.—Stratford: Supper.

8.—West London: Annual dinner.

11.—Crown and Buckland: Annual dinner.

11.—Hoxton Brothers: Annual dinner.

13.—Good Intent: Distribution.

13.—Gresham: Lantern lecture by "Straw Hat."

16.—Dalston: Dinner and distribution.

16.—Opening of course fishing season.

18.—Dibdin: Outing.

18.—West Ham Brothers: Match.

21.—Brompton: Annual dinner.

25.—Allason United: Pegged-down match.

July 17.—Amicable Waltonians: Annual dinner.

Reports from Clubs

We beg to remind Secretaries that their Reports must reach us not later than **SIX o'clock on Thursday Evening.** Address "Editor, FISHING GAZETTE, St. Dunstan's House, Fetter-Lane, London," marked "CLUB REPORT" outside envelope.

Allason United Brothers' Angling Society, Duke of Sussex, Uxbridge-street, Notting Hill Gate, W.—The special meeting took place on May 24, when several rules were revised, also the first match arranged as follows: The first pegged-down match takes place in A.A. waters, Veitche's Pound, Langley (meadow side), on June 25. Two rods allowed; all fish, except perch and pike weighable. All to leave by the 12.13 (midnight) train, S.W.R., or any subsequent trains. Members to report themselves to secretary to have their names entered, and show fish and answer roll-call at the finish, when the secretary will give the usual signal for cease fishing. Messrs. Prouten and E. Jackson are the appointed stewards for placing the pegs in. Will all A.A. affiliated societies please take notice where our pegged-down match takes place, so there will be no interference in our match. I thank my brother secretaries to make note of this. We had a circular sent by friend Conn, sec. Bermondsey Bros. A.S., re benefit concert for the widow and eight children of our late and dear old brother angler, and we unanimously voted 10s. 6d., and promised to further take concert tickets.

Ben was chosen to serve on the committee for that purpose, and Ben will be happy to do so. We have also done more good for the little fishes. We have raised the standard line over the present standard of the Thames, and we have, of course, abolished gross weight. We were busy till twelve o'clock.—BEN ABRAHAM.

Amicable Waltonian Angling Society, The Fox and French Horn, Clerkenwell Green.—At the meeting of the above, on May 24, it was proposed that the annual dinner should take place on July 17. Messrs. Watling, Nunn, sen., Nunn, jun., Haks, Hulme, King, Walker, Millin, and Merry were elected to serve on committee. The special meeting is adjourned until Wednesday, May 31.—G. MERRY.

Anchor and Hope Angling Society, Duke of Kent, Old Kent-road, S.E.—On Wednesday next a special committee meeting will be held, when some important business will be brought forward. Two cases of dace, caught by Mr. B. C. Booth recently, will be shown in club-room on the same evening, having been preserved by our member, Mr. J. Jones.—F. W. MARTIN.

Battersea Friendly Angling Society, Queen's Hotel, Queen's-road, Battersea, S.W.—Members are reminded of general meeting next Tuesday, 30th. Messrs. Hersant and Hudson were out trout fishing last Monday on the Darenth; both returned with well filled creels. Lists opened for new privileges; will members let me have their names at an early date.—A. JENKINS.

Battersea Piscatorialists, Lord Ranelagh, Verona-street, Battersea.—Will members kindly attend club next week for important business, also for privilege tickets, Anglers' Benevolent, &c.—T. TRINGHAM.

Bermondsey Brothers' Angling Society, Woolpack Bermondsey-street, S.E.—The annual dinner and distribution of prizes will take place at the clubhouse on Tuesday, May 30, at 7.30 sharp, Mr. H. D. Hinton in the chair. Members and friends who will favour us with their company are particularly requested to notice the time the dinner will be on the table, 7.30.—ALF. CONN.

Blackfriars Angling Society, The Imperial, Southwark-street, S.E.—Will members turn up in force next Wednesday to arrange prize list for ensuing season? Mr. Lincoln was proposed as working member. Members who want privilege tickets may have same by applying to secretary. Mr. Maurice Cowan was made a life honorary member. Any gentleman wishing to join we shall welcome. Our visit on the S.L.U.V. list was a success, although only thirteen clubs answered the roll, but the talent was grand, with thanks to Mr. M. Cowan; also the gentlemen who favoured us with their presence from the Drayton Park Piscatorialists through Mr. Greg, whom the members thank.—J. WHEELHOUSE.

Bloomsbury Brothers' Angling Society, Rose and Crown, Broad-street, Bloomsbury.—On May 17 Mr. J. Windsor, jun., was elected a working member. The twenty-seventh annual supper and distribution of prizes took place on May 18, on which occasion the chair was most ably filled by Mr. R. Lummes, faced by Mr. J. Pailles. After the supper, which was most excellent, our worthy chairman distributed the prizes, Messrs. J. Taylor, W. Bray, F. S. Pavett, C. Davis, and H. Davis being the chief recipients. A good list of prizes was then booked for the coming season, to which I should be pleased to receive any addition. I thank members and friends of other societies for their company on that occasion. On May 24 Mr. H. Walker was elected an honorary member.—T. PATERNOSTER.

Brompton Angling Society, Doyley Arms, Marlborough-road, Chelsea, S.W.—Our attendances have improved lately, and much pleasure was evinced last Wednesday when our chairman, Mr. Barber, put in an appearance after a severe illness. Several important items of business have been dealt with, our annual dinner being fixed for June 21. Outlying members are kindly asked to note the date, and also that we are making up our lists for new privileges and Anglers' Benevolent cards.—C. ASHBY.

Camden Angling Society, The Locomotive, James-street, High-street, Camden Town, N.W.—Mr. Boxall having resigned, Mr. Marshall has been appointed sec. pro tem. All members not clear on the books are requested to attend on Wednesday next, when they will hear something to their advantage. Supper on June 7, at 7 p.m. All donors kindly forward prizes.—R. MARSHALL.

Clapham Strollers' Angling Society, Alexandra Hotel, Clapham Common, S.W.—Our prize distribution takes place on May 30, and I shall be pleased to see all members present. A committee meeting takes place on Thursday, to arrange prize fixtures for the ensuing season. Privilege tickets are now being issued, and I shall be pleased to receive all names of members wishing to take up same. It will interest members and friends to know that, in response to an invitation, Mr. Percy Thornton, M.P., has accepted the presidency of our society.—S. VIOLET.

Clerkenwell and District United Visiting List.—The concert in aid of the prize fund of the above will take place at the Empress, St. John-street-road, on Monday, June 5. The secretaries of all clubs on the list have a supply of programmes. There will be plenty of good talent and a large room, and ladies are respectfully invited. The next visit on the above will be to the Great Northern Brothers. Date later.—F. CASTELL.

Cobden Angling Society, Keussal-road, W.—On May 18 our annual dinner and distribution took place at the Cobden Club, when a splendid dinner was put on the table by Mr. Wilson, of Cleveland-street, Soho, for eighty-five members and friends, who did ample justice to the different courses placed in front of them. Among the visitors were members of the Duke of Norfolk A.S., Allason United, Jubilee, Harcourt, Prince of Wales, and the Queen's Piscatorialists. After the dinner, £37 10s. in prizes was given away, and I am pleased to state we have £35 to start the new year with. The usual harmonic meet-

ing closed a pleasant evening, and the members dispersed at half-past one.—TWYMAN.

Collingwood Angling Society. Lord Nelson, Nelson-square, Blackfriars-road, S.E.—Our new rule for abolishing gross weight was carried unanimously by the members. Members wishing privilege tickets must apply to me for them as soon as possible. Several members were out sea fishing on Monday and had some good takes.—W. H. STAFFORD.

Crown and Buckland Piscatorial Society. Middlesex Arms, 35, Clerkenwell-green, E.C.—At our last meeting, Mr. J. Steadman and W. Wretton were elected working members. Our concert and distribution of prizes takes place on May 31, when we shall be glad to welcome anglers and friends who will favour us with their company. I shall be greatly obliged if donors will forward their prizes as soon as possible.—G. H. FRANKLIN.

Dibdin Angling Society. St. Martin's Tavern, Pratts-street, N.W.—Saturday's meeting to arrange prize list was a good one. The list was got through in good form, but there are still three or four more to get. On Wednesday evening Mr. Snell swelled the list by offering another guinea, and he also became a working member. Our first outing is on June 18, for three prizes; all fish to weigh. I got twelve members on A.B.S. This is good for a start; at least, so thinks—JOHNNY EDWARDS.

Duke of Norfolk Angling Society. The Apollo, All Saints-road, Westbourne Park.—On June 7 our annual dinner and distribution of prizes takes place. Gentlemen and members will please forward same as soon as possible, and oblige.—W. JENKINS.

Good Intent Angling Society. The Crown, Church-street, Shoreditch.—Our return visit takes place on June 5. Chairman, Mr. G. Hunt; vice-chairman, Mr. G. Hinggett. Chair to be taken at 8.30 sharp. Our distribution of prizes will take place on Tuesday, June 13; chairman, Mr. J. Williams.—R. MURPHY.

Grange Angling Society. The Earl of Derby, Grange-road, S.E.—The seventeenth annual meeting of this society was held on the 23rd inst., Mr. J. H. Rich presiding. During the course of the last twelve months seven honorary and five active members were enrolled, and, after paying expenses and giving several donations, there is a balance in hand of £68s. 10½d. Weight of fish weighed-in showed a decrease of 5lb. 4oz. The following officers and committeemen were re-elected for the ensuing year: President, Mr. J. Hamilton; vice-president, Messrs. E. Ryder and T. Forbitt; treasurer, Mr. J. H. Rich; committee, Messrs. Geo. Gibbons, W. Rich, S. Tagg, C. Green, E. Stoker, J. Chalkley, T. Wolland, W. J. Wade, and E. Lee; hon. secretary, Mr. W. Kayes. Votes of thanks were given to the auditors, Messrs. Lee and Quinn; also to the officers and committeemen for past services. Mr. W. Rich, jun., nominated four friends as active members, and they will be balloted for on Tuesday, 7th prox. The annual outing and dinner was discussed, and suggested that we go either to Windsor or Watlington, on the 27th prox., but that the matter be finally settled at the next meeting.—W. K.

Greenwich Angling Society. Morden Arms, Circus-street, Greenwich.—At our weekly meeting, held this evening, three hon. and three full members were elected, making up to date 116 members. We hold our annual dinner at the clubhouse on Wednesday, June 7, when our president, Mr. G. H. Dowsett, will take the chair. Dinner on the table at 7.30 p.m. prompt. An excellent programme is arranged, and the distribution of prizes won during the last season will take place after the dinner. The committee have recommended that in future no gross weight prizes be given or accepted by the club. A discussion on the subject will take place at a special meeting before the opening of the season for coarse fishing. Several members have been out on Thames and Lea in search of trout, but, with the exception of myself, who caught a small one of 1lb. 9oz, they were unsuccessful, probably on account of the unsettled state of the weather.—J. DRYDEN.

Harcourt Angling Society. Harcourt Arms, Harcourt-street, Marylebone.—Our annual supper and distribution of prizes takes place on June 5, when I hope to see all the members together. We have made two new members, and have more to propose. After June 5 our meeting night will be changed from Monday to Thursday, to meet the requirements of the house.—A. E. PAYNE.

Hearts of Oak Angling Society. Ye Olde Crown, Brick-lane, Bethnal Green.—Our annual supper takes place on May 29, and distribution of prizes takes place on June 5. Mr. W. Wright, of Bethnal Green-road, will cater for the supper.—C. SMITH.

Highbury Angling Society. Globe Hotel, Upper Tollington-road, Holloway, N.—In spite of the unfavourable holiday weather, the following weighed-in trout on Whit Monday: Mr. T. A. Saunders, one fish, 4lb. 2oz.; Mr. G. West, one fish, 3lb. 13½oz.; and Mr. E. Wymer, one fish, 5lb. 13oz. (third silver medal for season). The Kennet fishery has also yielded some smaller fish, Mr. Berry and Mr. Woodruffe both obtaining sport on the 24th. Four nominations for membership were received on Wednesday night, and will be balloted for next week.—E. W.

Islington Brothers' Angling Society. Myddleton Arms, Canonbury-road.—We met on Tuesday last, but so few member present that no business was transacted. The prize distribution on Tuesday, May 30, but the prizes are coming in very slow at present. Members and friends who have kindly promised prizes please forward same to the secretary as soon as possible.—J. H. HERBERT.

Izaak Walton Angling Society. Old King John's Head, Mansfield-street, Kingsland-road.—The distribution of annual and special prizes will take place on Wednesday, June 7. To celebrate the event it has been arranged to have a supper. Those who intend being present at the

supper please send in their names as early as possible. Privilege tickets for the ensuing season are now in course of preparation, so would thank members to forward their instructions without delay.—H. B.

Limhouse Piscatorial Society.—We are now settling down, and getting into good working order. The rule book is now ready, and members can have a copy at the meeting on Friday next. Three new members proposed at the last meeting.—R. J. WELLS.

Lincoln Angling Society. Metropolitan, Winchester-street, Pentonville-road, N.—On May 17 between thirty and forty members and friends sat down to our seventeenth annual supper, which was a great success. Mr. Pearce, our worthy host, catering for us in his usual good style; Mr. C. Watling, sen., made an able chairman on this occasion. A very pleasant evening was spent. The principal prize winners were: Mr. Johnson, 1st gross weight; Mr. Killick, 2nd; Mr. Cook, 3rd; Mr. Bowdrey, Mr. Killick, Mr. Biggs, and Mr. Packer, also taking prizes for specimen fish. Mr. Richardson started our prize list with a guinea roach pole for the coming season, and a great number of other prizes were promised by the visitors and members. In all a very jolly night was spent. I must remind members that Wednesday next is our fourth quarterly night, and election of officers for coming season. I hope to see a good muster.—W. WATLING.

Liverpool Angling Association. Bee Hotel, Queen-square.—Our competition on Whit Monday was completely spoiled by the weather being very wet, cold, and gloomy, consequently only a few faced the music. The result was: Mr. White, first; Mr. Veale, second; and Mr. Whittington, jun., third, all with trout from the Dee and Pen-y-Cae. Climatic surroundings continue most miserable, and to-day (Wednesday) shows no improvement. Worming for trout should be successful for those who care, for the fly is of no use, at least, it was not on Bank Holiday. Well, let us hope for better things before long.—RD. WOOLFALL.

Original Alexandra Angling Society. The Lamb, Three Colts-lane, opposite Bethnal Green Junction.—Our annual dinner takes place on June 4 at the Railway Hotel, Burnham-on-Crouch. Train leaves Bethnal Green Junction 9.31 a.m. On June 13 we move from the Lamb to the Crown and Anchor, Cheshire-street, Bethnal Green. Will members state what privilege ticket they want, and pay for their Benevolent card?—G. BARRS.

Ormonde Angling Society. The Royal George, Carlisle-street, Westminster-road.—On May 30 this society will remove to their new headquarters at the Rose, Saville-place, Lambeth-road, S.E. (host, W. King), when our meeting nights will be altered from Wednesdays to Tuesdays. On the opening night, May 30, a concert will be held on behalf of the T.A.P.S., when as many anglers who can make it convenient to attend will be esteemed a favour.—A. HOLBROW.

Prince of Wales' Angling Society. Windsor Castle, Church-street, Edgware-road.—On May 29 we resume business after the holidays, when we have three new members to ballot for. Absent members requiring A.B. and privilege tickets must inform the secretary as soon as possible, as the fishing season is close on us.—W. B.

Royal George Angling Society. Queen's Arms, Bateman-street.—May 31 being quarterly night, we hope to see a crowded attendance to elect new officers for the coming quarter. On June 7 a general meeting is called, so as to discuss some very important business; and members will greatly oblige by turning up on both occasions.—J. GIBBONS.

Royal Oak Angling Society. Coborn Arms, Coborn-road, Bow.—A smoking concert and distribution of prizes will take place on May 30. Our annual dinner will take place at Waltham Abbey on June 4, by brake. Members wishing to go must give in their names by May 30; not later.—F. PIGNATELLI.

St. Alban's Angling Society. Rising Sun, Prince's-road, Kennington.—Our annual dinner and distribution of prizes took place on May 18. The chairs were occupied by Messrs. G. Hewitt and W. Stone. Our prize list for the coming season is an excellent one. Messrs. T. Rosser and W. Graveney have been elected working members. Please note special early meeting next Wednesday; never mind about its being Derby night. We want to take names and subs. for new privilege tickets and other special business—9.30 sharp.—H. ALLAN.

Silver Trout Angling Society. Bedford Head, Maiden-lane.—Our annual dinner and distribution will take place on Tuesday next, May 30, at 8 p.m. sharp, at Mr. Dent's, The Hop Pole, Wardour-street, Oxford-street. Remaining prizes will oblige.—FELICAN.

South Bermondsey Piscatorial Institute. Rotherhithe New-road, S.E.—Several of our members were down at Amberley for the holidays, and the weather being fine gave them a good opportunity of getting about. During our rambles we came across several members eel fishing, and I did hear one of them caught a roach about 2½lb., but returned it to the water. Good sportsman. I must again remind the members of the above that time is getting on, and I shall thank them to attend on Friday to assist in arranging prize list and other business; also, we have another new member to be introduced among us.—J. H. DAVIES.

South London United Anglers' Visiting List.—The annual delegate meeting of societies on the above list will be held at the Woolpack, Bermondsey-street, Bermondsey, on Tuesday, May 30, at nine o'clock, for election of officers, payment of subscriptions, &c.—ALF. PAINTER.

Victoria Brothers Angling Society. Princess Victoria, Robert-street, Hampstead-road, N.W.—On June 6 we have a Central visit, and trust to have the support of the visiting clubs.—W. H. BOUFFLER.

Waggoners' Angling Society. White Lion, Albert Embankment.—We had a fair meeting on May 23, Mr. H. Walton in the chair. The previous week's minutes were read and confirmed. Messrs. W. Heppethwaite, G. H. Mitchel, and E. Reid were balloted for and duly elected. Several prizes have been added to our list. We have vacancies, should any gentleman wish to join us. Personal application preferred on any Tuesday evening.—H. C.

Walworth Waltonians Angling Society. St. Paul's Tavern, Westmoreland-road, Walworth, S.E.—Our annual dinner, which was a great success, took place last Thursday, May 18. Mr. G. H. Shepherd very ably presided over a crowded room, and, after the usual toasts, we got through a first-class programme. Messrs. Norton, Greenop and T. E. Daniell's scored immensely, as did also Messrs. H. Payne, W. E. Prior, and several others, whose names I have not space enough to mention.—W. WRAY.

Wellington Angling Society. Prince George, Hillingdon-street, S.E.—Our supper took place on May 19, and was in every way a success. Several gentlemen offered prizes during the evening. A hearty vote of thanks was passed to our worthy host for the splendid supper he provided, and the remainder of the evening was wound up with harmony. I beg to announce that our annual distribution of prizes for season 1898-99 takes place on Tuesday, May 30, on which occasion all club anglers will be welcome.—F. WESTOBY.

West Ham Brothers' Angling Society. Coach and Horses, The Grove, Stratford.—At our last meeting night it was decided to open the season with a peg-down match at Hatfield Peverel, on June 18. All to go down by the last train on the Saturday night.

Ye Olde Clapham Rovers' Angling Club. The Windmill, Clapham Park-road.—A very good attendance at club on Tuesday, making four new members, and room for more. We finally arranged for supper and distribution of prizes on June 6; to follow supper a select concert (free). As we have secured some good talent, we hope to see a full room, and spend a pleasant evening.—N. LINDEN.

NEW PISCATORIAL PATENTS.

The following particulars are compiled by Messrs. Hughes and Young, Patent Agents, 55 and 56, Chancery-lane, London, W.C.

7193. William Hardy, and John James Hardy, Surrey-street, London. "Improvements in fishing-reels."
- 29,367. Fishing. Patentees: Messrs. W. and C. F. Ward, Neptune-street, and G. H. Wise, Rosamond-street, both in Hull, Yorks; relates to trawling gear. The bottom of the otter board is fitted with rollers mounted in brackets. The axes of the rollers may be inclined to the plane of the board, or the rollers may be tapered with the smaller ends pointing forwards to obtain a spreading action. The rollers may be replaced by balls.
- 30,188. Fishing. Patentees: L. Levi, of Hesse-road, and G. Cartwright, of Hesse-road, Hull. Trawling gear. The foot-line is replaced by a rigid tube, and the head-line by a flexible one. When these are distended with air or water under pressure, they assume the shape desired, and keep the mouth of the net open, thus dispensing with beams and otter boards.
8085. John Shepherd, Buchanan-street, Glasgow. "Improvements in and relating to steering gear for fishing and other boats or vessels."
- 29,539. Fishing. Patentees: Messrs. T. Green, Grimsby, W. Broadbent, Weelsby, and J. M. Young, Cleethorpe, all in Lincolnshire, relates to shoes for otter boards. The metal shoe is made broad and heavy, with upturned ends and a channel in which the tapered bottom of the board is bolted. The shoe may be divided at the middle, in which case a strengthening plate is employed. When worn, the shoe may be reversed.
869. Fishing. Patentees: R. Ray, and W. H. Johnson, both Hainton-street, Great Grimsby. Trawling gear. The top and bottom of otter boards are connected by fixed louver boards in the desired manner.
1169. Fishing. Patentee: T. I. Whipp, of Yorkshire-street, Rochdale, Lancashire. Rod fittings. Rings are made by inclining two rings together, and then soldering them together at the apex and to a plate which is whipped to the rod as usual. [We fear Mr. Whipp will find this idea has been on the market here and in America for many years.—ED. F. G.]

THE first number of a new publication, entitled "The Skipper; A Weekly Log of Nautical Matters," will be issued on Wednesday, May 31. Mr. E. F. Knight, the well known war correspondent of the *Times*, has written an interesting account of how he ran the blockade during the Spanish-American war in his attempt to reach Cuba. Mr. H. Lawrence Swinburne, Mr. Whelan Boyle, Mr. C. H. Burrow, Mr. H. D. Lowry, Mr. Alfred Benson, the originator of the *Garman* rating rule; "Jib Topsail," of the *Figaro*; Mr. C. N. Boyn, of "Le Yacht"; and many other well-known writers are among the contributors of the new paper, which is edited by Mr. Julius Gabe.

Toffings by the Way.

THIS is from the Lychnobite poet (Sid. Ransom), and written expressly for "his beloved F. G.":

"The world unites in one caress,
And nations bow the knee,
And pray that Heaven our Queen may bless,
Long spared to us may be.
Join, then, ye anglers, with one voice
Unite in loyal strain:
'God save our Queen'—Rejoice! Rejoice!
Long o'er us may she reign!"

MR. W. C. WILLCOX, hon. sec. of the Portsmouth Waltonian Angling Society, writes: "I shall be glad if you will kindly find space for an announcement respecting the decease of our hon. treasurer (Mr. Edward Rubie Hill). He died on May 13, after only three days' illness, at the age of fifty-nine years. He was manager of the Portsea branch of the Capital and Counties' Bank, was for many years connected with the Artillery Volunteers, but retired some time ago, then holding a captaincy, he also had the Volunteer decoration for long service. The society has lost a very active member. He has been with us sixteen years, the last seventeen of which he held the post of hon. treasurer. He was an enthusiastic angler, and was respected by everyone he knew. The interment took place on May 17, at Kingston Cemetery (local), several of the members being present to pay a last tribute of respect to one who was dear to us all."

"ALL angling visitors to the pretty angling station of Llanymynech," writes a correspondent, "will hear with the greatest regret that the Rev. Elias Owen, vicar of Llanblodwell, near Oswestry, died very suddenly, at the vicarage, on Friday, May 19. He was in his usual health up to the very last, and succumbed to an apoplectic seizure. He was one of the most excited of the spectators of the otter hunt a short time ago on the Tanat, when the otter was found in a bolt nearly opposite the vicarage, and after affording capital sport, was killed a short distance below the Llanblodwell Bridge over the Tanat. Mr. Owen was not only an enthusiastic angler himself, but the greatest friend to anglers in general, and nothing afforded him more gratification than granting permission to any natives or strangers to angle in that part of the Tanat under his control."

"It therefore is no matter for surprise that on hearing of his death all the angling visitors in the neighbourhood of Llanymynech promptly joined in a subscription to purchase a funeral wreath, and the sum collected does credit to their generosity, and a very handsome wreath was obtained for the purpose, towards the cost of which many of the local anglers also subscribed. The funeral took place at Llanblodwell on Tuesday last, and although the weather was most unfavourable, as it rained in torrents all the day, a very large assemblage of friends and neighbours were present to pay their last respects to one of nature's own gentleman, and of whom it can truly be said he had not an enemy in the world, and by none was he more beloved than by his Nonconformist parishioners."

THE business of the Tay Fishing Syndicate, which includes the working of all the salmon fishing leases between Perth and Dundee, as well as some below Dundee and above Perth, has just been taken over by a company formed for that purpose, called "The Tay Salmon Fisheries Company." The signatories to the memorandum and articles of association are the Earl of Ancaster; Archibald Coats, Woodside, Paisley (chairman of J. and P. Coats, thread manufacturers, Paisley); P. M. Coats, Paisley; John Morcrist, manufacturer, Elmside, Perth; P. D. Malloch, fishing tackle manufacturer, Perth; David Robb, salmon fisher, Newburgh; and Henry Robb, Bathfurn, Rynd. The purposes set forth in the memorandum of association are, in addition to the acquisition of the business of the Tay Fishing Syndicate, the carrying on of the business of salmon tackmen and salmon merchants. The capital is £70,000, in 70,000 shares of £1 each. We understand the shares have all been taken up privately, and so are not to be issued to the public. The solicitors are Messrs. McCash and Hunter, solicitors, New Scott-street, Perth.

THE following story, illustrating the luck which sometimes favours the novice, is told by "Piscator," in the *Birmingham Mail*: "A licensed victualler in the Midlands recently started an angling club in connection with his house, although he was altogether unacquainted with the use of rod and line. Some time ago, a contest was organised, and, anxious to participate, Boniface purchased some hooks and other tackle, and borrowed a rod. As demonstrating his ignorance, I may say, he could not even thread a worm, and when the day of contest arrived he had to seek instruction at the river side. Those who have taken part in like competitions will readily appreciate the unpopularity of the man who seeks advice from his opponents. Still, he managed to get his hook baited, and in a very short time succeeded in capturing a good sized eel. He again baited, with the aid of his neighbour, and caught a second eel. In his third attempt, with borrowed hook and bait, he managed to secure a large bream. His success occasioned him such surprise that he rushed away into the middle of an adjoining field with the fish under his coat. When asked what he was doing, he remarked,

'I ain't going to get near the water again until I get this chap safe.' When weighing-in this arrived it was found that the publican's catches exceeded in weight those of any other competitors, and he consequently carried off the first prize—a handsome marble timepiece—much to the chagrin of the whole of the other contestants."

ON May 1 the Great Eastern Railway Company commenced to run first and third-class restaurant cars with corridor carriages, which are attached to express trains, to and from London. Although a quick ride to Cromer, it is yet a long ride—for, of course, it is a long way. Now, thanks to the enterprise of the G.E.R., passengers may breakfast, luncheon, or dine en route at a very small cost. In the third-class saloon car breakfast (bacon and eggs, or chop, or steak, with tea and coffee) for 2s. Luncheon (soup, fish, joint, vegetables, and cheese) 2s. 6d. *Table d'hôte* dinner 2s. 6d. In the first-class saloon, breakfast is charged 2s. 6d.; and dinner (five courses and dessert), 3s. 6d. Surely a travelling "Fruscati's." Third-class passengers can change into dining-car en route.

THE wine list consists of sherry, port, claret, Burgundy, Hock, Champagne, spirits, liqueurs, bottled beers, aerated waters, cigars, cigarettes, even to the renowned Player's Navy Cut tobacco. Fancy an imperial half-pint of bottled Bass for 4d., or a bottle of ginger beer for 3d. Yet so it is; I have sampled many of the good things during a recent "run" to Norfolk, and consider that the courteous manager, Mr. H. C. Amendt, deserves every credit for the manner in which, under his supervision, the attendants carry out the scheme. On Sundays a restaurant car will be attached to the 9.50 a.m. train from Liverpool-street to Norwich. On and after July 1 a restaurant train will leave London on Saturdays for Cromer. Passengers should watch the trains to which these saloons are attached, and Mr. H. C. Amendt will give any particulars on application to the Great Eastern Hotel, Liverpool-street.

THE following account of a duel—not between journalists or fish—between birds is "going the rounds": "An extraordinary scene has just been witnessed in the grounds of Milton Park, at Peterborough. A heron, which had been fishing in a pond near Milton House, captured a fine fish, which it brought up struggling at the end of its long bill, when another heron, which had been watching from the shore, plunged into the water and tried to take away the fish. A desperate combat ensued, as both birds were full grown, powerful, and majestic. They fought with both bill and wing, dealing out hard knocks rapidly, and uttering shrieks of anger. So furiously raged the duel that the combatants raised quite a cloud of feathers round them. Suddenly one rolled over, and the other, uttering a victorious "frank," the heron's peculiar cry, and gathering up its long legs, soared to the trees, where it began preening its disordered plumes. An examination proved that the other bird had been killed outright, and it was the would-be robber, too."

A mossy bank in a leafy bower,
Within my reach, my favourite flower,
Peace, gentle peace, by a silver stream,
Each ripple kissed by a golden beam.
My reel, my rod, my line, my hook,
And by my side, my favourite book.
If aught compares with Heaven's own bliss,
Surely it is—it must be—this. MOSNAR DIS.

THE other day, a gentleman, rejoicing in the salubrious name of Isaacs, went out with a few friends for a day's fishing. Towards mid-day one of their number busied himself with a spirit lamp and a small frying-pan, and managed to land a nicely cooked steak, which he placed in a convenient spot for immediate reference. Going to the bank for a moment to fix his rod safely, he was surprised on his return to find that his intended luscious repast had disappeared, and his rage found vent in "the finest flow, &c." Things came to a climax, however, when Isaacs mildly remarked "that there must be some pig mistake somewhere." "Missed steak!" yelled the other, "of course it's missed! Of course it's somewhere! And, look here, you confounded Shylock, I'll tell you what it is! It's my belief that you know where my pound of flesh has gone to."

MR. W. H. ELSMORE, writing from Norwich, says that "The second competition of the Caxton Club, Beccles, took place on Saturday afternoon. The weather being favourable, some good catches were made. Twenty members took part in the competition. The following are some of the takes: F. Ulph, 7lb. 4oz.; H. Butcher, 6lb. 6oz.; W. Upcraft, 6lb. 13oz.; W. Lee, sen., 4lb. 13oz. The special prizes were secured by Mr. F. Ulph, heaviest weight; Mr. W. Lee, best half-dozen; Mr. H. Ulph, largest fish. Total weight, 3st. 9lb. 11½oz. No fish under 7in. were allowed to count."

I HEAR that my old friend, that well known "salt," George Read Clarke, has been trying his luck this Whitun at Dawlish, in the Channel, but although he fished all he knew (and that's saying something), and railed from Dawlish to Teignmouth river, the sport was poor. The only luck he had in three days was a pollack of 3½lb. and three smaller fish, all taken on sand worm. The fish would not look at an artificial bait, although Mr. G. Read

Clarke tried several. His boatman was William Spicer, of 4, High-street, Dawlish, who can take one to some coarse fishing in the season. Dawlish, however, is worth a visit, the surroundings being simply delightful!

THE following is from the *Daily Mail's* Brussels correspondent: "The hunting of the snark is becoming a mere trifle as compared with the hunting of the seal, a pastime which is now in vogue on the Meuse. It will probably be remembered that two seals belonging to the Liège Zoological Society escaped into the Meuse, where they did enormous damage to the fish, and roused the ire of all anglers. Rewards were put on their heads, but it took many days of persistent hunting to effect the capture of one of them. Since then, the other has roamed the river, but pursued from time to time by fishermen anxious to obtain the reward, and by anglers desirous of checking the spoliation of their preserves. To-day, as one boat was in hot pursuit it capsized. One man was drowned, but a lock-keeper gallantly rescued his three comrades. A moment later the brave rescuer himself fell dead from excitement. And the seal is still at large."

"DESPITE the lowering clouds, the cold winds, and ever and anon the drenching showers, the invitations issued by Mr. Capon for his fishing excursion to the Lark Angling Society's lovely waters," says a Newmarket friend, "were eagerly taken up by those who had been before, and a most enjoyable outing was passed on Whit Monday. Mr. Capon had well stocked his houseboat, the *Leisure Hour*, with the good things of this life, and nothing else was wished for but sport. But, alas! for the fickleness of our climate, scarcely any sport could be obtained; in fact, only one man of the ten or twelve good men there succeeded in catching anything. This angler is just now the envy of Bury St. Edmunds. He laid his rod on the bank, with his line in the water, and proceeded to the boat to quench his thirsty soul, and on again taking his rod, found to his amazement that he had a bite. He steadily played his fish for some moments, pulling him towards him, and then letting him have line again, and eventually got his bite to the top of the water, to find a very fine bottle of ginger-beer attached to his hooks. Our angler friend had to put up with a good deal of chaff over his fine catch, and one member of the company went so far as to suggest he had been jumping 'hedges' for it. The angler was quite disgusted, and asked them not to make a 'mountain' of a small hill, and that he did not care a 'capon.' However, with a good supply of John Dewar things were soon running in their old groove; the boat wended its way homeward, having, in spite of lack of sport, had a most enjoyable outing."

THE Limehouse Piscatorial Society (newly formed have evidently come to stay. They have sent the Editor a copy of their rules in oaken covers. The rules are very creditable to them; the standard of takable fish, Thames and Lea measurement, with the exception of roach—which they make 8in. Boards of oak are their rules; hearts of oak are their men (a bit hard-hearted, perhaps); and they evidently are ready for June 16.

"BEN," of the Allason United, announces that, in order to save the little fishes, they have put their stand up an inch. The new secretary of the go-ahead Collingwood also announces that his society have unanimously abolished gross-weight fishing. Bravo! Collingwood. I am a life hon. member, and cannot take first gross-weight prize now!

IN answer to J. C. Lacey, the *Thames Angling News* will be sent post free for one year for one shilling on application to Mr. F. H. Amphlett, 43, High-street, Kingston-on-Thames.

JUNE 16 will be the day on which the coarse fish season opens, not, as several correspondents imagine, on June 15.

THE annual report of that flourishing society, the Reading and District Angling Association, is to hand, and will be noticed in next issue.

MESSRS. NEWBERRY and VERNON celebrated the Queen's Birthday by getting several ling from the pier at Ilfracombe. Mr. Vernon had one of 20lb., and one of 16½lb.; and Mr. Newberry one of 12lb., and they hooked and had two others up to the top. Mr. Newberry had a cod of 16lb. the preceding day.

"WHAT's the matter, 'Diag?' Cold no better? Done any trout fishing? Have you—?" Now, wait a minute. Visited a lovely trout stream near Cambridge; rain; cold; wet; confined to the hotel; lunch; something hot to drink; rain; wet; cold; dinner; bed ("caught no fish to-day"). Next day: rain; wet; 2½ minutes' sunshine; wet; lunch; easy chair; dinner; Scotch; home; bed; and glad enough to get back!

THE Nottingham Wellington Angling Society hold their annual dinner on Monday evening, June 5. They have graciously altered the date from Wednesday to Monday to suit the convenience of the London contingent, which, it is expected, will be pretty strong, and amongst whom—if the "flue" can possibly be shocked off—will be

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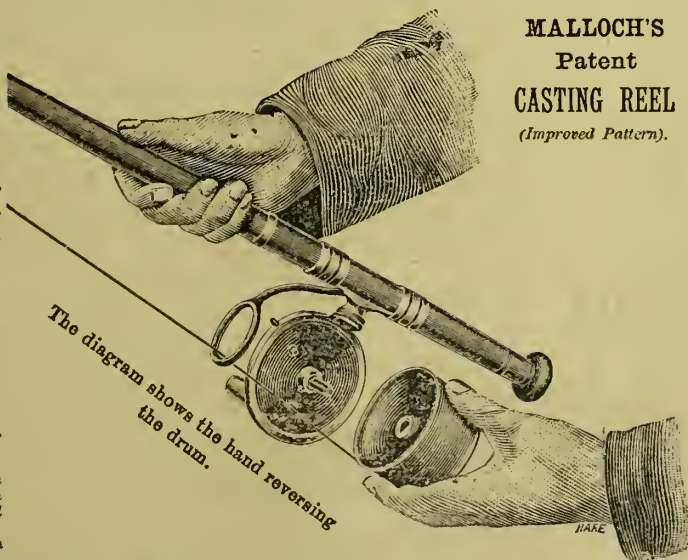
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18ft. steel snake rings, steel revolving top rings, double brazed, waterproof fitted, rubber button, &c. The very best Rod that can be produced ... 67/-.

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Very large assortment of Salmon, Grilse, Sea Trout, Loch and River Flies, for the Scotch Lochs and Rivers, all tested patterns and beautifully tied.

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In Gun-metal or Aluminium. The brake is easily operated by the hand, whereby the check can be regulated at will by simply turning the milled disc on spindle. This should prove a great advantage to anglers, as the check can be regulated without having to take the reel to pieces, as in the case of the ordinary reel.

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CATALOGUES GRATIS.

BRITISH SEA ANGLERS' SOCIETY.

The usual weekly meeting was held on Wednesday, May 24, at the Holborn Restaurant, Mr. R. H. Wood in the chair.

Mr. G. Read Clarke gave an interesting account of fishing experiences at Dawlish.

The chairman gave his experiences of the Whitsun fishing at Southwick with Messrs. Minchin, Mallett, and Orisfield. The fishing was poor, eels, dabs, flounders, and small bass only being taken.

Mr. Clarke gave some most valuable reports on the influence of trawlers on the dab fishing at Dawlish, and the hon. secretary again raised the question of the trawlers and the three-mile limit, referring to the matter of the absurd £10 fine inflicted on the French fishing vessel captured while fishing within British territorial waters.

Mr. Lane asked if any member could explain why mackerel was apt to disagree with six out of eight persons. The hon. secretary stated that in most cases the indigestibility of these fish was mainly due to their having been kept too long before cooking, and the speed with which these fish decompose. This latter fact was emphasised by Mr. Handley, who pointed out that an old Act, still in force, permitted the culling of mackerel on Sunday.

Mr. Glassington reported moderate sport at Deal with flat fish and dog fish.

A short discussion took place on the neglect of the east coast stations by members of the society.

The usual vote of thanks to the chair closed the meeting.

CHARLES S. PATTERSON.

HERTFORD ANGLING PRESERVATION SOCIETY.

On May 17 the newly-elected hon. sec. of this society invited the active members to a supper, at the Station Hotel, to inaugurate the present season. The chair was taken by Mr. Wm. Burgess, president, supported by Mr. W. Garratt, ex-president, and a goodly number of guests. An excellent repast was provided, to which full justice was done. The health of the president was proposed in suitable terms by Mr. Fairall, who thanked him for having undertaken to fill the position, and assured him of the cordial support of every member of the society. Mr. W. Waller, V.P., proposed the health of the host, Mr. Fairall, and enumerated the many services he had rendered to promote the success of the society since its formation, eleven years since. The vice-president presented the society with a framed portrait of the late Dr. Brunton, who was for many years a member of the committee. The portrait was that published in the *Fishing Gazette*, which those who knew him declared to be a capital likeness, and better than the photo from which it was taken. The remainder of the evening was devoted to angling gossip in general and some of the ex-president's "tales" in particular.

MATLOCK AND CROMFORD ANGLING ASSOCIATION.

On Saturday last, May 20, members of the committee of the above association, including T. J. Hodson, Esq. (chairman of the committee), H. Cooper, Esq. (treasurer and hon. sec.), also Messrs. Rose (of Spondon), Wyman (of Derby), Davenport (of Matlock Bath), and E. H. Maule, Esq. (of London), assembled at the rearing tanks for the purpose of turning their two-year-old trout into those parts of the river Derwent which are under their control. The trout in the above tanks were the grandest lot of cross-breeds (*Salmo fario* and *Salmo leuvenensis*) this association has ever had, ranging from 7in. to 11in. in length, and numbering about 1200. Two hundred of these were put in the river between the Jubilee Bridge and the Station Bridge, Matlock Bath, and 1000 below Cromford, as far down as what is known as the Alteration. These should be a great addition to the already well-stocked waters of this association, as some of them are takable fish. These fish were all successfully transferred from the rearing tanks and put in the rivers under the supervision of Collinson, the keeper, almost without losing a fish.

J. H.

SEVERN FISHERY RIGHTS.

At the Condover (Salop) Petty Sessional Court on May 20, Frederick Humpherson, secretary of the Castle Fields (Shrewsbury) Angling Association, appeared in answer to the charge of illegal fishing in the Severn. The case was one in which defendant was summoned by the Shropshire and Severn Angling Association for fishing in their waters. At the original hearing the magistrates, on a term of prescriptive right being set up, ruled that their jurisdiction was ousted. The case was carried to the High Court, and sent back for conviction. The chairman said the bench had now no option but to convict. Defendant, in explanation of his case, said their society was induced to go on by the action of the Provincial Angling Association at Birmingham. That body was at their back at the beginning, but afterwards declined to go further. The chairman said he did not think they had anything to do with that. He did not, however, wish to give his opinion of what he thought of the behaviour of the Birmingham Society. Defendant said the case had already cost £30; it was taken out of his hands by the Central Society. Mr. John Williams, the secretary of the Shropshire and Severn Angling Association, and complainant in the case, said they did not press for a heavy penalty; they had, however, been met with every possible opposition. As secretary to the association, he had offered to show defendant their leases, and to meet him with every information. Defendant, however, had been urged to take the course he had

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WM BLACK'S IN SILK ATTIRE.

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WM BLACK'S SHANDON BELLS.

JULES VERNE'S SECRET OF THE ISLAND.

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WM BLACK'S ADVENTURES OF A PHAETON.

JULES VERNE'S ABANDONED.

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W.H.G. KINGSTON'S WITH AXE & RIFLE.

CLARK RUSSELL'S JOHN HOLDSWORTH CHIEF MATE.

CLARK RUSSELL'S AN OCEAN FREE LANCE.

C.H. SPURGEON'S MESSAGES TO THE MULTITUDE.

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taken by the association in Birmingham, which had not the slightest interest in the fishing of the Severn in Shropshire; whereas, the association with which he was connected had done much for the river, and would now be in a much stronger position than they had ever been before. Defendant handed in two letters from Mr. White, the secretary of the Provincial Angling Association, Birmingham, which the chairman said he should have much pleasure in reading. In one letter the association said it had paid £20 in the matter, and had instructed its committee to brief a barrister for the defence of the case in the Appeal Court, which would cost some ten guineas. After the bearing of the appeal, the secretary wrote saying that the case was one of trespass, and not of fishing for coarse fish without a licence. "My committee," it added, "are of opinion that we did wrong in taking up the case in the first instance." (Laughter.) The costs had been already heavy, and they had decided not to spend more money on the case. (Laughter.) The chairman said he now doubly sympathised with defendant.—Fined £1, and the legal costs, £3 8s.

DESCRIPTIONS OF TWO NEW GOBIIFORM FISHES FROM THE CAPE OF GOOD HOPE.

By G. A. BOULENGER, F.R.S.

GOBIUS GILCHRISTI.

No canine teeth. Depth of body four times in total length, length of head $3\frac{1}{2}$ or $3\frac{1}{4}$. Head as broad as deep, $1\frac{1}{2}$ as long as broad; lower jaw projecting beyond the upper; maxillary extending to below anterior border of eye; diameter of eye, $\frac{4}{5}$ to 5 times in length of head; interorbital space narrow, about half diameter of eye; head naked; organs of the lateral line forming six vertical and two horizontal series on the cheek. Dorsal VI, 12; first dorsal in contact with the second, nearly equally distant from the end of the snout and the base of the caudal; none of the rays produced; longest ray of second dorsal half length of head. Anal I 10, opposite to soft dorsal. Pectoral without filiform rays. Ventral reaching vent or not quite so far. Caudal rounded. Caudal peduncle $1\frac{1}{2}$ as long as deep. Scales 55-56 in a longitudinal series, 17-19 in a transverse series between dorsal and anal. Olive above, spotted and marbled with blackish, dirty yellowish beneath; fins dark grey; spinous dorsal streaked with black, soft dorsal and anal with small black spots, both dorsals edged with whitish.

Total length 110 millimetres.

Specimens were obtained by shrimp net in Little Brak River, Mossel Bay, in June, 1898. The river is salt for several miles inland, as I am informed by Dr. Gilchrist, to whom we are indebted for the discovery of this and the following species:

CALLIONYMUS COSTATUS.

Depth of body eight times in total length; length of head not quite four times. Head $1\frac{1}{2}$ as long as broad; eyes close together, as long as the snout, $\frac{1}{2}$ length of head; gill-opening reduced to a small foramen on the upper surface of the head; preopercular spine curved upward, unispined, not $\frac{1}{2}$ diameter of eye. Dorsal III, 10; first dorsal very small, longest ray measuring $\frac{1}{2}$ length of head; first ray of soft dorsal longest, $\frac{1}{2}$ length of head. Anal 10. Ventral reaching beyond vent. Lateral line single, much developed, sending off perpendicular branches above and below, the upper branches, 35 in number, extending to the middle line of the back, giving the body a ribbed appearance. Yellowish grey, back finely speckled with brown; small blackish spots above and below the lateral line; spinous dorsal blackish.

Total length 55 millimetres.

This new species is described from two of four specimens (probably young) procured in trawl eleven miles off Cape St. Blaize in June, 1898, 40 fathoms.

[The Government of the Colony of the Cape of Good Hope, having undertaken an investigation into the marine fauna, &c., of the coasts from an economic and scientific point of view, the services of various specialists have been procured to work up the material. This investigation will deal with marine biology in the widest sense of the term, including the study of conditions of life dependent on physical factors, such as currents, temperature, &c. Each paper will be published separately as soon as received, and a volume containing a number of papers will be issued at intervals.—J. D. F. GILCHRIST, M.A., Ph.D., B.Sc., Marine Biologist to the Government of the Colony of the Cape of Good Hope].

Notes from the North.

THE subject of pollution is again strongly to the front, and this time it has been authoritatively stated that the problem has been solved. The *modus operandi* is to inject by nozzles the effluent, after being roughly filtered of solid matter, into the chimney stalk, where the strong beat of the furnace immediately converts the spray into vapour and carries it off. The residue cakes, and can be used up in the furnace.

So much for the "wash." The spent lees is to be pumped into the boiler and utilised for water in raising steam. The experiments are being carried out at Ben-rinnes' Glenlivet Distillery, and after four months' trial are said to give every satisfaction to the distillers and inventors alike. We hope so.

The body of George Forest, who was drowned while rock fishing near Stonehaven last week, was found in the hole in the course of Monday afternoon. The rod was first fished up, when the line was found attached to something which, when wound in, proved to be the owner's corpse. He leaves a young widow and three of a family to mourn his untimely loss.

Nethy Bridge Hotel, on the Spey, is to be opened on July 1. It has been specially rebuilt in view of an angler's retreat—fine views, handsome rooms, &c. It is in the centre of an angler's paradise, all of which can be had almost for the asking.

The Ballater and Balmoral Dee waters promise extra well just now. Owing to the late season, low temperature, &c., the bulk of the spring migration is only just showing up there. Lucky dog who can get a rod on these parts this season.

There is no more genial lessee, excellent all-round sportsman, expert angler, and really jolly good fellow than Mr. J. C. Haslam Carlogie, whose greatest delight is to see everyone around him happy and killing fish. He has had the Community for a short spell in addition to the Carlogie water, and although his bag has not been a record one, his chances have been poor indeed owing to the general breakdown in the weather, which is particularly hard on such reaches as his. However, there is a good time coming when once the grilse come away.

Mr. David Smith had four fish one day last week on his upper Blackhall water, of 8lb., 8lb., 10lb., and 10 $\frac{1}{2}$ lb. Mr. Davies and friend had twenty-five for the month of April. The last two weeks in June are let, but the first two are still open. D. Smith, Feughside, Banchory, for particulars.

Mr. James Berry, Burnet Arms, Banchory, had two fine fish on the Kinneskie water, a splendid little section for grilse and summer salmon, and which has just come into the market. Mr. Berry will supply particulars.

Mr. Garden, the celebrated angler, pisciculturist, and authority on everything in the sporting line in the north, has just got back to business after a very severe attack of influenza, followed by complications. Anglers everywhere, for they are legion, will join in congratulating Mr. Garden on his return to business with restored health.

A deputation of Dee tidal anglers is to be heard on the finnock question and the claims of anglers to the tidal waters in the course of the next few days by a committee of the Town Council.

Mrs. Barrie, Kildrummie Inn, Donside, died last week. She was the oldest innkeeper in the north of Scotland, had been in the trade thirty-three years, and was eighty-seven years of age. Her house was an angling resort for Upper Donside, and there was no more popular old lady to be met anywhere.

Grilse are coming away in fairly good numbers, and there should be a good show up soon, as everything has been in favour of bringing them on the coast. Probably the low temperature and thundery weather may keep them out at sea.

Salmon have been seen leaping by trawlers thirty miles off the coast. This is a very rare experience, and shows that the bulk of the spring fish have never yet been within the influence of our fresh-water streams, and certainly accounts for the scarcity of fish in one way, viz., that they have been driven off the coast by the adverse winds.

SPECIAL SCOTCH.

Provincial Notes

FROM BIRMINGHAM AND DISTRICT.

The monthly meeting of the Birmingham Anglers' Benevolent Society was held at the headquarters on Thursday evening last, May 18. Mr. T. Coles presided, and Mr. C. White occupied the vice-chair. The meeting was fully attended. Mr. Hopwood, of the St. Thomas's Society, owing to ill-health, tendered his resignation as a member of the committee. This was accepted with regret. The minutes of the previous meeting, held on April 20 last, were read and confirmed, after which Mr. White gave in his report of his endeavours to obtain permission for the society to fish their annual contest in the canal at Fenny Compton on Saturday, July 8. The report went to show that, although letters had been sent to the Banbury Association and to the Canal Offices at Oxford, no definite reply had been given, as it appeared from the letters received that neither of the parties mentioned had any power in granting the desired permission. With this in view, Messrs. Rabone and McMullen were appointed to pay a visit to Fenny Compton and obtain the necessary particulars as to who is in a position to grant the permission. A discussion arose as to the date when members could join the society in order to compete for the challenge cup, when it was resolved that new members who wish to join in the competition must become members before June 30 next. The reports from the visiting committee were of a very satisfactory nature, the visit to the Junction Society being the means of making a number of members.

Messrs. Coles, Rabone, and Tullett's visit to the Baisall Heath Britannia Society was also the means of inducing a number of members to become identified with the society. Messrs. Wright, Rabone, and Shale's report of their visit to the Belmont Society went to show that they had succeeded in making a number of new members. Twenty-one members of the new Hope and Anchor Club had paid their subscriptions, also a number of new members from the Aston Park Club. The reports were very satisfactory, and the best thanks of the committee was accorded to the visitors for their services. Previous to the next meeting of the committee, the A.B.C., Green Lanes, Salmon, and Southend clubs will be visited. The weather during the holidays has been of the worst description for all outdoor pastimes. We have had rain, hail, thunder, and lightning; in fact, it has been "anything but an ideal holiday." When we ought to have been gladdened by the balmy air and bright sunshine of early summer we shivered in overcoats under an ashen sky. The memory of Whitsuntide last year is by no means a grateful one, but this year's Whitsuntide will remain long in the memories of the midland anglers. On Saturday and Sunday last we had heavy rains. It was also wet, damp, and miserable to the extreme on Monday. On Tuesday we had heavy thunderstorms in the afternoon, which lasted for some hours. On Wednesday we again had rain. Owing to the unsettled state of the weather a number of our members who had made arrangements to go out trout fishing wisely resolved to stay at home, and those who did go out did not do good, and returned home on very bad terms with themselves. A large number of our members have been to North Wales for trout fishing, but the wind and rain caused them to return with empty creels. Mr. Page, the secretary of the Lamp Angling Society, writes to inform me that they have decided to fish their opening contest on July 2 next, in the canal at Alrewas. All fish to weigh-in must be over 6in. in length. A large number of valuable prizes will be competed for. The St. George's Society held a re-stocking contest last week at Amington, in the canal, all fish caught being placed in the river Anker, which runs adjacent to the canal. A large number of fish were taken. The members taking the largest number are in the order named: Messrs. E. Grimes, C. Wainwright, C. Artus, E. Apps, J. Moore, and R. Beddell.

FROM DERBYSHIRE.

Frequent heavy thunder showers and variable winds, mostly from an easterly quarter, have prejudicially affected angling on the Derbyshire rivers during the week, and have kept all but very enthusiastic fishermen from the waters, which at times have been too high and too much discoloured for successful fly angling. On no part of the Dove has that kind of sport been anything but indifferent, and but few good creels have been made. The bottom fishers, however, have had a fairly good time of it in places, and numerous lots of fish have been taken by some of them on the parts of the Dove where permitted. The Dovedale, Beresford, and Hartington fly waters have not had the numerous visitors usual at the Whitsuntide holidays, nor has sport been in the least satisfactory. Good creels have been but few on any of these lengths, as angling conditions have been so unfavourable. Matters have been but a trifle better on the Wye, which is a stream that soon fines down. A few small baskets only have been made on the Miller's Dale, Monsal Dale, and Bakewell and Rowsley lengths, chiefly by heroic and patient anglers who have stood out "in thunder, lightning, and in rain." Very little has been done on the upper Derwent, between Derwent village, Ashopton, Yorkshire Bridge, and Bamford. Fly fishing there has been but of a very poor description, but bottom angling, with ant eggs and worms for bait, has produced some good baskets. Only a few small creels have been made on the Derwent valley waters by fly anglers, who have not been very numerous there. The Chatsworth and Baslow lengths have not had a very large contingent of fishermen, and, excepting a few small creels which have been made, nothing scarcely has been done with the fly on any part of the waters. Bottom fishing has, however, been good in places where allowed. There has been about the same unsatisfactory state of things as regards fly angling on the lower reaches of the Derwent; but bottom fishing and spinning, both with artificial and natural minnow, have been successful; and some very fair baskets have been made on the Holmesford, Watstanwell, and Ambergate waters, chiefly with ant eggs, which are just now very killing, and garden worms. On the "Lums" portion of the Bentley brook, near Matlock, where the trout are carefully preserved, several holiday visitors have taken good lots of fish by bottom fishing with worms and dock grubs, and some very satisfactory sport has been had on those wide sheets of water. At present there are no reliable reports that the May Fly (Green Drake) has been seen on any of the Derbyshire streams. Not until we have warm, settled weather will fly fishing improve. This evening (Wednesday) there are slight signs of amendment in angling conditions: the waters are fining down, and the air is much softer; and if this improvement continues fly anglers may look forward for good sport with confidence. The under-mentioned flies will be useful on most Derbyshire streams: the Dotterel, Ash and Yellow Duns, Cooper's Fancy, Furnace, Alder, Red and Grey Spinners, and Bumbles. Ant eggs, in particular, for bottom fishing.

FROM HULL AND DISTRICT.

The weather for the past week in this district has been very mild, but owing to frequent showers only meagre sport has been met with amongst trout, either on the river Hull or its tributaries. One splendid fish, weighing over 4lb., is reported from the neighbourhood of Grove-hill, and several grand fish have been on the rise in the Weelferry and Figbam district. The flounders and eels are well on the run in the lower waters below Beverley

Beck, and at Wawne and Dunswell; and in the Wawne and Quinton district, on the 21st, three local anglers had a combined catch of ninety-nine fish, one of them having forty to his credit; and on Thursday last Mr. J. Cheeseman had a take of forty-one flounders and eels, some of the fish going from 1lb. to 2lb. each, the black-headed worm being answerable for the best fish. On the 14th inst. the Royal Albert Angling Society fished a match in the upper waters at the Eske Landing, Mr. W. Dixon securing the first prize with 1lb. 7½oz., Messrs. R. Huntsman and H. Hill taking the next two. The Whit Monday matches were about as much a failure as to fish as the Easter tide matches were, for owing to a strong easterly wind setting in the fish went off the feed, and sport was at a discount; and from Hull Bridge to Wawneferry, where the matches were chiefly fished, very little sport was had by the competitors. The River Hull Angling Society fished on the celebrated Minto Flatts stretch, Mr. H. Vinson taking the first prize with 1lb. 2oz.; Mr. J. Powell, second, with 15½oz.; Mr. George Millard, third, with 14½oz.; and Mr. G. Skow, fourth, 14½oz. Next to them came the Hull Ramblers' A.A., on the Cally stretch, Mr. Ike Austin being first prizeman with 12½oz.; Mr. E. Wilcox next, with 11½oz.; and Mr. W. Cheeseman, third, with 11oz. The Derringham Angling Club, who fished at Wawneferry, had worse luck still, the first three prize winners, Messrs. G. Cheeseman, John Thorpe, and T. North, having only a little over ½lb. of fish each to weigh in. Since Monday we have had some heavy thunderstorms and heavy downpours of rain, so that very little will be done until we have an agreeable change of the weather. During last week a few brace of nice trout were taken by our local anglers in the Lincolnshire waters, and from some private waters in the Brough and Cave districts. Worm fishing for flounders has also proved good sport in the havens and drains on both sides of the Humber. At the annual smoking concert and prize distribution of the West Hull Angling Society, under the presidency of Mr. T. Chester, Mr. Thomas Barber was the recipient of the society's gold medal for most points, and also a gold medal for the largest fish. Other special prizes were also presented to Messrs. Crossland, Chester, Bardsley, Carle, Clay, Burt, Breaker, Goodwin, Hall, Mino, Needler, and others. The Central Hull Angling Association's first match of the season was fished at Hull Bridge, Mr. J. Barnett winning the first prize with 1lb. 9½oz., Messrs. J. Simmonds, R. H. Barlow, and G. Dixon winning the next three with a little over 1lb. of fish each. The prizes were delivered on Tuesday evening. The Holderness Angling Association have fixed their second match of the season for June 22, at Newport, on the Market Weighton Canal.

FROM THE LAKE DISTRICT.

On Bank Holiday large numbers of visitors had arrived in the district for the fishing, but many were prevented from casting a line. Tuesday was warmer and showery, and there was a more general turn-out of rods, as there had also been towards the end of last week, when angling may be described as, on the whole, good. Rivers on several days were high, and good sport was obtained with worm and minnow, trout subsequently taking the fly readily, considering the cold winds. The same may be said of Windermere, Derwentwater, and other lakes, where some good panners have been secured. In the Keswick waters Messrs. Denwood, Telford, Lowther, and Spark were amongst the most successful; while on the river and St. John's Beck Messrs. J. and M. Stanley had twenty-four and fifteen fish respectively; Rev. J. O. Crosse, fourteen; Messrs. J. Jackson and T. Moffat, about half a dozen each; and Mr. T. Hodgson, four one-pounders, very nice fish. On the Upper Eden anglers have had little to complain of in the way of sport, several locals having had about a score at a fishing on successive days; and some more, namely, Mr. T. Ellwood, fifty; Mr. A. C. Whitehead, thirty-nine; Mr. G. H. Heelis, seventeen and twenty-five; Mr. W. Kennedy, twenty-seven; Mr. T. Howe, two twenties, &c. Capital baskets have also been taken on the Lune in the neighbourhood of Tebay and Kirkby Lonsdale, while the Kent and its tributaries had their share of patrons, who met with varying success.

FROM LANCASHIRE.

The Whitsuntide of 1899 will unfortunately have to be classed with many others as a popular holiday complete y

ruined by climatic surroundings. Hopes were high that as we had so much bad weather before the time, that we should certainly have the best of times in Whit week; but alas, it has not been so, and we now reflect on our disappointments. The chief item of news is from Warrington, but before going into the recording of the same, it may be useful to state in answer to many inquiries, and perhaps prevent others, that the Warrington Association control the fishing in the Bollin from the Manchester Ship Canal to the Mill Pool at Billington. The fishing is confined to members, and the cost of membership is—entrance, 2s. 6d., and annual subscription 5s.; this sum includes all the privileges of the association. The "Supplementary Society" of the parent association have arranged a very interesting and attractive programme for the ensuing season, as follows: August 26, at Tattenhall; September 14, at Beeston Castle—both events in the Shropshire Union Canal; and Sept 30, at Vale Royal, in the river Weaver. The St. Helen's anglers are noted for a special meeting, to arrange for a grand two days' outing to a mere in Cheshire containing any amount of fish. As regards the promotion of fishing in the river Bollin, a few days ago one of four others reported as frequenting this water was killed, and it is now being set up in Manchester. Its weight was 28lb., and length over all 49½in. The sooner the other three follow suit the better. Our rivers—the Lune, Ribble, Wyre, and all tributaries—are not yet in proper trim, but are fishing better. The great complaint is the scarcity of natural flies. The fish taken are not yet in fine condition, needing a few good rises of May Flies and Duns to feed them up. Local canals have been fairly well patronised, but the fish taken do not show signs of spawning, and although a few have been killed in good condition, the majority plainly show that the waters should have been kept closed for another month.

FROM LINCOLNSHIRE.

Trout fishing during the Whitsuntide holidays was entirely spoilt by the wet weather. Heavy storms occurred at frequent intervals, and many of the streams were so badly flooded on Wednesday that angling was entirely out of the question. Some time must elapse before they recover their normal condition, as, owing to the continuance of the rain, the soak is very high. On occasions, too, the weather has been extremely cold, thus retarding the already backward development of both insect life and aquatic vegetation. Under such circumstances there is very little to report this week, in fact, it has only been the keenest Waltonians who have ventured to wet a line. Encouraging accounts have reached me from the Fen waters, where the spawning season is said to be progressing satisfactorily. I fear, though, the flooded condition of the drains on Wednesday would have a prejudicial effect on this process.

FROM MANCHESTER.

This city is about the chief offender in the matter of Whitsuntide insanity, and is perhaps the chief sufferer also from the general upset and dislocation of the commercial world. At the same time, it allows the bulk of fishermen to get in a few days' fishing, and our men are never slow to take the fullest advantage of the opportunity. Just now they are scattered all over the land, and from the few reports reaching home they are not satisfied with the amount of sport obtained. One or two reports from distant places speak of a few May Flies on the water. Perhaps the best show was at Llanymynech, and the next best on some Cheshire brooks, but in no case were there many. It is pleasing to learn that the Levenshulme Anglers appreciate the grand win of the first prize at the late Wyresdale competition by their representative, Mr. C. H. Robinson, who has been presented with a handsome gold medal and one of Hardy's perfect reels in acknowledgment of his success on that occasion. Two Levenshulme anglers, fishing the Derwent on Bank Holiday, made baskets totalling sixteen brace of trout. During the day there was a fair hatch out of the Needle Fly, but the fish were too quiet, not a single rise all day; the worm and maggot was the only way to kill fish. The returns of sport obtained by the Kingfishers, in the Isle of Man, are not exciting, but they are enjoying themselves. Mr. McCrirkick, in Scotland, is doing well amongst the burn trout, which run about five to the pound, and occasionally a little larger, with an occasional larger one. The streams

he is whipping are the Euchar and Crawick. Mr. Walmsley and party, in private Cheshire waters, have had some very fair dishes of trout with worm and minnow. There is a look of warning in many an eye when inquiries are made as to results, but by next week somebody will be back who has had a few good few fish to report.

FROM NOTTINGHAM.

Angling pursuits have, as regards local fishermen, been at a standstill. The holidays were associated with drenching rain, and enthusiasts who ventured out for trout returned home with wet jackets. To-day (Wednesday) the Trent was in semi-flood volume; and no fishing, even for eels (in private waters) and salmon, will be possible for some days to come. On June 5 the annual banquet of the Nottingham Wellington Society will be held at headquarters, when a large and influential gathering of devoted fishers, top and bottom, is expected.

FROM SHEFFIELD.

The weather during the past week has not been altogether favourable for outdoor pursuits, and those anglers who had entertained hopes of having a few days enjoyable sport during the Whitsuntide holidays have been sadly disappointed. The weather has been simply wretched, but, notwithstanding this fact, a fair number of anglers have been out, and, generally speaking, they have found sport to reward them for braving the elements. Towards the end of last week the heavy thunderstorms had put a good colour on both the Derwent and the Wye, with the result that bottom anglers took advantage of the opportunity, and obtained some good sport. In the waters that are well looked after and preserved anglers have fared very well, some very big fish having been killed. The upper reaches of the Derwent, where nearly all the big fish have been caught this season, have come in for a good deal of attention. Bottom anglers have put in a good deal of time, and some very good catches have been made, maggots and worms having proved the most successful baits. In the waters near Darley Dale and Matlock a nice lot of big fish have recently been secured, anglers who have resorted to worms, maggots, and ants' eggs having scored the best. In the Wye the most satisfactory sport has been obtained between Rowsley and Miller's Dale, bottom anglers finding the best returns. Locally, the waters in the Loxley Valley have provided the best sport for Sheffield rodsters. In the Loxley stream itself a fairish quantity of decent sized fish have been killed, whilst in the reservoirs a few big fish have been obtained. The Dam Flask reservoir, which always contains a lot of big fish, is now beginning to fish up to something like its reputation, and in the Dale Dike reservoir a few moderate sized fish have been caught, but none of them have been in anything like prime condition.

FROM WORCESTER AND DISTRICT.

A large quantity of rain has fallen during the last week, which made it bad for the holiday keepers. There has been an 18in. rise on the river Severn, and the water was slightly coloured. In spite of the wet and unsettled state of the weather a great number of anglers sought the riverside on Sunday and Monday, and a lot were fishing the weirs. A great quantity of coarse fish were taken, chiefly chub, and there was a good run of eels, which bit freely, and a lot of samlets were also taken. On the weirs the old poaching game of snatching was freely indulged in, and occasionally two or three fish were hooked at a time in back, belly, or sides, and nothing is being done to restrain these men. I am told samlets are being taken in large quantities this season in the Severn and the Teme, which is much to be deplored, and irresponsible anglers say, as the Severn Fishery Board want to take all the coarse fish out of the river, they shall not spare the samlets. Surely the Severn Fishery Board should do something to stop these fellows in the interest of the salmon fishing. Many have patronised the Teme this Whitsuntide, but had the weather been fine their numbers would have been very much increased. Sport was not good, and the take of trout was limited. Mr. Cooper, of the City Club, had one fine fish, 1lb. 6oz., and I did hear of another being taken twice that weight, but did not see it. Several grayling were hooked, and a lot of chub seems also to have been taken in this river. The May Fly has made its appearance in limited numbers, but with finer weather no doubt they will be out strong.

"ANGLERS NOTE!"

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Correspondence

[We do not hold ourselves responsible for the opinions expressed by our Correspondents.]

"THE RESOURCES OF THE SEA."

DEAR SIR,—In the review of the above volume in your issue of April 15, the scope of the criticism falls hard on the scientist, and, with your permission, I should be glad if you will allow me to make some remarks on the article in question.

I quite agree with the writer as to scientific arguments being carried on without respect of persons, only suggesting they should be met in a fair judicial spirit.

In the critic's tone there is a certain corrosiveness as if he were as cocksure of his position as he attributes to the author of the volume reviewed. Now when he himself states "that the dab loves rough ground or little patches amongst rocks," it causes doubts to arise if other statements as positively asserted are on a par. He will possibly allow Mr. J. C. Wilcocks to be a practical "sea fisherman" of sound reputation, who says "they are found on all the sandy and oozy shores of the British Isles." One need not quote scientific works on ichthyology, or the researches of Cunningham and Holt on board the trawlers in the North Sea, but simply add dabs revel in abundance in the sands and mud of the Thames estuary.

Such sea denizens as oysters, lobsters and crabs, and the river and lake fisheries, are quite within man's scope to seriously injure, and this is freely acknowledged by Professor McIntosh; but these cases do not overturn the factors of oceanic life.

The critic advises "that the author should have noted carefully the results of fishing not only within the closed areas, but also outside in British waters." So far as I can gather, this is just what has been done (*vide pp. 79-95*), the data being chiefly restricted to the east coast of Scotland, wherein the main subject of dispute is located. This brings me to think that the reviewer elides the origin of the controversy. It was the lice and drift-net fishermen complaining of the injuries received from the steam beam trawlers that set up the commotion. Then followed the Royal Commission and Report (1884), and subsequently the F.B.S. experimental investigations. Besides averred injuries to their lines, the liners accused the trawlers of destroying the ground food, the spawn, and the brood of fish; but if the truth were told, possibly the competition of the capitalist and steam were the real bogies. Albeit, it was the scientists, and not the practical men, that showed the majority of food fish eggs were surface spawned and buoyant, and that both larval fish and their food were seaborn, and not alone ground residents. So, after all, the dreaded trawl was not the sole aggressor.

It should not be lost sight of that the essence of the controversy is: In the areas closed have the fish increased, or, otherwise, matters worked beneficially? Both the board and opponent reply no, as do the outside public. It seems unreasonable, then, to continue the restriction, and on a new tack assume the ex-territorial trawlers are guilty of destroying the inshore fisheries from as yet suppositions and meagre data.

Moreover, I would add for the consideration of the reviewer that at the Sea Fisheries conference of last year, the resolution for the opening of the Moray Firth was agreed to with but one dissentient, and the most powerful arguments for this proceeding came from the delegates of the English eastern counties, the very trawlers and fish salesmen supposed not to favour Prof. McIntosh's suggestion.

Again, as to destruction of small fish by liners, I would refer our critic to the evidence in the 6th Ann. Rep. F.B.S. for 1887, p. 4. Comment on my part is unnecessary, though I might ask the question: How does the critic propose that fish are to be caught without destruction of a considerable amount of immature ones? It is easy to say do this, and, *ergo*, that follows.

It is to be deplored that the number of the fisher sailing craft are reduced, but then who is to arrest steam and mechanical progress, and the inexorable principle of supply and demand? Besides, where once fishing was the inevitable sole occupation open to local sea coast communities, now the spread of communication and traffic draws away the younger generation broadcast.

As to the increased price of prime fish, is not this due partly to expenses in carriage to the middlemen, but mainly to the entire changes and more luxurious habits of the people? Fish is now a common diet in inland places previously seldom reached. The grand hotels, the great banquets, forced city life, with its wealth and display, have completely metamorphosed the face of things. Take for instance sprats in London, these at one time were relatively a dainty, but other fish flood the market, and adult sprats have been superseded by the ché's toothsome whitebait—the same but young fish supplanting the adult, and consequent modification of fishery. To go further afield for fish that pay the capitalist better is precisely comparable with every other branch of trade, and yet one cannot boldly affirm British commerce is ruined thereby, though undoubtedly it has been wonderfully transformed within the last few decades.

But my intention is not to hack, piecemeal, an opinion prejudiced towards science, but rather to show she may go hand in hand with practice. Even if it were granted, for argument's sake, that the North Sea fisheries are declining (Hewitt's fleet withdrawn), or that Professor McIntosh's deductions are absurd, the patent fact is the appointment of a North Sea conference at Stockholm, June 15, where the scientists are to be the advisers *re* international legislation of sea fisheries. Three Scotchmen are to be representatives, and the S.F.B. to the fore; wherefore not add Cunningham, whose North Sea re-

searches are patent, and, say, George Alward, of Grimsby, a broad viewed practical trawler and keen debater, as representing English views and interests?

At the present juncture, whatever merits or demerits attach to Professor McIntosh's extreme views, I hold we are indebted to his bold expressions, for they at least show there is more than one side to the knotty questions of what is the most judicious steps to be taken for the benefit of all concerned. It is not to be forgotten that the liner's idea is, give us territorial monopoly; the net fisher's is, mesh to our liking; the trawler's, grant us freedom of area; the fish merchant and capitalist provide us statute to make money; the public's cry is, we must have plenty and cheap fish, while foreigners justly reason why should Britain have the sole product of the North Sea and grasp the fish at our own doors. Now I cannot at present see how all are to be satisfied by a special Act of Parliament or dominant power vested in the Fishery Board for S., however good their labours hitherto. No amount of so-called practical knowledge can allay the widespread feeling that thorough inquiry is necessary at present; the more need, therefore, that science should not be shunted when undoubtedly a worthy helpmate in practical affairs of everyday life.

JAMES MURIE, M.D.
(Member Kent and Essex Sea Fisheries Committee).

A CURIOUS EXPERIENCE.

DEAR SIR,—I had a very curious experience while fishing on the Lower Lake, Killarney, the other day. After fishing some time, and with fair success, "something big" took my tail fly, and with a mighty drag took cast and all away with him. My friend said it was a salmon, but I rather thought it was a big trout. He was right; it was an illb. springer, for it was killed next day, and my March Brown and part of the casting line were still in his mouth.

Later on in the day I killed four perch, about $\frac{1}{2}$ lb. each, on a Green Drake. After this my friend very carelessly let his flies go to the bottom whilst searching his book for a Zulu; and when he went to take in his cast he found that nothing less than an eel had taken his Green Drake.

To finish up a very curious day's fishing I hooked a bat in the evening, which took away my top dropper.—Yours truly,

W.M. GRAHAM.
P.S.—Perhaps some of your readers may doubt the truth of the above statements; but I can assure you that it is "the truth, the whole truth, and nothing but the truth."—W. G.

THE SALMON QUESTION IN AMERICA.

(From *Forest and Stream*.)

SALMON IN THE OSWEGO RIVER.

Editor *Forest and Stream*.—In late numbers of your paper reference has been made to the former presence of salmon in Lake Ontario and its tributaries. Up to the time the Oswego Canal was constructed and the dams built, salmon in great numbers frequented the Oswego river, coming up each year from the sea through the St. Lawrence river and Lake Ontario to visit their spawning beds.

My father has told me of seeing shoals of them on bright sunny days, stopped by the shadow of the bridge at Oswego Falls, twelve miles above the mouth of the river, waiting until the sun was off the water to pass up; and at night of seeing the river covered with boats and canoes, the men in them spearing the salmon by torchlight. These salmon were never known to take a fly or any bait so far from the sea, except that a man fishing for trout many years ago on Salmon River (coming into the lake twenty miles below Oswego), at the foot of the high falls, took several grilse.

Some years ago fishways were placed at each dam on the Oswego; but the demand for water, for power, and for the canals at low water time, when the salmon were running up, was too great, and the fishways had to go dry.

Up to 1870, and perhaps a little later, salmon were occasionally taken in the whitefish nets set off the harbour of Oswego.

FISHERMAN.

FISHING NEAR LOWESTOFT.

DEAR SIR,—In reply to your correspondent "Hills" letter in the *Fishing Gazette* with regard to the best fishing near Lowestoft, I should certainly recommend him to try the river Waveney. If he will apply to Mr. George Finch, of Ballygate-street, Beccles (half an hour's run by train from Lowestoft), he will be able to obtain all information he may require; and I can assure him, that given reasonably favourable circumstances, if he engages Finch to accompany him, of such sport amongst the roach, and possibly bream (although July is full early for them), as should satisfy the most impatient angler. For the benefit of those of your readers who do not know the Waveney, I may say that it is one of the most charming coarse fishing rivers it has ever been my lot to fish, clear water—everywhere of good depths, mostly varying from 7 ft. or 8 ft. to 14 ft. of water—very clear of weeds, and literally teeming with fish, in addition to which the fish when hooked are more sporting than in any other river I know. I have fished the river on many enjoyable occasions in company with Finch, who I have always found to be most obliging, and is certainly a very genial companion.

Last year on one occasion we killed to our two rods something over 60 lb. of roach in one day, few of which were under $\frac{1}{2}$ lb., and a good many of which exceeded $\frac{1}{2}$ lb.; and, of course, when the big bream are feeding this catch can be very easily considerably exceeded.

I have no hesitation in recommending anyone desirous of obtaining good sport to fish the Waveney, as I believe it to be one of the, if not the, best roach rivers in England; and I certainly have never yet seen so smart a bottom fisherman as Finch, or one who will take greater pains both to

find his patrons' sport, or to point out to them any small faults they may possess in handling a rod.

His charges for accompanying anglers and finding bait are 5s. per day and food, which, I think, everyone must admit is anything but extortionate, considering that when I, for instance, am out with him in the summer, we usually start about four o'clock in the morning and return home about eight o'clock at night. If anyone, however, is desirous of not having a man, as the river is unusually variable, I do not think, except absolutely by a fluke, strangers are likely to find much sport by themselves.

If you can find room to insert this letter I shall be much obliged, as I should personally be very glad to introduce fresh patrons to Finch, in recognition of the trouble he has always taken to procure me the many very enjoyable days' sport I have had in the Waveney.—Yours faithfully,

H. H. STONER.

FISHING IN SOUTH WALES.

DEAR SIR,—In the *Fishing Gazette* of May 20, I notice "T. H." inquires with reference to "Fishing in South Wales," and particularly wants to know what can be obtained at Newcastle Emlyn. The fishing at Newcastle Emlyn is all free and open to the public. Consequently the water is very much whipped, and if "T. H." wants to have some sport, I should strongly advise him to stay at Llandysil, where he will fish the same river nine miles higher up, and have the privilege of two and a half miles of preserved water by staying at the Porth Hotel.—Yours truly,

S.

BLACK BASS, AND THE WATERS THE TWO KINDS ARE SUITED FOR.

DEAR MR. MARSTON,—I am under great obligations to you for your prompt compliance with my request concerning the grayling. I have already received a valuable communication on the subject from Messrs. Andrews and Andrews, of Haslemere, and the promise of one from Mr. Peter Ormrod, of Seorton, Lancashire.

Referring to the black bass, would say that it was the large-mouthed bass that I recommended as suitable for the lakes and ponds and broads of England. Such waters are suitable for pike—grassy or mossy meres, and sluggish streams not inhabited by trout or grayling, though, as a matter of fact, the black bass is not at all destructive of those species as is the pike and perch. The bass is not, strictly speaking, a piscivorous fish, but prefers crayfish and other crustaceans and larvae. The small-mouthed bass will only thrive in swift and rocky or gravelly streams, such as are suitable for trout or grayling; they will not exist in the broads or grassy still waters, and it is "love's labour lost" to attempt it, and which has already been proven in British waters. Yes; the black bass of both species have done well in Germany and the Netherlands. I was instrumental in inducing Mr. von Borne to attempt it in Germany, and gave him full directions how to proceed. He was very successful in his enterprise. I presume they could be obtained in Germany for British waters, and the distance not being so great as the United States, I think such an effort would be successful. I am sorry there is such an unwarranted prejudice on the part of British anglers against the black bass; he is the gamest fish that swims, "inch for inch and pound for pound."

Thanking you again for your kindly interest in the grayling matter,—I am, yours very sincerely,

Bozeman (Montana) Station. J. A. HENSHALL.
[Dr. Henshall is the leading authority on that magnificent game fish, the black bass of N. America. We think it probable that if his advice was followed, and the proper kind tried in suitable waters, they would do here as well as in Germany, where both kinds have been successfully bred for many years. We hope that Capt. Ormrod will take up this question, in fact, he has half promised us that he will do so already.—Ed.]

BASS AND GREY MULLET FISHING.

SIR,—In reading the *Fishing Gazette* week after week, I have waited patiently for some account of bass or grey mullet fishing, but up to now have not seen it. In these waters we have splendid sport amongst grey mullet about August and September, and bass there is plenty; but no one attempts to catch them. It is very hard to get tackle suitable for large fish in this place, and if one sends away the dealers never seem to understand what is required, and the result is failure. The mullet are fine fish, weighing from $\frac{3}{4}$ lb. to 8 lb., and, unlike most fish, have a very tender mouth; so that, instead of playing and landing by gaff or net, one has to lift them straight up from the water and land them in rear without turning, for the least extra strain the fish is gone. You will understand the strain a 7 lb. fish would place upon a single gut, especially if he resisted. During last season I and a friend caught 107 grey mullet, besides mackerel, horse mackerel, snipe fish, and bream. Well, you only have to place the line in the water and pull it out again, they are so thick. Of course to have this result one must use a special ground-bait. I use chervie. It is a minute species of shrimp, caught by the fishermen in Jersey. They salt it and sell it so much a quart. A spoonful about every five minutes for a quarter of an hour, and if one is in the proper place the water will be alive with fish. I usually get on the breakwater here, and drop the bait in a recess at the foot of the steps. The tide does not carry it away, and the fish can be held as it were, until the tide is done. There are some noted rocks around the coast where a deep hole is at the foot. Twice last year at one of these places I had a splendid catch; the fish were rolling over one another at my feet, and as soon as they commenced to rise I put my line in the water baited with peeled shrimp. The first occasion I had six large ones, and the second I and my friend had nineteen, all over 4 lb. It is strange that in Guernsey, the sister

island, the mullet caught around the pier are not more than $\frac{1}{2}$ lb. weight, and the anglers from there pay us a visit each year for larger fish. If any of your readers should be visiting these waters, I should be very glad to give them a day's sport. Trusting you will be able to give me some advice on the bass fishing, believe me to remain—Faithfully yours,
MULLET.

Alderney (C.I.)
P.S.—I could give "Sprats" the information he requires; he would find plenty of sport here.

WHY DO SALMON TAKE THE FLY?

DEAR SIR,—“I ought to be insulted, but I ain't,” used to exclaim Mr. J. L. Toole in one of his parts, where he had been mistaken for the butler, whilst really master of the establishment, and tipped with half-a-crown. In like manner there are, no doubt, anglers who will be ready, nay, eager, to suggest that the above heading should read, “Why don't salmon take the fly?” Speaking personally, I should vote for the amendment, having still to experience that delicious delight which appears to be the result of capturing one's first salmon. A recollection is yet quite clear of five days' flogging on the Conway, in the wildest days of last October, the nearest approach to my own sport being a good view of sundry well-developed tails as their lordships ploughed onward to the upper waters. True, the water was up and down three or four times a day, and they tell me that is very bad indeed. However, let that flee stick to the wa'. I was lately reminded of a chat which I had a few years ago at Langholm with an elderly man, on whom I had called to purchase a few sea trout flies. As he quickly showed an interest in me—the readiest way, not through the stomach (that's exploded), to one's heart—we were soon engaged in an earnest talk. I knew Mr. So and So, had heard of Mr. What'shisname, and lived close to Mr. Thingumbob, all of whom were in the habit of fishing the Esk and Liddle. So by stages we got to tales of slaughter of the king of fresh-water fishes. “The point is this,” I said at last, for there was much spilling of ink going on at the time on the subject; “why the deuce do salmon take what you call the salmon fly at all? There's nothing like it in real life, so he can't want to eat it. Besides, they say he never does eat after he comes from the sea.” “I have my own idea,” he replied, “and, mind, it's the result of personal experience.” (As I am not Mr. J. M. Barrie, I shall deal gingerly with a dialect which I much admire, though reproduce imperfectly.) “One day I was standing on the Brig at Annan, and sure enough down below was a gran' fish lying still. A frien' o' mine was casting away below him. By an' bye the fish begins to give a bit move, and then I see his tail slowly going from side to side like this. It reminded me of a cat just about to mak' the spring. But nothing more. What does I do but I just sings out to my frien' ‘Stop throwing a wee hit. Now, then,’ says I, ‘gie him a rest for five minutes, change your fly, step this way 10 yds. and try him again.’ My frien' carries out the programme, round gangs the line, down comes the fly, up jumps the fish, head clear out o' the water, turns himself ower, and—bang! he grabs the fly like a terrier wi' a rat, drops down deeper in the water, and—well, in something like a quarter of an hour he was on the bank breathing his last; twenty pound if he was an ounce.” “Good biz,” I remarked, “then he just went for that sir fly to worry it?” “Preceesely; to do away with it, to put it out of existence; he was angry, his dander was up, and he had to destroy it, as he thought.” “I rather think,” said I, that notion has not yet been advanced, but there seems to be something in it.” With that I bade him good morning, and sallied forth to the Skipper's Bridge. The day came on very stormy, a strong westerly gale blowing, so when a gust of wind landed my tail fly in a tree top, and as I know sufficient to realise the fish were not there, I reeled up and smoked in an out-of-the-world corner, trying to get up an enthusiasm for autumn's beautiful colouring in the splendid woods thereabouts. Presently I strolled to a fine pool where a farmer was felling away with a twenty-footer. Soon there was a boil, down went the rod top, and “You're into him,” I shout d, for the noise of wind and water was great. One minute elapsed, then the line came back fishless. He smote his thigh with a heavy blow, and ejaculated something in good broad Scots. We sat down together, and smoked in silence like two Red Indians. After a while I said cautiously, “Now, what did that fish think he was doing? Was he hungry? Surely he couldn't want to eat the derved fly?” “I ken na what he thoct, I know what he did; I wad ha' gien a sovereign to land him,” was the reply. There was no theory here evidently, so I did not intrude any opinions. It was too painful a time for speculation on the matter.

There is one more point to be touched upon. Some little time ago I read that when the beam of a trawler is examined, there are occasionally found upon it brightly coloured creatures swept up from the floor of the sea. Is it possible that the salmon, remembering these experiences of his sea-going days, when, perhaps, he gobbles them, spying the brilliant colours of a Jock Scott, Silver Doctor, or Butcher, says, like Rip Van Winkle, “I had sworn off, but will not count this one,” and accordingly goes for it?
E. E. H.

COMFORTABLE FISHING QUARTERS.

SIR,—One of your correspondents recently inquired through your columns for information as to snug quarters, with fair fishing, whereto to spend his holiday. Permit me, with your usual courtesy, to recommend to such inquirers the consideration of the many merits of the Inveroran Hotel, Argyll, under the excellent management of its new proprietor, Mr. Cameron.

It is most accessible, being only a couple of miles from the Bridge of Orchy Station, on the new West Highland

line to Fort William. Few hotels in the highlands, even of much greater pretensions, equal it for comfort and excellence of cuisine, none certainly surpass it, and the charges are most moderate. As to the fishing, the hotel guests have at their door Loch Tulla, which contains some very fine trout up to 3 lb. or 4 lb. in weight, and also, alas, pike. Mr. Cameron has several boats on it. Visitors can also fish Loch Buidhe, in the deer forest, where there are abundance of small trout, say, of five or six to the lb. There is also some stream and burn fishing, and one or two hill lochans. Perhaps the chief feature, however, is the salmon fishing on the Orchy, over some four or five miles of which Mr. Cameron has the fishing, which he places at the disposal of his visitors. With luck in hitting off a good water (and rain is no scarce commodity in the West Highlands), the fishing is often really excellent. There are also trout in the Orchy, but I can't say from experience much about them.

Situated as is Inveroran in the heart of the Black Monnt deer forest, surrounded by magnificent mountains towering to over 3600 ft., standing on the shore of a lovely loch, fringed with straggling remnants of the ancient Caledonian forest, within a couple of hours' drive of the gloomy Pass of Glencoe or the wild Glen Etive, within a stone cast, so to speak, of station, telegraph, and all such modern necessities, and offering not only the comforts, but even the refinements of life, at most moderate charges, it seems to me, who have just returned from a pleasant stay there, to be almost an ideal resting place for any wearied brain-worker. One last word. All this is placed at the stranger's disposal through the kindly liberality of the noble proprietor, the Marquess of Breadalbane, whose charming residence stands just across the loch. It is, therefore, I think, not too much to ask that, in return, all visitors will conform most strictly and cheerfully to the few regulations which are laid down, such as those regarding the 7 in. limit as to trout, the avoidance of trespass in the forest, and such matters.—I am, sir, yours, &c.,
CHAS. H. ALSTON.

COOPER'S FANCY.

DEAR SIR,—Some weeks back a customer of ours wrote you asking for some reader of the *Fishing Gazette* to oblige him with the dressing of Cooper's Fancy, stating that he had written “the celebrated fishing tackle firm of Foster's, of Ashbourne, who do not know the fly.” We thereupon wrote Mr. Cooper for the favour of a description of it, as it has figured in the weekly river reports of late. Mr. Cooper replied, refusing us the favour we had asked on the ground that the fly had cost him a lot of trouble to perfect (or words to that effect, we are quoting from memory), and that he was in a position to supply these flies himself. So far so good. This last week a friend of ours has obtained for us a fly of this name, and we are now desirous of acquainting our patron, the Rev. Roland Upcher, and any other inquirers, that they need have no further anxiety about the matter, for if they will order our Black Gnats they will get Cooper's Fancy. The only difference between the thin bodied Derbyshire Black Gnat and the fly sent us as being Cooper's Fancy is this—the Cooper is a more thick headed fly than is our own, and by that we mean a larger head has been formed with the black tying silk than is the case in the typical Derbyshire pattern. Of course, it is just possible that our correspondent has blundered in the pattern procured for us, but we have no reason for thinking so.—Yours faithfully,
Foster Bros.
Ashbourne.

THE 20LB. LEA PIKE.

DEAR SIR,—You kindly noticed my Lea jack of 20 lb. last February in the *Fishing Gazette*; should you care to see it, it is now on view at Holroyd's fishing tackle shop, 59, Gracechurch-street, City—not in the window, but on the counter inside.—Yours truly,
FRANCIS BAKER.

JARDINE'S PURE SILK FISHING LINES.

DEAR SIR,—Will you kindly let me know in your next issue if Mr. A. Jardine's pure silk fishing lines can now be bought, if so, where? These particular lines were referred to in your issue of Sept. 10, 1898. Thanking you in anticipation.—Yours truly,
R. A. SIMMONS.

[Mr. R. A. Simmons and “John Dory” might possibly obtain the fine Saigon silk lines spoken of in Mr. Alfred Jardine's book on “Pike and Perch,” page 53, and referred to in the *Fishing Gazette* of Sept. 10 last, of either Messrs. Wm. Bartleet and Sons, or Messrs. S. Alcock and Co., both firms of Redditch, Staffordshire.]

“AN AUTOMATIC POACHING SPRING HOOK.”

DEAR SIR,—I have perused with some interest the article in your issue of the 20th inst. on “An Automatic Poaching Spring Fish Hook.”

I incline to think that this arrangement of hooks might be used for the capture of fish other than from a poaching point of view. I refer more particularly to the capture of “squid” when deep sea fishing. Everyone who has fished to any great extent off the South Devon coast must have experienced the great annoyance caused by “squid.” I have frequently found that when pollack, bream, and rock whiting are feeding well there is a sudden cessation of sport, which, as a rule, is caused by the appearance either of conger or squid; the former one knows how to deal with, but the latter, especially in deep water fishing—say 15 fathoms—is much more difficult of capture. Directly the lead reaches the bottom, when paternostering or hand-lining, you feel the quiet tug-tug of “Mr. Squid”; you reel up very quietly, feeling all the time the dead weight which assures you that the squid is still on the bait; your man stands by with the landing net, ready, if possible, to place it under the rascal when he comes to the surface; but, as a rule, eleven times out of twelve the wily squid

lets go his hold of the bait just as the net seems under him, and he is off like a flash of light, and with such extreme swiftness that he is down at the bottom of the sea again and ready for your bait more quickly even than a heavily leaded paternoster can reach the bottom.

Now, if some such arrangement of hooks as that shown in your illustration could be fixed to the bait, I fancy the tentacles of the squid would probably become entangled, and his capture made certain. This would prove a double joy to the fisherman—one, that he has captured the greatest nuisance which exists when other fish are biting freely, and the other that he has provided himself with a supply of the best possible bait for conger, large pollack, and, in fact, almost all deep sea fishes.

Perhaps some of your readers will be disposed to give their views on the suggestions thrown out by me. You do not say if the spring hooks are to be had in this country, but if they could be made to open outwards instead of inwards, as I fancy the article suggests, they would prove useful for my purpose.—Yours truly,
FRANCIS HOWSE.

[We do not know that the spring hooks referred to are to be had in this country, but a line to the editor of the *Scientific American*, New York, would doubtless obtain the address of the American inventor.—Ed. F. G.]

HOTEL, GARRISON, LOUGH MELVIN BY BELLEEK, Co. FERMANAGH, IRELAND.

DEAR SIR,—I am pleased to read the letter of Messrs. Rogan and Sons respecting the accommodation at the hotel at Garrison—boats and men. I have a letter from Mr. Scott, the proprietor, telling me that after the recent floods the run of grilse is plentiful, and many salmon, lake trout, gillaroo, and brown trout have been caught at Garrison end of the lake, because the salmon can't get any further. I have been there several times the last twenty years, and have always had good sport. The last time and day I was there was on a Friday, and caught a salmon of 16 $\frac{1}{2}$ lb. and a char, which were on the table at the Piscatorial Society the Monday following. Now Mr. A. Scott has enlarged his hotel. He can accommodate more anglers, for I have known gentlemen occupy apartments at Belleek till the cabin-like rooms, then, were vacated.

The lake at Garrison end and islands is a perfect angler's paradise; the boats large and trustworthy, and experienced boatmen.

The way to reach Garrison: Take train from Dublin to Belleek, where a car will be in waiting to transport the anglers to Garrison, a nice six miles' drive, if Mr. Scott is written to to send car at any appointed time. The charges at the hotel are very moderate, so for boat and two men. There is no shore fishing. I only wish I was there instead of at Deal, where at present there is no fishing.

Anglers should write to Mr. Scott to know if rooms are vacant, as there is no other accommodation at Garrison. There are perch, but no pike in Lough Melvin.—Yours faithfully,
T. R. SACHS (P.P.S.).

EATON AND DELLER'S SPECIAL DRY-FLY BOX.

DEAR SIR,—Messrs. Williams and Co., of Great Queen-street, are under a slight misapprehension as to the exact design of our registered eyed fly box. It is made of a sheet of felt sandwiched between two sheets of parchment, well glued and compressed, with strips of parchment sewn across to receive the flies. The strips of parchment are, we believe, similar in design to their own; but the point for originality that we claim is the combination of the strips and the compressed felt between the parchment, which is thus sufficiently elastic to retain the point of hook beyond the barb without the fly shaking out.—Yours truly,
EATON AND DELLER.

TESTIMONIAL TO BEN ABRAHAMS.

DEAR SIR,—I have received cash from the following: Allason United Bros. A.S. £2 0s. 6d.; Mr. J. W. Blakey, 5s.; Mr. A. R. Mathews, 2s.; Mr. J. Hardie, 1s.; Mr. A. Etheridge, 1s.; per Mr. G. Beuce (Jubilee A.S.), 2s.; Mr. W. H. Brougham, 2s. 6d.

All communications should be addressed to
E. JACKSON
2, Bulmer Place, Notting (Secretary to the fund).
Hill Gate.

SEA FISHING IN AUGUST.

DEAR SIR,—In answer to “Sprats,” I should recommend him to go to Looe if he wants a quiet spot; Charlie Toms or Ben Pengelly are good boatmen, moderate in charge, and very obliging. Hotel, The Ship. Looe is about nine miles from Menheniot Station, G.W.R., Cornwall Railway. There are coaches from Menheniot to Looe.—Yours truly,
WILLIAM HEARDER, B.S.A.S.
195, Union-street, Plymouth.

MR. JONA: “Say, Maria, what on earth are you huyin' fish to-day for? Didn't you forget that I was goin' fishin' to-day.” Mrs. Jona: “No, I remembered you were goin' fishin'. When I set my mind on fish I don't like to be disappointed in not getting any—there!”

WANTED, A WIFE.—A farmer in Manitoba recently wrote to England, asking for a wife to be sent out to him. We believe he meant well, and we hope he met with success; but good wives are not usually to be obtained in this way. In such a matter a man can not safely trust to the judgment of another, but must use his own. In choosing a wife, every man's judgment varies. In other things it is not so. For instance, the judgment of every sensible man is in favour of Holloway's Pills and Ointment for the cure of liver complaints, disordered stomach, shattered nerves, rheumatism, gout, lumbago, scalds, burns, and all skin diseases.

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NOTICE.

THE FISHING GAZETTE is published every Saturday, and can be obtained at Messrs. W. H. Smith and Son's Railway Bookstalls and of the principal Newsagents and Fishing Tackle Dealers in London and the Provinces.

Communications relating to the Literary Department, Fishing Tackle for Notice, Books for Review, &c., should be addressed to R. B. MARSTON, Editor of the FISHING GAZETTE, St. Dunstan's House, Fetter-lane, London.

Correspondents are requested to write on one side of the paper only, and give their real names and addresses, not necessarily as signatures to their letters, but as a guarantee of good faith. Unless this rule be adhered to no notice will be taken of such communications.

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The GAZETTE can be had by sending Postal Order or Stamps to Messrs. Sampson Low, Marston and Co., Limited, the Proprietors, St. Dunstan's House, Fetter-lane, London, to whom all money payments should be made.

For One Year, post free to any part of Great Britain and Ireland	10s. 6d.
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To America and the Continent, annual subscription, including postage	12s. 6d.

Scale of Charges for Advertisements.

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TELEPHONE, No. 83 Holborn.

The Fishing Gazette

WITH WHICH IS INCORPORATED

ANGLING AND CLUB GOSSIP.

SATURDAY, JUNE 3RD, 1899.

THE HOLIDAY ANGLER.

By "KRYPTOS."

WE all know the "holiday angler," he who for fifty weeks out of the year has his mind concentrated over ledgers and letters, and who, during the two which comprise his annual holiday, flings himself unfettered forth into the country, talks of his "little place up in Scotland" and his "friend the Honourable Tom Roundabout," as though his time were his own all the year round.

Usually he goes to a seaside boarding-house, and, in spite of his aristocratic connections and limitless wealth, he usually selects one in the part of the town farthest removed from the front; not because living is cheaper, oh dear, no! but because it is handier for the railway station, in case he should be suddenly called back to town!

The seaside resorts by the Norfolk Broads know him well, welcoming his appearance effusively, for, although his holiday garb is, to say the least of it, startling, yet he is quiet and inoffensive, pays without grumbling, and is out all day.

When he comes by steamboat to the place of his choice, he very rarely attempts sea fishing

afterwards, save from the pier; but if he makes the journey by rail, he is likely to be beguiled by the dulcet lures of the boatmen, and one fine morning discovers him, with a very new rod, being pulled out on to the briny deep.

It is pitiable, indeed, to see that young man go out, and then to watch his return. To notice how he disregards the nice new rod whilst landing, and how he leaps for the shore directly the keel grates on the shingle, is a liberal education in misery, and you wonder whether Father Neptune can really find pleasure in worrying such a frail, damp-looking wretch. Henceforth, he is only found upon the pier with half a dozen of his kind laying long lines carefully over the promenade, that children may entangle their feet, ladies their skirts, and old gentlemen their sticks. Having performed this to their own satisfaction, they proceed to bait numerous hooks with shrimps, mussels, or worms, showing a great nicety about it, and carefully wiping their hands after each one. Then, with a critical glance around, they swing the lead about their heads until nothing can be seen of the whirling line. Shoo! You watch the heavy weight leap into the air; you watch every bait spin off on a journey of its own, and you know by the dull plunge when the lead takes six bare hooks to the bottom, clean across four other lines!

The holiday angler does not know it, however, so he lights a cigarette and hangs over the balustrade with the line in his hand, gazing contentedly at the sky.

Number one along the row of anglers fancies he has a bite, and strikes vigorously; number two, whose line is mixed with that of number one, feels a sharp tug, and begins hauling in. Our friend, the fifth on the row, feels two distinct bites, and with a yard and a half strike makes the intervening gentlemen fairly jump into the impression that they have fish.

The result is that five tangled lines are raised in a bunch, when, with profuse apologies, their owners sort out their respective properties preparatory to another cast.

Tiring of this form of sport, our friend hies to the reedy water wastes inland, and hires a very broad boat, that he may not want for room; then he slowly pulls to a quiet corner of the broad, until his aching arms tell him they have reached the exact spot; so he ships his oars, heaves the heavy stones overboard from each end, and in such a way that the boat swings to and fro, like an erratic weathercock. To throw his ground-bait overboard takes but a few seconds, and having done so, he drifts over it, and starts fishing beyond it, at mid-depth, for roach, perch, or eels.

The fish are shy, and bite not; so eventually he lies down in the bows with his beloved cigarette, finally dropping off to sleep, lulled to slumber by a little brown lark above, who cheerily translates to earth the calm joys of the upper world.

At dusk the boatman comes searching after him, fearing accidents; and with fine scorn wakes the sleeper, helps him pack his goods—all but the rod, which is missing—and tows him back from his Elysian joys. The holiday angler insists on his taking a glass for his trouble; and at the inn the boatman, a good-humoured old fellow, as the Broad-men invariably are, recounts his experiences among the larger fish. Our friend is not to be outdone, so he thinks he will quiet this old countryman with his more thrilling, if less authentic, experiences.

"Do you know the Scotch lakes?" he begins grandly. "I do that, sir! Lived years among 'em. Do you?" is the astonishing reply. This is awkward, for our friend does not. Evidently his story cannot be produced; so he simply remarks that a friend of his, the Honourable Tom Roundabout, has invited him there, and soon afterwards he bids the boatman good night and sets out for his supper.

That evening in the smoking-room of the boarding house he gives forth the boatman's adventures as his own, all having happened within the past six hours. The admiration of his listeners is mixed with regret that he did not show them the fish before sending them to town for setting up.

"Pity I lost that rod," he remarks, "I valued it far above its intrinsic worth!" which is a good thing, or he would set little value upon it.

Our friend nearly caught a good fish once. It was on Oulton Dyke, when the boatman, having

fitted up a rod with snap tackle, gave him a roach and directions, and sent him on his way rejoicing.

Early in the afternoon the bait was taken by a fine pike, which immediately made for the weeds.

"Come out of that!" quoth the angler, with steady mechanical turns of the reel. The pike came; and after a long, exciting struggle, which tested the line thoroughly, he was brought to the side of the boat. Looking over, our angling friend noticed the long, dark form, the cruel jaws, and the devilish eyes. "You in the boat with me!" he exclaimed. "Not if I know it, my friend! You may go." And availing himself of this permission, *Esox lucius* went with 2 ds. of gimp, which the fisherman kindly cut off for him.

DEEP SEA FISHING IN THE SOUTH PACIFIC.

(Concluded from page 367.)

I MUST correct an error (at line four) in my last week's article on the above subject. I should have said, "Mr. Arthur Shaw owns Savu-Savu, a big estate on Vanu-Levu, the second largest of the Fijian Islands." The natives start at nightfall and fish for *tau-tau* until morning. As stated in last week's article, these fish are very like salmon in appearance. Over the reef, and a mile beyond, the canoes are paddled, while a native prepares the rods and tackles. Four rods lie lengthways on the outriggers—rods, 14ft. long, of tough, springy cane, tapering from 2in. diameter at the butt to 1in. at the point, to which the line, about the length of the rod, is securely fastened, and these tackles are for fishing in the shallow lagoons of the coral atolls. Lying beside the rods are lines for deep sea work, neatly coiled ready for *takuo* fishing. The natives know from the crowds of clamorous sea birds and the splashing water when they are approaching a shoal of fish, then they drop their paddles, seize their rods, and cast the bait into the sea; but almost before it reaches the surface a fish leaps out at it, the tough rod bends, and with a strong, steady sweep, of his arms the fisherman swings a 10lb. *tau-tau* clear out of the water, and drops it into the canoe, where, glinting of burnished silver and steely blue, it struggles among the men's feet. Soon all the other fishermen are hard at work; and their shouts, added to the screams of the wheeling sea-fowl, and the flapping of the fish as they are dropped into the bottom of the canoes, increases the excitement of the sport. Thus it goes on for some hours, until the men are growing tired, for each of them may have taken a score or thirty fish from 8lb. to 10lb. in weight; so they hand their rods to their comrades, who add fish after fish to the quivering heap. Suddenly the sport ceases, the fish are gone; for some dozen *pala*—the dreaded foe of the *tau-tau*—have appeared on the surface. So the men light their pipes, and the canoes are paddled homewards again to the island. The *takuo* is often captured of 120lb., and at times much exceeding that. My nephew, Mr. Arthur Shaw, and his friends make a night of it when they go *takuo* fishing. Provisions, &c., and some torches made of cocoa-palm leaves are put in his boat, also a dozen or two of flying fish for baits; and they sail away outside the reefs to Savu-Savu Point, then lower the sail, make all snug, light their pipes, and bait their hooks. *Takuo* are usually caught when drifting with the tide or current; so "sounding" for the depth, and finding about twenty-five fathoms, they fish twenty fathoms deep, for *takuo* are caught more frequently some distance off the bottom. Each angler baits with a whole flying fish, and all are on the alert, when a savage tug results in a heavy fish being hooked, which, after much struggling, with "give-and-take" of the line, is at last got alongside, knocked on its head, and lifted into the boat, a fish weighing 50lb. Then making a long drift, with no luck, they sailed across the bay to Kubulau Island, between where and Namena—or Direction Island—half a dozen large fish were taken, the biggest exceeding 80lb. A *takuo*, when played nearly up to the surface, makes desperate efforts to free itself from the hook by violently shaking its head, after the manner of tarpons of the Florida seas; also, they will dive almost vertically in, may be, thirty fathoms of water, so that the rough fibre line, as it runs with great velocity over the boat's gunwale, is likely to injure the

angler's hands, unless protected in some way. Sometimes the fish will make a straight dart upwards at great speed, then slew round, and dive with lightning-like rapidity, perhaps snapping a hook or line strong enough to hold a shark of large size, which, by the bye, among the Melane- sians is called "Jack of the Atólls."

At times these great *takuo* are seen basking near the surface of the lagoons among the coral reefs, and are speared with a harpoon with a line attached to it. *Takuo* are rather delicate eating, even Europeans consider them palatable.

There are plenty of sharks. These "Jack of the Atólls" swarm near the reefs and in the lagoons of Fiji. Go out at night, light a cocoa- palm leaf torch, and look over the side of the canoe. At a few fathoms' depth at first only one or two may be seen swimming about; in ten minutes, fifty; and all hungry. A man falling overboard at night would have a bad time; but in the day time the natives feel no fear of "Jack," although at night a young shark not 6ft. long could snap off the arm of a full-grown man.

At varying distances from Savu-Savu, Viti- Levu, Levuka, and the other 250 islands of the Fijian archipelago—of which about seventy are inhabited—are patches of coral, algae, and some- times white sand, lying at irregular depths beneath a shallow covering of the most crystalline emerald green water, producing every shade of aqua-marine, mauve, sienna, and orange, marvel- lously blended, the shades continually altering with the ebb and flow of the tide, which at high water covers the reefs to the depth of several feet; but they are very dangerous to sail amongst, being infested by sharks of large size, for although the canoes are built with an outrigger of buoyant wood, which floats on the leeward side as an equi- poise, and is fixed to the canoe by bamboo rods 5ft. long, yet, while running at full speed, powerful wind gusts sometimes strike the sail, and upset the canoe with its occupants.

The following catastrophe was reported in a *Levuka Times* newspaper of 1874: "News reaches us of a sad accident, which has resulted in the death of upwards of twenty people. It appears that a canoe left Loma-Loma with twenty-five natives on board, bound for Tortoya. They were going about, when a sudden squall sent the sail against the mast, capsizing them. The unfortunate passengers clung to the canoe, and might have escaped but for the horrible fact that the capsizing occurred in a locality infested with sharks. These ravenous monsters seized their victims one by one, devouring twenty-three of the twenty-five unfortunates. Of the two who escaped, one, a woman, had the whole of the flesh stripped off one of her legs."

Many of the lagoons among the coral reefs and atólls abound with pearl-shell oysters, which the natives obtain by diving, afterwards selling them to traders, who export these iridescent shells for use as ornaments and decorative inlaid work.

Gigantic clams—*Hippopus maculatus*—are also dived for, and many a native by missing his aim, and plunging his hands into instead of beneath the bivalve, its shell has instantly closed and held the man fast, and his companions, alarmed at his staying so long under water, have themselves dived, but only to recover his dead body. The hand of a native woman is sometimes seized while she is "groping" for crabs among the fissures in the coral. Fiji crabs grow to a great size, with claws so powerful that the woman, unable to loose herself, is often drowned by the rising tide.

Exquisite tiny fish tenant the coral reefs, which would be beautifully adapted for marine aquariums. Some are of pale blue, dark blue, bright green, some striped black and white, and others golden bronze; yet there are others of a dangerous kind frequently met with. An acquaintance of Mr. Shaw's, when slipping her hand under a rock ledge, had it seized by a great sea eel called the *dabca* that lives in the coral; it darted out, and tried to swallow her little finger, which, happily, was not quite bitten off, but it bled profusely, and had to be soaked in salt and brandy for fear the bite was poisonous.

In one of C. F. Gordon Cummings' letters, dated Good Friday, 1876, Isle of Koro, Fiji,* is described a feast given at the marriage of Naga-

vindi, daughter of King Tanoa, to the chief of the fisherman tribe.

Among various edibles was a gigantic dish, 20ft. in circumference, of bananas and bread fruit, baked in a Fijian oven, which is simply a pit hollowed in the ground, and lined with heated stones and plantain leaves; the mass of bananas and bread fruit is again covered with a thick layer of green leaves and hot stones until baked.

On the occasion mentioned, another of these dishes was 10ft. long by 5ft. wide, on which were piled turtles and pigs roasted whole. There was also a "wall" of cooked fish, 5ft. in height and 60ft. long. At another great feast nineteen gigantic puddings were prepared, the largest being respectively 19ft. and 21ft. in circumfer- ence. At a great meeting of chiefs at Bau, Viti- Levu Island, Fiji, in January, 1880, on the return of Sir Arthur Gordon from England, the menu of the feast given to welcome him, included 104 pigs, and a large shark cooked whole.

ALFRED JARDINE.

A WHIT MONDAY QUARREL.

WHIT MONDAY on the Darent was one of the very worst of fishing days—"drizzle all the morn- ing, with showers in between," as the keeper called it.

I had gone out with "the Baron," who is a really fine fisherman, and who, alas! will not play the strict game, a matter about which we have had troubles before. Once in particular, when I found him putting a worm to a trout under a bush, there was a tremendous row, but that is another story.

We only found two rising fish all the morning, and they would not look at a fly, and seemed to be taking some small beast that was not big enough to see. This sickened the Baron. He first grew restless, and then put on an Alder (a fly that was not on the water), and proceeded to fish it wet, with the result that he got two fish.

Now, I pride myself on playing the game, and, there being no rises, I did not even cast; and when the Baron asked me to admire his fish I found it rather hard to do, as any dry- fly fisher will understand, and I half made up my mind that I would not go fishing with the Baron again.

The view I take is, that modern fly fishing is a game as well as a sport, and that the fisher is only supposed to get his fish by certain methods. For instance, if he is dry-fly fishing he must get them by pure dry-fly work, and not with sunk Alders.

No doubt the old idea was get fish, but, with the best of our modern anglers, I think this is no longer sufficient. An angler once said: "If getting fish is to be the game, I'll use a net," an answer that clearly shows that the method of getting the fish is the qualification that gives the true value to the bag.

As far as I can make out, the Baron's view is that getting fish is the chief thing; he won't use a worm (if any one is looking), but if you open his fly box you will generally find such things as March Browns, Alexandras, and big Palmers. The Baron may be right, I don't say he is not; all I say is I won't fish with him again.

I tried to explain to him that we had started for a day's dry-fly fishing, and that I had stuck to it and he had not. I said dry-fly fishing was fishing with a dry fly for some particular rising fish, and that wet-fly fishing was fishing the water where the fish should be. I admitted that one method was just as good sport, and required just as much knowledge, as the other, and said my only point was that wet Alders down a sharp run on a dry-fly stream was not playing the game.

But it was no use; the Baron either could not, or would not, see. He only laughed, and said I was jealous.

I don't object to wet-fly fishing—I am very fond of it—and for exercise and good air I think it is a better sport than dry-fly fishing. But what am I to do with the Baron? I know he is a real good fellow, and yet he will not play the game as understood by

TRAMP.

MISS CECILIA WAERN writes in the June *Scribner's* of "The Modern Group of Scandinavian Painters," giving some of the best examples of the work of Zorn, Larsson, and others.

POPULAR LESSEES.

IN these days when poaching is so rampant, when ready markets and railway and postal facili- ties provide an easy avenue for the disposal of the spoil, and when large sums are paid for sporting privileges, it is not only a wise policy on the part of the sportsman to welcome the *vox populi* on his side, but he might even go a step further and not only encourage it, but openly court it. The battle is not always to the strong nor the race to the swift; and no army of watchers and keepers, however faithful and numerous, can protect the preserves of the sporting lessee or laird in a populous or other glen half so well as the day labourers, cotters, farmers, shepherds, and other natives and workers on the spot, if they are minded to do so. And no class has a better chance of causing endless trouble and quiet destruction if they are evil disposed, or have an unseen grievance to redress or private spite to revenge. Sportsmen do not, as a rule, trouble themselves much on this latter head until the evil has reached a climax, when, if they are not prop- rietors, they usually shake the dust off their feet as a testimony against that place, and look out for fresh fields and pastures new; whereas, if they have profited by their past experiences, they adopt a fresh policy, study the *vox populi* a little, and find it to their enhanced pleasure and profit to go with the stream, ever to make a friend, and, if possible, never a foe.

Two very striking instances of the popularity of sporting lessees occurred in the north of Scot- land last week—one in Sutherlandshire and the other in Aberdeenshire—both of which are not only worthy of passing mention as acceptable compliments paid to popular sportsmen, but each has its respective lessons which those who run may read. In the first case alluded to as the outcome of being on the winning side of the *vox populi*, Mr. Andrew Carnegie, the American millionaire, was welcomed home to his new estate of Skibbo by his future tenants, and the demon- stration accorded the late tenant of Cluny Castle, and latterly Skibbo itself, was no servile display, nor mere homage to the golden calf. But we have naturally less regard for "home- comings," "house-warmings," "majorities," and such like demonstrations, because they are the correct thing, and so regarded in the highlands, when there is a proper understanding between the laird and his people; and however much Mr. Carnegie's welcome to Skibbo Castle and estates may have been above the common for- malities of such an auspicious occasion, it cannot "hold the candle" to the second instance alluded to as having occurred in a quiet and remote glen in Aberdeenshire last week, when Mr. Percy Hargreaves, the fishing and shooting tenant of the demesne, was waited upon by a deputation of the parishioners of Glenbucket, and presented with an illuminated address "as a tangible ex- pression of the esteem in which he is universally held in the district," "every householder in the parish," the report goes on to say, "desiring to contribute and being allowed to do so." If the silence of the multitude be the death of kings, surely Mr. Percy Hargreaves has reason to feel justly proud that the humblest in a remote mountain glen, widely scattered and but sparsely populated at the best, should desire to join the throng in sounding his praises for probably unthought of acts of kindness on his part towards them, the outcome of his spontaneous good nature and from no studied desire.

Mr. Hargreaves has been going and coming to the trout angling on the Don and Bucket in the spring and the grouse shooting on the moors of the glen during the past seven years, and with a ready smile and an open hand he has scattered, quietly and unostentatiously, his gifts and kind words around him. We know not the *modus operandi* of this particular case, and although we know the country well, and have made many a jolly basket of plump half and quarter-pounders—mostly the latter weights—from the Bucket and its sister streams the Nocty and the Kindy too, yet we have no personal experience of the glen since Mr. Hargreaves' advent, nor have we any further details than are given in the address and the brief report of the attendant proceedings, which took the quiet form of being made by deputation in deference to the wishes of the gratified recipient. Had it been permitted,

* "At Home in Fiji," page 163, edition 1892. Published by W. Blackwood and Sons.

there would have been few events in the history of Upper Donside more worthy of remembrance. But although we have no personal knowledge of this particular case, we claim to have some knowledge of the people in districts similarly situated, and of the powers Mr. Hargreaves and his class have at their disposal for good or evil towards themselves.

There is no fears of Mr. Carnegie's young deer being snared and strangled. There is little danger of his salmon pool—and he has good ones to boot—being netted. There is no fears of Mr. Hargreaves' nests of grouse being trampled upon by thoughtless shepherds, or his partridge eggs ground under the heel of the irate crofter. There is little danger of his fishing hut being ransacked overnight, his streamslimed, his minnow trap destroyed, and such wanton and ruthless havoc played with his sporting accessories as to practically ruin his fishery for the nonce, and cause a world of worry, anger, and trouble, to say nothing of attendant expenses. But although they are not common, especially in the north of Scotland, yet we know of outrages much more violent, and destruction much more rampant—kennels and moors poisoned. Even where sporting lessees have made themselves obnoxious, and so ran *contra* to the *vox populi*. These annoyances will be absent from such as Mr. Hargreaves and Mr. Andrew Carnegie. Every crofter, labourer, woodman far and near, will take a pride in watching. Let a tramp pass through the district and he must show clean hands. Let a suspicious gang of poachers stop at the inn to refresh, and Mary will be sent from the kitchen to see what is in the cart, while the landlord or landlady, or both, ply the thirsty wayfarers (*sic*) with an extra drink—the landlord's dram; and if anything be discovered the whole gang will there and then be "held up" till the head keeper or the policeman arrives. The only decent captures that have been made for the past twenty years that we have personal knowledge of on either Donside, Deeside, or Speyside, have been made after this manner, and for the sake of such popular lessees, who, we are thankful to say, are by no means uncommon, nor a scarce product after a few years residence in the north. The genuine gentleman, the true sportsman, the give-and-take man of the world is not yet defunct. He remembers the farmer who loves a shot, the crofter who has nothing to shoot with. The labourer who spends his life keeping his roads metalled and repaired has a dish of trout sent him, or a brace of rabbits thrown from the machine into his cottage door. The local postmaster is thanked for his kindness, while the butler has orders to keep a bite and a sup for all whose business leads them round by the back door. These are trifles, but they are the small change of life in the glen, and, added to the other more patent duties and heavier calls, are the best protection our angling and shooting lessees can have for their salmon and trout streams and grouse moors. The hand that giveth is twice blessed.

G. M.

THE OTTER (*LUTRA VULGARIS*).

IS HE AN ADVANTAGE OR DISADVANTAGE TO OUR RIVERS?

As the years roll on so does our knowledge of animal life gradually, but surely, in the greater number of instances, unfold itself.

There is plenty of truth in the saying "Give a dog a bad name and hang him," and in no creature is this better exemplified than in the one whose name appears at the head of these few notes. I do not mind admitting that in the early days of my youth—which time I date from my twenty-first birthday—I was one of those who would have shot, trapped, or snared any otter whose "trail" I might have had the misfortune—I say misfortune advisedly—to strike. But as I have further advanced in my learning of the habits of the otter by having resided many years in a county in which they were, even in my time, fairly plentiful, where I have spent many hours in watching them, I have become aware I was as far out of the "right path" as the north pole is from the south, and perhaps a bit further.

In the first place, it must be considered what is the otter's favourite food. Some will say im-

mediately, "fish." But steady a bit. Why do you say "fish?" How many times have you seen one with a fish in its mouth? The chances are not once, because, comparatively speaking, few are the anglers who have seen an otter in his wild state. Yet, though I have seen many, only once have I seen one with a fish in that position. What has carried the general public into this belief is by the stories they have read, or, perhaps, only heard, of the destruction which they have occasioned among fish, written evidently by some poorly informed author. Even the greater number of ancient naturalists have added their quota to this erroneous idea, unless they included one single kind in the whole species. Having made these statements, it will be necessary I should give some evidence to substantiate my assertions. Here is one. Why are otters often seen, and, if not seen, "spurred," far up a ditch many miles from a main river, even where there are no fish? Make an examination of the gutter, and presently you will find that it is inhabited by a large number of frogs. It is a tight race between the French and the otter as to who is the most fond of these savoury (?) reptiles. Now, I do not say they visit these places from what I have been told; but many are the otter hunts of which I have been a "follower," when we have followed the trail of an otter for some miles up one of these water leaders, which eventually merely led to a marshy spring whose only living inhabitants were the common frog.

I believe I am right in saying that all naturalists agree that the food of frogs is of an animal and insect character; and therefore it may be assumed—without any wide stretch of imagination—that they do not object to a good breakfast, afternoon tea, or dinner off fish spawn of every sort and kind. I will give an instance of an otter I once met which had been "frogging," even before I had "graduated" in the glorious pastime of otter hunting.

Some years ago it was my habit to walk, about twice a week, some four miles to fish the river Inny, which rises in Cornwall, emptying itself into the Tamar. In those days my usual starting hour was about 6 a.m.; and one morning, as I travelled through a place called Worm Wood—which lies on the Cornish side of the last-mentioned river, opposite Endsleigh, one of the Duke of Bedford's beautiful country seats—I saw what I at first took to be a fox making his way across my path. As I was some two miles from the river, the thought of an otter being in the neighbourhood never entered my head; yet the strange gait of the animal immediately called my attention, and in a second I knew that instead of having "viewed" a fox I had "gazed" an otter. At once I began to look round to see what had brought it so great a distance from the water, and "running heel" on what I thought to be about his line, soon came to a swamp, on the edge of which I found the remains of some frogs evidently not long slaughtered.

On making inquiry of one of his Grace's keepers, I was informed that to find otters in this locality was nothing uncommon. This was a proof that the visit was not an accidental event, and will show one advantage of the otter, if, as I consider, it is most probable that frogs devour spawn. In dealing with the next item of their favourite food, I must admit that your first conjecture was not entirely wrong—that of "fish"—yet I hardly think the one to whom I am about to refer was that which occurred to your mind. This is one for which they undoubtedly, above all others, have a great relish; but there is no question that it is the greatest poacher of salmon and trout spawn which inhabits our rivers. This is the eel. Watch for yourself any spawning bed of which you may have the location, and you will see these wriggling brutes as busy as a "May bee," working in and out among the stones, now and again halting on their way while they suck the spawn from off them. What would be the result if there was nothing to keep them from increasing in unlimited numbers? It means eventually the ruin of a salmon river or trout stream; and I know well a river which at one time was a "sure find" for an otter hunt, but latterly they have become very scarce, and the increase of eels has since been proportionably enormous. What will be the ultimate result I have little doubt. I will now give some evidence of the otter's preference of the eel before other fish. One

evening, sitting on a high bank by the Tamar with a friend who had just come from London to spend his holiday with me, so that he might enjoy some fishing, suddenly we saw a great commotion in the pool at our feet, and at the same moment I "gazed" the "pole" of an otter as he went below.

"Hush," said I, as my friend was about to shout, "let us watch him." And as soon as the waves had subsided, which they took much less time to do than if a dog had dived—the otter gliding so gracefully through the water—we could see him walking along the bottom, grabbing now and then at an eel as he would push their shelter on one side. How does this prove his attachment to the eel rather than other fish? Why, at the same time he was eel hunting, certainly no less than half a dozen trout might have been his easy prey. I do not intend to say that they took no notice of his presence, but trout, even clever as they are, cannot see behind them, and not until the otter came almost alongside did they seem to know of his proximity, and then of course they did not stay. The first exclamation my friend made on the otter's seeking "fresh fields and pastures new" was, "Well, I never could have believed that he would have preferred those mudlarking, slimy devils to a beautiful trout." My answer was something to the effect that you should "never judge by appearance."

These are arguments of course on behalf of "my friend" the otter, and the other side has been ventilated so freely that I do not think it necessary to enter into it here. I could say a great deal more on the subject, but as I believe this is the first time such a theory—no I cannot call it a "theory," because my evidence is too solid for that—let me say such "observation" has been promulgated. I am anxious to hear if any one else has seen anything of the same kind, and I do not think it will be necessary for me to apologise to our editor for any space that may be required for correspondence on such an important matter—should any arise.

Before concluding I will give you a short account of the first and only time I ever saw an otter capture a trout.

Once upon a time I rented about a mile and a half of the Devon side of the Tamar (there is still a dispute as to whether the Tamar isn't all Cornish), and when I was fishing one evening, about 7 o'clock, as far as I can now remember, suddenly I saw swimming down towards me what I took to be an Irish terrier, as all that I could see was the "mask," the rest of the body being under water. Immediately I looked round to see who had invaded my preserve, but could see no one. At the same moment the animal, who was now passing in front saw me, and uttering a quick succession of screeches, dived. My eye at once travelled up the river, being by this time fully aware that it was an otter, and there, not twenty yards higher up, did I see another, who at the moment I "gazed" him also dived, but came to the surface again immediately with a trout in his mouth, not holding it in the position in which we see them generally "stuffed," or, more technically speaking, "set up," that is with the belly inwards, but having a firm grasp of the fish's shoulders from the back.

This is a matter which has often come to my attention, that of placing the fish in the otter's mouth in the wrong way, but this is the first opportunity I have had of mentioning the fact, or, may be, I might have saved many a distressing picture.

I trust, however, these few words will help to throw some further light on the habits of the otter, and as those I have put forward will only show too plainly that they do more good than harm by the partiality they exhibit for two notorious destroyers of our fish in their origin, we shall in future hear less of their being shot, trapped, or snared.

PHEASANT TAIL.

"THE Battle of the Blockhouses" is the picturesque title of an article in the June Scribner's which describes the recent fight in Manila, told by an eye-witness who makes the strange conditions of that campaign very real to American readers. It brings out with great distinctness the bravery of the Western volunteers, men who are of the same fighting stock as the Rough Riders. It is said that the long months of discipline preceding the fight made these volunteers soldiers equal to the regulars.

KERRY AND ITS FJORDS.

KILLARNEY is as a household word, and a name to conjure with, and yet it is not without a rival (and that even "next door") possessing a charm all its own, with the added merit of novelty.

Until about three years ago the splendid district indicated was virtually inaccessible, and although anglers are not wont to let time, trouble, or inconvenience bar their way to a choice swim, yet I am sure they can none the less appreciate an efficient train and coach service and comfortable and reasonable hotels, such as are now provided by the enterprise of the Great Southern and Western Railway.

I will presume my readers to be making a start from Killarney, and point out a few charming resorts, any of which may be reached by means of the "Grand Atlantic Tour," which I will very briefly describe.

Starting northward from Killarney, and leaving behind its "soft swelling hills, deep-eyed lakes, and dark mountains," we branch off from the main line at Farranfore, and passing Castlemaine and Milltown, cross the beautiful Laune to Killorglin, with its picturesque Knights Templars' Castle. (From this point is a seven miles grand drive to Glencar. See below.) The next station is Caragh, at the north end of Caragh Lake, where the new Southern Hotel, nestling amongst the trees on the lake side, forms a most acceptable headquarters for a day or two. Here there is excellent salmon and trout fishing (many of the latter 3lb.), and also in the Caragh, Caraghbeg, Ougariv, and Meelagh rivers, while within easy reach are lakes Acoose, Cloon, Coomlonkir, Oulagh, Loughnakirkna, Corravoula, and Nabrackdarrig, "all of which would gladden the heart of old Izaak." The Caragh, says "Hi-Regan," is the earliest white trout river in Kerry, and a few charr are got in all the small lakes.

An excursion from the hotel at Caragh to Blackstones Bridge by car, returning by boat through the lake, is one of great beauty. From the road, which for the first few miles runs along the heights over the lake, there are fine views of the lake itself; while toward the west is the Bay of Dingle, its placid waters glistening in the sunshine. After a drive of about six miles the road joins that from Killorglin, about a mile from Acoose Lake, and then descends, following the course of a small mountain stream, which noisily brawls along its rocky bed, and the fishing hamlet of Glencar is seen in the distance, with the Glencar Hotel a little beyond it, prettily situated on rising ground, in the midst of a grove of fir trees.

The inland drive from Glencar to Parknasilla, about twenty-five miles, by way of the magnificent Pass of Ballaghbeama, with the grand mountains towering some 2000ft. above, is unsurpassed in the country.

Resuming the rail, we next reach the watering-place of Glenbeigh, in the close vicinity of which is the grandly forbidding Lough Coomasaharn, and then a journey of surpassing loveliness, with the Atlantic on the one hand, and the towering Dingle Mountains on the other, brings us to Mountain Stage and Kells, at the summit of the line. Thence we rapidly descend to Cahirciveen, where, at the now ruined Carhen House, Daniel O'Connell was born. Backed by the grand Iveragh Mountains, with the blue waters of Dingle Bay at our feet, the situation is perfect, and in the neighbourhood are the ruins of Ballycarbery Abbey, the ecclesiastical remains on Begenish and Church Islands, and a number of remarkable caves, all easily visited from Leslie's Hotel.

The rail carries us on a little further to Valencia, whence we should ferry across to Valencia Island, the headquarters of the Anglo-American Telegraph Company. Here there is magnificent scenery and first-class sea fishing.

The "tour" on which we started ends its first stage at Cahirciveen, where a well-appointed coach awaits us, and carries us by a grand inland drive of eleven miles to beautifully situated Waterville, on a little streak of land which seems to protect from the ocean's embrace the lovely fresh-water lake of Lough Currane, as fishful as the Erne, and "the best free fishing lake in Ireland." At its head is Coppal, where sea trout and small brown trout abound. While at Water-

ville, my readers will be glad to know that "full information as to the flies suitable for the lake and the places best to troll may be had from the best known angler in Kerry—Teigue McCarthy. Like Sir Roger de Coverley's friend, Will Wimble, he can tie a fly 'to a miracle,' and is an enthusiastic devotee of the gentle art. Ask anyone in Killarney or Waterville about 'Tim Mac,' and they will tell you where to find him or of someone who knows where to find him."—*The Sunny Side of Ireland.*

Our way now lies by the shores of Ballinskelligs

"Parliamentary party," which has just been touring Ireland, after taking a thirty-six mile drive from Glengarriff to Parknasilla, say that it "was a delightful experience, and everyone was charmed with the picturesque scenery." A few more miles, all too short, bring us to Kenmare, where we join the train to take us back to Killarney.

Of course I have but touched the fringe of the beauties of the district. For further details I will refer my readers to "The Sunny Side of Ireland" (A. Thom and Co., Dublin) and "The Lakes and Fjords of Kerry," sent post free by the Manager,



From photos by

ACOOSSE LAKE.
LOUGH BRIN.

GLENCAR.

GLENCAR HOTEL.
CLOON LAKE.

[W. Lawrence, Dublin.]



From photos by

CLIFFS AT VALENCIA.

HOTEL AND COACH, CAHIRCIVEEN.

[W. Lawrence, Dublin.]

Bay, which it overhangs in parts at a height of some hundreds of feet, and the retrospective as well as forward view is very grand. Defiling through a gloomy pass, we emerge at Derrynane, with its ruined abbey, and, grandly looming out from the Atlantic, are the giant Skellig rocks, with their vastly interesting ecclesiastical ruins. Onward we go by the northern side of Kenmare Fjord to the beautiful semi-tropical Parknasilla, with its glorious groves and romantic islands that transport one, as it were, into fairyland. The

G.S. and W.R., Dublin; while for the fullest information as to angling there can be no better authority than "How and Where to Fish in Ireland," by "Hi-Regan" (London: Sampson Low).

As a concluding word, I am confident that no more enjoyable a time can be had anywhere in the Three Kingdoms, whether for angling or mere holiday-making, than in "those lovely lands that the Gulf Stream crosses the Atlantic to kiss."

F. E. LONGLEY.

BURBERRYS' GABARDINE SLIP-ON COAT

Proof against **RAIN, SLEET, SNOW,
HOT and COLD WINDS,
THORNS, and FISH-HOOKS.**

It is impossible to speak too highly of the advantages of the SLIP-ON, its weatherproof qualities are incontestable; it will keep out drenching and continuous rain without adding the slightest unnatural heat, the materials being as porous to the exhalations of the body as ordinary cloth, so that it may be worn in the mildest or coldest, wet or fine weather with equal comfort. Built on a plan that obviates the possibility of any tie, and is equally good over any thickness of clothing.

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Specialists Combines, The Equi-Pede,
Burberry Coats, &c.
for Shooting, Fishing, Golfing,
 Polo, Yachting, Cycling and
 Racing Garments.



CURIOUS AND INTERESTING FACT

CONCERNING AN

ITCHEN TROUT AND THE MAY FLY

The "Fishing Gazette," April 16, 1898.

"The Major caught a brace of trout and several troublesome grayling; the largest trout was about 1½ lb., and by this trout there hangs a tale.

"When I was fishing in the same meadow last June I lost many a trout and many a May Fly; now it so happens that in the gill of this trout was found, firmly hooked, a very perfect May Fly—the G.O.M.—with 6 in. of gut. He has worn and no doubt been proud of this distinctive decoration ever since. It seems to me to be a very remarkable thing that fly and hook should have been in that fish for more than nine months, and now as perfect as if fresh as if it had been in my pocket-book all the time; the gut is rather rotten. The gold tinsel round the body is as bright as ever it was, one wing is slightly mangled, as if other envious trout had tried to nibble it. I fully believe that fly is mine, that I lost that fish on that particular spot last May; the only doubt I have about it is that I then estimated the fish I lost as at least 1½ lb.,

whereas this one, after nine months' growth, now weighs only 1½ lb.; on the other hand, you know how much larger are always the fish you lose than those you take! I find there are other claimants for this fly. The Professor, who

is not here now, has certainly a claim. I can only say, 'Palmar qui meruit ferat,' if it can only be proved. It is distinctly a G.O.M. of Mrs. Ogden Smith's make." THE AMATEUR ANGLER.



The "Fishing Gazette," April 30, 1898.

"Here is a picture of the G.O.M. May Fly imitation, after it had been worn in the gill of a trout for about eleven months, as described by me in the Fishing Gazette of April 16. Of course there is no novelty in finding a fly in a trout's mouth; but it is somewhat of a novelty to be able to identify the fly, and also to find it in such a perfect state of preservation after so long a time of wear and tear."—AMATEUR ANGLER.

THE "GLADSTONE" MAY FLIES,

The invention of Mrs. OGDEN SMITH, were the most successful flies used last season, proving more killing than any other pattern, especially on the Hampshire streams. They float remarkably well, dry very quickly, and can be had in twenty varieties of shade, both in the body and wings. Price 4s. per dozen. To be obtained only at OGDEN SMITH, 6, Park Side, Hyde Park Corner, S.W.; and 34, St. John's-hill, Clapham Junction, London, S.W.

MAY FLIES

4/- per doz.

G.O.M.

MAY FLIES

4/- per doz.

OGDEN SMITH,

6, Park Side,

HYDE PARK CORNER, S.W.,

And at 34, St. John's Hill, Clapham Junction, London, S.W.

AN ARTIFICIAL MAY FLY RISE.

Most of us have enjoyed the pleasure of a good day on good water when the May Fly has been in evidence, and require but little to be said on the pleasures of such a day. About the end of May we begin to furbish up our tackle, and get our pet pattern May Flies in readiness, awaiting the welcome wire from the country. On Tuesday last, May 23, I got my message that "The fly was up, and would be all right by Saturday." So on Saturday morning by the first streak of dawn I was stirring, and caught the first train down to my fishing water. A change had, however, come over the weather during the preceding day or two. Instead of bright, sunny days and warm nights, the temperature had been low, while daily a keen N.E. wind had prevailed, turning to frost at night. On arrival on the banks of the Kennet my friend and I were informed by the keeper that but few fly had been on the water. The morning was cold and windy, with occasional bursts of sunshine. So it was with feelings of disappointment that we put our rods together. No fly was on the water at 9.30 a.m., though here and there under the banks one could discern a moving fish, which occasionally bulged at something. We started trying with the Olive Dun, but nothing paid any attention to it, so I changed to a small yellow-winged straw-bodied May Fly, and on putting it along the trail of some weed close to the bank, at once rose and hooked a fish. After a fair bit of sport, I netted him out—a nice little fish of 1½ lb. in weight. His mouth and throat were full of May Fly larvæ and water shrimps, at which, no doubt, he had been bulging. In about twenty minutes I saw another rise, and, putting the fly over it, secured a smaller fish, about ¾ lb., which was speedily returned to grow older and wiser. In the meantime, my friend, seeing that my May Fly was killing fish, also mounted one, and tried along a sheltered reach further down the river, out of the piercing wind. On the opposite bank, close under it, he noticed one or two gentle rises, and his May Fly, first cast, was taken by one of the Kennet leviathans, a fish of about 3 lb. to 4 lb. This grand fellow gave him plenty to do, and, finally, as he was being drawn, quite exhausted, into the net, he rolled over, the hook came away, and he slowly sank down into the depths. *Sic transit! Eheu!* It is ever thus. Meantime I had not been idle. Over on the other shore, across a shallow, which wanted careful navigation in wading stockings in order to avoid an overflow, close under an overhanging tree a gentle rise was seen. The stream here ran very swiftly, and the water was rather broken; the May Fly, when cast above, was whisked under the tree at railroad speed. The first cast, not quite near enough to the bank, resulted in nothing, but the next elicited a splashy rise. After resting the fish for a few moments, utilised by the fisher in getting more freeboard for his waders, as a suspicious trickle had been felt, another cast was made with a fresh fly. Again the fish rose, and upon striking off rushed the fish, making the reel screech. How that fish ran, here, there, and everywhere, while nothing that I could do seemed to have much effect upon him. The only thing was to pull him down stream, which was promptly done; still he resisted, and every time a little line was got in off he would go again. When he was got to the surface the reason was revealed, as the fish was seen to be foul-hooked.

As much strain was put on as dared be, and at last the net was got under him, about fifty yards below the spot at which he was hooked. The difficulty of struggling ashore through water about an inch below the top of one's waders, and then travelling through a squashy reed bed for about fifty yards, all the time keeping a tight line on the fish, must be patent to all. A dozen times I thought he was bound to get away, but there he was at last in the net, a fish of only 1½ lb., foul-hooked in the ventral fin. After this three small ones took the May Fly, and were returned, and then we lunched. While at lunch the first May Fly was seen, raising delusive hopes that there might be an afternoon rise; hopes which, alas! were doomed to be frustrated, as the rising of the fly seemed the signal for the trout to leave off.

All the afternoon nothing save a dace or two

rewarded our efforts, with the exception of one fish under the opposite bank, which came spasmodically at my comrade's May Fly, but refused to take it or anything else. As evening came the cold increased, and all fly disappeared from the water. Just before leaving I decided to put up a big Red Sedge (floater with chenille body), and try again for the pertinacious one. He lay right in a little eddy, where as soon as the fly touched the water it was at once dragged down by that outside stream. By casting on to the bank and then flicking the fly off, it fell with a morsel of slack line; at once Mr. Trout had it, and I had him—a nice fish of 1½ lb. And so my day ended: three sizeable trout and four returned, all but one on the May Fly, and not a sign of a rise. What did they come at? Was it memory or anticipation? Were they looking forward to the rise that is coming this week, and which will be nearly over by the time these lines are in print? Or were they remembering Tuesday's rise, which at the time was too novel to be taken advantage of? Whichever or whatever it may have been, there is no doubt that trout were eager for the fly, as can be easily seen from the fact that though the water swarms with dace, only three were taken against ten trout.

One thought strikes one particularly, namely, whether it is always the wise course to wait for the rise. If one had waited on Saturday, the whole day would have been wasted, whereas the fish must have been feeding under water before ten in the morning, as the first fish, as has been said, when taken at that hour had his throat full of larvæ. It will be noticed that for Kennet trout the fish run small; but this may be accounted for by the fact that frequently the old, big trout do not think it worth while to come up to the May Fly till it is fairly plentiful, and then get two or three at a time. However, there is little doubt that with a few days of warm weather we will have the leviathans all agog, and hear some of the astounding anglers' tales of great fish lost with the May Fly. To all who have the chance, "Tight lines!" NEMO.

FISHING IN INDIAN WATERS.

(Continued from page 366.)

SKETCH No. 4 shows the fish I refer to. They seldom exceed 6 in. to 6½ in. in length. It is, I believe, the *Atherina forskalii* of Day. Great numbers are caught in nets about the coasts and bays, but they are not as a rule so large, seldom more than 3 in. to 3½ in. in length, and are always spoken of as "white bait."

It is quite unnecessary for me to lay down times and places here for the Port Blair fishing. The place is naturally such a harbour of refuge and happy hunting ground that its waters seem always to teem with fish life. Any time will do for a trial; but, of course, as I have said before, the best times are when the sardines are about; the fish are then more in evidence, and one needs lose no time in looking for them. Then, as I have said, the jetty or pier is as good a place as any. At other times out near the station steamer buoy used, in my day (now some years ago), to be considered a very good place indeed, and for "haring" most of us used to trail about a bait whenever we went anywhere, just as a matter of course, and on the off-chance of a fish. Again, near the wreck of the sunken Indian Marine steamer *Enterprise*, which was blown ashore in the great cyclone in 1891, there is a reef which used to be good for the golden caranx, and off the rocks near the Post-office was a favourite resort for catching the rock and coral fish, which we often wanted for bait when sardines were scarce or unobtainable; but, in fact, most places are good down there, and one need not bother much as to where to go. The rule used to be to go out and trust to luck.

With regard to bait, far away the best bait for any or all of these predaceous fish is the sardine, so called; and you may vary the size to suit the fish you are after; but ordinarily a 4oz. bait would be found to be large enough. Often, however, sardines are not procurable, and then you must go and catch your bait upon the rocks. As in Aden, so here you will find that an hour or two's angling will produce the most curious collection of brilliantly-coloured, but rather evil-smelling rock fish, and these are excellent in their

way, and are not despised by the larger fish. Then you may try our old friend "sarcelle" at times with advantage, or even make a weird and curious representation of a flying fish with cotton wool, silver or tin foil, and a white or red rag, and drag the whole skipping along on the top of the water. This is best done when sailing along with a brisk breeze, and lo! your counterfeit flying fish shall be taken with such a splash and a rush that shall make your heart flutter, and after a grand fight you will find that you have got a "barracouta." Here, again, the inventiveness of the angler will have full scope, and many a man has his own particular artificial lure, which he fondly believes is better than any other. I had a very good arrangement once. A deadly scheme of triangles, something like a Thames pike flight, and from each hook depended a strip of cotton tape, cut to different lengths, and they all wobbled and waved when being towed in a manner that fascinated many a fish.

For the smelt nothing is so good as the soft tail of the hermit crab. The crab itself is easily got. They swarm on the beach, and if you will only sit still you will see the old shells lying on the beach begin to move and then walk about. Rather embarrassing to a stranger sometimes, who begins to wonder whether he is seeing right or not, but a little investigation soon shows him the cause. In each of these shells a crab has taken up his abode. You have got your crab now, but the question is how to remove him. Pull him out you cannot, while if you break the shell (in itself not a very easy job) you generally mash up the occupant. I give you a tip for what it is worth. Perchance you may be smoking; well, if so, take the shell and hold it quietly for a minute or so with the back or closed end of the shell near the business end of your cheroot, and in a short time the hermit will begin to wonder what is up with his hind quarters, and as the heat increases he will very quickly and suddenly evacuate his fortress, and then you have him at your mercy.

While on the subject of hermit crabs and shells, I would remark that anyone with a taste for conchology would here be in his element, for he could gather here, with very little trouble, a wonderful collection. Some of the reefs here abound with beautifully-marked tiger cowries and curious and spikey specimens of all sorts and sizes are to be had. I say of all sorts and sizes advisedly. In the one case, I know a rev. gentleman who sorted out 1500 complete shells, and, for safety, stowed them away in an ordinary small homœopathic medicine bottle; while down in the Nicobars, in a quiet bay, on a shallow reef which is very nearly dry at low water, I know of the existence of a huge tridacno or clam, each half of which would make a very decent bath for a man, and I, moreover, tried one day for hours, with a crowbar and six men, to detach him from the ledge where he had anchored himself. When we commenced operations he simply shut himself up, tightened his hold on the rocks, and utterly defeated me. I have, however, at different times, obtained some very decent specimens of tridacne, and at one time possessed a set of dessert dishes which were simply the half shell. All the miscellaneous marine growth which was on them originally had been allowed to dry up and remain, and as dessert dishes they were certainly unique. I was very sorry when, through no fault of my own, I lost them. And now for the gear required. I have on one or two occasions before fully described the class of rod, reel, line, and trace required for general sea fishing out here, so that I will not long detain you. What I have said before regarding rods and reels here holds good, but in the case of Port Blair fishing, there is one alteration in the way of traces that is imperative. In Bombay the water never pretends to be very clear; in Aden, though it is much clearer, still, when compared to the absolutely clear and pellucid waters about the Andamans, it is as "muddy tub swipes" to a glass of Perrier Jouet; hence the twisted brass traces which are so suitable in the two first-named places are entirely out of it here. Nothing but the very finest gear will do, and when you come to consider the class of fish you are likely to get, you will understand that it has been no easy task to get a trace that shall be sufficiently invisible and yet sufficiently strong. Gut is of no use at all. There is a metal worker out here, in Delhi, who makes a perfectly lovely

steel wire. Originally intended for the strings for some native musical instrument, it was taken up by some keen fishermen, and is to be had occasionally, but only in limited quantities. Men who use this use it triple, as it is less likely to kink. I only once managed to get any; but since then I have used a very decent nice wire, supplied by Robertson, of Bothwell-street, Glasgow, who, I understand, has sent out several lots since then to the Andamans, direct to order. I don't know the gauge, but in thickness it is about the size of linen thread, and costs 3s. a pound. I have found this suitable in every respect, finely tempered, and put up in large coils. When a piece is cut off it springs out quite straight, and as long as it is kept free from kinks it is amply strong enough for anything. These traces must be well mounted with swivels, blackened or bronzed, to suit the colour of the wire. On the other hand, the disadvantages of using these traces are that the action of the salt water affects the steel to such

water, and deliberately swam across to where I was fishing.

I cast in where I thought he might possibly be, and at the second attempt had a very modest offer. To this I struck, and he then at once showed himself. He began by making a series of very short sharp runs, zig-zagging backwards and forwards, and at the end of each rush he made a series of magnificent leaps out of the water, rising some 3ft. or 4ft., but covering certainly some 10ft. or 12ft. in each leap. Thus he was plainly visible, and all this time he had not got more than from 25yds. to 30yds. away. The natives called it a "Dagole," but from what I could see of it I imagine it must have been a *Cybius* of some sort, or, perhaps, *Thynnus Pelamys*. Its apparent length was, roughly, some 6ft., and I do not think I am over-stating its weight when I put it down at about 60lb. However, after carrying out these tactics for some fifteen minutes or so the fish had evidently come

tunity, or, perhaps, even the wish to visit these places, but, in case anyone should wish to go, I would point out, not with any idea of damping their ardour, that on account of its being a penal settlement, it is not easy to obtain permission to stay there, unless with friends. All the house accommodation is the property of Government, and no more is provided than is necessary for the requirements of the settlement officers, and all Europeans there resident are officials. In fact, it is a pretty close preserve. One can, of course, visit the place by taking a passage for the round voyage, either from Madras or Calcutta; but, in doing this, though one sees the beauties of the islands, one gets no time to loaf about, enjoy the place, or to fish. Once the steamer has left, it is entirely cut off from the world. There is no telegraphic communication, and until the steamer again comes round they may truly be said to be in, but not of the world. This old world state of affairs constitutes one of the chief

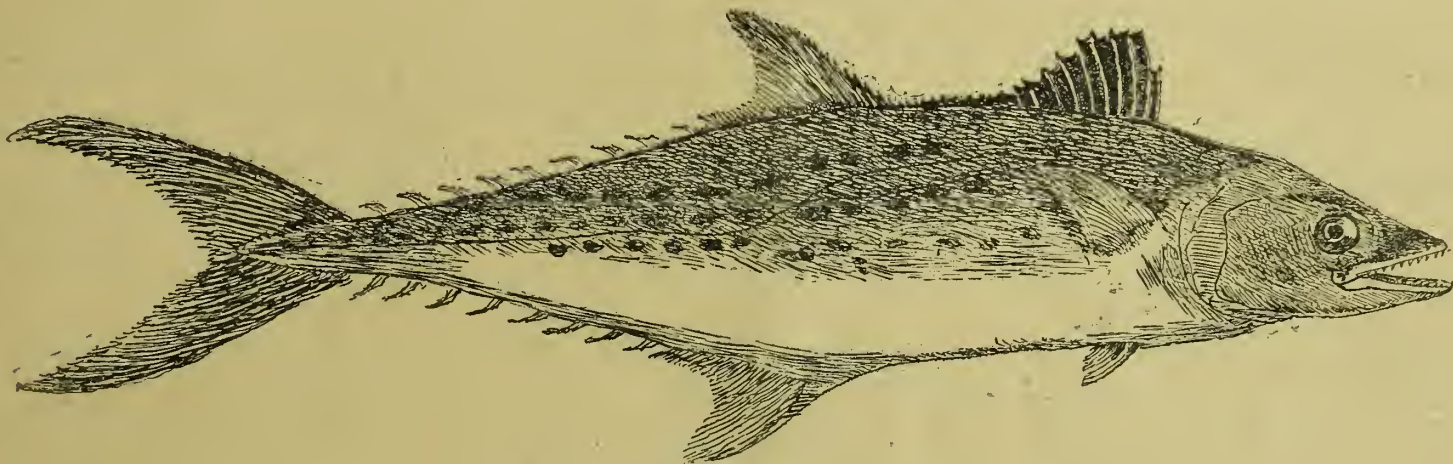


FIG. 3.—CYBIUS GALLATUM, OR SEER FISH.

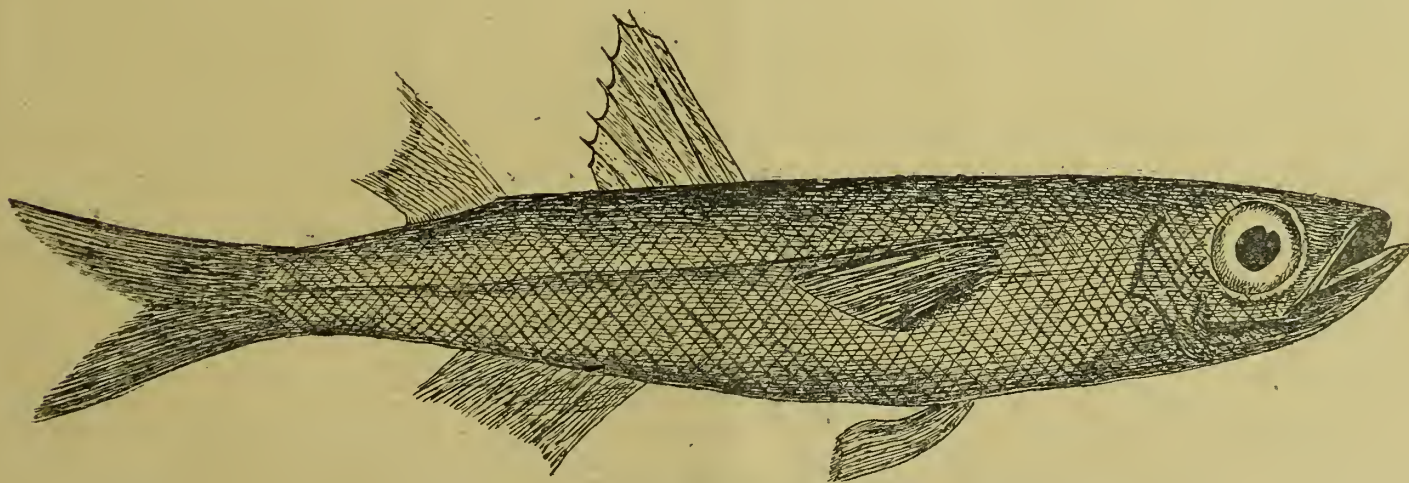


FIG. 4.—ATHERINA OR SAND SMELT (probably *Atherina forskalii*).

an extent, that they only last a few hours; can certainly not be used a second time; in fact, I have felt them roughened and pitted after a couple of hours' immersion, and I change at once as soon as I feel this; and, secondly, if perchance a kink should occur, they part with the first strain. However, as one gets several thousand feet for about 5s., and as each trace is, as a rule, not more than 6ft. in length, it is not ruinous to discard them when once they become doubtful. I had a very sad experience with one lately. Only the other day I went out fishing, accompanied by a friend, a Mr. J., and, quite contrary to my usual routine for Bombay, I mounted one of these steel traces, in lieu of the ordinary twisted brass wire. Shortly after we had commenced fishing, Mr. J. had a sort of half offer from a very large fish, which came to the top of the water after his bait, but stopped short. Immediately after, presumably, the same fish made a rush, and took one of a small swarm of garfish swimming about, and, having taken this, again came to the top of the

to the conclusion that that neighbourhood did not suit its delicate constitution, for it turned tail, and proceeded with a fearful rush to go straight out to sea. Having run out some 100yds. or so, he again threw himself straight up on end out of the water and made a further run. He had got away 180yds. by this time, when he made one supreme effort, and this time, while in the air, the line came back to me, and he was off with a 5 0 hook, 4ft. of steel wire trace, a 1½oz. lead, and three swivels. On examining the remains of the trace I found it all kinked and twisted at the point of fracture, and I wonder now that it held out so long. I am convinced that, somehow or other, in one of his leaps he got a twist in my trace, probably with his tail, and hence the disaster. I live in hopes, however, that I may renew my acquaintance with my friend the Dagole; and if he beats me next time, well, then I will forswear steel and revert to brass wire.

To wind up with: It is not very likely that many of your readers will ever have an oppor-

charms of Port Blair and the Andamans in these days of rush and skurry to the older generation, though the younger and more ardent spirits often find that time hangs heavy on their hands.

FRED. ORD. GADSDEN.

READING AND DISTRICT ANGLING ASSOCIATION.

THE twenty-third annual report from the committee of this association is very satisfactory. Everything possible is done to improve the angling between Goring and Ship-lake by the prevention of illegal practices, adding to the stock of fish in the river, by the recovery of "stray" fish from ditches, low lying pools, backwaters, by every means in their power; and although prosecutions have been few and far between, a strict watch is kept over the whole district, not only by the bailiffs but also by several members of the association who act as honorary river keepers, and no doubt these gentlemen receive the best thanks of the association. Considerable difficulty has been experienced in procuring stock fish, but in March a consignment of Wycombe trout ("spawners"), measuring from 12in. to 15in. in length, were turned in in the upper reaches of the river, and 4000 splendid crayfish were distributed at suit-

able spots in the district, the generous gift of Mr. Henry Lewis. These creatures are excellent scavengers, and are very numerous in the Lea, below the mouth of the Mimram, at Hertford. Between three and four dozen good carp-bream were also very acceptable, the gift of Mr. Frederick Groves. Excellent results have attended the netting of backwaters, ditches, &c., and by this means alone no fewer than 1½ cwt. of barbel (sixteen of them weighing over 5lb.), ten trout between 1lb. and 1½lb. each, 100 ditto up to 8in., about 2000 small perch averaging 4in. to 5in., many good roach and chub, some 3cwt. of fry of various sorts, and a bushel of crayfish; and it must not be forgotten that these additions do not include the netting operations after the floods. A gentleman residing on the upper portion of the river also turned in seven dozen of Wycombe trout at his own charge. Regular inspection of the river by the hon. secretary and other members of the committee proves the Thames to be wonderfully well stocked with fish in this district, and the extreme lowness of the water during the summer and autumn had very little effect on piscine health, very few unhealthy fish being seen between Pangbourne and Goring. The Patrick stream and stretch of the Loddon, under the joint care of this and the Henley-on-Thames Society, also teem with all sorts of fish. The annual meeting and dinner of the association were held on Feb. 18, Mr. James Simonds, J.P., the president, in the chair, whilst the bailiffs, lock-keepers, and ferrymen in the district had their yearly dinner (which, as usual, they much enjoyed) on April 29, when Mr. A. H. Bull filled the chair, supported by several members of the committee. Six members have been lost, and sixteen new members have been elected during the year. The total expenditure was £65 4s. 4d., there being a balance at the year's end of £12 3s. 4d., and anglers will do well to support this excellent association.

REPORTS FROM RIVERS, LOCHS, &c.

Lower Thames.—GENERAL REMARKS.—Under the old rules of the Thames Fishery, Thursday last would have been regarded by the anglers as "the glorious first of June, and the commencement of the general angling season, but has been wisely extended to the fifteenth day of June, when the great army of anglers will have entire possession of the river. I think, after the precaution that has been taken by the T.A.P.S. in reference to the safety of the spawn and other fish, the future will be a bright one in regard to the stock of fish which the grand old river still contains, and emphasis has been specially laid on that of the perch, which has been reported as having spawned more plentifully this season, and it is one of the best of the species in giving good sport to the anglers, and in my angling days an especial favourite of mine. I have always been anxious at this time of the year to say a few words to the anglers in reference to the condition of their fishing tackle, as, from experience, I have found repeated instances where good fish have been lost through the defective character of the lines, and left to stray about, carrying with them "the order of the flight," as my old friend Greville F. used to term it, amongst their finny neighbours. There was one instance, at Sunbury, in which a fine trout had run out about 50yds. of line, and then the line being weak at that point, gave way; and, if I remember rightly, was afterwards found dead with the tackle in it attached to the line. It was just previous to the time when I became secretary, but when I was a member of the committee, and the information was given to me by my predecessor, who was the unfortunate angler. I am glad to find the head river keeper, William Douglas, has been busily employed this last week in placarding prominent portions of the river with quotations from the bye-laws as to illegal offences, and giving the sizes and seasons of fish. In reference to the society itself, I hope it will be more liberally supported.—B.

—(Shepperton).—George Rosewell continues to pilot his clients in the capture of trout, and one day enabled Mr. D. Matthews to creel his first Thames trout, a nice fish of 5½lb.; and another day, with Mr. G. W. Ellis, one good one of 6½lb. This excellent fisherman further reports: "The fish are now feeding better than they have been all the season, and I only wish anglers would come down and try for them."—B.

—(Sunbury).—Messrs. T. and A. Stroud, one day, with Major Arthur Terry, landed a nice trout of 6½lb.; and another day, with Mr. Jenkyns, one of 4½lb. The trout are now well on the move, and the water in good condition, and anglers should give these excellent fishermen the chance of piloting them amongst the fish, as the neighbourhood of Sunbury has long been noted for the capture of trout, and in the days of the late Mr. Lukyer and Mr. H. L. Rolfe holds a very good record.—B.

Ancholme District.—Brilliant summer weather has brought on quite a host of flies which were previously slow to hatch. Black Gnats are on in myriads, and the Hawthorn is just appearing. The Alder Fly continues one of the leaders. Dotterel Duns are coming out in the evenings; that with yellow body is the most numerous and best. Some Apple Greens and Soldier Beetles are also taken by the fish. I had my first turn on Monday, in connection with my son from London. We took sixteen very nice fish between twelve and four o'clock, but could not fish the evening owing to an engagement. It was very bright, and the fish were mostly secured in shady places.—THOMAS FORD (Caistor).

Cornish Streams.—Fine, dry weather, east winds, and capital water make up a combination of circumstances which leave the fisher doubtful between a good basket of trout and none at all. This has been the state of affairs during the past week. In some cases, as, for instance, on the shady, sheltered parts of the Camel and the Tamar,

there have been good baskets; and in others, where the river is exposed, there have been none at all. Peal have run up, but few seem to sport. Trout fishing, taken all round, is very good.—BODMIN.

Darenth (Horton Kirby, Farningham, &c.)—With the warmer weather sport has improved, and the dry-fly man is in his element once more, as the conditions are now such as to render any other mode useless. The most killing flies are the Olive Dun, Red Quill Gnat, Ginger Quill, and Blue Dun. I had fish with each of these yesterday (Wednesday) morning, and the Ginger Quill was so attractive that it actually took a 1lb. fish which had just been following and refusing a natural May Fly, floating down. Perhaps by Saturday this latter fly may be of use, as the fish are just beginning to take it. My best fish (1½lb.) took the Olive Dun with gold twist. The finest gut is now essential. Water in fair order.—J. P. T.

Dart (Totnes and District).—Exceptionally large hauls of salmon were made on Monday, the net at Totnes weir securing no less than thirty-four at one haul in the morning, their total being forty, and two peal. I hear the nets at Stoke Gabriel caught even a bigger lot the same day. Six, however, is a record haul for the Totnes boats this season. Mr. W. H. T. Martin has killed five on the moorland waters; Mr. W. W. Symington, two; Mr. Holman, two; and the Rev. C. Rickards, of Princetown, one; the weights running up to 12lb. The first-named rod had a struggle with a game fish, which took him nearly an hour to land. Fish on the moor are reported in good condition, and takes of trout have been made on the Cherrybrook, Blackbrook, and other tributaries. Mr. Densham secured twelve brace, and other rods have had smaller lots, but the fish are "off" artificial flies. Of the Buckfastleigh rods, Mr. H. Wright and Mr. R. Rogers killed several dozen between them, and Mr. Evans has had some sport at Buckland. Salmon and trutt are in the pools near Staverton, and on Tuesday one rod creel a fair lot with the Black Fly and maggot. Messrs. Revell, E. Distin, Fnl, and Ackrell, by evening fishing, have had small creels, but the fish will not look at anything but the Black Midge or Caterpillar, the latter being difficult to obtain. Visiting rods seem to have difficulty in getting any decent catches.—DEVONIAN.

Dee (Carrog).—A good body of water is still coming down, but the bright sun makes it far too clear for successful day fishing, and the only chance one has is after Sol disappears behind the hills. Last week the river was in semi-flood, and a lot of very fine fish were taken, principally with minnow and Garden Fly. One day, Major Sparrow had four good trout, and the head keeper, Williams, told me he was informed that Mr. Fream had a basket of eight trout that averaged 1lb. each, truly a wonderful catch for the Dee, if authentic, as the river being a rapid flowing one with stony bottom, the fish do not run large, and, indeed, are seldom met with over 1½lb., except when a heavy water is on, and then only with the lures above mentioned. Mr. Amos Williams had nine trout one day and five another, many of them 1½lb. and 1lb. Mr. C. Trubshaw, of Southport, and self, both staying at the Grouse Hotel, had one and a half dozen in a few days, up to nearly 1lb. each. On Monday of this week we had a visit for the day from the Rev. Mr. Sparrow, a very enthusiastic fisherman, who sought to repeat his record of a month since, when in a few hours he landed nineteen fish, weighing 8½lb., but the water conditions being now altogether different, he had to be satisfied with three fine trout, which he caught with fly, but not, however, till late in the evening.—AN OLD DEE ANGLER.

Derwent (Malton, Yorks.).—We have had a very wet time of it lately, and the river in flood over and over again. The water has now fined down, and the weather quite summerish, and lots of flies on the water.—H.

Devonshire Streams.—The hot weather has set in, and the days this week have been very bright, so that the best sport has been with evening fishing. Sport with trout generally is somewhat quiet, although some capital baskets have been made in the Upper Lyd and Tavy, Cleave district. In the Bristow stream there are some fine trout, which are said to be much larger than the average Dartmoor trout. Several recently taken measured from 12in. to 14in., and takes have run up to a couple of dozen. There has been talk of some exceptionally big catches of trout in the northern streams, lots including 1½-pounders and 2-pounders. If these reports are correct, however, the North Devon anglers are specially favoured. A fish of over 5lb. was killed in the leat at Tiverton by Mr. C. Warner. A number of visitors are on the streams just now, and among the friends of the Hon. Mark Rolle who have been fishing his Biston waters, on the Otter, was Lord Mountcashell. The southern streams have only afforded fair sport. A quantity of salmon have fallen to the nets on the Dart lately.—DEVONIAN.

Dove and Tributaries.—The Mays are not yet up. They will not be before the end of the first week in June, as per usual in Dove Dale, according to all appearances. Several anglers have turned up too early for the May Fly season already.—D. AND W. H. FOSTER.

Esk (Whitby).—This river has run much too low for salmon fishing, so that during the past week there has been very little doing; before we have anything like good sport a flood will be needed to enable some more fresh run fish to get up the stream. The catches are: Mr. Baker, two salmon, 5lb. and 7½lb.; Dr. Dreaper, one of 5lb. These were all landed with fly in the association waters. A few anglers have been trying trout fishing with the following results: Mr. Rhodes, six brace; Mr. Marks, five and a half brace; and Mr. J. W. Nicholson, five brace; whilst several others have had small catches.—J. JACKSON.

Exe and Canal (Exeter).—Heavy rain fell here throughout Wednesday last week, and on Thursday the river was up about 2ft., and much discoloured. Those who are not above using the common garden bait made good baskets, but for ordinary work the river was out of

ply until the Saturday. On that day the Rev. Coleridge killed a brace of salmon on the fly, near Bickleigh; and anglers on the Lower and Upper Exe Associations had moderate sport among the trout, flies doing best being the Blne and Olive Duns, Iron Blue, and Blne Upright. Sport has been generally retarded by the easterly winds, which have proved veritable "stayers" with us this season.—RED PALMER.

Fen District (South Lincs. and Cambs.).—At last we seem to have got a real change in the weather. Whitsuntide finished with a drenching, but the bright sunshine of this week will soon make a great alteration in the habits of both insects and fish. Fly fishing prospects are now brighter, and the May Fly should be coming to the front. Other flies will also be out in force.—LIMPET.

Idle District (North Notts.).—Fly fishermen now seem likely to have an opportunity. Hitherto none but bottom fishers had any chance. The bright sunshine will make all the difference. Forest foliage is very backward. Oak Apple Day is passed with the oaks in some cases bare of leaves. Odd instances of the May Fly have been reported, but if the sunshine lasts they will be out in force by the end of the week. Last week was such a "frost" that there is absolutely nothing to report.—L.

Lake Vyrnwy (N. Wales).—At last there has been a decided improvement in the weather, and the cold and wet which have hung over the country for so long have given place to nice bright and warm weather, and the fishing now is sure to be what it ought. During the week 213 fish were taken out of the lake, the total weight being 131lb. On the 24th ult., seventy-one fish scaled 41lb. 9oz. Mr. Crowther made the best basket with twelve fish, 7lb. 6oz.; Mr. Malpass killed eleven, 6lb. 2oz.; Mr. Bradbury-Taylor, eight, 4lb. 9oz.; Mr. Davison, nine, 5lb. 1oz.; Mr. Townshend, eight, 4lb. 6oz.; Mr. Henty, seven, 4lb. 5oz.; Mr. Wright, five, 2lb. 10oz.; Mr. Jackson, four, 2lb. 8oz.; Col. Doncaster, three, 1lb. 9oz. The remaining baskets contained two each or under. On the 25th, sixty fish, weighed 35lb. 14oz. Mr. Malpass's fourteen fish scaled 7lb. 4oz. Mr. Townshend, nine, 6lb. 2oz.; Capt. Garnett, seven, 3lb. 5oz.; Mr. Jackson, six, 3lb. 9oz.; Col. Doncaster, five, 3lb. 1oz.; Messrs. Cadman and Scott, five, 3lb. 2oz.; Mr. Davison, four, 3lb. 2oz.; Mr. Crowther, three, 1lb. 14oz.; Mr. Wright, three, 2lb. 10oz. On the 26th, Capt. Garnett killed five fish, 3lb. 12oz.; Mr. Malpass, five, 3lb. 13oz.; Mr. Davison, four, 2lb. 14oz.; Mr. Townshend, four, 3lb. 1oz.; and Mr. Crowther, three, 2lb. 4oz. On the 27th, Mr. Malpass killed six fish, 3lb. 14oz.; Mr. Jackson, four, 2lb. 11oz.; Mr. Townshend, two, 1lb. 8oz.; and Mr. Tickell, two, 1lb. 4oz. On the 29th, Mr. Townshend brought home fourteen fish, 7lb. 10oz.; Mr. Malpass, eight, 4lb. 14oz. The other baskets were small ones. On the 30th, Mr. Malpass killed seven, 4lb. 7oz.; Mr. Townshend, five, 3lb. 1oz.; Mr. Melly, five, 2lb. 8oz.; and Rev. Feathers, three, 1lb. 10oz. Sport on the rivers has been fair, the best basket being seventeen fish. The following flies are now on the water: Alder, Hawthorn, and Gnat.—LONG DRIFT (May 31).

Lea and Tributaries.—The delightful weather of the last few days should result in greatly improved sport among the trout, which during the past week had been kept down by the cold winds and unreasonable weather. The best times for trouting now should be the early morning and between 6 p.m. and 9 p.m., and I cannot recommend my readers better places to fish than Hoddesdon (Dobbs Weir), Rye House, St. Margaret's, Ware, and Hertford. There are plenty of good fish in these districts. Below Hertford Lock a very big trout has been seen feeding; some anglers aver that it goes quite 12lb. The warm weather has brought the small fry to the surface, and shoals of fine roach have also been seen. Dace fishing opens on the 16th inst. There has been little sport among the trout again, and I can hear of no captures worth recording. Sport has also been quiet on the Beane and Rih, but prospects are promising now. The Stort tributary streams should yield a few trout now.—ISAAC WALTON.

Lugg and Arrow (Leominster).—Both these streams have now gone down and cleared, and are running in good order for fishing. The weather has now changed beautiful and warm, and has greatly improved the prospects of angling, and there has been a good few rods out this week. The rain greatly improved the rivers, and since it has turned warm May Fly has been coming on the rivers, but the fish have not been taking them well, and to-day (Wednesday) they were beginning to rise at them, and there should be good sport by the end of the week. The flies used are the Alder, Coch-y-bondhn, Yellow Dnn, Spinners, and Iron Blue, and a few nice fish have been landed. The prospects for sport are good at present. The Pineley is in good order, and sport should be good.—GWYNNE.

Lugg, Arrow, and Pinsley (Kingsland).—The state of rivers is all that could be wished; weather the reverse; each night a frost, which chills the water and retards the rise of insect. The May Fly is coming up as anticipated—patchy. A pool here with a fair collection, half a mile and not one to be seen. The last two days' sun has been very hot; wind N.E., and cold. Prospects on the whole can scarcely be called bright.—R. T. WILLIAMS.

North Staffordshire Rivers.—May Fly hatching slightly on the Blythe; weather and water fine, but the latter copious enough for good sport. Alder and Hare's Ear Dnn killed good bags.—F. W. DALE.

Plymouth.—All the rivers are still in good order—plenty of water, and not too clear. The Dart has taken the cake this week for trout—three baskets, viz., eight dozen, six dozen, four dozen and eight are amongst the number; and one gentleman had nineteen fish, none under 1lb. This was near Dartmoor. The peal are still running up, and the estuary is pretty full of them. They are being caught by the compass nets, and also by the drift net in

the Sound. A nice salmon was caught on the Tavy, which weighed 18lb.; it was caught on a fly.—WILLIAM HEARDER.

Sussex Rivers and Chichester Canal.—The weather of the week has been fine and summerlike, but frost has again visited us, playing havoc with gardens. Dace are feeding better in the Onse, rising well to Coachman and Wickham's Fancy. But few trout have been taken in the main river. Some small fish are reported from the Buxted and Sheffield Park district. Bream and carp are spawning in the Horse Shoe, and roach are cleaning themselves in the shallows. The Rother is now in good order, and the scenery perfection. With two miles of fishing, and the water well stocked, it is an angler's paradise. Trout up to 1lb. 2oz. have been taken during the week. Pike appear numerous, and roach are spawning, and all anglers well for the opening next month. Repairs to the lock gates at Chichester Canal has necessitated letting the water off from the lower reach; but as few fish have been seen in the salt water, carp and bream have evidently muddled or are in the few pools left. Harbour fishing has not been prolific. Flat fish, eels, and a few huss have been taken. With warmer weather we are looking for the arrival of the larger huss, when a day at Pilsea Piles is generally remunerative.—GEORGE F. SALTER.

Taw (North Devon).—The rivers were perfection last week, and the various streams crowded. A worm fisherman, who has made it his trade, is doing havoc, killing as many as 100 big and small trout, especially on strictly preserved waters. On the Bray, I have been told, fifty dozen trout were taken during the week. At the Fortescue (Arms Hotel), South Molton Road, a gentleman tells me he found good sport and accommodation fishing the Double waters. Fishing at the Chalk water, near Lynmouth, a trout over 2½lb. was killed this week. I saw some trout over ½lb. killed in the Taw, near Barnstaple. Salmon are very scarce, one only being taken last night (May 30) by the scores of nets. Wind E.; water fining down fast.—RUSTY GAME.

Teme (Ludlow).—The Teme in this part is now running clear and a nice level, and in splendid order for fishing. The heavy rains of last week left a stain on the water, but it did not interfere with fishing, and the weather having turned beautiful and fine, and real summer, the fish have begun to move well at the fly. There has been a good number of real flies on the water, and fish have taken them well. A good few anglers have been out, and have used Iron Blue, Yellow Dnn, Alder, Coeh-y-bondhu, Hardy Brown, and Spinners, and some fair lots of fish have been landed. The May Fly has begun to show itself this week, but the fish have not been feeding on it as yet, but by Saturday they may be expected to be on thickly, and the fish will then be taking them freely, and good dishes of trout will be landed. Bottom fishing with worm has been good, and some fine trout taken. Minnow has been tried with fair success. On Saturday a nice dish of fish were landed with the Iron Blue and Orl. Fishing on Monday with fly eight nice trout were taken. The water near Ludford was fished on Tuesday, and a few good fish taken. The Ony, Corve, Clnn, and Ledwyche are all running clear and in good order, and May Fly is coming on them, and good sport will be had in them this week.—S. LUDLOW.

Teme (Tenbury).—The Teme in this part is now gone down and cleared, and is running in capital order for fishing. The weather has changed round from nasty cold winds to warm sunshine, which has greatly improved the prospect of fishing. The late rain improved the river, and the fish are now rising well at the fly. A good few anglers have been out, and have used fly and bottom baits with success. May Fly has now begun to come up, but the fish are not taking them well as yet. By the end of the week May Fly fishing should be good, and good baskets of large fish taken in this part. The prospects for sport are now greatly improved, and fishing should go well next week. The Rea, Kyre, and Ledwyche are all in order.—WORCESTER.

Usk (Abergavenny).—River at present low and clear. The wisdom of the Usk and Ebbw Board of Conservators in buying up and doing away with the stop nets in the lower reaches of the river is being manifested by the large number of salmon that have passed up during the past week. On Monday Mr. Powlett killed one, 14lb., in the Penyorwater, on the same day Mr. Evans had one of 18lb. at the Park. Mr. Attwood, Glaslyn, had two good fish; Col. Parkinson, Sunny Bank, one, 8lb.; Mrs. Herbert, Clytha, one, 18lb. The prospects of salmon fishing are very good.—ERNE DE LA FELD.

Witham, &c. (Mid-Lincolnshire).—Warmer weather will put heart into the angler. Flies are more plentiful, and prospects are much better for the few days of sunshine. The Alder and the Hawthorn Flies are out in limited numbers, and so are some of the Dnns. The Black Gnat is also to be seen, and so is the March Brown and the Cowdung Fly. Another fortnight and the coarse fishers will have a chance of commencing operations. Prospects, as reported, have a rosy aspect, but I fear the spawning fish, like the rest of things, will be found late in season. The flushes in the drains will also be against the hatching and the young fish. It is expected that there will be competition among the railway companies for the patronage of the visiting angler next season.—LUCI.

Wye and Derwent (Derbyshire).—The above rivers are now in order for fly fishing. The catches during the past week have been very uncertain. A few that have fished the Wye have taken some nice fish. The May Fly is showing itself on this river, and it is thought by Saturday trout will be taking them. The Chatsworth, Hathersage, and upper reaches of the Derwent have been fairly well patronised, and some nice baskets of trout have been landed; also Rowsley and Darley Dale reaches of

this river. Two gentlemen on Monday, on this portion of the Derwent, obtained several nice fish; and those that have fished about Matlock Bridge, both on free and private water, have landed some good trout, mostly by using ante eggs for bait. The Matlock Dale water has produced a few good fish, taken with minnow. C. H. Maule, Esq., has obtained some good ones fishing from a boat at Matlock Bath, one 2½lb., and a few others smaller. This association's water below Cromford has also yielded a few nice fish. The Green Drake is now showing itself nicely, and the hot weather we are now having should bring it up properly in the early part of next week; therefore the prospect is encouraging for the next few days, and the following should be useful: Green Drake (ought to take first place), Yellow Dun, Ash Dnn, Cooper's Fancy, Olive Dnn, Furace Fly, Sand Fly, and Claret Bumble.—DOTTEREL.

Yore, Swale, Wharfe, Nidd, &c. (Yorkshire).—It is marvellous what a few days sunshine can do, and since the weather has been in accordance with what should prevail during the last days of May and beginning of June, the face of the country presents quite a different appearance to what it did even a week ago, and our woods are now carpeted in brilliant colours, and are a perfect picture of loveliness. To-day I never saw the banks of the Yore more beautiful or the weather more perfect, although, perhaps, too bright from an angling point of view. Nearly all the trees have put on their vernal clothes, if I except the ash, which is still bare, but a few more days will alter all that; and the sunshine and higher temperature has already hatched out the May Fly and the Stone Fly, but the latter is not yet on in any quantity, and it will be the beginning of next week before it will become the bait *par excellence*, for during an experience of many years I never knew the trout to take the Stone Fly voraciously until it has been on the water for a few days. When they have once had a taste they go for it with a vengeance, and while it lasts will not have anything else. It is wonderful how quickly our rivers run down; a few days ago they were high, now the upper waters are low and clear, and careful up-stream fishing is a *sine qua non*, and if the present brilliant weather continues the early risers will stand a better chance of killing fish than the angler who is content enough to wait until after breakfast. Sport in the Yore and its tributaries was very good last week-end, and some fine sport was had up to Saturday. Since then fewer anglers have been out, and sport has not been so good; but for all that some nice dishes have been caught up the Yore, Wharfe, Nidd, Dove, &c. I looked in the Cover Bridge Inn to-day, and found the house full of sportsmen, Mr. Wilkinson's pack of otter hounds being in evidence. They had a hank day on Tuesday up the Yore in the neighbourhood of Askrigg, up the Bain, and round Lake Semerwater. They hunt the Yore from Aysgarth down to Cover Bridge to-morrow, and the neighbourhood of Middleham on Saturday, as I found the remains of a large chub in the Bat Islands this afternoon, and on Monday saw the "print" and "foil" of an otter up Gelpool. I think they are certain to have a good hunt. I send you my same post some male and female Stone Flies, mature Creepers (just hatching out), shells of the Creeper, &c., I gathered in the Yore to-day. You will find some alive and others in spirits. I hope you will receive them in good condition.—JOHN E. MILLER, Northern Anglers' Depot, 19, New Station-street, Leeds.

BY TELEGRAPH.—Yorkshire.—All our rivers are running much lower in the upper reaches. The Stone Fly and May Fly are hatching out fast, and will be the most killing lure to use as long as it lasts. Weather summer-like and bright, and early morning or late evening is the best time to fish now.—JOHN E. MILLER, Northern Anglers' Depot, 19, New Station-street, Leeds.

SCOTCH REPORTS.

Altnaharra Hotel Waters.—May 24, Mr. Kirkbride, on Loch Meaddie, had 5lb. trout; Mr. Day, on Loch Meaddie, had 6lb.; Mr. and Mrs. Straker, on Loch Badgallag, had fifty, 12lb.; Masters E. and A. Straker, on Loch Naver, had one salmon, 10lb., one grilse, 2½lb. 25th, Mr. Straker, on Loch Ellanach, forty-three trout, 13lb. 26th, Mr. Day, on Loch Tarvie, eight, 5½lb.; Mr. and Mrs. Straker, on Loch Hallam, twenty-nine, 16lb. 27th, Mr. Day, on Loch Meaddie, 8lb.; Mr. Kirkbride, on Loch Meaddie, 9lb. 29th, Mr. and Mrs. Straker, on Loch Hallam, forty, 20½lb.; Mr. Day, on Loch Tarvie, twelve, 4½lb. 30th, Mr. and Mrs. Straker, on Loch Badgallag, fifty-nine, 15lb.; Mr. Kirkbride, on Loch Hallam, twenty-six, 11lb.; Mr. Day, on Loch Break Bui, ten, 5lb.—W. D. AWE.—Fishing from Taynait Hotel on May 23, Mr. C. J. W. Gardner had a salmon, 15lb. On the 26th, Mr. McNiven had one of 21lb. On the 29th, Mr. Harris had one, 18lb.; Mr. Muir, one of 15lb.; Mr. Scott, one 15lb. Four salmon were hooked and lost during last week. River in good order.—P. MACDONALD.

Border Esk and Liddle.—Bright sunshine once more at intervals floods the hillsides and valleys of Eskdale and Liddlesdale, and the woods and dells are dressing in lovely green. The cuckoo is again heard on the slopes of Whita Hill, and the flowering heather will soon wave on the tops of Warbla and Timis Hills. At least, so says Provost Tomson, of Langholm, and I believe the douce and worthy provost. The recent floods have encouraged a run of sea trout from the Solway, and these fish have ascended far up the river. In the lower reaches sport is not good, as the fish are making for the upper waters. In the Canonbie water some fair baskets have been had, and some good takes were made in the Liddle at Penton Linn. During the past week there has been a scarcity of salmon in the Solway Firth. Very few salmon were taken in the stake nets, and only an odd fish was caught in the drift or poke nets, whilst the run of sea trout was much less than that of the previous week. Fishing in the Langholm water, Mr. W. Bell had one sea trout; and Mr. A.

McMillan caught one, 1½lb. Mr. James Telford, Langholm, caught a sea trout weighing 1½lb. near the distillery. Yellow trout are now being caught in the Langholm water in copious numbers, and in splendid condition. Mr. R. Graham had a basket of 14lb. of beautiful trout in the Reserved water above Langholm. Master T. Borthwick, Langholm, had five yellow trout, including a beauty weighing 1½lb., near Wauchope-foot, which is in the middle of the town. Mr. W. Ballantyne and others had yellow trout, both in the Esk and Ewes, weighing up to 3½lb. In the mid reaches of the Esk, Dr. Moon, London, had a sea trout in the Willow Pool; Dr. Anderson, Eskbank, Canonbie, secured a fine sea trout, weighing 2lb., in the Hush Pool, close to Knottyholm. Mr. David Calvert, Canonbie, killed one in Jock's Pool. Mr. D. Murray, Rowanburn, had two sea trout, 3lb. Mr. Robert Steel, Canonbie, had two sea trout with bait in the Hush Pool. Mr. W. Byers, Thornywhats, Canonbie, landed a fine sea trout below Gilnockie Bridge. Some good takes have been made in the Byrehurn-foot water. Mr. T. Davidson had two sea trout and some yellow trout. Mr. W. Murray, Canonbie, caught three sea trout; while others have been fairly successful. Mr. Beattie, Wigan, had a basket of yellow trout and two sea trout in the Canonbie water; Mr. Wm. Law, Canonbie, had a sea trout in the mid reaches; and a visitor had a sea trout in Prior Pool, and one in the Long Pool. Fishing in the lower reaches, Mr. J. Musgrove, Longtown, caught two sea trout over 1lb. each. Mr. H. Foster, Longtown, had one, weighing over 2lb. On Saturday, Mr. Baden-Powell had one weighing fully 2lb. Mr. Masou caught two at a fishing, and Mr. Scott, Longtown, had one in the Metal Bridge water. Some fair sport has been had in the Liddle with both sea trout and yellow trout. Mr. Jas. Graham, Canonbie, has had five sea trout. Mr. H. Law, Rowanburn, killed two, 1½lb. each, and some yellow trout. Mr. W. Murray, Canonbie, had two sea trout below Penton. Good takes of yellow trout have been made in the upper reaches, and also in the Hermitage. The waters are in better order for the fly than they have been for some previous weeks.—GILNOCKIE.

Carron (Easter Ross, Ardgay, N.B.).—Owing to drought and other causes sport has dwindled away, and so have sportsmen, most of whom have now left for the south. Although several rods, both from Balnagowan Arms Hotel and from Lodges, have been out, the only fish since last reported was a nice salmon, caught on Tuesday this week by Mr. George Ross, Braealagwell, on Mr. J. A. Young's rod. On Wednesday there were indications of approaching rain.—B.

Cassley, Rosshall (Sutherland).—Mr. A. Ross, Leicester, and Capt. McTaggart, of Glenrossall, have been fishing with fair success. Salmon range from 8lb. to 14lb., the average weight for each being close on 11½lb.—B.

Deveron (Banffshire).—This river is becoming very small in volume and clear, so that anglers have had only fair sport. Notwithstanding the cold weather last week, fair baskets of trout were getting in the Huntly and several other districts. In the lower waters little has been done of late. On the Corniehangh section, Mr. S. G. Balfour had, last week, a salmon of 5½lb.; and Mr. W. H. Goschen a grilse of 4½lb., and a salmon of 10lb. On the Netherdale section, Lord Ribblesdale and Mr. Buxton, M.P., have had fairly good sport in trout fishing, and they killed two salmon, one of 5lb. and one of 13lb. On the Edinglassie section of the river, on the 25th ult., the keeper, Mr. George Smith, had a salmon of 10½lb. There has been a falling off this week in the net salmon fishing in the Deveron and district, compared with the previous week. Towards the close of last week the number of fish taken from the nets on the coast was very small. Grilse continue backward, and only a few have as yet been got in the bag nets, and only one by the nets on the river. The grilse are healthy in condition, and average 3½lb. Salmon average about 10lb., and the heaviest a little over 20lb. For the first half of this week only two small boxes were consigned to the market. On the coast of Gardenstown the fishermen are experiencing similar conditions—want of fish, and although the weather of late has not been so cold, rain is greatly to be desired for both river and sea.—H. W.

Inchnadamph Hotel (Sutherland).—May 16, Mr. Wallace, Loch Awe, thirteen trout, 5lb.; Mr. Wallace, Loch Gillaroe, one trout, 1lb. (dead salmon). May 23, Messrs. Bartholomew and Frost, Loch Awe, twenty-one trout, 6½lb. May 24, Messrs. Bartholomew and Frost, Inver, six trout, 5½lb. May 25, Messrs. Bartholomew and Frost, Head of Assynt, seven trout, 6lb. May 26, Messrs. Bartholomew and Frost, Head of Awe, twenty-two trout, 7lb. May 27, Messrs. Bartholomew and Frost, Inver, seventeen trout, 9½lb. This month has been very cold and unfavorable for fishing, but trout in good condition. Weather much warmer now. Prospects good.—W. WALLACE.

Loch Katrine (Stronachlachar Hotel).—On Monday, Mr. Neale Thomson caught nineteen trout; Mr. King, eight trout. On Tuesday, Mr. Neale Thomson, twenty-six trout; Mr. Saton Thomson, nine trout; Messrs. Yarium had a fine basket of forty-two trout; and Mr. F. Roger, six trout, weighing 4lb.—H. M.

Lochleven (Kinross).—Following the continuous cold and moist weather the conditions have improved greatly during the past few days. The sun has been shining from an all but cloudless sky, and the loch, which was in a very flooded state last week, is subsiding rapidly, and trout are again feeding freely on the surface. There has been rather much light, however, for good sport, though pretty fair baskets have been made with fly-caught fish. All the boats have been again out daily. The following were the first prize winners at the various club competitions: Mr. J. Buchanan, Callander Club, seven trout, 4lb. 8oz.; Mr. J. Kirkland, Glasgow Clydesdale

Club, ten, 6lb. 6oz.; Mr. G. Hogg, Glasgow Wanderers Club, six, 4lb. 12oz.; Mr. J. Macleod, Glasgow Bohemian Club, five, 3lb. 6oz.; Mr. Macconnell, Bothwell and Blantyre Club, seven, 6lb. 3oz.; Mr. Stevenson, Bridge of Allan Club, nine, 6lb. 14oz.; Mr. Cochran, Rowbank Club, eight, 5lb. 9oz.; Mr. Allan, Glasgow Western Club, sixteen, 8lb. 3oz. Of private parties the following were the most successful: Rev. J. C. Hood, Kirkby Fleetham, had, in three days, sixty-three trout, 45lb. 8oz. Sir George Elliot had also fairly good sport during the past week. Mr. O'Hanlon, Manchester (three days), forty-two trout, 31lb. 4oz.; Judge Short and Mr. Earl Hodgson, London, ten, 9lb.; Mr. MacKay, Edinburgh, eighteen, 12lb.; Mr. Russel, Falkirk, fourteen, 12lb.; Mr. James, London, sixteen, 11lb.; Mr. J. M. Ross, Glasgow, fifteen, 14lb.; Mr. Horsfield, Leeds, and Mr. Adair, Edinburgh, twenty-six, 17lb. The National competition will take place on Wednesday first (June 7).—ROBERT LAING.

Lochmaddy.—Fishing from Lochmaddy Hotel, on Strumore, Messrs. Buxton and Challinor, eight trout, 43lb., heaviest 1lb., on May 22. On same loch, Messrs. Buxton and Challinor, twelve sea trout, 4lb., heaviest 13lb., on May 25. On Loch Formosat, by same party, thirty-four sea and brown trout, 133lb., heaviest 14lb. On Loch Huna, twelve sea and brown trout, 51lb., heaviest 2lb.—M. MACC.

Loch Ness (Foyers Hotel), N.B.—Fishing Loch Mhor on Thursday last, 25th ult., Mr. Burstal had a nice basket of ten trout, weighing 8lb.; and Mr. McKay, eight trout, 43lb. On Friday, Mr. Burstal again had five trout, 43lb. On Saturday, Capt. Elliot and Capt. Cowans had a basket of twenty-seven very fine trout, 173lb.; Mr. Shaw, seventeen trout, 63lb.; Mr. Burstal, three trout, 2lb.; Mr. Morgan and Capt. Walsh, fourteen trout, 11lb.—S. TILSTON.

Naver (Bettyhill, via Thurso, N.B.).—Since it reported the river was for a time in bad order, but matters are now improving. During the week ending 20th ult., the two rods from Dalvina Lodge landed four salmon; the two Syre Lodge rods, three salmon and two grilse; and the two Skelpick Lodge rods, three salmon, one of them a beauty of 23lb. During the past week sport was as follows: On 22nd, Major Burnell Milnes, Dalvina Lodge, landed four salmon on Beat No. 1, the two weighing 103lb. and 83lb. On 23rd, Mr. Gill, Syre Lodge, caught one salmon on Beat No. 3; and Col. Fryer, Dalvina Lodge, one on No. 1. On 24th, Dr. Turner, Syre Lodge, had a 4lb. grilse on No. 4; and Major Burnell Milnes, one of 4lb. on No. 3. On 25th, Mr. Gill caught a 5lb. grilse, besides a salmon of 133lb. on No. 6; and Mrs. Smith, Skelpick Lodge, one salmon on No. 2. On 26th, Mr. Gill landed a salmon on No. 1; Mr. Smith, Skelpick Lodge, one on No. 2; and Mrs. Smith a 19-pounder on No. 3. On 27th, Mr. Gill had a salmon on No. 2; and Mr. Smith, one on No. 3.—B.

North-East of Scotland.—A great improvement has taken place in the weather conditions generally, and as a result sport has revived considerably. Fish are coming on the coast more freely, and the falling prices indicate that the supplies for April have this year been deferred for June. The fact is that owing to the series of adverse winds, low temperature, and other unfavourable conditions, the fish which are usually met with in April are only just beginning to put in an appearance with the advent of June. On the Fife Arms Hotel water, Braemar, Mr. A. Wybergh creeled one of 8lb., one of 7lb., and two, of 6lb. and 63lb.; Mr. Thos. Leadbetter had one of 53lb., one of 6lb., and some fine baskets of trout; while Capt. Heartley had one of 63lb. On the Balmoral waters, Mr. Mather creeled one of 8lb. on Saturday. Other members of Her Majesty's Court have been equally successful. On the Birkhall section, Capt. Lumsden creeled one on Monday, 9.b.; and Lundy (keeper), two, of 6lb. and 8lb., on previous occasions. On the Ballater reaches a new race of anglers took possession on the 26th ult., when Mr. McGregor's tenancy came to an end. On the Huntly Arms water, Aboyne, Dr. Stephenson creeled two fine fish, of 7lb. and 10lb.; Mr. Lewers, four, of 6lb., 11lb., 5lb., and 7lb.; and several others, one or two each of average weights. On the Dess water, Harper had two, of 8lb. and 11lb. On Kincardine water, Mrs. Pickering creeled one, 10lb., and Miss Pickering, one, 7lb.; while Mr. James G. Orr, of Glasgow, had seven fish, scaling from 6lb. to 13lb. On Carlisle water, Mr. J. C. Haslam had a beauty of 7lb.; and Mr. Lewis Haslam, another of 8lb.; both to the fly. On the Borrowstone section, Lord Garrioch creeled three, of 6lb., 63lb., and 73lb.; and Mr. Beck, two, of 63lb. and 10lb. On the Ballogie water, Capt. Levett Scrivenor had two, of 73lb. and 18lb.; and Mr. Wm. Levett, four, of 7lb., 93lb., 10lb., and 23lb. On the Comonty, Mr. Joseph Petrie had a fine fish of 8lb.; and Ross, gillie, three, of 6lb., 6lb., and 7lb. On the Sluie water, Charlie Gill creeled one of 12lb. On Woodend, John Mortimer is having from two to four and five daily of average weights. On Saturday he had three, of 8lb., 10lb., and 12lb. On the Cairnton, Mr. Farley has had a splendid season up to date. On the Kinneskie section, Mr. A. Gray had one of 12lb.; and Mr. J. Berry, one of 8lb. last week. This section is now open to weekly ticket holders or otherwise for June and July. On the Upper Blackhall water, Mr. D. Smith had two on Saturday. Accommodation can be had at Feughside Inn. On the Durris water, Mr. Baird and party have run up a total of about eighty for the season. On the Don trouters are making heavy baskets to the fly. Streams all big, and water fine and clear of weeds as yet. On the Ythan tidal anglers have been waiting the migration of the smolts, which is now about over. On the Deveron, Smith, keeper, had one of 6lb. Good trouting has been had for past fortnight on Ugie.—G. M.

Overscaig Hotel Waters (via Lairg, N.B.).—Notwithstanding the unfavourable weather of this season,

angling on the lochs has now opened under favourable auspices. On Friday last Dr. and Mrs. Nesham, Newcastle-on-Tyne, tried Loch Shin, and caught one dozen trout, 6lb.; and Mr. J. Mackay, on Loch Grian, eight trout, 4lb. On Monday, this week, Dr. and Mrs. Nesham, on Loch Grian, had two and a quarter dozen trout aggregating 11lb. Immediate prospects good.—B.

Shin (Inveran, N.B.).—The following excellent sport has been got since last reported: On 22nd, Sir John D. Ferguson-Davie, Bart., of Creedy, Devonshire, had to his own rod four salmon, weighing 11lb., 12lb., 13lb., and 17lb. On 23rd, Mr. H. Ferguson-Davie landed two, of 10lb. and 11lb. On 24th, Sir John Ferguson-Davie caught a 10-pounder; and Mr. H. Ferguson-Davie, one of 11lb. On 25th, the former had one of 16lb., and the latter a 12-pounder. On 26th, Sir John landed two, weighing 11lb. and 13lb.; and on 27th, two, of 16lb. and 12lb. Total for the week, fifteen salmon, aggregating 200lb., an average of exactly 133lb. each.—B.

South of Scotland.—We are now experiencing fine summer weather in this district, and a continuance of the mild temperature for another week will give good sport to night fishers. The run of sea trout from the Solway has not been as strong as that recently reported, but a fine show of trout is certain to come on should the hot weather last for a fortnight. The trout are increasing in weight this week, and although the average is slightly under 2lb., many fine ones have been taken in the nets of double that weight. The rivers are getting low again, and are pretty clear to-day. The bright sunshine is against extra heavy baskets, but mild summer breezes for the past few days have helped anglers to lure some good fish to the fly. A number of rods have had fair sport with fine tackle and small sized Greenwell's Glory. Our district weather prophet foretells a storm of wind and rain for Friday. To-day (Wednesday) there are no indications of the predicted storm. The following are the reports from the rivers of this wide district: **THE ANNAN.**—Sea trout are ascending this river in fair numbers, but they have not begun to rest in the lower reaches yet. With the waters being in fine order, trout are running on the uppermost reaches of the river. In the Mount Annan water, on Friday, Mr. Pasley-Dirom's keeper killed four sea trout with fly, and several others have been taken in the same portion of the Annan. Professor Stansfield, Edinburgh, killed, with fly, a basket of 33lb. of yellow trout in the waters below Moffat, on Saturday. In Hoddum Castle water a number of sea trout have been accounted for with fly. One was taken in the Wamphray water with the clear water worm. A number of rods have had moderate baskets of yellow trout in all the different stretches. One rod took thirteen yellow trout below the Caul, at Annan Bridge, on Saturday, with worm. In the higher reaches some fair sport among burn trout is reported. **THE NITH.**—This river has been in fair ply. Sea trout are still shy in rising during the daytime, but several have been caught with the night fly. A moderate amount of sport has been obtained in the middle reaches. In the Mid-Nithsdale portion, at Thornhill, and lower down, several rods had fair baskets of yellow trout last week. The Cluden and Cairn are getting too low for day fishing, except with very small fly. The worm fished in the clear water style has given fair results. There are no notes from the Sanguhar portion this week. **THE GALLOWAY RIVERS.**—Fishing in the Urr of Dalbeattie last week, Mr. Gordon-Coutts killed a trout of 13lb.; Colonel Alexis, Firth Head, landed a very fine sea trout of 24lb. A number of other rods had small catches of yellow trout. Several visitors have been out on the lochs of the district. Dr. Paterson, Edinburgh, had a number of yellow trout on Lochinvar Loch. Mr. Sauer and two friends fished the same loch, and caught upwards of twenty. A good number of visitors are in the district fishing the streams and lochs. Mr. Bruce, Old Garroch, killed nine trout, weighing 3lb., on Loch Harrow. Mr. John Walls caught two dozen trout on the river Ken. The trout ran from 4lb. to 23lb. each. Two rods, fishing with worm on the Deuch, had three dozen, weighing 14lb. Mr. Walls killed a clean run spring salmon of 7lb. on the Deuch; and on Wednesday of last week Mr. J. Martin was successful in killing two spring salmon, scaling 6lb. each. These were taken in the Ken river above Allangibbon. Loch Ken, below New Galloway, has not, so far, afforded much sport to the rods. Not much has been done on the Gatehouse Fleet or the Kirkcudbrightshire Dee. **AYRSHIRE LOCHS AND RIVERS.**—With the prevailing fine weather the prospects of sport on the lochs are improving. Several rods have been out on Loch Doon. Mr. Graham, of Manchester, out in the Eglinton Hotel boat, killed eighteen trout on Loch Doon on Thursday; and on Saturday the same angler had twenty-four, all with fly. May is generally the best month for this loch, but the weather was far too bleak and cold. June is expected to give good sport on this free loch. The rivers of Ayrshire are not affording much sport this week, but some fair baskets were had during the floods on the Stinchar, the Garnoch, and some of the other waters about Kilmirrie. In the upper waters of the Clyde, Mr. J. Jackson, fly dresser, Dumfries, killed a basket of 13lb. of yellow trout the other day.—HEATHERBELL.

Spey.—Angling conditions, although improved meantime, would be much enhanced with a rainfall, as river is again becoming low. From the Knockando House water, on Monday, Mr. Shand, fisherman, landed a salmon of 16lb., and on Thursday, one of 12lb.; while, on the Laggan water, Col. Grant killed one of 7lb. on Monday. On the Carron House water, Sir Ford North killed one of 7lb. on Thursday; and from the Aberlour water, on Friday, Major Ashby had one of 143lb.—J. M.

Stromness (Mason's Arms Hotel).—From the Standing Stones Hotel, Stenness, Orkney, Mr. Putman fished the Loch of Stenness. May 23, had six trout,

6lb., heaviest 13lb.; on the 29th, had six trout, 7lb., heaviest 2lb.—J. M.

Tay.—The Tay is still in good ply, but getting a little low. The weather is now much warmer, and more suitable for fishing. Out from Stanley Hotel, on the 26th ult., Mr. Hoyt and Mr. G. Hoyt, New York, had two salmon, of 19lb. and 17lb. Several baskets of good trout have been taken on the Stanley Hotel water. Fishing on Cloichfoldich water, on 25th ult., Mr. McPherson had twelve trout, 83lb.; and on 27th ult., a salmon of 11lb. Mr. Dow, fishing the Free water at Perth, had 53lb. trout on Saturday.—A. A.

Tweed, Teviot, and other Border Streams.—All the rivers in the Border district have been running fair good volume during the past week, although they are now getting very low and clear, owing to the genial, summerlike weather we have had since the end of last week. Fly fishers are, therefore, now in their element, and many of the disciples of the gentle art have been out on all the streams around Kelso district. Varied results have, as a natural consequence, been the outcome of their endeavours; but, on the whole, takes have been very fair with fly, while not a few dishes have also been killed with the worm—clear water worm fishing. I may here state—and I do it with great regret—that one of the cleverest and most expert of our clear water worm and minnow anglers (Mr. John Thompson) head of the fishing tackle and rod making establishment of Redpath and Co., Kelso, died somewhat suddenly while away on a business journey to Edinburgh. His death took place this (Wednesday) morning. For many years he was the chosen representative of the Kelso Angling Association to the championship competition on Loch Leven, and was this year again unanimously reappointed to fill that position. Of those who have been most successful in getting baskets of trout since my last notes are the following: Mr. George Robson, 5lb.; Mr. J. Robertson, 8lb.; Mr. Robert Robertson, 6lb.; Mr. Wm. Shiell, 63lb.; Mr. Thos. Cairns, 43lb.; Mr. Charles Farquharson, 5lb., 6lb., 63lb., and 8lb. (all with fly); Mr. George Lees, jun., 33lb.; Mr. Adam Denholm, a similar weight; Mr. J. Hardy, 43lb. and 7lb.; and Mr. E. Bond, 53lb. and 63lb. All these baskets were got on the Tweed. A few takes were killed on the Teviot ranging from 2lb. up to 5lb. The trout are now getting into splendid condition, owing to being able to enjoy their natural food—the fly. So far as salmon angling is concerned there is little to report about. I believe that last week Capt. Key had a nice fish, and on one of the lower waters I am informed that Major Hunter, Anton's Hill, had three fish on one day to his own rod, all fresh run fish, and of good weight. On the Whitadder and other streams sport has been fair.—MAXWHEEL.

IRISH REPORTS.

Ballina (Imperial and Royal Hotels Private Waters, and Gortnorabney Hotel, Lough Conn).

—At last we are having good sport. Mr. J. Wetherell, of Northampton, killed twenty-eight trout during the week, the four largest averaged between 2lb. and 3lb.; on the 28th ult., he killed two salmon, one weighing 10lb. and the other 8lb. Mr. Terry had very bad luck, as he lost three salmon when almost ready for the net. Mr. Little made a few nice baskets of trout; the largest weighed 4lb. Mr. Henn, on the 31st, killed one salmon weighing 12lb. I can safely recommend anglers to pay us a visit, either at river or loch, as there is every prospect of sport.—MANAGER.

Ballina (Moy Hotel, Private Waters).—Weather fine, southerly winds, water in good order, plenty of fish in the river. Mr. W. C. Wilson got, on the 28th ult., one 14lb. on the private waters of the Moy. Mr. Schroop played three and lost them. On the whole, there were several fish taken, which shows a great improvement in the fishing since last report. Trout fishing on the lough has improved greatly; some nice baskets were got at Runagry.—JOHN DEVERES.

Bann.—This river has now cleared after the late floods, and has also fallen a few inches. Some capital sport has been had among the large trout for the past few days that are now rising at the Sedges close to the banks. The Kilrea reach is now well stocked with salmon, the high water having brought up all the spring fish from the Caronroe reach. On 28th ult. Mr. Ardale, Belfast, took the first two salmon of the season under the weir. These fish scaled 12lb. and 13lb. each.—DANIEL O'FEE.

Belfast.—The dams are in fair order at present, but the bright weather makes evening imperative on Wolf Hill dam, a private water. A local man had several fine trout, including a 33lb. fish. On Woodburn middle dam Capt. E. K. O. Ludlow, D.A.A.G., had considerable success, killing two dozen fish on one day. On Hyde Park dam, Mr. W. Hunter, Mr. Taylor, Dr. Law (Demerara), Mr. A. M. D. Caldwell, and other local gentlemen were out several evenings, killing from six to eight fish per rod. The weather is very warm.—J. A. B.

Blackwater (co. Cork).—Up till a few weeks ago the salmon fishing was the worst experienced for many years. The recent improvement will not compensate for previous bad fishing. One of the remedies suggested to improve the fishing is to grate off the smaller unprotected spawning rivers, so as to confine the salmon to the main river, which can be more effectually preserved. The upper water proprietors attribute the decline of the fisheries to over-netting at Lismore.—J. A. B.

Caragh Lake (Kerry).—There is again substantial proof that this lake holds some good trout. A fine specimen taken by Mr. Reid, on May 29, who is staying at the Southern Hotel, the fish weighed nearly 6lb.; also one of 13lb., and some smaller ones, same day. On May 25, Shade Dyer, a local boatman, caught two dozen and four. May 26, Mr. Busted caught one of 2lb. Owing to the brightness and heat trout are not rising

freely to the fly. Grilse are now seen running up the lower Caragh.—G. C.

Cork Rivers.—Sport has fallen away on all the above waters, owing chiefly to bright weather and clear and falling waters. In the late evenings, however, some average baskets of trout were had. Only a few salmon, even on the principal rivers, were got by anglers, and the prospects of better sport are not reassuring at time of writing. On the West Cork rivers trouting has seldom been better at this time.—T. J. D.

Corrib (Galway).—The river is settling down into fair order. Since last report the weather has become almost tropical, and fairly favourable to salmon angling. The first peal of the season was killed on the 20th ult. by Mr. Ritchie, and since then a couple of dozen were killed. Amongst the successful anglers were Commander Law, Mr. A. Jesson, Mr. Nathaniel Cohen, Mr. Lees-Knowles, M.P., Mr. Stowell, Mr. G. Mildon, and Mr. Goddard, all of whom had several fish. A lot of salmon passed through to Lough Corrib during the recent flood. The May Fly is rising steadily on Lough Corrib.—J. A. B.

Erne (Ballyshannon and Belleek).—The following are the particulars for the past week:—Capt. Curzon, 18th Hussars, took one salmon of 15lb. on 24th ult., and another of 14½lb. on 26th ult. Mr. J. Thomson took one salmon of 13lb. on 27th ult.; and Sir William Williams took three salmon on 25th, 27th, and 30th ult., of 15lb., 14lb., and 10½lb. respectively. A lot of fine trout were again taken by Mr. E. A. Ralli during the past week. Weights: on 24th ult. four trout, of 5lb., 4lb., 3½lb., and 2lb.; on 25th ult., two trout, of 6½lb. and 4lb.; on 26th ult., four trout, of 5½lb., 4lb., 2½lb., and 2½lb.; and on 27th ult. two trout, 2½lb. and 1½lb. The above were all splendid trout, and in fine condition. Mr. C. C. Ralli took one magnificent trout weighing 4lb. on 27th ult., and Mr. W. H. Wood took another of 5½lb., and Mr. James Condon, one of 4lb. Mr. T. M. Pike and Mr. G. Antonini also took a number of trout since last report. Capt. Leo Moore and Capt. Wilding, and Mr. Frank Crawford and Mr. A. Crawford, took several trout during the past week, weighing from 1½lb. to 2lb. Up to time of writing, trout on Loughs Erne and Melvin have not begun to take the May Fly well, although the fly is up in quantities since 27th ult. Intending visitors will be in time for the best of the May Fly fishing from about 4th inst. A good time is anticipated with the May Fly, as the weather is favourable for it at present.—M. ROGAN AND SONS.

Kerry Rivers.—There has been a general falling off in sport since last report. Salmon have not risen well to the fly. In fact, on most it was quite useless to fish for them at any time. Trouting, as far as brown trout are concerned, has been fair all round, but the details of the sea trout fishing show very poor sport.—T. J. D.

Killarney.—Sport has been fairly good on the lakes at brown trout, but poor at salmon on lake and river. The prospects for the next few days are not reassuring, as the weather is getting hotter and the waters falling rapidly. On the mountain lakes sport at small brown trout continues fair.—T. J. D.

Lough Currane (Waterville, co. Kerry).—Sport has been very good among brown trout since last report, the best baskets being had in the late evenings. Only a few sea trout have been had, and no salmon; but the weather has not been favourable, and only a few anglers have been out either after salmon or sea trout.—T. J. D.

Lough Mask and Corrib.—The following anglers have been fishing from Mount Gable Hotel, Clonbur, and are having excellent sport: Major and Mrs. Ferguson, Messrs. Alington, McCausland, McNab, Houghton, Corder, Drake, and Hopkins. On the 29th ult., the party landed sixty-nine trout, weighing together over 80lb., or 1½lb. average each, all taken on the fly. On 30th ult., same party landed fifty-two trout, weighing 63lb. (largest 3½lb.). Lakes in grand order for fishing. May Fly in full swing on Lough Mask.—J. A. J.

Lough Melvin.—The following are the particulars for the past week: Mr. K. W. took one salmon of 7½lb. on May 25; Mr. H. Gallager took a trout (*Salmo ferax*) of 6lb. on same day; Mr. James Knox took one salmon of 8lb. on 26th; Mr. E. Mulhern took a grilse of 5½lb. on 29th; Mr. J. G. Henderson took one salmon of 10lb. on same day; Mr. M. C. Mullen took two trout (*Salmo ferax*), of 4½lb. and 2½lb., on 30th. Trout fishing was rather poor on this lake during the past week, and trout did not rise well to the fly on any day since last report in consequence of north-east wind, which has prevailed most of the time. Still, some baskets of brown trout were taken and some gillaroos by the anglers out from Scott's Hotel, Garrison, and from Belleek, Bndoran, Ballyshannon, &c.; heaviest basket of trout taken weighing 9½lb., and containing sixteen fish, by Mr. J. Wright.—M. ROGAN AND SONS.

Lough Melvin (Lower Reaches, Kinlough End).—Bright, warm weather, with north-easterly winds, prevailed during past week. Amongst the trout, the catches of fly anglers averaged about one and half dozen per rod per day. Some nice trout were also had troling, from 1lb. to 3lb., by Mr. Loverock and Mr. Crofton, Dublin. Fair sport was had by salmon anglers. Mr. Martin, England, had one of 8lb.; Mr. Armstrong, one of 9½lb.; Mr. Palmer landed one of 11lb. Mr. Crofton, after thirty minutes' play, lost a very weighty fish on 24th ult. Some rain is needed to improve sport.—P. GALLAGHER.

Lough Neagh.—Pollen fishing continues good; also trout netting. Since the weather improved trout fishing has greatly improved on the tributaries.—J. A. B.

Lough Sheelin.—The fly is rising well on Lough Sheelin, and dapping will be in full swing ere these lines are in print. This famous water lies principally in County Cavan, which forms its north-east and western shores, whilst Westmeath forms its southern boundary. The

lough measures eight miles in length by four and a half in width, and, from its position, is well sheltered. Fishing is all done from boats, and the rod commonly used is a 16ft. one. The trout, which are good risers and very game on the line, run from 3lb. to 8lb. and 9lb., and heavier fish are not uncommon. Mountnugent on the Cavan side, and Finae on the Westmeath shore, are the favourite stations. Heavy pike, perch, and bream also frequent its waters. "Dappers" will find Lough Sheelin worth a visit.—J. A. B.

Mountain Lakes (Waterville, co. Kerry).—Sport at brown trout has fallen away on the above waters, but still fair baskets have been had. The outlook for the next few days is not good on any of the above waters, as all are falling, and now require refreshing.—T. J. D.

Moy, Loughs Conn and Cullen (Ballina, co. Mayo).—Summer weather at last here. Sport has improved a little. Mr. Hellis and son, one salmon, 13½lb., in the Rock Pool; Dr. Westing, one salmon, 11lb., in the Ash Tree Pool; Capt. Powden, two salmon, 9lb., 10½lb., in the Ridge Pool; Mr. G. Fenlen lost three in the Spring Well Pool. A good number of boats on the lough daily, but sport poor. Few salmon were taken trolling. Mr. C. Simmons took an 8lb. trout on a Black Goshawk salmon fly. Few jack were taken by Mr. and Mrs. Standfield, largest 19½lb. May Flies in small quantities on the loughs.—PAT HEARNES.

Shannon and Lough Derg (Killaloe).—The lake fishing has been greatly knocked about by high water, dead calms, and bright sun. Still, a good many very fine trout have been landed this week, notably four, weighing 12lb., taken by an English visitor. Mr. A. P. Thornley, of Birmingham, has creeled several brown trout up to 2½lb. and 3lb. To-day (Wednesday) he killed before lunch, on the river, a bright grilse of 6½lb. This morning another English rod got two grilse; and yesterday a salmon of 14lb. and two grilse were captured. We shall certainly have a good grilse season, as the recent high water will have brought up quantities of the shining beauties.—S. J. HURLEY.

Shannon (Castleconnell).—Weather very bright and hot, water pretty high; the peal have already begun to arrive, but the main body of these fish have not yet left the salt water. On Doonas, Mr. G. C. Williams killed one salmon, 12lb., on 25th ult. On Prospect, the fisherman killed one salmon, 10lb., on 26th. On Newgarden, Mr. Astley, Craswick, killed one salmon, 15½lb., on 25th, and one salmon, 7lb., on 27th. On Hermitage, Lord Massy killed one salmon, 10lb., on 23rd; one salmon, 9½lb., on 24th; and one salmon, 7½lb., on 25th. On the Castle fishery, Mrs. Ingham killed one peal, 6½lb., on 23rd. On the same fishery, Mr. J. L. Ingham killed one salmon, 37½lb., on 29th; and Mr. T. Brooke one salmon, 14½lb., on 29th.—JOHN ENRIGHT AND SON.

Tyrone Rivers.—The Blackwater and Ballinderry have toned down into excellent form for fly fishing. On the latter stream, Kempton, Mancelly, Mr. MacKenzie, &c., picked up several good trout. The natural fly fishing will soon be on. From the Mourne I hear of fair success by trout fishers.—J. A. B.

Upper Lakes (Waterville, co. Kerry).—Only a few anglers have been out, and sport was far behind the usual standard at brown trout, and no sea trout were taken. Sea trout fishing rarely gives any sport before June is well advanced.—T. J. D.

Westmeath Lakes (Mullingar).—In my recollections of dapping seasons on these lakes I have never experienced the weather so uncertain and unsatisfactory, and so will say the host of anglers who have visited them this season. Storms of hail, rain, &c., thunder and lightning of unusual severity, frosts at night sometimes, and all followed now—when the three great lakes are at their best—by a succession of almost perfectly calm bright days, is enough to try the temper of the veriest saint on earth. Some anglers were fairly lucky; most others singularly unfortunate, the best basket seen being eight fish, weighing 25lb. (two rods), my own best being four fish, 12lb. (two rods). The dapping is at its best just now, and we only require good fresh breezes to ensure sport. The lakes, it is admitted on all sides, teem with fish, and many tourist anglers are patiently waiting for the turn of the tide.—T. J. W.

Reports from Clubs

We beg to remind Secretaries that their Reports must reach us not later than **SIX o'clock on Thursday Evening.** Address "Editor, FISHING GAZETTE, St. Dunstan's House, Fetter-Lane, London," marked "CLUB REPORT" outside envelope.

Anglers' Association.—The renting and preservation committee meeting will take place on Monday evening, June 5, at 8.30, at the Cripplegate Institute, Golden-lane, Barbican.—R. GHURNEY.

Anglers' Benevolent Society.—Since my last report I beg to acknowledge with thanks the receipt of 18s. 1d. from the (late) Sociable Brothers' donation box per W. H. Shead, £12s. 3d. Dalston donation box, and 10s. G. H. Field, annual subscription for 1898-9. At the last committee meeting two applications were entertained, and £10 voted. The next committee meeting will take place on Friday, June 9, at 8.30.—R. GHURNEY.

Anglers' Association (No. 1 EASTERN DISTRICT) Visiting List.—The next return visit will be to the Good Intent, the Crown, Church-street, Shoreditch, on Monday next, June 5, when I hope to see a good attendance from all clubs on the above-named district.—G. MANNING.

Albion Brothers' Angling Society. The Frampton Arms, Well-street, Hackney.—We had a very well-attended meeting on May 31. We are making new members fast, three being made and two more nominated this week, making fourteen within the month. Our secretary drew up the balance-sheet for this quarter, which shows the club to be in a good financial position. Members please note prizes are to be paid in next week.—C. J. K.

Allason United Brothers' Angling Society. Duke of Sussex, Uxbridge-street, Notting Hill Gate, W.—The business transacted on May 30 was kept up till 11.45 p.m. Our pegged-down match on June 25 was gone into and prizes arranged. J. Abbott, the member who has the silver challenge cup in hand, made the usual conditions, which G. Baker helped. Onr A.B. grand smoking concert, which takes place on June 7, promises to be a gigantic success; J. W. Harris, Western district visiting officer, occupies the chair. All brother anglers will receive a hearty welcome. Our prize list promises to be a record. Mr. E. Buxton, Nead, offers 20s. worth of tackle; he also transfers from hon. to working member; Mr. C. Wells, 10s. 6d. for specimen bream; and 21s. per G. Barlow; G. Pronen, an aquarium; over fifty prizes. Two more workers added, viz., A. Osborne and H. Green.—BEN ABRAHAM.

Alma Angling Society. Coach and Horses, Portsmouth-place, Lincoln's Inn Fields.—On May 30 a general meeting was held, to revise the rules and other important business. Messrs. J. Drew, jun., Brandon, and Gardner have been elected working members. I should like to hear from all members requiring privilege tickets.—J. CHAMBERS.

Amicable Waltonian Angling Society. The Fox and French Horn, Clerkenwell Green.—At the weekly meeting of the above, on May 31, the adjourned meeting was resumed, and some important business proceeded with, and final arrangements made for the annual dinner. The election of officers next took place, and the whole of the officers, being good and tried servants, were unanimously elected.—G. MERRY.

Battersea Friendly Angling Society. Queen's Hotel, Queen's-road, Battersea, S.W.—Our first match of the season takes place on June 25, at Amberley, from the park gates to Timberley Bridge; tow-path only. To go down on the morning; trains, 8.27 Clapham Junction; return by 7.14 from Amberley. Will members send their names in at once for privilege tickets?—A. JENKINS.

Bermondsey Brothers' Angling Society. Woolpack Bermondsey-street, S.E.—The twenty-third annual dinner and distribution of prizes of the above society took place on May 30, at the clubhouse, Mr. H. O. Hinton (president) in the chair. Upwards of forty members and friends sat down to a capital repast, placed on the table by host Mr. G. H. Shepherd in his usual bountiful style. Nearly every member of the society had proved themselves successful during the past season, and received their usual reward in prizes, the first three being as follows: Mr. J. Hobbs, first gross weight 252lb. 14½oz., gross weight of 11lb. roach and upwards, and three monthly prizes, he having called the scales into requisition twenty-two times, with an average of 11lb. 15oz. for each time of using them; Host G. H. Shepherd, second gross weight of all fish 238lb. 4oz., and three specimen prizes, pike 14lb., chub 3½lb., and perch 1½lb., he having only weighed in nine times, with an average of 25½lb. for each time. Mr. J. Martin third gross weight, 99½lb., and two monthly prizes, his average for each weigh-in being 5½lb. Thirteen other members also won prizes, from six monthly and one specimen, by Mr. J. Wigley, down to one by Mr. J. Walker, the total gross weight of fish weighed-in during the season being just under 1000lb., including several good specimens, amongst them being 53lb. of roach of over 1lb. each, the best being taken by Mr. J. Smith from Amberley, 11lb. 14½oz. A most enjoyable evening was spent, some capital songs being rendered by Messrs. W. Musgrave, jun., G. Roberts, J. Horton, J. Heath, W. Morton, J. Hobbs, and others. Upwards of £30 was promised in prizes for the coming season. This society has a vacancy for a few new members.—ALF CONN.

Blackfriars Angling Society. The Imperial, Southwark-street, S.E.—Our club meeting on Wednesday was well represented by nearly all members. Mr. Lincoln was unanimously elected a working member. The members of the Blackfriars wish to thank the Bermondsey Brothers' for their kind and generous invite to their dinner, of which they speak volumes. Everyone enjoyed themselves thoroughly, and had a capital dinner. I should like all members to know that we have a minute on our book that all members and intending candidates to our society will be expected to be enrolled on the Anglers' Benevolent. I may say we have already twenty names down.—J. WHEELHOUSE.

Brunswick Brothers' Angling Society. Cherry Tree, Brunswick-road, Bromley-by-Bow, E.—Our annual dinner and prize distribution takes place on Tuesday next, when I hope all members will show up in full force, and bring their friends. The musical arrangements will be good.—F. RANDALL.

Bungay Chancer Angling Society.—The annual general meeting of the above society was held on Friday, May 26, at the headquarters, Cherry Tree Inn, Bungay. The balance-sheet showed that the society is in a fairly flourishing condition, and, with an increase in number of members, should have a very successful season. The length of pike was dropped from 22in. to 20in.; roach remaining the same, 5in.; perch, 7in.; dace, 6in. Several prizes were offered for specimen fish.—F. PRESTON.

Cambridge Heath Brothers' Angling Society. The Good Intent, Mowlem-street, Bishop's-road, Cambridge Heath.—On May 28 Mr. R. J. Anderson scored again with trout from the Lea, but of a smaller growth than the last one, this one weighing 11lb. 12½oz. The

annual general meeting will take place on June 13, when all members are summoned to attend.—P. E. LOFT.

Camden Angling Society, The Locomotive, James-street, High-street, Camden Town, N.W.—Members are reminded that we fall in at 7.30 on the 7th. Mr. Burton showed a few flat fish on 28th ult.—R. M.

Central Association of London Angling Clubs.—The usual monthly meeting will take place at the Bedford Head Hotel, Maiden-lane, Covent Garden, on Monday evening, 5th inst., at 8.30 p.m.

Clapham Junction Angling Society. The Clarence, Winstanley-road, Clapham Junction, S.W.—Our first day's outing will take place at Amberley on June 18, for club prizes. Messrs. Wm. Montagu, H. Pegg, and H. Runnagar have added prizes to our new list. I shall esteem it a favour if members will forward on their names, &c., for new privilege tickets, as the list must be sent in as soon as possible. We have made three more new members.—G. T. JAMESON.

Clapham Strollers' Angling Society, Alexandra Hotel, Clapham Common, S.W.—Our prize distribution took place on May 30, and a goodly attendance witnessed some very handsome prizes distributed. Mr. F. Monks and Mr. W. Wallis headed the list with four prizes each, whilst amongst numerous other winners were H. Crowther (who has weighed in the heaviest barbel), E. A. Down, Ben Lawrence, J. Pasmore, W. Sandle, J. Pratt, A. Cave, &c. New members are being elected fast, and I shall be glad to see a big attendance next Tuesday, to finally arrange special business.—S. VIOLET.

Cobden Angling Society, Kensal-road, W.—Will members kindly oblige by giving in their names for the new privilege tickets, as the time is drawing very close now? Next Tuesday night will be the latest for the opening season.—T. TWYMAN.

Cosy Angling Society, The Plough, Rochester-row, Westminster.—The annual concert and distribution took place on May 31, when several good songs were rendered. The prize winners were as follows: C. Eves, J. Wyatt, J. White, A. Benham, W. Payne, A. George, and H. Sheekey. Several prizes that were not taken will be fished for during the ensuing season.—J. WHITE.

Crown and Buckland Piscatorial Society, Middlesex Arms, 35, Clerkenwell-green, E.C.—Our concert and distribution took place on May 31, and was a great success; Mr. J. Knight took the chair. The principal winners were Messrs. H. Haines, eight, including the gross weight 185lb.; W. Long was a good second with

158lb., taking seven, including Mr. Elsmore's prize for the largest roach with a fine specimen of 2lb. 3oz.; Norris, six; Leadbeater, five; C. Walter, four; G. Franklin, B. Richardson, C. Glover, and H. Wright were also in the swim. We start the ensuing season with a very good list, which, no doubt, will be considerably added to at our annual dinner on June 11. During the evening the A.B. box was passed round, and a bit more collected to swell the funds of that grand institution. W. J. Long's two specimen roach have been added to our collection, and a splendid addition they make.—G. H. FRANKLIN.

Dalston Angling Society, Brownlow Arms, Brownlow-street, Dalston.—On May 30 we had a very good attendance; some important business was transacted. One new member was proposed. The final arrangements were made for our outing on June 4. Members please attend next Tuesday to arrange season's prizes.—S. MALBY.

Dibdin Angling Society, St. Martin's Tavern, Pratt-street, N.W.—Wednesday's meeting very quiet; nothing of any great importance done except to make some more members join the A.B.S.—JOHNNY EDWARDS.

Elgin Angling Society, Blenheim Arms, Blenheim-crescent, Notting-hill, W.—We made two new members at our last meeting—Mr. W. Day and Mr. S. Down. Our first outing of the season is to Rickmansworth, by brakes, on June 25. Brakes to start from clubhouse twelve o'clock Saturday midnight. A money prize is offered to any visitor taking the most fish, and as the water at Rickmansworth is public, non-club members can compete. Will visitors give their names in by Tuesday next, June 6?—G. KING.

Globe Angling Society, Earl Russell, Isledon-road, N.—June 5 will be quarter night. All members are requested to attend and clear up arrears in contributions.—W. LAWRENCE.

BE KIND TO THE LITTLE ONES.—There is no tyranny so hard to bear as the tyranny of parents who, without meaning to be cruel, do not understand their children. How continually do we find a child punished simply because it is fretful. It does not seem to occur to some parents that in nine cases out of ten a child's fretfulness arises from ill-health or from some temporary ailment. But this is assuredly true, and, instead of punishing their children, parents will do well to take steps to keep them healthy and strong. They will not find this difficult if they take care to keep Holloway's Pills and Ointment always by them. These are remedies which never fail.

Golden Barbel Angling Society, Sir Isaac Newton, Union-street, Middlesex Hospital.—Will members requiring privilege tickets attend next Tuesday and order same, as we send the list in, also A.B. tickets? We made two new members, also booked several more prizes. *Fishing Gazette* can be seen Friday night, as Mr. King is having it sent direct, as an inducement for members to come and see him sometimes.—A. W. ELLINS.

Good Intent Angling Society, The Crown, Church-street, Shoreditch.—Our return visit (No 1 Eastern District) takes place on Monday next, June 5, and our prizes will be given up on Tuesday, June 13.—R. MURPHY.

Great Northern Brothers Angling Society, Robin Hood, Southampton-street, Pentonville.—The next Clerkenwell and District visit will be paid to the above society on Monday, June 12.—J. A. FITCH.

Harcourt Angling Society, Harcourt Arms, Harcourt-street, Marylebone.—We had a very good meeting on Monday last, when we made another member. There is several more to come yet, I believe. I hope the secretaries of the angling societies will take notice of our change of meeting night from Monday to Thursday, on and after June 8. I hope our snapper next Monday night will be a great success, and we shall be pleased to see any friends after the supper.—A. E. PAYNE.

Hearts of Oak Angling Society, Ye Olde Crown, Brick-lane, Bethnal Green.—Our annual snapper was held at the above house on May 29, and Mr. W. Wright, of the Greengate Coffee-rooms, Bethnal Green Road, was caterer for the supper, and gave very great satisfaction, and a most enjoyable evening was spent. The following gentlemen contributed towards the harmony of the evening: Mr. S. Grisle, Mr. J. Durell, Mr. E. Willis, Mr. H. Bagshaw, Mr. Callent, Mr. B. Jones, Mr. W. Ford, Mr. C. Russell, Mr. Moore, Mr. Jeffries, Mr. S. Robinson, Mr. C. Lee, Mrs. Proster, Mr. Smith, Mr. Edwards. On Monday, June 5, our distribution of prizes takes place.—C. SMITH.

Hoxton Brothers' Angling Society, Spread Eagle, Kingsland-road, Shoreditch.—The annual dinner of the above society will take place on June 11, at the Bull Inn, Ware. Two new members were proposed on the 25th ult.—Messrs. Cohen and Read.—JOHNNY.

Islington Brothers' Angling Society, Myddleton Arms, Canonbury-road.—Our distribution of prizes on May 30 went off very well. Our worthy host distributed the prizes to the various winners. The following ladies and gentlemen contributed to the harmony: Mr. Wade

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Anglers holding Privilege Tickets from the Anglers' or Central Associations are eligible for membership. Annual Subscription, 1s. 1d.; Life Members, £1 1s.

The Committee meet on the Second and Fourth Fridays in each Month.

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Izaak Walton Angling Society, Old King John's-road, Mansfield-street, Kingsland-road.—The distribution of annual and special prizes will take place on June 7, on which occasion the members will have a supper. Those who intend being present at the supper kindly send in their names not later than June 4. Supper will be served at 8.30 precisely. A series of special prizes will be competed for on June 18th inst and Wednesday 21st. Particulars will be announced later.—H. B.

Jubilee Angling Society, Prince Arthur, Golborne-road, North Kensington.—I hope members will note that our distribution and concert for the benefit of the A.B.S. takes place on Monday next, June 5. Will members who have kindly promised prizes leave them at the clubhouse on the evening of 4th inst. if possible?—G. BENEC.

Leyton-tone Piscatorial Society, 76, Devonshire-road, Stratford, E.—Will members in arrears kindly clear the books at once, as no privilege tickets will be issued to those who have not done so by the 15th inst. We have appointed two new working members in Messrs. Leiner and Hellberg.—UNCLE BILL.

Lincoln Angling Society, Metropolitan, Winchester-street, Pentonville-road, N.—On Wednesday last we had a good muster of members. A lot of business was got through. Mr. Nelson was re-elected chairman for season; W. Watling, secretary; Messrs. Johnson and Richards, auditors; Messrs. Manly and Watling, delegates to the Central Association; Mr. Johnson, scullerman. Our first outing of the season will take place at Pulborough on June 18; particulars later.—W. WATLING.

Liverpool Angling Association, Bee Hive, Queen-square.—There has been a marvellous change in the weather, and the angler can now go forth and wander by the side of his favorite stream and enjoy nature at her very best. Trout have been sporting better, and some fine takes have been had from the Dee, Carrogway. The Rivington reservoirs have also been yielding some very fair fish, and a few taken from Pen-y-Cae. We should soon hear something of the May Fly. Most likely in about a fortnight, and then, of course, for a week or so matters will be lively, and we may expect to hear of some exceptionally heavy fish being creeled.—RD. WOOLFALL.

Lychnobite Angling Society, Ben Jouson, Shoe-lane, E.C.—From Champion concert receipts sums have been voted to Printers' Pension Fund and Caxton Convalescent Home. Remainder will be included in proceeds of a printer's benefit concert, to take place at headquarters on June 24. Will ticket-holders please settle by that date? Next competition, Leigh-on-Sea, June 10 and 11. Summer dinner and competition, Hertford, July 15.—SID RANSOM.

North East Brothers' Angling Society, Star and Garter, Green-street, Bethnal Green.—Our first meeting took place on May 31, and we had a very good attendance, but not so well as it should be, and it would be better if members attended a little more often. All members wishing for their privilege tickets kindly call next week and give in their address to the sec. Our annual dinner was a great success, there being about eighty at dinner. There was Mr. J. Thornton one end of the table and Mr. C. Lamb, sen., at the other, and between the two we landed some very nice prizes to fish for.—G. TAYLOR.

Original Alexandra Angling Society, The Lamb, Three Colts-lane, opposite Bethnal Green Junction.—Our dinner takes place on June 4, at Burnham-on-Crouch. A saloon carriage will be provided for members; train leaves Bethnal Green Junction at 9.31 a.m.—G. BARRS.

Ormonde Angling Society, The Rose, Saville-place, Lambeth-road, S.E.—Notice.—This society having removed to their new abode on Tuesday, May 30, the occasion was marked by a concert on behalf of the T.A.P.S., and was most heartily responded to. The harmony was ably assisted by members of the Camden, Collingwood, Walworth Waltonians, Jolly Butchers, and our old friends Bert Smith and Lu Maxwell, comedians and dancers, and a host of others. Mr. W. Ford, of the Collingwood, spoke admirably in favour of the T.A.P.S. After a most enjoyable evening the harmony closed with Host W. King proposing a vote of thanks to the entertainers. In future please address all communications to above address. Will all members attend next Tuesday, as we have important business to settle?—A. HOLBROW.

Park Angling Society, Park Hotel, Park-lane, Tottenham.—The annual supper and distribution of prizes of the above society will take place on June 10. Mr. H. Hancock will take the chair on this occasion.—W. S.

Phoenix Angling Society, The Tavistock, Stibington-street, N.W.—On May 31 we made two new members, Messrs. Meyer and Hartridge. As the season is drawing near, will members please turn up strong next week to name their association ticket, book seats for brake outing, &c., which is on June 25, to King's Langley?—R. C.

Royal George Angling Society, Queen's Arms, Bateman-street.—At our last meeting we were fairly represented, and got through a deal of business. Mr. F. J. Pain was proposed as a working member, and will be balloted for next meeting night. Will members please note that a general meeting is called for June 7, and we hope to see every member present? At our last meeting a hearty vote of thanks was passed to all past officers.—J. GIBSON.

St. Thomas's Angling Society, Spread Eagle, Stangate-street, Lambeth, S.E.—We take our annual outing and dinner on June 4, at the White Hart Hotel, Arundel. Will members and friends meet at London

Bridge 7.45? Mr. Wink has rejoined as working member. Will gentlemen who have promised prizes send on same to club.—G. GEORGE.

Silver Trout Angling Society, Bedford Head, Maiden-lane.—Our annual dinner and distribution of prizes took place at the Hop Pole, Wardour-street, and was a great success. Mr. Abrahams took first club prize; Mr. R. Smith, the Emden cup; Messrs. Williams, Woolhou, Clark, Duckworth, and Fletcher took two prizes each. Messrs. Lovejoy, Williams, Pettit, and Clark contributed to the musical success. June 6 is quarterly night and election of officers. A good muster is requested. Hon. members' subscriptions are now due, and the new privilege tickets are ready.—PELICAN.

South Bermondsey Piscatorials Institute, Rotherhithe New-road, S.E.—I beg to remind the members of the above that on June 4 next we have to meet at Mr. W. Fawcett's house, 82, Lower-road, Rotherhithe, at 12.30 sharp, for the group photo. Also the time is drawing near for the renewal of central tickets. I may also inform them I have some competition tickets for June 18, which takes place at Pulborough, and should any member neglect to take up his privilege before that date he will not be entitled to participate in the competition.

Sundial Angling Society, Plough and Harrow, King-street, Hammersmith.—Members are requested to take notice that next Tuesday, June 6, will be a special general meeting to consider recommendation from committee to alter rules of the society.—G. E. LOCK.

Walham Green and Chelsea Angling Society, Black Bull, Fulham-road, S.W.—We had a good meeting at our last meeting (Mr. Daffield in the chair). We made two new members—Messrs. Fieldhouse and Spenger. I hope all who can will attend next week and give in their names for their privilege tickets. We have had the misfortune to lose by death our old member Frank Dixon, known to all London anglers as a true sportsman. He was buried on Tuesday last in Fulham Cemetery.—TIDLER.

Walworth Waltonians Angling Society, St. Paul's Tavern, Westmoreland-road, Walworth, S.E.—We had a very successful smoking concert this evening, although several stayed away on account of the Derby. Our old friend, "Sir Billee Taylor," presided, and our best thanks are due to him and the long list of friends who contributed towards the success of the evening.—W. WRAY.

West Ham Brothers' Angling Society, Coach and Horses, The Grove, Stratford.—I hope our members will not forget our match on June 18, at Hatfield Peverel, for five prizes. All to go down with the last train on the Saturday night; that leaves Stratford Station at 12 p.m.—R. LOWTHER.

West London Angling Club, Dartmouth Castle, Hammersmith.—At our annual general meeting Mr. W. H. Elmore was unanimously re-elected president of the club, the retiring officers being also re-elected. Members and friends are requested to attend the clubhouse at 7.36 sharp at our dinner on June 8. Our host has promised a first class menu, and a good programme has been arranged for the evening's entertainment.—J. J. HUNTER.

White Hart Angling Society, The White Hart, Tottenham Hale, N.—On May 31 we held our annual general committee meeting. The following officers were re-elected and elected for the ensuing season: Chairman, W. Butler; vice-chairman, A. Langton; hon. sec. and treasurer, W. E. Beaumont; clerk of sales, W. F. Bastock; committee, F. H. Beaumont, W. Bragg, H. Walton, and D. Knights. Will members kindly attend next meeting night on important business.—W. F. BEAUMONT.

Wimbledon Piscatorials, 28, Alexandra-road.—At the last meeting of this society it was decided to offer a silver cup, and three sums of money for second, third, and fourth prizes to be competed for this season, the highest score in three competitions to decide the winner. Former winners are handicapped to the extent of one-third of their takes. Several new members have joined already this season, and the special prize list bids fair to exceed even the large dimensions it assumed in 1898.—S. PESKETT.

Woolwich Invicta Angling Society, Golden Marine, Francis-street, Woolwich.—The above club held their annual meeting on May 25, when there was a good attendance. There were several new members made, and we are going on in a flourishing condition. The following officers were elected: President, Mr. W. Woodford; chairman, G. Rowleson; secretary, W. Goldsworthy. The first outing will take place to Yalding on June 18. Members please note summoned meeting on Thursday, June 8, at 7.30.—W. GOLDSWORTHY.

Ye Olde Clapham Rovers' Angling Club, The Windmill, Clapham Park-road.—Many thanks to Mr. Wade's lantern lecture, it having woke Clapham anglers up, as we have several more applications to become members. As our annual supper and distribution takes place on June 6, to follow supper, we have a select concert, and, having secured some good talent, we hope to see a full room.—N. LINDEN.

LONGLEY'S HOLIDAY GUIDES FOR 1899 are, if possible, better than ever. Written from the publisher's actual observation, beautifully illustrated (many with maps or plans), and thoroughly up to date, they are, indeed, wonderful value for a penny, and as George Augustus Sala (no mean authority) justly wrote, notwithstanding their cheapness, "could scarcely be equalled in their handiness and conciseness." They are sixty-seven in number, and cover most parts of the Three Kingdoms, besides several Continental resorts, and a specimen copy, with full list, will be sent on receipt of three half-penny stamps, by Mr. Longley, 39, Warwick-lane, E.C.

Angling Fixtures.

June 4.

Dalston: Annual dinner.
Original Alexandra: Annual dinner.
Royal Oak: Annual dinner.
St. Thomas: Annual dinner.

June 5.

Central Association: Delegate meeting.
Clerkenwell and District Visiting List: Smoking concert at the Empress, St. John Street-road.
Good Intent: Visit.
Harcourt: Annual dinner and distribution.
Hearts of Oak: Annual dinner.
Jubilee: A.B.S. concert and distribution.
Nottingham Wellington: Annual dinner.

June 6.

Brunswick Brothers: Dinner and distribution.
Elgin: Distribution.
Victoria Brothers: Visit.
Ye Olde Clapham Rovers: Supper and distribution.

June 7.

Allason United: A.B.S. concert.
Camden: Supper.
Duke of Norfolk: Annual dinner.
Greenwich: Annual dinner and distribution.
Izaak Walton: Distribution and supper.
Stratford: Supper.

June 8.

New Albion Piscatorial Society: Annual dinner.
West London: Annual dinner.

June 10.

Park: Snapper and distribution.

June 11.—Crown and Buckland: Annual dinner.

" 11.—Horton Brothers: Annual dinner.
" 11.—Lychnobite: Leigh-on-Sea competition.
" 12.—Great Northern Brothers: Visit.
" 13.—Good Intent: Distribution.
" 13.—Gresham: Lantern lecture by "Straw Hat."
" 16.—Dalston: Dinner and distribution.
" 16.—Opening of coarse fishing season.
" 18.—Clapham Junction: Outing to Amberley.
" 18.—Dibdin: Outing.
" 18.—Izaak Walton: Prize outing.
" 18.—Lincoln: Outing to Pulborough.
" 18.—South Bermondsey: Competition at Pulborough.
" 18.—West Ham Brothers: Match.
" 18.—Woolwich: Outing to Yalding.
" 21.—Brompton: Annual dinner.
" 21.—Izaak Walton: Prize outing.
" 24.—Lychnobite: Benefit concert.
" 25.—Allason United: Pegged-down match.
" 25.—Battersea Friendly: Match at Amberley.
" 25.—Elgin: Brake outing.
" 25.—Phoenix: Brake outing.

CLAPHAM STROLLERS' ANNUAL DINNER.

THE annual dinner of this progressive society took place recently, an account of which was received, but unfortunately appears to have gone astray. Mr. Violet, the indefatigable hon. sec., kindly sends us the following short *resumé* of the proceedings:

The fourth annual dinner and concert of the above society took place at the Alexandra Hotel, Clapham, Common, when over fifty members and friends sat round the festive board. The chair was most genialy filled by Mr. Welch, faced by Mr. W. Baldwin as vice. B. G. Boddy, with marked ability, accompanied on the piano-forte the many songs; whilst Mr. Alfred Cave, as musical conductor and stage-manager, introduced in rapid succession the various *artistes* appearing on the lengthy, interesting programme. The hon. treasurer, Mr. E. A. Downs, his handsome features wreathed with smiles, was busy receiving donations towards the season's prize list; and the hard-worked secretary, Mr. S. Violet, was "all there," looking after the comfort of his numerous guests. Mr. A. W. Crow, jun., the energetic son of the Alexandra's host, threw his whole heart into catering for the evening's entertainment, with the happy result that a capital spread, under his immediate supervision, was thoroughly enjoyed, and a very pleasant and long evening was spent. At the outset the chairman announced that "speeches few in number, brief, and to the point" was the order of the evening. The usual loyal toasts having been duly honoured, Mr. Tover, in a telling speech, proposed the toast of the evening, "The success of the Clapham Strollers' Angling Society."

Mr. S. Violet responding said that at the present time they numbered thirty active and six honorary members. The past year had been the most successful year of their existence, both as to the value of the prizes and the quantity of fish weighed-in, and he anticipated a very promising future for the society. He would at all times be delighted to give would-be members every information respecting the working of the society. He wound up a capital speech by announcing that a sum of over £20 had been promised by the company towards the prizes to be won during the ensuing year.

Mr. Wade, secretary of the Central Association, in proposing the health of the vice-chairman, highly eulogised the *Clapham Observer* for the interest it took in all that affects the pleasures of the public. He was proud of the Clapham Strolling Anglers—they were true sportsmen and whilst successful in their catches they were also most liberal in their subscriptions to the parent society to enable them to stock the waters in which they fished. He had no doubt whatever but that the society would go on and prosper.

Doings by the Way.

"DEAR 'DRAG,'—Is the May Fly up? None have yet appeared on the Shoebury Spit or the Low Way buoy, my favourite fishing grounds. Flat fish are scarce and small, perhaps they are waiting for our ephemeral friend. What do you think?—TRUTHFUL TOMMY."

[What do I think? Well, perhaps, the sooner T. T. learns a little bit about fishing and natural history, and grasps the fact that the May Fly does not patronise salt water, the better for all concerned.]

THE gramophone has been laid on to "Drag" Mansion, and I can now lay (or lie) on my couch and listen to the dulcet strains of music and brilliant speeches made at the many jovial foregatherings of brother anglers, now in full swing all over the country, and which my indisposition precludes my attending. I had had a nap of about two hours' duration yesterday when I suddenly heard the "grama" shrieking, and, leaping from my couch, heard: Up! up!!! The May Fly is up! Up! up!!! up!!! Hooray!—Now, one for the Major and the A.A., Up! up!!! Hooray! Now one for the fish as well as the fly! Up! up!!! up!!! Hooroo!

The May Fly is up! The May Fly is up!
No wonder I blink and frown,
The May Fly is up! The May Fly is up!
And I'm up too—in town.

The May Fly is up! The May Fly is up!
But a time will come—and shall
On June 16—the fish will be up—
On the banks of the Regent's Canal.

Oh where is the joy of the joyful news?
To a fellow that's left in town,
When he's chained to the desk, with a fit of the blues
The May Fly is up!—I feel down.

IN an illustrated article in the *Daily Chronicle*, on May 11, the proposed tampering with the fine Gothic tower of St. Dunstan's Church was fully explained. This serious interference with one of the most striking architectural features in Fleet-street was yesterday the subject of an application to the Consistory Court, presided over by Dr. Tristram. It is proposed to extend the Law Life Assurance Society's premises by utilising the vacant forecourt on the west side of the church, and to build a rectory on the open space on the east side with the £4500 offered for the site to be acquired by the insurance company. This plan will hem in the beautiful tower with buildings on both sides, and will involve the removal and re-erection of the Izaak Walton tablet and fountain in front of the church.

ORIGINALLY considerable objection was made to the proposition of the rector and churchwardens, but Mr. L. T. Dibdin, who appeared for the petitioners, stated that all opposition had been withdrawn. Counsel explained that there would be no difficulty about the removal of human remains. The Law Life Assurance Company had agreed not to use the land for any purposes likely to cause annoyance to the worshippers of the church, such as a public-house; and also to artificially light a splendid window given several years ago by the Worshipful Company of Cordwainers. After hearing evidence in favour of the petition, the Chancellor said he would reserve judgment, but intimated that he would grant the faculty. The case had been made out, but he wanted to look through the documents and visit the church.

I ALSO notice that our angling poet has noticed also—
Oh! who'd have thought that the world could dare?
Oh! the cheeks of we anglers burn.
Oh! treat it gently. Oh! guard it with care,
Lest the bones of the Master turn.
His scholars will all stand trembling by,
And quake lest that relic fall;
With an honest tear in each glistening eye,
For the good old Father of all. MOSNAR DIS.

THE annual general meeting of the Kingston Piscatorial Society was held on Monday, when the altered rules were agreed to, and the meeting was adjourned till the 12th inst., at 8 p.m., for the election of officers, &c. The meetings following the one on the 12th inst. will be held at nine o'clock instead of eight during the summer.

WHILE fishing with some gentlemen, on Monday last, in some private water belonging to Sir J. F. Zeng, in Devon, Cornwall, Mr. James Harris, the well-known sportsman, of the Sausage Grill Restaurant, St. John's-street-road, Islington, hooked a fine bream, scaling nearly 3lb., which, strange to say, on being landed was found to possess two complete heads. The fish, it is understood, will be preserved.

I NOTE from the Bungay "Chaucer" A.S. the executive have reduced their standard for jack from 22in. to 20in. I am sorry for that; but no matter, they are still 2in. above the Thames and Lea standard. Of course these Norfolk boys know best, but I should like to hear of the "Chaucers" running up the perch to 8in. I may be old-fashioned, but 7in. perch are not much credit to anybody. They will do much better if left to grow larger.

MR. VERNON, of Ilfracombe, says: "Since writing of ling taken off pier on May 24, on May 25 two were taken

by Mr. Aked, 22lb. and 14lb.; and two by Mr. Newberry, 14lb. and 14lb.; and on May 25 one ling, and 27th one ling (weight unknown)—all off the pier."

I HAD a grand invite to go and see the 'orse race at Epsom last Wednesday from "Straw Hat," who is a denizen of them parts. I could not go. I told him so. Sure enough, as I'm a sinner—I asked him to send on the winner. This is his reply: "Sorry can't send winner. Back the first to win; and the second and third for places. Lay against all the rest." Now, if this stabeley information had come just a little sooner, there would have been hundreds of thousands who would have had nothing whatever to do with it.

THERE are many funny places which birds (fathers and mothers) select for the safe rearing of their progeny. Letter boxes—well, I can't just think of them all. But when "Straw Hat" (of Epsom) got quite cross with me because the doctor would not let me go to the Derby, he wound up his plaintive letter with the following: "If you would only come, I could send you bird nesting in the front garden. There's a robin's nest in the lilac tree, and a 'sparrer's' over the front door in the Jap honey-suckle, and there's a big blue bottle shouting the odds on 'Flying Fox' all round the room." [Let him fly his fox—or kite! I was on the Frenchman. Sorry he went down.]

ON Thursday evening next (June 8) the New Albion Piscatorial will celebrate their annual dinner at the Bridge House Hotel, London Bridge, S.E. Mr. J. Wood will occupy the chair, and covers will be lifted at 6.30. The hon. sec. (Mr. A. E. Baldwin) will feel obliged if gentlemen will make returns of unsold tickets not later than Monday, June 5.

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MR. J. J. HOBBS

Is a member of the Bermondsey Brothers Angling Society. Host G. H. Shepherd is one of the very best in London (or out of it) for keeping a club together. The B.B.'s are all sportsmen. Mr. Hobbs is one of the best, and a recent interview with him elicited the following: "I am no relation to the Liberator Hobbs. A working member of the Bermondsey Bros. A.S. First learned the gentle art in Lincolnshire, using Nottinghamshire rods and tackle. Soon altered my tactics when I joined the Bermondsey Brothers. I find the 'pole' far in advance for roaching. I get nearly all my fish from the bank. Have won the first gross prize this last season, having weighed in 253lb.; heaviest one day's catch, 66lb. of bream, from the river Ouse, in company with Mr. W. J. Crisp, of the New Albions (44lb. bream same place); heaviest one day's catch of roach, 25lb. Also three roach from one swim at Amberley, the three weighing 4lb. 4oz. Seldom ever jack fish; prefer roaching and bream fishing. Known to many anglers as the 'shrimp man,' because when I get among the 'cats' or small fry I usually shont along the bank 'fine large shrimps.' I generally make myself at home in any company; can sing a song or tell a good tale, like all other anglers—but nearly always tell the truth (?)."

A LARGE and distinguished company assembled in the gardens of the Old Crown Hotel, Slough, on May 24, to celebrate the Queen's 80th birthday. Mr. and Mrs. Ball, the genial host and hostess, spared no expense to make the gathering in every way a pleasant one. Marquees were erected round the lawn, and the grounds were beautifully decorated with hundreds of green lamps. The effect was most pleasing, and called forth expressions of admiration on all sides. A string band was in attendance, and dancing was kept up to a late hour. Hearty cheers were given for Her Majesty, and we hope that the energetic proprietor of the Old Crown will, during the season, repeat the display.

"BEAUTY draws us with a single hair," and it may be dyed hair at that.

MR. ROLT writes: "Dear 'Drag,'—I think it is such an unusual, if not extraordinary, occurrence for a half-grown rabbit to take to the water to escape its would-be captors, that I send you the following account of what two of the members of our Wimbledon Society saw in Richmond Park the other day. I may add that the two gentlemen in question, although they are anglers, are absolute truth tellers. They were making a tour round the Penn ponds, probably with the view of locating some of the big carp there for future guidance, and seeing a commotion amongst the sedges, went close to the water to ascertain the cause of the disturbance. They had a small terrier with them, and the harking of this and the noise of the anglers aforesaid, drove the rabbit from its shelter. It at once, to the astonishment of the onlookers, took to the water, and swam off in 'jumps,' as one of my informants put it, towards the middle of the lake. After proceeding for a hundred yards it became exhausted, and sank to rise no more. The rabbit was not an old hand, otherwise it would have known better than to have leapt from out of the frying-pan into the fire. If any further confirmation is required of the adventure, a gentleman, not a fisherman, who also witnessed the occurrence can testify an oath to the correctness of all I have written."

MESSRS. EVERARD RIPLEY, and Co., of Richmond, writes; "Mr. D. Matthews, of Richmond, while fishing with George Rosewell, near Chertsey, on Saturday last, landed a fine trout of 5½lb., which has been entrusted to us for preservation."

THE monthly delegate meeting of the Central Association will take place on Monday evening next, at the Bedford Head Hotel, Maiden-lane, Covent-garden.

THE Royal Aquarium attractions have received a powerful addition in Alvantee. His unique "Slide for life," i.e., from the roof to the stage, is a very daring feat, and his climbing the wire set at an angle of 65 degrees would make any steeplejack envious. The chess congress in St. Stephen's Great Hall continues daily until July. All the champions are competing, and the event is the most important gathering in the chess world for a generation.

DON'T blame me, it's them comps. again. In last week's F. G. the name of the Derby winner was omitted (crowded out), but still, I can only make up the omission by publishing my copper bottomed tip to-day, Flying Fox, and at the same time venture to express my sympathy, and, I am sure, that of all my readers, to M. Jaques de Brémont for the misfortune that befell his good horse Holocaste. The more friendly international struggles of this kind we have, the better, and no good sportsman will fail to share with M. de Brémont the regret his cruel ill-luck must have caused him and his country "La Belle France."

THE sea serpent is rampant. That is, it is on the rampage. Is it the big gooseberry season, or silly season? "Dear 'Drag,'—Can you tell me whether the recent sea serpent, Morocco Bonnd, was a cetacean or crustacean?" Send it on, friend; send it on. Or cut a piece out of the middle, and put it in paraffin. I can then tell you if it will burn. Fact is, what has been mistaken for the "serpent" was the big liner which had run aground. It appears that during the night an extraordinarily high tide floated the ship; and having no pilot on board, it just "rolled" at its own sweet will, and was duly announced as the sea serpent! See?

"THE Dried 'un" (I mean Hon. Sec. Dryden of the Greenwich A. S.) and "City Marshall" have summoned "Drag" to appear at the festive board on the occasion of the 15th annual dinner at the Morden Arms on June 7. President G. H. Dowsett will take the chair. Would that I could say: "Yes; I will taste your Greenwich blend of whitebait!" But no; my doctor is inexorable. He says: "You just wait until I have done with you; then you can go where you like." All the same, I wish the Greenwich sportsmen a happy and pleasant evening!

HAVING a little business to transact with Mr. Ritchie (managing director of the Royal Aquarium), I strolled in one evening just in time to see the "Great Fight" between Tom Sharkey and Kid McCoy. That is to say, by the aid of the cinematograph, we "fought our battles over again." Without a doubt it is a sight worth seeing. I think it is called the "noble" art; not the peaceful art. Yet some people persist in using the words "noble" and "peaceful" with regard to angling! Perhaps they are right; angling is both noble and peaceful.

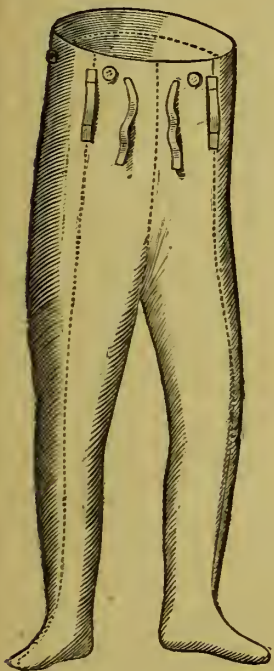
THE doctor says: "If the weather continues as at present—warm and balmy—I may attend the annual dinner of the Nottingham Wellington A.S. on Monday, June 5. But," he continues, "I am coming with you!" Dear, dear; can I not go out without a keeper? Get the soup ready, an' all, an' all; for I'm gone on soup!

THAT veteran B.S.A. (W. Bennett, of the Cock Tavern) was telling me that he had recently been trying to catch fish off the Goodwin Sands. Having no luck, he weighed anchor and sailed to other quarters, where he caught "lots of Bass." "Where did you catch them?" I inquired. "Why, in the refreshment buffet at the railway station!" DRAGNET.

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WESTMEATH LAKES AND RIVERS. LIMERICK DISTRICT.

EXTRACTS from fourteenth annual report by the assistant secretary on the Fish Preservation Society's efforts in connection with Loughs Derravaragh, Owel, and Ennell, rivers Inny and Brosna, and their several tributaries, in the counties of Westmeath and Longford, during the season of 1898-9.

"Fourteen years of existence is some indication of the continued vitality of the Westmeath Lakes Fish Preservation Society. Before it was a year old, it was grudgingly promised only a year to live, but, strange to say, all the prophecies about it in this direction have proved unreliable, to say the least of them, and I will only add that if I could spare more time from my ordinary duties, it would be in much more vigorous health to-day.

"Having regard to most unpropitious weather for the past three or four years, the fishing on the Westmeath Lakes has proved anything but satisfactory. Many people ascribe it to other causes—notably to scarcity of trout. This, I contend, cannot possibly be the case, as the rush of spawning fish into the rivers in the close time is more abundant than ever. Again, one has only to watch the surface of any of the lakes on a calm evening to see that they teem with fish, while most of the lake tributaries contain thousands and thousands of fry and yearling trout, as well as others of an older type. I make these statements from my own experience and actual observation.

"Last summer your committee, hearing a good deal said in favour of rainbow trout (*Salmo irideus*), came to the conclusion of introducing them into the lakes as an experiment, independent of the general fund. I was enabled, with some difficulty, to collect sufficient to purchase 1000 yearling fry, and your committee considered it advisable to turn them all into Lough Owel, and as these fish are supposed to be of a migratory nature, this lake was selected as the most suitable for them.

"Accordingly, on Oct. 12 last, the fish arrived by train from the hatcheries in the County Louth, under the charge of Mr. W. H. Armistead, from whom they were purchased, and we put them into the lake in the best and most suitable places, and as far away from the usual known haunts of pike as possible. They were splendid lively little fellows, with their beautiful iridescent hues, and not a single one died on the journey.

"Mr. Brinsley Marlay, D.L., of Belvedere, most generously sent me a cheque to purchase 500 similar fry for Lough Ennell, and these I had put into the lake on same day (Oct. 12) by his manager, Mr. Hay, who also reported not one lost in transit.

"If these fish become naturalised to the lakes, as Mr. Armistead assures me they will, they will, it appears, grow rapidly and rise freely. They are reported to be very sportive fish and capital for table. It is requested that if any are taken this season they will be immediately returned to the water, and the matter reported either to Major Grant or myself, and for which we will be extremely thankful.

"The names of the subscribers to the fund for introducing rainbow trout will be found in the appendix to the report, as also a statement of the receipts and expenditure. Special thanks are due to Mr. Robert Gardner (of the firm of Craig, Gardner, and Co.) for his liberal support in the matter.

"I am much afraid that so long as nets are tolerated on Lough Ennell, so long also will our efforts to improve the fishing be seriously hampered. I do not refer in this instance to the short shallow nets, which are invariably set in the light water for pike during the months of February and March, and which would hardly take one trout every ten years, but I refer expressly to those immense long nets made of the strongest and finest twine, and which in the hands of skilful and experienced poachers must be very destructive to the lake trout.

"On March 31 last I saw one of these nets drying on an island. It was carefully wound round the trunks of some trees, and if there was only one band cord on net, it must have been over 200 yds. in length. All the bays in which trout are particularly fond of feeding previous to and during the Green Drake time, can be cleanly swept of their contents by such a net as this.

"You will naturally say—Why not apply to the inspectors of Irish Fisheries to prohibit the use of nets on Lough Ennell and Derravaragh as well as Lough Owel? To which I reply that in memorialising for an inquiry you must be prepared with evidence of an expert nature in order to prove your case, and the parties who are most interested are very slow to render any assistance when the time comes. Not one of the professional fishermen would give the slightest help, and apart from all this there is much expense attached to these functions. There is very little public spirit ever manifested in carrying such things to a successful issue; it is invariably expected that everything of the kind should be of spontaneous growth, or come as a matter of course. Fish are wanted in plenty, but they cannot visibly increase when poachers are about, and therefore trouble and expense must necessarily be incurred if they are to be protected or preserved.

"I visited many of the spawning streams during the past close season and found them thoroughly well stocked with trout and beds—notably the Dyart river (Lough Ennell), the Moneen and Gaine rivers (Lough Derravaragh), all the tributaries of Lough Owel, and the Clonmore river, in the Faoat district of the Inny; and if, after all the trout which ascend these streams year after year, and the enormous quantity of ova deposited, if, I say, after all this we have not an abundant supply, it is then not in the power of man to improve matters. But I assert that the fish are there, only you need not expect to make baskets while you have easterly breezes and dazzling sun; neither can you look for success in very stormy weather or

in comparative calm, and you all very well know that of late years we have experienced a large share of each and all of these jarring elements so disastrous to successful angling.

"Most anglers do not know that there are splendid char in Lough Owel, but the time they take best is in the months of July and August; they can be taken on spoons and artificial baits such as Devons, phantoms, minnows, &c. Lough Owel literally swarms with char, and they can often be seen in shoals feeding or rippling the surface, but they do not take any bait freely as a rule, and in fact very little attention is paid to this class of angling.

"Since our annual general meeting on May 11, 1898, we have only had one other, namely, that convened for the consideration of the question of introducing rainbow trout into the lakes, and at which only five members attended. The society happily saddles nearly all its work on the shoulders of its hon. secretaries, and it is, therefore, to be confidently hoped, should we not succeed in giving uniform satisfaction in the carrying out of our duties, that we will not be too severely criticised, as we can safely say we did our best.

"There is certainly no use in going to the trouble and expense of calling meetings at which the members will not put in an appearance.

"I must not omit to mention that as usual the Royal Irish Constabulary gave us splendid assistance, both by night and day, during the past season, but I am forced to admit that there are a few fish poachers who appear to be able to baffle the combined vigilance of both police and water bailiffs. However, we may be able to come to close quarters with these gentry before the current season passes over.

"I wish to bring under the notice of the society that the two boats which were purchased second-hand for the water bailiffs on Loughs Owel and Ennell have broken up, and I have been obliged for the past year to supply them with the use of my own boats. Some years ago, owing to the generosity of Miss E. T. Raynell, of Killynnon, I was enabled to buy a new boat for the Derravaragh water bailiff, but it has also worn out, and I have again been in a position, through Miss Raynell's kindness, and ably helped by Mr. Meredith Johnston's assistance, to have a very fine new boat built for this service.

"I cannot close my report without referring in the most regretful terms to the demise of one of our most respected members (the late Major Aubrey Vere O'Brien, R.M.). I am quite certain that every member of the society who knew him experienced the most sincere grief at the sad intelligence, and the deepest sympathy for Mrs. Vere O'Brien in her bereavement.—I have the honour to be your obedient servant,

"Mullingar, May 11, 1899."

PISCATORIAL SOCIETY.

THE LATE MR. EDWARD FOREMAN.

THE piscatorial *salon* on Monday evening was turned into a house of mourning, for, far overshadowing all else of import, came the sorrowful and somewhat unexpected news that the society's hon. treasurer, Mr. Edward Foreman, had passed away on the previous Saturday evening. For several months past the deceased gentleman had been ailing with kidney and heart trouble, but when in the beginning of January he took his accustomed place at the last meeting of the society he was able to attend, it was confidently hoped that with the approach of spring and summer he would be fully restored to his former health and vigour. But it was willed otherwise. On Friday morning he suffered a relapse, became unconscious, and died peacefully on Saturday.

The late Mr. Foreman was one of the oldest members of the Piscatorial Society. As long ago as September, 1879, Dr. Coates and Mr. E. J. Walker (still happily amongst us) proposed and seconded his name for membership. He speedily made friends, and from the time he first identified himself with the society he has ever taken the warmest interest in its success and prosperity. His naturally cheerful disposition always stood him in good stead. He was a great favourite with all with whom he came into contact, and as a genial companion (using the word in its best and highest sense) he had few equals. In his capacity of hon. treasurer he exercised consummate tact and discretion, whilst as a chairman he had the capability of combining the *suaviter in modo* with the *fortiter in re* in a manner many might well envy. His very presence was a guarantee that business would be rapidly and pleasantly carried through, and that the best of order would be maintained. Almost his very last official act was to sign the lease of the new water at Uxbridge, in the procurement of which he, with Mr. Robt. C. Blundell, took such an active part. He was, in very truth, a man of men, and every member who knew him (and few there were who did not) will sadly miss his bright companionship and the invariable courtesy and affability displayed to all. Those who were acquainted with and respected him as a member only have lost a true and staunch angling comrade; whilst the majority, who were proud to be able to call him their friend, will long grieve for one for whom they had an almost brotherly affection. The society's museum bears ample testimony of the late gentleman's skill as an angler. The cast of a 37lb. salmon from the Tay, preserved bream of 6lb. 4oz., and Itchen grayling of 2lb. 12oz., show that he was as successful with the rod and line as he was in making friends. He loved fishing for its own sake, and none the less for the opportunities it afforded him of spending happy days with those who were privileged to be his companions upon the fishing expeditions he was wont to make during the season. His face will be seen no more at the weekly meetings, but as long as the Piscatorial Society exists his memory will remain green, and his name be

revered and honoured by the large body of members who feel that by his unfortunate demise they have had taken from their ranks a rare sportsman, and, above all, a thorough English gentleman.

Mr. Horace H. Brown took the chair at Monday's meeting, and stated that it was his sorrowful duty to announce the death of their dear old friend, Mr. Edward Foreman. He mentioned that an unanimous decision had been arrived at to forward a handsome wreath to the funeral, which had been fixed for Thursday, and at the same time to have a painting in oil made of him, to place in the *salon*, this latter in memory of one who had done so much for the society during the long period of twenty years he had been connected with it. Mr. Brown went on to say that the deceased was so well known to them all, and his qualities were so highly appreciated and valued, that few words were needed from him to emphasise the almost irreparable loss one and all had sustained. He (the speaker) took possession of the chair that evening because he was the oldest member in the room. He had seen many men come and go in the Piscatorial Society, but he certainly never knew any official hold the post of hon. treasurer for so many years Mr. Foreman had done with such kindness, good nature, and geniality. When their late comrade had taken the chair, sometimes in periods of considerable difficulty, the minority could always count upon getting just as kind a "nay" from him as the majority a courteous "yea." He was always the same, and he (Mr. Brown) took it that they never wanted anything better from Edward Foreman than that he should be Edward Foreman himself. He was, in short, the most kindly, generous, and well disposed gentleman he had ever met in the course of his life. Mr. H. Harden also spoke a few feeling words, saying, that in Mr. Foreman he, personally, had to mourn the loss of one of the dearest friends he had ever had. During the last twenty years they had had together many pleasant excursions, and none could feel more keenly than the speaker the keen grief his death had caused. Mr. H. Neville Campbell, who was unable to be present, wrote conveying his sympathy and condolences with Mrs. E. Foreman and the family in their bereavement. It was decided that Mr. H. Harden and Mr. Frank Ward should attend the funeral as representing the society. The meeting then adjourned, no business being transacted, out of respect for the deceased gentleman.

M. G. E. DE C.

BRITISH SEA ANGLERS' SOCIETY.

THE usual weekly meeting of the society was held at the Holborn Restaurant on Wednesday, May 31, at 8 p.m. Mr. H. Edwards in the chair. Two interesting letters were read from Mr. A. W. Parker (Eastbourne) and Mr. G. Read Clarke (Brighton). Mr. Handley reported a phenomenal capture of green crabs and a few plaice off Southend.

The hon. secretary reported the death of Mr. Edward Foreman, one of our members, and by the proposition of the chair a very hearty and deep felt vote of condolence was passed, and the hon. sec. was requested to convey the same to his widow.

Mr. G. Saville reported the likelihood of sport at Walton-on-the-Naze.

Mr. Handley spoke on the subject of bass fishing off Clacton Pier. Mr. Saville suggested that the bass at this station refused to take any bait of which he was aware. Mr. Saville spoke of paraffin wax as a dressing for lines, and mentioned that he had a plaited silk line over four years' old, which he had used constantly without washing, and it was still as good as the day as that upon which he rolled it on the winch. Mr. Handley spoke in favour of the same dressing. The usual vote of thanks to the chair closed the meeting.

CHARLES S. PATTERSON
(Hon. Sec.).

CENTRAL ASSOCIATION OF LONDON ANGLING CLUBS.

THE committee beg to announce that a competition has been arranged for members, in the Central waters only, at Pulborough, on June 18, for the 20-ginea cup, kindly presented by Walter Emden, Esq., J.P., L.C.C., and a large number of other prizes will be offered in addition. It is hoped that societies will if possible arrange a club outing on this date, and endeavour to persuade every member to purchase a ticket. Entrance fee, 1s., proceeds of which will be handed to the Queen's Jubilee Nurses' Fund in recognition of their noble work in assisting the deserving poor during sickness, and in accordance with the wish of the donor of the cup. The possession of the cup is to be decided by two competitions, and in connection with the second one, W. H. Elsmore, Esq., vice-president, has presented a valuable cup as a special prize. The winners in the first and second matches to compete in a third for the actual possession of the two cups. The first winner may exhibit the cup at his clubhouse if so desired, providing a satisfactory guarantee is given to the committee for its safe return when asked for.

G. Pritter-road, S.E. W. J. WADE, Secretary.

The following is a preliminary list of prizes: Mr. Walter Emden, J.P., L.C.C., silver cup; Mr. W. H. Elsmore, silver cup; Mr. G. H. Thurston, prize, value £1 11s. 6d.; Mr. F. W. Simpson, three prizes, £1 1s. each; Mr. W. Fordree, framed picture (Pegged-down Match); Messrs. Greenlees Brothers, case Claymore whiskey; Mr. J. Vian, case Scotch whiskey; Mr. A. Eldridge, roach rod, value £2 2s.; ditto, three bottles Scotch whiskey; Messrs. F. J. Williams and Co., roach rod; Messrs. A. Carter and Co., £1 1s. jock rod; Mr. J. Poole, 10s. 6d.; Mr. J. Gold, prize; Messrs. J. Peek and Son, winch; Blackfriars Angling Society, £1 1s.; St. Albans Angling Society, £1 1s.; Mr. G. H. Jennings, £1 1s.; Mr. Stillwell, half gallon of whiskey; Mrs. Sturgess, 10s. 6d.; Mr. Nash, a prize;

I. Levien, pair of vases; W. Stone, 10s. 6d.; J. Nunn, 10s. 6d.; West London A.C., 10s. 6d.; South Bermondsey Recreational, 10s. 6d.; Ye Olde Clapham Rovers A.S., 10s. 6d.; Peckham Bros. A.S., 10s. 6d.; Amicable Bros., 10s. 6d.; Great Northern Bros. A.S., roach 101; Amicable Waltonians A.S., marble clock; Mr. W. Stafford, a prize; Mr. F. Sorge, a prize; Mr. J. Smith, a prize; Mr. G. Greg, a prize; Mr. C. A. Medcalf, a prize; Mr. W. J. Wade, a prize; Mr. H. Holder, a prize; Mr. C. Fletcher, a prize; Mr. J. Kervell, a prize; Mr. Burkett, 10lb. joint of beef; Clapham Strollers A.S., guinea rod; Mr. E. A. Down, 10s. 6d.; Mr. H. Crowther, 5s.; Mr. H. Stanley, 5s.

GORTNORABBEY HOTEL.

MR. GEORGE FLYNN, proprietor of the Imperial and Royal Hotels, Ballina, has made a very successful business stroke in the acquisition of the above hotel, and one which, from the tourist point of view especially, cannot help bringing him, we anticipate, many additional patrons. It would be impossible to conceive a more picturesque or sequestered spot than where the hotel—in olden days the residence of the Ormsby family—stands. Situate on the shore of Lough Conn, and nestling amid a wealth of ancient timber now giving forth its many shaded foliage, it may be truly said that nature has endowed it with all the charms that contribute to give us one of her fairest settings; and what is wanting in other respects the enterprise of Mr. Flynn may be trusted to supply. Even within the short time he has become, on lease, the tenant of the place he has done wonders. He has renovated the house from floor to attic, introduced a splendid water supply of the finest spring, and re-modelled the sanitary arrangements to bring them in touch with the most modern principals. The bedrooms, eleven in number, are furnished with ash suites, and what is of more importance, are swept by a current of the purest air, while the dining-room and the drawing-room are two nobly proportioned apartments, and command magnificent views of lake and mountain scenery. They have been fitted up in luxurious style, regardless of cost. Those who wish and have the means to escape for a brief period from the toil and worry inseparable from the restless age in which we live, could do no better than pay Gortnorabbeey a visit. They will find there all the comforts of a first-class hotel, combined with every courtesy and attention. The hotel is within a stone's throw of one of the best fishing casts in the lake, and for the pleasures of those who follow the "gentle art," Mr. Flynn has had a number of boats specially made to his order by Ryan, the famous boat builder, of Moyné, which are let to visitors on exceptionally reasonable terms. Then, too, excellent pheasant, woodcock, and rabbit shooting (specially reserved) are to be had, and to fill up the sum of human happiness in this lovely region, golf links have been laid down, and a fine tennis ground is in course of completion. The hotel has very good postal and telegraphic facilities, being within seven or eight minutes reach of Crossmolina post office, from which there are two deliveries of the mails each day, and free delivery of telegrams. We have indicated merely in a rough way the many attractions which cannot fail to commend the hotel to the notice of tourists, who, we may add, will have also the exclusive privilege of fishing on the non-tidal portions of the river Moy which Mr. Flynn has rented from the Moy Fishery Company.—From the *Western People*.

Notes from the North.

June is not a brisk salmon angling month, but this year promises to belie its character in this respect. In fact, the fish which should have been in the pools in April are only now coming into the streams in force, and this season June and probably July will in a measure redeem many blanks made by the late spring—the worst spring on record.

The temperature of the water has been all along too low. It is still very cold wading, and patches of snow are quite common on the near hills.

There will be salmon fishing *galore* on the Dee, Don (not to be much depended on), the Spey, Deveron, Ness, and kindred streams all the summer through, and which may be picked up for an old song, as salmon fishings go nowadays. We could not have given the same advice for June, at least, with anything like the same assurance of sport during the past decade.

Berry (Banchory), Smith (Fenghside, Banchory), Sandison (Aboyne), McDonald (Braemar), have all really good salmon and grise waters at their disposal, and will make easy arrangements with anyone on the look out for a cast on the Dee.

Mr. Mather, who is attached to the Munshi Abdnl Karim, Her Majesty's Indian Secretary, is an ardent angler. Within an hour of his arrival at the Castle, on Saturday, he had out his rod, and was fast into a beauty of 8lb.

One of Mr. Drummond's guests lost a very fine fish at the Bridge of Potarch, on Saturday, on the Ballogie Dee water, after thirty minutes' close and exciting play. This is by no means a unique experience just now, under existing conditions. The light casts necessary in the clear waters and bright sunshine, and the small double irons, reduce the breaking strain to the lowest minimum, so that the finest yet finest of play is necessary in landing the fish.

Mr. McDonald's guests at the Fife Arms, Braemar, are getting excellent sport now on the head waters of the Dee. Fish have been very slow in getting up into these parts, but a good beginning has now been made. They had twelve fish to three rods last week.

The Duchess of Fife's water will be in grand form by the time she gets north this autumn, owing to the very late spring.

The Mar Lodge, the Silver and Blue, Jeannie, and Logie, of the smallest three-quarter and half-inch irons, have been the most popular lures on the Dee.

All the rivers and side streams are in good volume, but clear. Seldom at this season have we seen them so free of weeds, but then there has been no growth. It is a perfect treat wading just now, compared with what it will be in July, when the algae and slime choke up everything. Probably the low temperature of the water will keep things sweeter this July than would otherwise have been the case in an average season.

Disease, if it exists at all, is always sure to be in evidence towards the end of May. Hitherto it has this year been conspicuous by its absence, but during the past two weeks a considerable number of affected fish have been met with on the Dee.

The salmon supplies on the coast are steadily on the increase, and prices falling rapidly. Grilse are not yet over abundant, and nowhere on the Dee have we heard of any being got to the fly or other lure as yet. A good few are being got on the Don, Deveron, and Moray Firth coast districts, but they are not taking to the rivers freely at all. Probably the low temperature is the drawback.

An esteemed angling lessee on the Don writes me: "I and an angling friend, on our way to the river on Saturday morning (4 a.m.), met two poachers staggering under the weight of a bag of trout, which they were taking by turns into town. It was very galling to see this, and not be able to say, 'What doest thou?' We might have followed them, and so forfeited a morning's sport; but what use? Unless they are caught red-handed there would be no conviction. The law must be altered to put a stop to this wholesale netting of our waters."

The Cruden Bay Hotel accessories have been enhanced by the addition of an excellent bowling-green, which was formally opened on Saturday with an exceedingly pleasant ceremony, which was crowned by a match between two of the leading Aberdeen clubs. The bowling-green is said to be the finest in Scotland.

Many Dee anglers, such as Mr. W. E. Nicol and Mr. J. C. Haslam, permit no lure on their waters outside the orthodox fly, not even by their guests. They are true disciples of the old school, and pride themselves in the distinction.

SPECIAL SCOTCH.

Provincial Notes

FROM BIRMINGHAM AND DISTRICT.

There are very few angling associations in England that have made the rapid growth that the Birmingham Association has made. The association was formed some twelve years ago with some half a dozen clubs, who did not rent water, but depended upon the free and open waters in the Midlands to obtain their sport. But these few clubs worked with a will to improve their position with the railway companies, who had intimated that if the clubs did not combine together the concessions as granted them would be withdrawn, owing to the privilege being abused. At this time there were also some four or five clubs who did rent water, and when a meeting was called for the purpose of forming an association the water-renting clubs, for some reason or other, would not join in the movement; but here the Midland Railway Company stepped in and they were compelled to come under the banner, which was much against their will, but I am pleased to say that they have never had any cause to complain of the management since they were affiliated, as a rule was framed so that the internal arrangements of these clubs could not be interfered with as long as they conformed to the rules of the association. The first balance-sheet brought out showed that 430 members were identified with the association, and that there was, on the first half year's working, a deficiency of 16s. 9d. to make both ends meet. Still, nothing daunted, the officers and small committee worked on to overcome the difficulty, and in the end succeeded, and since then the association has gone on by leaps and bounds until it has reached its present sound position. We have now upwards of eighty clubs, with others forming to become affiliated, our numerical strength at the present time being close upon 5600 members. The growth of the association has been more than ever was anticipated. From 1896 to 1897 we made over 800 members, and now—from March, 1898 to the present time—we have made sixteen new clubs, which average fifty-five members each. It is hard to say when we shall cease to add new clubs, or how many members we shall make this year, so great is the hold that angling has upon the people in Birmingham, who, by joining a society, have the benefit of being taught how to angle, and

also to find a change from the polluted atmosphere of our city and the bustle of every day life. At the rate our association is making members we shall have to do something to provide them, if possible, with new fishing grounds; this will no doubt be one of the important matters that will engage the attention of the committee in the near future. The May Fly is up on our local trout streams, and no time should be lost by the fly fishermen in the Midlands to visit their favourite streams. Mr. A. Randall of the Hearts of Oak Society, had four brace of trout from a private portion of the Teme on 28th inst., which weighed a little over 10lb.; the fish were taken spinning, and were in grand condition. A number of our clubs are arranging contests at the opening of the season at Alrewas, but as the canal is being emptied here, I would advise them to find another place, to prevent disappointment.

FROM DERBYSHIRE.

The genial weather which we are now having has wrought a very great improvement in angling on Derbyshire streams, and anglers, whom the late rains and cold had driven away, are now, with many others, returning to the various waters. The fish are as a rule rising pretty freely, the streams are in good condition, and both fly and bottom anglers are having very fair sport in most places. On the upper waters of the Derwent, in the Derwent Dale and Ashopton districts, several nice lots of fish have been taken; and the tributary stream, the Ashop, has, on several of its lengths furnished a few respectable creels to fishermen there, mostly from the neighbourhood of Sheffield. Lower down, on the Bamford reaches, both fly and bottom anglers have had satisfactory sport, and some good baskets have been made there, and also on the adjoining Sickleholm lengths. The Hathersage Association waters have been well patronised during the week, and numerous creels, small and fairly large, have been made, and on most of the other reaches in the Derwent valley satisfactory sport has been had. There has been a goodly number of visitors to the Baslow and Chatsworth waters, and some very fair baskets of fine fish have been killed, principally in the Park lengths, but good sport has also been met with on the adjoining lower reaches between Beely Bridge, Calton Woods, and Rowsley. Both fly and bottom anglers have done tolerably well, as a rule, on the upper and lower waters of Darley, and in the Matlock district there has been a great improvement in angling of all kinds. Several nice lots of fish have been killed with the fly on the lengths between Cromford and Lea Hurst Woods; and both fly and bottom fishers and trollers have had considerable success, and made good baskets on the Holmesford, Watstanwell, Ambergate, and Belper reaches of the river. On the various lengths of the Dove there have been numerous fishermen of most kinds, and sport has, in general, been satisfactory. The Dovedale waters have yielded several good creels to fly anglers, who now muster pretty strongly there; and higher up, on the Mill Dale, Beresford Dale, and Hartington lengths some nice baskets have been made. Several anglers on the neighbouring Manifold have had enjoyable sport, but no very large creels have been made on any part of that charming little river during the week. The other tributary, the Bentley, has had several visitors, and a few of them have taken decent lots of fish. Fly fishing on the Wye has vastly improved within the last few days. Between Ashwood Dale and Blackwell Mill (the Buxton district) there has been some very fair sport had; and on the Miller's Dale lengths, both open and private, several excellent baskets have been made.

FROM HULL AND DISTRICT.

We have had an agreeable change in the weather in this district since my last report, in fact, for the past few days it has been simply splendid, causing our local anglers to be out in considerable force; but, although the river Hull and tributary becks are in grand condition, only a few trout have been taken, and those chiefly with worm. The best fish of the season, so far, is the one mentioned in my last. It weighed 4lb. 10z., and is in the hands of one of our local taxidermists for preservation. It was caught in the tidal waters below Beverley Beck-end by Mr. R. H. Barlow, a member of the North Myton Angling Society. On the top stretches of the river, and confluent streams, there is quite an influx of insect life, and some grand fish are on the rise, so that the fly fishers should soon have a fair time of it, especially in the Driffield district. Some very good takes of flounders and eels have been made in the lower portion of the river below Beverley. At Weelferry, Minto Flatts, and Wawne, and from Cicey down to Gibraltar, some fair samples of these fish have been taken. A nice sized trout was also taken on Monday with worm near Burton Hall. Several matches have been fished on the lower stretches, amongst which the North Myton A.S. held their first match on the Minto Flatts stretch, Mr. T. Smith heading the prize list with 1lb. 10½oz. of fish. The County A.S. fished their second match above Beverley, on Swinemoor, but did not do so well as those who fished below. The Starr A.S., of Stoneferry, fished their second match on the river at Hull Bridge, but only had very moderate sport. The Horns Angling and Recreation Society, and the Duke of York A.S., both fished a match on the river to-day (Saturday), the former at Weelferry, and the latter at Wawneferry; and on Saturday next Messrs. Reckitts A.S. fish their second match at Weel. At a special meeting of the new society, the Hull City A.S., Mr. J. Ashwell was elected president, Mr. William P. J. J. vice; Mr. Robert Turner, treasurer; and Mr. J. West, hon. sec. Another new angling society has also been formed at the Golden Cup Hotel, in Brook-street, called the Hull Roach A.S. The officials elected for the new society are as follows: President, Mr. Alfred Chappell; vice-president, Mr. Mark Darby; treasurer, Mr. T. Sharpe; and secretary, Mr. G. W. Schofield.

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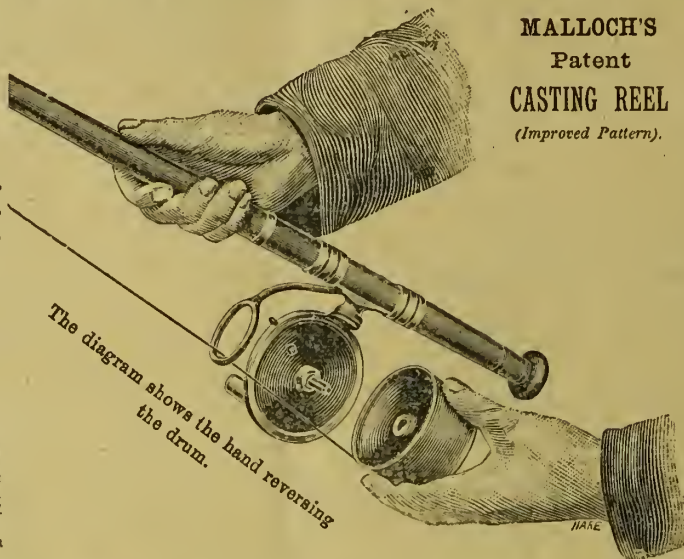
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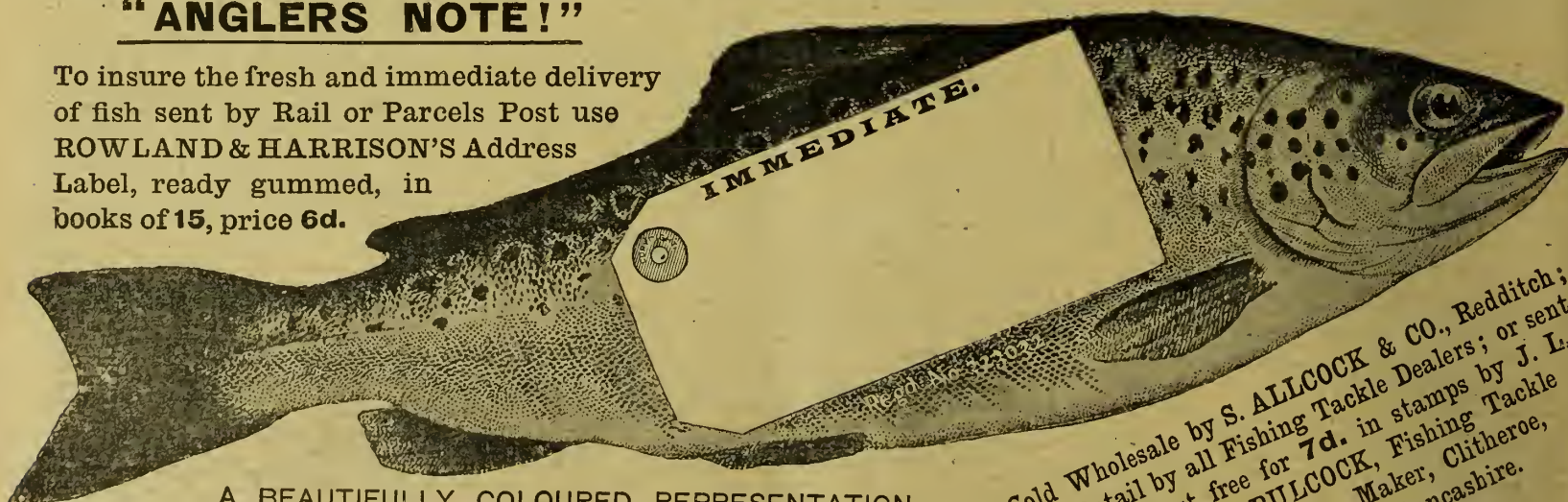
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CATALOGUES GRATIS.

FROM THE LAKE DISTRICT.

There has been a very decided and general improvement in fishing in this district during the past week, and reports from all quarters speak of good sport and hopeful prospects for a few weeks to come. Bright, genial weather has come at last, and as a result there has been a great hatching out of insect life. Fish seem greedy to take any form of natural or dressed fly, and as nearly all rivers are carrying a greater volume of water than is usual at this time of year, June is likely to prove a better month for anglers than has often been the case. The lakes are also affording good sport, nice takes being obtained on Bassenthwaite, Derwentwater, Crummock water, Windermere, Esthwaite, &c. It would be impossible to enumerate the catches at present to hand, but a few may be recorded, namely, seventeen trout to the rod of Capt. Thompson, Pooley Bridge, in the Keswick waters; Mr. R. W. Mayson, three, one of which scaled 3lb.; Mr. C. Birkett, eleven, from 1lb. to 3lb. each; Mr. J. Kirley, four, two of which were 2½lb. each; Mr. T. Brown, four, from 1lb. to 2½lb.; Messrs. Collier and Bandle, trout from 1½lb. to 2½lb.; other successful anglers being Messrs. Denwood, Cotts, Newton, Storey, Musgrave, Hodgson, and others; and, in St. John's Beck, Messrs. M. and J. Stanley. Amongst the more fortunate Eden anglers may be mentioned Mr. E. A. Heelis, who has had thirty and twenty-seven trout, one being a 2-pounder; Mr. T. Ellwood, thirty-nine; Mr. T. Howe, thirty-two. Two splendid fish of 9lb. and 10lb. have fallen to the lot of Messrs. Collins and McIver (Liverpool) on Crummock water, where sport is said to be improving daily. The best take we have heard of on the Eamont was twenty-seven trout, to the rod of Mr. Mallinson. There are now a good many angling visitors in the Lake District, which has put on its early summer garb, and is lovely beyond description.

FROM LANCASHIRE.

The new organisation at Chorley is still doing its utmost to acquire waters suitable for their members. One of their members, fishing the Lower Rivington Lake, landed on a single hair line a trout of 1½lb. At Warrington a new departure is the construction of an aquarium in the public park, to be situated in a line with the aviary, which will consist of ten tanks. The fish hatchery in the same park is a never failing source of pleasure to crowds of inhabitants, who flock to see the young fish fed at 6.30 each evening. Since the hatchery was first established about three years ago some 10,000 trout have been turned into the large lake and various ponds. Mr. McCrerrick and party have returned from a visit to the Nith, Dumfriesshire, during Whit week, and report sport above the average. A salmon of 12lb. was taken a few days since in a part very seldom visited by these fish. During the holidays the Ribble has fished well, and better baskets obtained than for the last twenty years so early on in the season. This remark applies to the upper reaches. The Lune and tributaries have fished remarkably well, yielding baskets from seven to twenty brace. The Wenning was the best stream, and a large portion free water. The Wyre is not fishing so well; more rods out, but catches only poor. Llanymynech is a place always well patronised by our men, but during the recent holidays sport was bad all round.

FROM LINCOLNSHIRE.

Although the weather has been fine, on the whole the conditions have not been at all favourable for trout fishing. A cold north-east wind has, for the most part, prevailed, and sharp night frosts have done much towards keeping the fish down. Added to this, the streams have been temporarily agitated in consequence of the tremendous rainstorm of the 24th ult., when, in some parts of the district, 75 parts of an inch of rain fell in twelve minutes. It is many years since there was such a heavy downpour in so short a time, and reports that have reached me show that the floods have had a prejudicial effect upon the spawning process amongst the coarse fish in the Fen rivers and drains. The few who have been out after trout this week have almost exclusively confined their operations to bottom fishing, but as a rule their efforts have not been attended with any great amount of success. With one or two exceptions the trouting season has—owing to the adverse weather—been a miserable failure, and unless we get some warm weather quickly, the opening of the coarse fishing season will be here before fly fishing has really begun.

FROM MANCHESTER.

The next meeting of the Moss Side Social Angling Society is called for June 5, for most important business. The Welcomb Angling Society have been removing, and are now comfortably settled with Mr. W. Arnold, Peabody Arms, in River-street. At the next meeting arrangements will be made for the opening match on June 18. Our citizen anglers who visit Matlock note with great pleasure the recent stocking operations in that district. Some idea can be formed of the demand for bait in this city during Whitsuntide, when maggots were selling at a penny per score, and finally at a penny per dozen. Several of our locals put in the holidays in the Bala district, and secured some really good sport, the daily average was ten to twelve brace of trout, averaging 6oz. to 12oz. each. A few days since several magnificent lake trout were taken, including one of 6lb., and varying down to 2lb. Another local resort, somewhat neglected of late, has been fishing well this Whitsuntide, viz., Poynton Pool. Several fair baskets have been made, including two, of 15lb. and 10lb. respectively. Several very encouraging reports are to hand of the fishing in Pickmere. Our men consider it is fast recovering its old reputation as a good coarse fishing water. The County Palatine Angling Association, whose headquarters are in this city, and who quite recently acquired the sole privileges of the Poynton Canal from Marple to Maclefield, have every reason to be proud of their new venture.

FROM NOTTINGHAM.

The Trent is running down rapidly, and dace and chub are rising eagerly to the Stone Fly, which is out in strong force. Report says that the May Fly has appeared on the Greet and Dover Beck, and that on the former well-stocked trout stream good bags of choice fish were made on Tuesday and Wednesday. Salmon have been showing on the Trent at King's Mills, and the subscribers have now a chance of getting a fish or two. Mr. Harry Spray, the hard-working hon. secretary of the Welling-on Society, writes me: "We made a start with the trout stocking yesterday. We turned fifty splendid four-year-old fish of the *Salmo fario* breed into our fishery at Shardlow, and the majority, deposited in the beautiful rest of Roach Island, soon began to gobble down the natural flies coming down stream. The fish varied in weight from 1½lb. to 3lb. each. We hope to turn in many more before long. You might say in your notes that our executive invite assistance from gentlemen (sportsmen) and others interested in our efforts to raise the standard of game fish in the river." The society celebrate their twenty-fourth annual banquet at headquarters next Monday night, when a large and influential gathering of anglers is expected. The Beeston Society held their annual meeting at the Victoria Hotel on the night of May 25, when the ordinary prizes won during the year were distributed. Those for barbel, chub, bream, roach, dace, and pike were carried off by Messrs. G. Tutin, A. Metheringham, J. Luntley, W. Gregory, F. J. Lindley, and S. R. Dugmore. The "specials" were won by Messrs. F. J. Lindley, A. Metheringham, J. Riley (hon. sec.), C. J. Walker, S. R. Dugmore, G. Tutin, J. Luntley, W. Kirkland, and H. Gaudy. The society, thanks to the kindness of their president, Mr. S. Watson, of Beeston, have the fishery to themselves.

FROM SHEFFIELD.

Now that the holiday season is at an end the fine weather has set in, and during the past week brilliant and warm sunshine has prevailed, making outdoor pursuits enjoyable in the extreme. There will, however, be very little fly fishing for a bit, as up to a week ago the rain fell in such torrents that the rivers have been very full, with greatly discoloured waters. These are now rapidly clearing, and fly fishing will soon be entered upon with great zest, after anglers have been debarred so long from following their favorite pursuit. The upper reaches of the Derwent are already being attended to by fly fishers, and during the week, if the fine weather continues, fly fishing will become general all the length of the Derwent and Wye. The conditions for bottom fishing have been very gratifying, and anglers have put in full time. In the neighbourhood of Darley Dale both local anglers and rodders from a distance have found some satisfactory sport, whilst the waters near Matlock Bridge, Bath, and Bank have yielded some very nice trout. Bottom anglers took full advantage of the opportunities afforded them, and now fly anglers are beginning to take their turn. In the waters at Low Bradfield a goodly number of nice fish have been caught, some anglers having accounted for five or six brace each. Anglers who enjoy the pleasure of catching decent-sized fish are very fond of the Damflask Reservoir, where trout of 1lb. each are commonly caught, whilst many big beauties have also been recently taken from the same sheet of water. The private waters rented by the Sheffield Trout Anglers' Society in the Amber, near Wingfield, have provided a good deal of sport during the past week, a lot of nice fish having been caught.

FROM WORCESTER AND DISTRICT.

The heavy rains at the end of last week caused a considerable rise and discolouration of our rivers and streams, the Tems being most affected, and for some days was unfishable, except for eels. A cold wind has been blowing, veering from N.E. to S.E., and we have had sharp frosts at night, which has played sad havoc in the gardens among the early vegetables and fruit. Potatoes, kidney beans, and marrows have suffered terribly. Since Sunday there has been considerable improvement in the weather; the sun has made itself felt, and at last we feel that it is May. To-day the waters are dropping down and clearing nicely, and many anglers have been out, and trout have risen well at the fly and taken the worm well, and some very creditable dishes of fish have been brought home. There have been no big takes of trout during the week. About the best were five brace, taken by Mr. Thrift, and four and a half brace by Mr. Martin Perks, both of the City Club. Anglers have had rare sport among the eels lately, which have been feeding voraciously. Two members of the York House Club one day took 35lb., one taken by H. Allen weighed 3lb. 3oz.; and the secretary of that club brought home from the Hawford brook a portion of an eel that must have been close upon 6lb., which an otter was comfortably feeding on when it was disturbed. On visiting the York House Club we were pleased to see the progress it was making in the numbers and standing of their members, and in important additions to their hon. members. They have arranged their first competition of the season for June 18, at Holt, in the river Severn. The other clubs in the district are also preparing for their competitions, and the water in all directions will be well occupied when the close season for coarse fish ends. We are glad to hear that the Severn Fishery Board has been successful in prosecuting two men for taking coarse fish during the close season; unfortunately there are hundreds of this pot-hunting fraternity at it day by day, and taking a great quantity of spawning coarse fish and samlets without let or hindrance, and I am afraid these convictions will come too late in the season to do any good in preventing the great slaughter of the breeding stock of the Severn. A great deal of interest is taken by members of the various clubs in the result of the revision of the rules of the Worcester and District Angling Association, which will take place at the Turk's Head, Lowesmore, Worcester, on Saturday next.

ANSWERS TO CORRESPONDENTS.

W. B.—Write for particulars to Secretary, Thames Conservancy, Victoria Embankment.

WM. FISHBOURNE.—Many thanks for the flies. One of the smaller Sedges will be named with others later on.

T. T.—You gave no address to answer the questions you sent us. Fuller information than that supplied must be given before we could decide what prizes you were entitled to.

W. M.—Tickets for fishing in the Onse at Barcombe Mills can be obtained at Lewes, Barcombe, Irfield, and Short Bridge, as follows: Annual, 10s. 6d.; weekly, 2s. 6d.; daily, 1s. The Onse contains jack, carp, bream, roach, chub, perch, and eels. No angling is allowed during the fence months.

J. C. W.—Brading-on-Yare: Roach, dace, trout; season ticket 10s. 6d., daily tickets 1s., at the Angler's Inn. Coves: Mullet may be caught with a small fly on the ebb tide. Newport: Here are some large ponds, near Carisbrook, holding very fine trout, and leave may sometimes be had. Ryde: There is very good pont and whiting here, and very fair fishing from the jetty. Sandown: Brading is one mile north; trout, roach, preserved by Lady Oglander. Free fishing below the bridge, dace and roach. There is also a reservoir here holding roach, fishing free. Ventnor: Fair fishing when the tide is up from pier, and there are plenty of rock tench and flounders. There is very little chance to catch pike, perch, tench, chub, barbel, or bream in the island, i.e., free fishing.

Correspondence

[We do not hold ourselves responsible for the opinions expressed by our Correspondents.]

DUCKS AND DRAKES.

SIR.—It seems I have been making ducks and drakes of this May Fly business after all. This is strange enough, for if a man is at once ignorant and modest (as I am), he seldom blunders, at least very badly.

"Oirmuhan" tells me I have been saying certain things; but if my memory serves me right, I only said other men said so-and-so in my hearing, and I should be very sorry to make all I hear in this way my own. After all, May Fly, Stone Fly, Wall Fly, and so on, are merely popular and local names, and if a man chooses to apply such terms to butterflies and bluebottles he violates no canon, scientific or otherwise, and is perfectly at liberty to do so without hindrance or reproach. He may even succeed in making out a strong case against "Oirmuhan" or myself for adopting a contrary practice. However that may be, I can assure your Nenagh correspondent that the fly which is called the "Wall Fly" by the anglers of Athlone, is known to some, at least, of the Killaloe people as the "May Fly," for I have personal experience of it. I never heard the terms Sedge or Rail applied to any flies on the Shannon, but the name Cinnamon Wall Fly has been given in my hearing to those beautiful flies which I spoke of as so abounding on the islets in Lough Ree. Yes, it was, and is, my impression that the Wall Fly and Stone Fly had similarly shaped wings, but I shall now attend to your correspondent's correction on this point. They are certainly both flat-winged insects to the man in the street. Then I am told the Stone Fly is never called the Mullah, and finally, that there is no such fly at all as the Mullah. All right; I have not the slightest objection to this as a contribution to local entomological names, but I must be permitted to add my own little contribution. It amounts to this: Some Athlone anglers have many a time and oft in my sight and hearing called a certain very large and dark flat-winged fly the Stone Fly, and occasionally the Mullah. Doubtless they meant Murrigh, and I am thankful for this correction, as the etymology of the word is interesting. This big, "mhor," insect will rise from the bulrushes in Lough Ree in the evening in considerable numbers if one poles one's boat through them, and dash off in a straight, low flight which seems to quickly exhaust the insect, for on the slightest pretence it will drop like a shot. If there be no pretence, it will drop very soon on its own account. It will be found of mornings on any half-submerged post or railings, or half concealed under the gunwales or elsewhere on yachts and boats. I never saw one under a stone. It appears on Lough Ree late in the Green Drake season, and a few can always be procured in the morning by carefully searching such hiding places as I have indicated. I am afraid there is a confusion of terms somewhere in this matter between your correspondent and myself. By the way, I should be much obliged to "Oirmuhan" if he would kindly let me know what he thinks of Nenagh as a fishing centre for one permanently residing there. I have heard the river Nenagh highly spoken of, and Lough Derg is, I suppose, within sufficiently easy distance. Is there ever a shot to be had in the winter? "Hi-Regau" speaks very well of the Ballyfinboy river also.—Yours,
MONA.

WEIGHT AND LENGTH OF FISH.

DEAR SIR.—The following may be interesting to your readers. In the *Fishing Gazette* for Sept. 22, 1894, I find that a bream 5lb. 6oz. in weight was 20½ in. in length, whilst on the same date another bream, taken in the Onse, weighing 6lb. 4½ oz., was 20½ in. in length, the extra half inch making a difference of 12½ oz.; but, on comparing the length and weight of other fish mentioned in the same date with a printed scale, a barbel, chub, and roach that weighed 6lb. 3oz., 6lb. 3½ oz., and 2lb. respectively, according to the scale, should weigh 4lb. 4½ oz., 4lb. 12½ oz., and 1lb. 8½ oz. respectively. The difference in the length of

the two barbel was only half an inch, whilst that of the weight was nearly 2lb. The difference in the two chub of the same length, 21in., was 1lb. 5½oz., and the difference in the two roach, each 13in. in length, 7½oz. Bnt, sticking to the length and weight of the various fish in the *Fishing Gazette*, three roach, all 13in. in length, weighed 1lb. 8oz., 1lb. 8oz., and 1lb. 8½oz.; and three tench, all 18in. in length, weighed 4lb., 4lb., and 4lb. ½oz., all female fish. Again, in a second list, dated Oct. 6, 1894, a bream taken in the Lea, length 21½in., weighed 6lb. 3oz., or 1½oz. less than the bream taken in the Ouse, 20½in. in length. On the other hand, a perch taken in private water, length 14½in., weighed 2lb.; whilst one taken in the Lea, 15½in. in length, weighed 3 lb.; and of two pike, each 32in. in length, one weighed 9lb. 12oz. and the other 11lb. 12oz., both from private waters; lastly, a bream, 5lb. 8oz., taken in the Ouse (see *Fishing Gazette*, Oct. 27, 1894, page 426), was 19½in. in length. A nice fish. Singular to relate, according to the *Fishing Gazette* for Sept. 8, 1894, another bream, weighing 5lb. 8oz., was taken in the Wey, the length of which was the same as the one taken in the Ouse; but on Oct. 6, 1894, still another bream, weighing 5 lb. 8oz., taken in the Lea, was 20½in. in length, or a difference of 1in. from those taken in the Wey and Ouse.—Yours truly, MARK.

WHY DO SALMON TAKE THE FLY?

DEAR SIR,—“E. E. H.’s” amusing letter gives food for reflection, as was to be expected from a writer who uses the word *parts* instead of the fashionable French jargon *roles*, with a beastly accent which is quite un-English. He asks, Why do salmon take a fly which they are not hungering after? Why do dogs rush at a wheel in motion, which they have no desire to eat? Inherited propensity, probably. In the case of salmon, he suggests anger at or attraction by the bright colours, which reminds me of a fact well known to all anglers for huchen, i.e., Danube salmon (*Salmo lucho*). Herein Mr. Sachs will doubtless bear me out. This fish is taken by spinning; rarely by live baiting. The young ones are said to take a fly, though I never tried for them so. Now, it sometimes happened that we were float fishing in the side streams or backwaters of the Danube about Tulln for pike or zander (*Lucioperca sandia*), called schill in Austria; if a huchen chanced to come along, more often than not he went for the gaudy float, frequently skipping over the line or playing other antics, disdainful the live bait a few feet below. On being pulled in the float would bear the marks of his teeth. Now this salmon, unlike the British and Irish variety, is always on the feed, very much so while in fresh water; so why does not he savage the bait in preference? So much for what I can vouch for. While on the subject, I may cite another case somewhat similar, related to me by a long-time fishing chum, not more given to romance than others. He had been on the Lower Danube, in Carinthia or Carniola, I forget exactly where, and he told me that the fishermen down there were in the habit of taking sturgeon by surface spinning with a large plate of bright white metal, with a big hook attached. According to him, the fish beat furiously at the shining object with their tails, until they get caught in the act. Touching the colours of flies, wet and dry, did you ever notice in an aquarium how sober clad most fish appear in the water compared to what they are in the air? Most colours, except red, merge into a sort of neutral tint, drab, &c. It may be so of flies.—Yours truly, BARKINS OF BRUSSELS.

BASS AND GREY MULLET FISHING.

DEAR SIR,—Would your correspondent “Mullet” be kind enough to tell me the name and address of anyone who will send me salted chervie. I tried to procure some a few years ago, but was unsuccessful. Has “Mullet” tried wray’s liver for bass? A piece about half the size of the palm of your hand should be used.—Yours faithfully, A. P. W.

FISHING AT WAREHAM OR WIMBORNE WANTED.

DEAR SIR,—Could you oblige an old reader of the *Fishing Gazette* with any information as to the fishing at Wareham and Wimborne (Dorset)? If the fishing is good and free, or if preserved?—Yours truly, C. E. H.

TROUT WITH MUDDY FLAVOUR.

DEAR SIR,—Would you or any of your readers kindly inform me how to remove the muddy flavour of trout?—Yours faithfully, W. CLEMENTS.
[If alive, keep them in fresh water for a few days. If dead, saturate well with salt inside before cooking].

FISHING IN THE ISLAND OF SARK.

DEAR SIR,—I intend spending a holiday this year at the Island of Sark, near Guernsey. Can you or any of your readers tell me if there is any good rod and line fishing to be had there (sea fishing)? Perhaps someone who has been there can give me the required information, and possibly recommend apartments also.—Yours truly, C. S. B.

THE AMERICAN “CUT THROAT” TROUT.

DEAR MR. ARMISTEAD,—I have long been desirous of getting the cut throat trout (*Salmo purpuratus* or *mykiss*) over to Europe, and I am glad to say I have now a quantity of healthy fry of them here. The fish has been highly reported upon from the States, and also by Mr. Armistead, as you see from inclosed card, but the literature on the subject is so meagre that I should be very much obliged to you if you could point out to me any well authenticated facts about this fish.

Of the other fish, Mr. Armistead mentions—our old friend and enemy the rainbow is of course well known to you—the “namagansh,” I have raised here, and have full grown specimens of it now. It is not a desirable fish—a deep lake dweller *par excellence* and a robber of the first class (very pikey!). Our native *Salvelinus* is far preferable to it.

I still continue sending every fall a box or two of ova to the Sussex Piscatorialists you kindly recommended some years ago, and I am glad they find them of some use. I sent them some *Irideus shasta* (McCloud) this year.

If you have at any time occasion to place a box or two of ova (gratis, of course) in good hands, I shall be always glad to help. Apologising for the trouble.—Yours very truly, S. JAFFÉ.

Rittergut Sandfort, Osnabrück.

The following account of *Salmo purpuratus* is from Professor Brown Goode’s work “American Fishes,” p. 457:

“The black spotted trout, the *Salmo purpuratus* of Pallas, is universally distributed through the Rocky Mountain region, chiefly east of the Sierra southward, but reaching the sea from Mount Shasta, northward. It occurs in every lake in New Mexico, Utah, Western Colorado, Wyoming, Montana, Idaho, Oregon, and Washington. All the streams in this district are filled with them, and in Puget Sound the young of every size occur in abundance in the salt water. Individuals are occasionally taken along the California coast.

“This fish is known as the ‘trout,’ ‘mountain trout,’ ‘spotted trout,’ ‘black trout,’ and ‘silver trout,’ in the mountains, but when in the ocean, full grown, as ‘salmon trout’ or ‘steel-head.’” Hallock and other recent writers have applied to it the horrible name ‘cut throat trout,’ which it is hoped will never be sanctioned in literature. The Indian name ‘preestl’ is also ascribed to it on the Upper Columbia. It reaches a weight of thirty pounds under the most favourable circumstances, but may be found in any stream or lake of its habitat of lengths varying from two inches to two or three feet.

“It feeds on any living thing it finds near it. In the mountain lakes it spawns in the spring, running into the rivers for that purpose. Unlike *S. Gairdneri*, its young are very common, and it probably breeds in mountain streams at a length of less than a foot. Local variations occur in abundance. Specimens from Seattle have the scales notably larger than those from Victoria and Astoria, which agree with Utah Lake specimens in this respect. Those that live in the depths of shady lakes are almost black, while others are pale. Those in the sea are silvery and only faintly spotted. In the opinion of Prof. Jordan this species is likely to prove much more valuable for introduction into eastern waters than the rainbow trout. It is more active, more gamy, reaches a larger size, and thrives in a greater variety of waters.”

FISHING AT SOUTHBEND.

SIR,—On visiting Southend on May 26 for my usual fishing, I was surprised and disgusted to find the pier extension closed against anglers, although there were no London boats running. During the five hours I was on the old pier not twelve people paid to go on the extension, so that it could not be on the ground of interference with traffic. I am not so unreasonable as to expect in the season, with the great mass of people to deal with, anglers of all sorts and sizes should be permitted to fish; but I think it a great hardship to the dozens who, like myself, fish from the pier extension and pay their 2d. all through the winter months, during which period visitors (other than anglers) are conspicuous by their absence. Fishing could well be permitted, except, perhaps, on Sundays, for at least another month without inconveniencing any one. Boats stop at other piers, but we are not interfered with. Real anglers seldom give trouble to officials. It is only the selfish class, who cast a line with dozens of hooks, and put their bait, fish, and offal on the clean seats and shelters—whose sole object is to fill their larder and save their butcher’s bills—who are a nuisance all round. If the Southend Corporation would make a small charge per rod or line, many anglers who fish for the pleasure and sport would cheerfully pay for the privilege. As a member of the British Sea Anglers’ Society, I am sure I am giving expression to the feelings of many fellow members, and others also. We deserve some little consideration, as our shillings mount up, and are very useful as tolls when the days are short, and the pier-head otherwise deserted. But when the annual visitation of the East-end aristocracy is imminent new print is the order of things, and we are shelved till next November.—Yours faithfully, R. C. GRAHAM, C.E. (B.S.A.S.)

THE MAY FLY ON THE AVON, NEAR MALMESBURY.

DEAR SIR,—My father was out fishing yesterday, and found the May Fly was up strong, and had been for over a week. This was on the Wiltshire Avon, near Malmesbury. But the fish were taking very badly; in fact, what flies were taken took generally four or five rises, and even then not one in twenty was touched. This probably was the result of low temperature, as there was a sharp frost the night before. Amongst other flies, father caught a very large curious specimen, with a big circular sac of green eggs attached to it; and never having seen the fly before, he is inclosing it for your opinion, along with several May Flies, which you will note vary very much both in size and colour. If you are able to find time to send a reply, will you kindly add a little information about what flies are produced from our two sorts of common caddis? All our streams and brooks, and even ponds, swarm chiefly with the sort that lives in a case, between two bits of stick or small rush. Another sort

lives in a case without the two bits of stick, but has the outside of the case covered with tiny bits of dark and white stuff, almost like lichen. Both kinds appear to be inhabited by almost the same grub or larvae, and they are found still living in the cases quite late in the summer. The Alder is also well up in this district.—Yours truly, W. D. ROBBINS.

[The big fly sent is a large sedge, one of the numerous Phryganidae, of which we shall give some illustrated particulars as soon as this May Fly fever is over safely.—Ed.]

THE “SAIGON” LINE.

DEAR SIR,—We thank you for your courtesy in giving the name of our firm to your correspondent as dealers in the “Saigon” line, in your issue of May 27.

We wish, however, to inform your readers that we in no case supply our goods direct to anglers, but only through dealers in fishing tackle.—Yours truly, WM. BARTLETT AND SONS.

Abbey Mills, Redditch, Worcestershire.

“COOPER’S FANCY.”

DEAR SIR,—What a number of fishing tackle dealers are, as a correspondent puts it, rising at this fly. I see in last week’s issue of your valuable paper that Posters of Ashbourne, are having a shy at it, and have the assurance to say that if anglers will order their Black Gnat they will get “Cooper’s Fancy;” but I can tell would-be purchasers, in the most emphatic manner, they will not.

My fly is not a Black Gnat in any form, neither wings or hackle being black, and the body is not the body of a Black Gnat, as you, sir, can testify; but it is a good all-the-year-round fly, taking both trout, grayling, dace, and roach from spring to late autumn. It seems to me a pity that Posters cannot find better occupation in looking after their own productions, than by interfering with and misrepresenting “Cooper’s Fancy.”—Yours faithfully, HENRY COOPER.

BASS AND GREY MULLET FISHING.

DEAR SIR,—In reply to “Mullet,” a take of 20lb. of bass at Exmouth, Devon, was reported lately in the *Fishing Gazette*, and in the *Field* of Saturday last bass were mentioned as occurring at several places. School bass have been taken by angling at Plymouth at intervals throughout the winter and spring. These school bass do not exceed 2lb. in weight, and many are taken of only a few ounces.

Any London maker will send salmon collars of prime single, double, or treble salmon gut, when desired. I have taken most of my adult bass on two lengths of double salmon gut, but if the gut is rather short I use three lengths.

I lived ten years in Guernsey, from 1859 to 1869, and occasionally visited Alderney, Sark, and Jersey. I once fished in the “Little Swinge” passage, taking some whiting pollack. The first edition of my work, “The Sea Fisherman,” was published in Guernsey, and at p. 28 of the 4th edition I have specially mentioned Guernsey, Jersey, and Alderney, and the taking of bass under sail in the “Little Swinge.”

A horn of *le piovre* (octopus) is sometimes used with success, and the indianubber spinning eels, in a breezy day, will answer with an Alderney pilot on board.—Yours, &c., J. C. WILCOCKS.
(Address can be had from *Fishing Gazette* office.)

TESTIMONIAL TO BEN ABRÁHAMS.

DEAR SIR,—We are pleased to acknowledge the following sums with thanks:

	£	s.	d.
Amounts previously received	2	11	6
Mr. W. H. Brougham (late secretary T.A.P.S.)	0	2	6
Mr. J. J. U. Clarke (Allason United Brothers)	0	2	6
E. Buxton	0	2	6
Mr. G. Gill	0	0	6

Trustees: J. W. Harris (Western District Visiting Officer); G. Bence (secretary Jubilee A.S.). Secretary: E. Jackson (chairman Allason United Brothers’ A.S.), 2, Bulmer-place, Notting-hill Gate, W., where all communications are to be addressed.

THAT BIG TROUT.

DEAR SIR,—I notice your amusing Killaloe reporter states that a trout 8½lb. was captured last week. I see he does not mention the name of the person that caught it. As he states that he was present when the monster was landed, I should justly consider that the worthy gentleman was often troubled with nightmare.

Yesterday evening (May 29) I was in Killaloe, and inquired about this 8½ lb. trout. Most of the fishermen were surprised to hear about it.

The dapping has not been so good this year owing to rise of water, although I have had my share of sport, I and a friend having killed thirty-one fish, total weight amounting to 72lb. Largest fish weighing 6½lb.—Yours faithfully, W. R. KEMP, B.A., L.S.A.

FLY FISHING NEAR IPSWICH.

DEAR SIR,—Can you or any of your readers tell me if there is any trout fishing (with fly) to be had within about twenty-five miles of Ipswich, by day ticket or otherwise? I should be grateful for any information.—Yours faithfully, ALPHA.

Several letters unavoidably held over,

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NOTICE.

THE FISHING GAZETTE is published every Saturday, and can be obtained at Messrs. W. H. Smith and Son's Railway Book-stalls, and of the principal Newsagents and Fishing Tackle Dealers in London and the Provinces.

Communications relating to the Literary Department, Fishing Tackle for Notice, Books for Review, &c., should be addressed to R. B. MARSTON, Editor of the FISHING GAZETTE, St. Dunstan's House, Fetter-lane, London.

Correspondents are requested to write on one side of the paper only, and give their real names and addresses, not necessarily as signatures to their letters, but as a guarantee of good faith. Unless this rule be adhered to no notice will be taken of such communications.

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The GAZETTE can be had by sending Postal Order or Stamps to Messrs. Sampson Low, Marston and Co., Limited, the Proprietors, St. Dunstan's House, Fetter-lane, London, to whom all money payments should be made.

For One year, post free to any part of Great Britain and Ireland	10s. 6d.
Six Months	5s. 4d.
Three Months	2s. 8d.
To America and the Continent, annual subscription, including postage	12s. 6d.

Scale of Charges for Advertisements.

One Page	£7 7 0
Half Page	3 15 0
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Half Column or Eighth Page	1 5 0
Small advertisements 4s. per inch of single column (4 cols. to page).	

The life of every Advertiser and Subscriber is insured by the Proprietors for One Hundred Pounds in case of death when travelling, or by drowning when fishing.

All communications respecting Advertisements should be addressed to the ADVERTISEMENT MANAGER, St. Dunstan's House, Fetter-lane, London.

Telegraphic Address—"RIVSAM, London"
TELEPHONE, No. 83 Holborn.

The

Fishing Gazette

WITH WHICH IS INCORPORATED

ANGLING AND CLUB GOSSIP.

SATURDAY, JUNE 10TH, 1899.

THE FIRST BRACE OF THE SEASON.

MARCH winds and April showers visited us frequently that May day. From the banks of a certain favourite trout stream the flowers that are wont to spring in the merry month were absent. Throughout the day there was no rise of fly to speak of; and I can still feel the nipping cold when evening fell, and I put up my rod in disgust. Yet on that inclement day I caught my first brace of the season, and I propose to tell now how I did it. On this particular water the seasons opens on May 1, but it was not until the end of the second week in the month that I availed myself of the privilege to fish which I held. The journey down was cold, and at the end of it the same bitter north-east wind was blowing which I had flattered myself I should leave behind. Otherwise, the conditions were not unfavourable for angling. The water was in splendid trim, and the weeds had not attained to the rank growth which they do not fail to develop later on. Arrayed in hope, I donned my waders, mounted a Blue Dun, lit my pipe, and started on the warpath.

In favourable weather I should not have had to pass with a barren creel beyond many an

alluring spot where I knew trout were lurking. But now, though I stalked them carefully, not a trout was to be seen, but only here and there the dark shadow of one disappearing into the green depths of pool and eddy. The river ran over the shallows, singing its old song that carries from the ear to the heart of the angler—but without the delightful accompaniment of the Plash! of rising fish. The Blue Dun sailed over the deep haunt of trout again and again, and was chucked for a chance in the laughing shallows. All to no purpose. Once, below a noisy cascade, there was a gleam of a golden side, and for an instant I dared to hope that a fish had turned at my fly; but seemingly it was not so, and the Blue Dun, caught in the rush of water, was hurried some yards towards me before I picked it off the surface and sent it once more right under the cascade.

This time there was no response. Nevertheless, I had the knowledge that there was a fish in the pool, and that it had turned—perhaps not at my fly, but it had turned. In the depressing conditions of the day the mere sight of a golden flash was an encouragement, and I was prepared to spend some time over that fish. So, in the intervals of resting, the Blue Dun was sent once more into the broken water, and the dun was changed for an Iron Blue and a March Brown, and a rough Dark Olive. It was all of no avail. Then I mounted a rather large Red Tag, and sent it to where the fish had showed. It had travelled a yard or two only when once again that golden gleam, and this time the trout had fastened on. But whether it was that I was not prepared for the rise, and I fancy that that was the reason, at any rate, the fish made a rush downstream, and ere I could tighten on it the hook came away, and I was left lamenting.

At this moment the sun burst from a bank of cumulus cloud, and for a space seemed to quicken all the river into life. Too soon it was followed by a sharp rain, and from where I was taking indifferent shelter under a scantily clothed tree, I fancied that I saw a fish rising some 15yds. away. Yes, it was a rise. Presently, among the dapples of the falling rain, the black snout of a trout appeared, and the ever welcome rings widened, and were lost in the current. Of a surety, a rise at last!

I may remark here that in such conditions as those in which I was now, on a day of wind and rain, and of chopping and changing of lures, one is apt to forget the particular fly that is on the cast at a given moment; and it falls out that in your haste you present an indiscreet lure to a fish that, very possibly, is the only rising fish of the day. I am very certain that had the Red Tag been sent over my fish that day he would never have been caught. In the pouring rain, to attach a likely fly to the cast was a difficult and unpleasant business. So far as I could see, the rising fish was feeding upon something; but what that something was it was impossible to discover, watch the rain-dappled surface as carefully as you might. Later on in the season the old rule, "When in doubt try a Wickham," might have been a good guide; but to follow it now would have been folly. I have observed over and over again that early in the season, if the day is rainy and the wind is cold, the Iron Blue is a most trustworthy fly. Generally it is tied far too small, as, indeed, are almost all the floating flies of the present time. The Editor has asked for the correct dressing of the Iron Blue, and I have pleasure in offering him one that, to my knowledge, is very successful: Body, blue fur from a mole, spun upon reddish brown silk; legs, small yellow dun hackle; tail, two whisks from the same; wings, small feather from the breast of a waterhen. Hook, No. 1. It was an Iron Blue Dun of this pattern that I tried now.

It came floating down, with wings nicely erect, over the spot where the black snout had shown, and the trout ought to have taken it. It might have been taken, I believe it would have been, only just then the boisterous nor'-easter caught the heavy portion of the tapered line and sent the Iron Blue scudding across the stream in a manner that might have discovered to the silliest fish the art of the fly dresser instead of the hand of Nature. Five minutes' rest; then again the fly was sent up to the rising fish. This time the nor'-easter did not wait for it to alight, but caught and whirled it in the air; so that when

the fish broke the surface once more, cast and fly turned in the teeth of the wind and looked me in the face. And then it came on to rain again.

There are anglers who hold that a shower, or even a succession of showers, is an aid to sport. It is not my experience. But, certainly, on this day, while the rain fell that fish kept on rising with abominable persistence. Nothing is more unpleasant in angling than to have the line, sodden with the wet, cling to the rod, and the water trickle down over winch and fingers, making the grip less firm and the handling anything but a pleasure. The line clings so, as everyone must have experienced, that to free it for a cast requires the use of increased force. So it was now, as the Iron Blue was sent upon still another journey over the same fish. Somehow—more by luck than good guidance, shall I say?—it floated as it ought, precisely over the desired spot. The surface was broken once more; the black snout appeared and the Iron Blue disappeared; and in an instant the first fish of the season was plunging hither and thither in a spirited fight for freedom. This time, however, the wrist instinctively followed each plunge, and the bent rod told a tale that could only have one conclusion. Is it necessary to say that the speckled sides of the fish, as it floated helplessly into the landing-net, were a welcome sight!

I was still admiring my first fish when the splash of another reached my ears above the murmur of the river at my side. In a trice the Iron Blue was over this fellow also, who, strange to relate, took it at the first offer. And so, within little more than a minute, the first brace of the season was attained.

With most men, assuredly with most anglers, success begets success. It is seldom that the confidence that springs from it fails to lead to further triumphs. So, with that brace of fish thus rapidly made, the disappointments earlier in the day were forgotten, and I looked forward to a well-filled basket. Vain hope! Shower followed shower, and no rising fish came to modify the discomfort they brought. I tried change after change—duns, gnats, spinners (large and small), and fancy flies with reputations that ought to have been equal to a basket, at the least. All in vain. Here and there a lure, that at ordinary times I should have considered absurd, was taken by some troutling which, of course, was returned, to grow into a wiser and wider fish. Damp as the day was, and clouded the sun, my first brace stiffened in the basket for lack of company. And at length, as I have said, evening fell with the north-east wind colder than ever—so bitterly cold, indeed, that my fingers were too benumbed to fasten a change of fly. When that is the case it is time to give up; at any rate, so I thought.

There is no day's sport that does not contain for the keen angler some measure of instruction. And so there is a moral to this story. There are two morals, indeed; for this rough day had its lesson of patience and perseverance. But chiefly it taught this: When the weathers of March and April and May are conjoined, try that fly, much belauded now, but not so long ago as generally scorned—the Iron Blue Dun. IBIS TAG.

ON THE LAMBOURNE.

Few trout streams are more prolific than the lovely little Lambourne in Berkshire, and although one does not get leviathans like unto those for which the swiftly running Kennet is justly renowned, yet rare fun is generally had amongst the comparatively smaller fry in the pretty streamlet mentioned.

From April 1 onwards trouting in the Thames, Colne, Darent, and other waters which might be named, has been very much at a discount, owing to the execrable weather which has obtained. It was cold enough indeed to enjoy sitting round a roaring fire, instead of fruitlessly, in too many instances, promenading the banks of a river, rod in hand, endeavouring to entice fish which refused to budge an inch at any fly presented to their notice. It is no wonder, therefore, that most anglers declined to venture out; no wonder either is it that fish remained quiescent, and that what fly hatched out was speedily killed by the biting winds which were so much in evidence for weeks previous to the end of May. Even small

"Dusties" and "poachers" of that ilk have only been partially successful, and on many streams the skilled rodster has had absolutely nothing to show for a hard and patient day's work save the benefit derived from a health point of view from a trip into the country and a welcome break in business cares and worries.

But if it was cold in May almost tropical heat ushered in the month of June. I had resolved to have a turn on the first opportunity on the Lambourne, and on the eve of the anniversary of the birth of our most Gracious Majesty I was being whirled along by the G.W. Railway to a Berkshire town. As the train sped by Slough one caught a glimpse of Turner's lovely rhododendrons in full bloom, and further on there was nothing but admiration for the beauty of the spring flowers of various hues in the trial grounds of the famous firm of Reading florists—Sutton and Sons, to wit. A short stay at the latter place, and the journey was resumed. At Thatcham myriads of May Flies literally invaded the railway station, presaging good sport on the morrow. My trip by train soon came to an end, and after a drive of a quarter of an hour I alighted at a quiet unpretentious inn on the banks of the Lambourne itself. The fly was well up, and the fish were taking them, though, so greedily as they would do after they had become accustomed to the winged delicacies.

I must confess that my attempts at wooing Morpheus were not particularly successful. The heat and excitement combined militated against my entering into the land of dreams; but even the longest night will have an end, and at last the time for action came.

Saturday was terribly hot, but I had the forethought to carry with me a large flask of liquid refreshment, the desirability of so doing having been forcibly impressed upon me by the relation to me by a brother angler of the agonies of thirst he had suffered on the previous day. He was wading the Kennet, and would have given anything for a long pull at even a lemon squash; but as he was some distance from his inn, and the fish were rising fairly well, he braved the thirst and stuck to his guns. Looking, however, by chance towards his right bank, he espied a bottle bobbing about in the stream. To the neck of the bottle was a long piece of cord, one end of the latter being fastened securely to a stump on the bank. The thought immediately flashed across my friend's mind that some of his companions (at least, he fervently hoped so) had adopted this not uncommon method of keeping their drink cool. With eagerness he made for the prize, clutched hold of the bottle in a half frantic manner, and found it—empty! What he said is better left to one's imagination than described.

But to return to the Lambourne. The fly did not hatch out until five o'clock, but pending its advent I selected a small Red Quill for my initial attack. I hooked the first rising fish I saw, but it was off as soon as it was on. Four times in the course of an hour I rose other fish, but missed every one in a most incomprehensible manner. If I had only examined the Red Quill after the first trout was lost, I should have discovered that the hook had broken at the bend, that part having doubtless been left in trout number one.

A good supply of big Alders was coming down, and by way of a change I tried one of Mr. C. E. Walker's patterns dressed by Mrs. Richardson. It was not long before I came across a heavy-looking rise. The fly was taken, and for a moment I imagined I had hold of a pound trout, but found that my reward was only a grayling of a little over the weight. I had, however, two or three brace of trout on the same fly of the minimum size allowed, but returned them, feeling sure that when the May Fly came up in the evening I should get hold of larger fish. A somewhat extended lunch, a solacing cigar, and a chat with some genial spirits, caused the best part of two hours to pass pleasantly by.

At five o'clock a fly was seen here and there, but it was well after 6 p.m. before it was up in real earnest. The fish were bulging a good deal, and not coming strongly to it. Still, in an hour and a half I had something like eight brace; the majority were takeable, but only one of 1lb. found its way into my creel. Then I saw feeding in its well-known haunt the "big 'un" of the stretch. I cast carefully over him, the fly cocked like a haystack, the fish rose, was hooked,

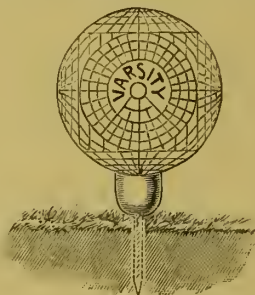
leaped into the air, showing me his grand size, but the line came back intact, minus the fish, the hook having come unstuck. May it live until the autumn, and may I get hold of it on a big Brown Sedge or Moth, and stick to it.

At half-past seven the fly was on in great force, but now occurred one of those annoying and irritating events which happen so frequently on streams feeding mills. The miller above the water opened his gates, and the result was that with the rush of water came down weeds, grass, and other abominations for the space of half an hour, putting every trout down, and spoiling the fishing in the very best part of the day. Yet one had to grin and bear it all the same. When the water had cleared somewhat, the fly still being strongly in evidence, the fish began again to rise, and fish after fish was landed. My total take for the day was something like twelve brace, the usual size of the Lambourne trout, the two biggest brace going 3lb. 8oz. together. At 9 p.m. all fishing ceased, and as I lit my last cigar with my only match, and returned to the inn, I felt satisfied in my own mind that I had had a not altogether bad day's sport on one of the prettiest and most charmingly situated pieces of dry-fly water it has ever been my privilege to visit.

H. A. ROLT.

A NEW GOLF TEE.

WE have received from Messrs. Anderson, Anderson, and Anderson a new golf tee, which consists of a long French nail, with a small rubber cup at the top (*vide illustration*). To those who



want a tee which is simple, cheap, and durable, we can recommend this. In the sample box sent to us the rubber cups are all the same height, but we suppose different sizes can be obtained, the one before us at the present time being too high for the average golf player.

A DAY IN ROACHLAND.

To me there is no memory sweeter than the dream of the rush-fringed brook where the eddy coiled in in sluggish twists, and the bead-eyed water voles paddled down noiselessly when I sat in silence watching the swaying float. Since then, at times, I have triumphed mightily, thrilled at the first wild burst of a clean run fish and charmed lusty trout, wary giants those, from the dim sanctity of their fastnesses under the pendant bushes of the chalk streams. But for one of the old time hours among the roach, with the old sweet scent of water and air, with the same old comrade, and the same old rod, I could forget all my fights with lordly salmon, all my fat creels of speckled trout, all the war songs the reel has sung with a 20lb. weight of plunging silver straining the line. But those days are gone.

A smear of deepening crimson lay low in the eastern sky as we trudged in towards the slumbering town. A cutting east wind sprawled the clouds upwards menacingly in jagged fingers, and sang shrilly among the grass and browning hedge-rows. It sang of dole to the angler's heart, of mighty billows instead of placid sheen where the roach lay, of empty creels, of wildly tossing floats and belling lines.

As we neared the town the sun slid up luridly red, and threw our shadows lengthily beside us. The wind came stronger, spattering the bronzed leaves along the road, till we welcomed the scanty shelter of the curved park wall, and drew our caps down low as a barrier against the whirling dust. But in the lulls the air was sweet with the mellow scent of September, and the golden beauty of the

year's decay lay richly on meadow, hedge, and branch.

A few drowsy labourers and mechanics, sons of the morning all, clustered the slumbering station. In the aristocratic sanctity of a first-class carriage—a veritable patrician among the grimy plebeians of the workman's train—we steamed from the hazy dimness of the domed station into the blaze of the brightening day. Then, with pipes alight and the blue smoke curling soothingly upward, we discussed the chances of the battle and the ungenerous hostility of the weather with complacent resignation.

Presently the light hazed and a whip of rain splashed against the window. A web of mist blurred out the meadowland, and the racing clouds hung low and black. We sighed, and lay back hopelessly among the cushions, for luck seemed rigidly against us. Then the welcome sun flashed out, smoothing away the gloom, and the glamour of the day's first pipe was sweeter with lightening hopes.

The train crawled on with tedious slowness, limping into the stations half-heartedly to discharge its freight of toilers, and limping out again with manifest reluctance. The worn, dog-eared tackle books—treasures more precious than rubies for the sake of the past—were overhauled with scrupulous care, tackles were tested delicately against the window strap, and the cherished three-inch quill, with its cap of black wax that had signalled the death of many a lusty roach, was laid ready to hand in the pocket of the creel.

A twelve mile drive through a wonderland of bronze-leaved forest and gorse-spangled common brought the spire of the village church looming above the hill. At the quaint village inn, bright geraniums flaring through its polished windows, we reined in, and drank a mug of foaming ale, while the tiny pinafores waitress stared up at us in big-eyed curiosity. Then we drove on between scented fields of sheafed wheat, where linnets twittered and fluttered, and the hedges flared red with haws, and white with trailing wild convolvuli.

At length the swish of wheels through the dust gave place to the crisp crunching of gravel, and we had entered the park. The breeze had fallen a little, but our eager eyes scanned the white patch of lake, and saw the waves tumbling disastrously across it, and rocking the clustered wildfowl like miniature boats. Then we topped the bridge, and looked upstream towards the straggling hamlet. The brook slid placidly towards the lake, furred here and there with ripples, but dark and glassy, and glorious under the shelter of the bushes. A wide ring circled in, and broke against either bank as a grayling rose at a fly, and a shoal of silvery fry glistened brightly, hurrying madly from some prowling perch.

In a moment we were out of the trap, untying the tapes of our rod bags with feverish haste. A stately swan sailed in under the bridge, darting his sinuous neck among the sedge, but he floated lakeward hastily and ignominiously at the sight of our hostile gestures. The old rod went up in all its tapering beauty—scarred it was, but full of life, and responsive to the gentlest twitch—the light wooden reel clicked into its socket, the thin silk line slid through the rings, and float and hair tackle were added dexterously. Then, with a quick plunge among the moss-nested cockspurs, we neared the bushes with stealthy tread.

There was little need to plumb the depth, for a scant six feet between float ring and bait laid the lowest shot, and a good nine inches of hair along the bottom. As the float fell noiselessly, a sprinkle of light breadcrumbs drifted past, telling me that Harold was using the treasured paste of his own making, mysterious of ingredient, and a deadly lure.

At the head of the curling eddy a tiny weir, fringed with fluttering weed, shot the water down with a frill of foam and a drowsy tinkling. Suddenly, as I filled my pipe, the float dipped warningly aslant, poised itself sharply upright, and vanished with dazzling speed. It was a clumsy stroke as I clapped the pipe between my teeth, but the old cane veteran responded valiantly to the jerk of my wrist, curved from lower socket to tip, and I was fast in a fighting fish.

Only a roach, I knew, but a pounder at least, and no mean foe on a slim thread of hair, with

buried snags below and beyond, and piled boulders crammed with lurking places at the tail of the weir. Gallantly he fought, and well, but I played him kneeling. Then I heard a quick twitch, and, glancing up, saw Harold's line cutting the water briskly with the No. 10 well home in a second fish.

Both were grassed—two trim pounders—clean of scale and brilliant of fin, but underfed and underweight for their breadth of beam. A grayling rose at a floating alder as I rubbed on a second bait, and curling out twenty yards of line I sent the float skimming across into mid stream, the wind favouring the cast. It drifted down to where a jutting log sent a rippling trail of water inshore, and hung motionless for an instant, lying flat upon the stream. Then very slowly it righted and bobbed out of sight.

It was a perch this time, a mere eight-ouncer, and I gave him scant law, for I knew and loved the old grey pony whose tail I had so often robbed for hair tackles, and trusted him not to play me false. But as I withdrew the hook I felt a little pang of envy as Harold's modulated "Cheer-o!" made me look upstream. He was fast in a giant this time, a giant as roach went in that drowsy stream, and he played it craftily and reverently as befitted its age and dignity.

Up and down it plunged, sometimes sounding nobly to the very bed ooze like a baby whale, sometimes heading strongly towards the hidden snags that would have earned it freedom, but always with that gentle wearing strain upon it that brought it at last floundering under the bank, where the ready net hooked it beyond recall. To a lad, fishing with light silk and tapering hair, a 2lb. roach killed skilfully is a feat not easily to be forgotten. Old roach anglers, I know, veterans of the art, think nothing of it, and once I saw a bearded, tanned water dog of the upper Trent wage a battle royal with a 4lb. chub, and defeat the fish disastrously on a thread of brown horse-hair. But we gazed at the broad-scaled roach with victorious pride as we laid it tenderly in the shadow of the damp grass, knowing that we had fought for it in all fairness, and that the battle was not wholly to the strong.

And then our tyrant of the weather sent a hissing gale of rain across the parkland, blurring the water with a thousand bubbles, and huddling the browsing cattle together in resigned melancholy. A lordly oak with flapping leaves gave us shelter, and buffeted the wind from his scarred bole and from our tweed-clothed backs. For a while we squatted there, smoking and talking as we waited for the storm to pass. I had laid down my rod, sheltering the reel securely from the rain, and placed the float and straightened tackle on the bank beside it. But the wind came in heavy gusts, and must, unseen, have whipped both float and tackle bodily from the bank, and whirled them into the ruffled stream, for suddenly I spied a suggestive twitch of the rod's wrapped lance-wood top, and faced the downpour boldly.

A 6oz. perch came out protestingly as I reeled up the kinked line, and I cursed his striped knaveship heartily, though not aloud, for he had gorged the bait with all the proverbial greed of his race, and I loathed surgical operations with a bitter loathing. But presently the sun rode through the clouds, blinking dimly at the tail of the storm, and smoothed the wrinkles from the face of the stream. Then we set to work again, this time my hook hidden in a pea of snow-white paste, and found the dwellers in the eddy rarely good-humoured, to the sad discountenancing of the weather-wise angler.

Again and again at identical moments we were each playing a fish, till a long double row of silver and red streaked the grass under the thin shadow of the fence. A brawny keeper came swinging through the bracken, gun on shoulder, and eyed our tactics for a good half hour with gratifying approval, and some few compliments delivered in a broad, but not mystifying, dialect.

The lake below held monster pike then, but none thought of tempting them with live bait or troll until the frosts had bleached the reeds, and shrivelled the bracken. Still, one impudent youngster, who tipped the scale at 8lb. or more, brought disaster upon himself by his own amazing audacity and impudent recklessness. Harold had hooked a plump roach, when his impudence leapt up from his fastness under the shelving bank, seized the struggling roach cross-

wise in his pointed jaws, and hung there a bare two feet below the water, staring up at the angler glassily with bewildering *sang froid*.

Then majestically he moved away, snapped the hair with an unexpected plunge, and spat the mangled roach disdainfully to the surface as he dwindled from our astonished sight. But such a slight, and such broad-day robbery as that, could not go unavenged. Quickly tackle books were opened, but all were innocent of any fit weapon with which to assassinate this nonchalant thief. Three eel hooks wrapped to salmon gut, the relics of some ancient poaching night-line, came to light at last, and out of them a crude live-baiting tackle was deftly manufactured. A 4oz. roach, caught in the shallower water below, was let roam where he listed till the line called him to order, and urged him to do his duty with added energy.

And by and bye his audacity, spying the squirming oval of silver, fanned himself upward, with whetted appetite, and seized the bait. Full time Harold gave him, too, either to discard the doubtful morsel or to pounce it sufficiently to give the hooks a grip when the strike came, and then the rod tip leapt upward, driving the barbs well home. The fight was brief and lacking in excitement, and in a short five minutes my fingers slid into his pulsing gills, and, with my left hand tucked under his slimy belly, I lifted him to the bank, an enemy easily conquered. He was an 8-pounder, clean skinned and full-eyed, but woefully thin, as if the *table d'hôte* of his native stream disagreed with him thoroughly.

The roach had drifted downstream, but a judicious sprinkling of ground-bait and some patience wooed them back to the tail of the weir. Fishing went on apace till long shadows moving westward draped the brackened parkland in gauzy haze. The sun sank red and promising, flinging shafts of yellow fanwise across the sky. And all too soon the drone of wheels told of the nearing trap, and we packed our rods in regretful silence. Four rows of lusty roach jostled each other beneath the fence—ninety-four in all—and a few perch kept company with his audacity, the pike, farther away. All, save his audacity, killed on hair in water where snags abounded and the landing was difficult. The weight of the catch was 85lb., not counting the attenuated pike.

Bigger bags by far I have had a dozen times, but no day that paints me sweeter memories than that, in spite of the gale and chilling rain. An ocean divides me now from that young comrade of rod and line. The roach still lie thick and hungry in the depths of that glassy eddy, for it is seldom that a line is wetted in my hallowed stream except below the lake, where the trout are lusty and fat. But I never go there now, for fear of sadness, dreading that it might seemed changed. Nor will I tell you where Roachland is

E. JOYCE MURRAY.

THE PARSON.

BY "KRYPTOS."

TROUT fishing was his hobby; he cast the lightsome fly, His hat behind his polished pate, his spectacles awry, A large red handkerchief peeped forth from 'neath his dragged tails, Whilst o'er his coat and vest were spots which looked like fishes' scales; And as he cast he would rehearse, with thoughtful pause and frown, Next Sunday's sermon in the rough; then stop and jot it down, So oft-times when he paused in church, and turned his notes in doubt, The village lads would grin and say: "That's where 'e caught a trout!"

DEVONSHIRE would seem unduly blessed with sporting parsons, and amongst them all there is no finer bulwark of Church and State than the fishing cleric, who knows every inch of the streams around him, and dispenses his knowledge freely to all brothers in the art who are fortunate enough to come into his little world.

A simple, whole-hearted man is he, without a touch of bigotry in his nature; old fashioned in his ways may be, yet with a shrewdly humorous manner that makes him a companion to be sought out, a friend to be kept. "Thanks be that I am not cooped up in a town!" said he once, "bazaars and sales of work are entirely out of my

province!" for in his parish the farms are isolated, and the village can only boast an inn and five houses, including the forge. He is unmarried, as he is wont to say, "by force and not by fault," yet whatever that hidden page of his life may contain, he never complains, but cheerily advises others to abstain from following his example, and never is the parson more jovial and sunny faced than when he ties two blushing, flushing, stammering rustics in the bonds of matrimony.

The rector of the next parish once had cause to complain that his fowl-run was visited by two-legged poachers, and suspicion fell upon one of the parson's flock, a man named Smith. Suspicion was changed into accusation, and the rector came to our old friend with his tale of woe.

"My dear sir," said the parson, "think before you hand this man over to the law! He has a wife and family, who would suffer far more than he by his imprisonment. Give the man another chance to amend his ways?" With such merciful argument did the parson prevail, and as soon as his visitor had gone he sought a stick—and Smith, when having shown the latter the power of the former, he said, "You rascal! Don't ever let me hear of your misdeeds again, and remember that had you not been coming to show me that trout pool to-morrow, you would have been in jail!"

Although rapidly nearing the three score years and ten allotted by the Psalmist, yet the parson is as sound in wind and limb as most of his younger friends, the only sign of aged infirmity being his short memory and occasional absent-mindedness.

The results were sometimes amusing; once when I was with him we were coaching through a most beautiful valley, and the driver by accident hitched the thong of the whip in the trace of one of the "leaders." Parson was indulging in a reverie, but started up on seeing the man jerking at his whip, and, leaning towards him, cried: "Gently man! gently! or you'll lose the fish."

His bishop had a great admiration for his straightforward manliness, and as often as circumstances would permit went down to the quiet parsonage. Once whilst seated in the snug, little parlour, chatting over the villagers, the bishop asked him whether he had any very bad characters in his flock.

"Only one," answered he, "and he's dead now."

"I suppose drink was at the bottom of it?" queried the bishop.

"Probably drink had something to do with it, but wickedness was ingrained there, I fear. Why, the murders that brute committed would astound you!"

"You shock me!" cried his visitor. "What a fearful thing these spirits are!" and the bishop frowned at his glass of grog.

"He never touched spirits, my lord; he only drank water!"

"What was he?" asked the puzzled dignitary.

"A pike, and there he is" (pointing to the stuffed malefactor hanging over the door). "He's the worst character we ever had in T—. No one would believe the number of trout he has killed."

Only a few years ago his length and strength of limb rescued him from a most awkward predicament. He had taken his rod, bound riverwards, and was crossing the last meadow which stood between him and his pleasure, when a large black bull sighted his red bandana handkerchief, and, being no respecter of persons, came full tilt at the parson, who, hearing the ominous bellow, took to his heels, and made for the river and safety. It was a long run; they reached the bank, the parson leading by only a few yards, and, without waiting to ascertain the depth, he made its acquaintance at once. "That was the most unhappy looking bull I ever saw," he told me afterwards; "but, at the same time, I should not have cared to have made him happy!" Then down in the quiet glen he laid his clothes upon the boulders to dry, and whipped the stream like a second Adam.

Controversy vexes him not, and of arguments he will have none. "I hold my view, you hold yours; hold it tight, and I shall like you the better for it."

His teachings were simply superb in their conciseness and utility, very few of his boys forgetting what they owe to their kind-hearted pastor.

Some years back one of these same boys enlisted, and soon afterwards the regiment was sent abroad. Lately they returned, and the bronzed soldier came back to the quiet village, where as a fat-cheeked boy he had lived his uneventful years. Parson and soldier met.

"Jim," said the former, his eyes bright with pride, "what is your duty?"

And like a shot the answer came:

"Tell the truth, never steal, and put back under-sized fish!"

There's a teaching for you!

SOUTH-WESTERN DONEGAL.

In my short article on the Fjords of Kerry (June 3) I mentioned the great improvement which the establishment of a new line brings about in a hitherto almost inaccessible district, and the same remark applies with even greater force to the south-western portion of the county of Donegal. The Donegal railway, which starts from the Great Northern (Ireland) main line at Strabane, fourteen miles south of Londonderry, opens up a wide area until a few years back all but unknown. This district offers not only inland and sea-coast scenery of great diversity and beauty, but affords a fruitful field of interest to the botanist, geologist, and student of Irish history, whilst the angler will find in all directions lakes and rivers, many free, and others fishable on very moderate terms. "Hi-Regan" is enthusiastic on the potentialities of the neighbourhood, and I will trespass but a little on his preserves, referring my readers for full details to his classic, "How and where to fish in Ireland."

Just a few words, however, as to the district itself, of which the accompanying specially-engraved map will give a fair idea.

The line runs along the Finn valley for about fourteen miles, and at one point of its journey, Lough Mourne, is 600ft. above the sea. It then descends through the grand Gap of Barnesmore (of which a reproduction of a specially-taken photograph, by W. Lawrence, Dublin, is here given) to the island-studded Lough Eske. From the Lough to the sea runs the Eske river, which "holds salmon and plenty of white trout in and after autumn spates. The lake itself gives sometimes very fair sport, not before July, but the grilse are small. The white trout fishing is excellent, and the brown trout (*feroces*, too) very numerous and game; charr abound here, and not fished for." There are good lodgings and hotel accommodation at Donegal.

Further along the line we reach Mountcharles, with "a few salmon and many white trout. Indeed, when these are full, no better little rivers can be found." The proprietor, Lord Conyngham, is very liberal with permission, *but it must be asked*. Soon we reach Inver, at the head of beautiful Inver Bay, from which runs north-westward towards Ardara the Inver river, in which there is fine autumn sport.

A grand coast ride brings us to the southern terminus of the line at Killybegs, which "Hi-Regan" says is the best for headquarters. I would, however, venture to suggest Carrick, ten miles westward. There are a regular car service and a first-class hotel, and the town is situated at the mouth of the Glen river, which "Hi-Regan" himself tells us is "the best" in the district. The little town is in the centre of some of the grandest scenery in the county, including Teelin Bay, with its stupendous cliffs of Bunglass and Slieve League, and fine sea fishing; the precipitous One Man's Pass, 1800ft. high, with its grand colouring; and the splendid Salmon Leap at Carrick, of which I am able to give a beautiful illustration, from "An Unknown Country," by the courtesy of Messrs. Macmillan, the publishers.

From Carrick there may be had a grand twenty mile drive across the mountains to Glenties, the northern terminus of the line, but angling readers would do well to take matters slowly, as many rivers are passed or crossed, all of them fishable. On the way we traverse the lovely Pass of Glengesh, a veritable Alpine pass, running for about two miles between rugged mountains 1300ft. and 1700ft. high, and on emerging we soon reach Ardara, "the most picturesque village in all Donegal." Here there is a nice little inn, and abundance of lakelets at hand, and we follow the Owentucker and then the Owenea rivers, both

most fishable, up to Glenties. "About nine miles off," says "Hi-Regan," "is Dungloe, the *Ultima Thule* of anglers in Ireland, and surrounded with lakes full of fish and practically uncounted." I humbly agree with his description, but beg to differ as to the distance. I have been over the ground many times, and by three routes: *via* Ballynecarrick Ferry (very dull)—*via* Doochary Bridge—

TROUT ANGLING IN NORWAY.

ALTHOUGH, practically, all country-bred Norwegians, as well as a considerable proportion of towns folk, are sportsmen, their predilections lie distinctly in the direction of the rifle and the gun, comparatively few caring for, or, at any rate, devoting much time to the rod. Considering the



From a Photo by]

THE GAP OF BARNESMORE.

[W. Lawrence, Dublin.



SALMON LEAP AT CARRICK.
(From "An Unknown Country.")



and *via* Fintown—and make the distances fourteen, eighteen, and twenty-two miles respectively. If there be a nearer route I should like to know it. However, having arrived at Glenties, inexorable editorial commands warn me that I must wind up my reel, and I can only conclude by regretting that half my story has not been told.

F. E. LONGLEY.

character of the country, abounding as it does in lakes and rivers, this seems somewhat singular; but the fact nevertheless remains that in many districts the inhabitants, even now, have little or no conception of the actual requirements of the angler—beyond the presence of water and fish; and it is this ignorance of the A, B, C, so to speak, which accounts for there being so little

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CURIOUS AND INTERESTING FACT CONCERNING AN

ITCHEN TROUT AND THE MAY FLY

The "Fishing Gazette," April 16, 1898.

"The Major caught a brace of trout and several trouble-some grayling; the largest trout was about 1½lb., and by this trout there hangs a tale.

"When I was fishing in the same meadow last June I lost many a trout and many a May Fly; now it so happens that in the gill of this trout was found, firmly hooked, a very perfect May Fly—the G.O.M.—with 6in. of gnt. He has worn and no doubt been proud of this distinctive decoration ever since. It seems to me to be a very remarkable thing that fly and hook should have been in that fish for more than nine months and now as perfect and fresh as if it had been in my pocket-book all the time; the gnt is rather rotten. The gold tinsel round the body is as bright as ever it was, one wing is slightly mangled, as if other envious trout had tried to nibble it. I fully believe that fly is mine, that I lost that fish on that particular spot last May; the only doubt I have about it is that I then estimated the fish I lost as at least 1½lb.,

whereas this one, after nine months' growth, now weighs only 1½lb.; on the other hand, you know how much larger are always the fish you lose than those you take! I find there are other claimants for this fly. The Professor, who

is not here now, has certainly a claim. I can only say, 'Palmar qui meruit ferat,' if it can only be proved. It is distinctly a G.O.M. of Mrs. Ogden Smith's make."

THE AMATEUR ANGLER.



The "Fishing Gazette," April 30, 1898.

"Here is a picture of the G.O.M. May Fly imitation, after it had been worn in the gill of a trout for about eleven months, as described by me in the *Fishing Gazette* of April 16. Of course there is no novelty in finding a fly in a trout's mouth; but it is somewhat of a novelty to be able to identify the fly, and also to find it in such a perfect state of preservation after so long a time of wear and tear."—AMATEUR ANGLER.

THE "GLADSTONE" MAY FLIES,

The invention of Mrs. OGDEN SMITH, were the most successful flies used last season, proving more killing than any other pattern, especially on the Hampshire streams. They float remarkably well, dry very quickly, and can be had in twenty varieties of shade, both in the body and wings. Price 4s. per dozen. To be obtained only at OGDEN SMITH, 6, Park Side, Hyde Park Corner, S.W.; and 34, St. John's-hill, Clapham Junction, London, S.W.

MAY FLIES

4/- per doz.

G.O.M.

MAY FLIES

4/- per doz.

OGDEN SMITH,

6, Park Side,

HYDE PARK CORNER, S.W.,

And at 34, St. John's Hill, Clapham Junction, London, S.W.

done to encourage the presence of the foreign fisherman in places where there are no special scenic attractions.

In rural England, Scotland, and Ireland, there are innumerable inns and houses for the reception of guests, whose owners contrive to make very satisfactory additions to their incomes out of the wandering angler. As long as that worthy individual gets fair sport, peace, and quiet, he will stand a good deal in the way of homely fare and accommodation; taking him all round, he is a distinctly more desirable and less exigent guest than the professional tourist, who, armed with a set of coupons purchased in England, hurries through the land, grumbling at everything, and for whose accommodation scores of huge wooden barracks are run up in all directions. The rod fisherman, moreover, besides being a sociable individual and given to friendly converse, is conservative in his tastes; he loves to identify himself and the various episodes of his favourite occupation with the natural features of the landscape, and if well treated will return year after year, with praiseworthy regularity, to any spot for which he may take a liking, rather than go further afield. A friendly look of familiarity on the countenance of Dame Nature is as pleasant to him as the smile of a welcoming host, and the pools of foaming water from which he last year filled his basket possess more interest for him than do all the unexplored lakes and tarns among the high-fjelds.

Whereas, moreover, few regular tourists make their appearance before July, and nearly all are gone by the beginning of September, many an English fisherman would be only too glad to cross the North Sea as soon as the spring flood had commenced, were he to receive any encouragement. But such is not usually extended, and should a member of the fraternity venture over early in June, he is looked upon as more or less of a lunatic. He is told that there is no use in attempting to catch trout until at least a month later, when the snow water has run off, unless by trolling, an occupation which he is pretty sure to detest; at the places of entertainment which he finds open thus early in the year, he is fed upon trout which, his host naively informs him, are netted fresh daily upon the very lakes he has come to fish, or which were captured during the previous spawning season and salted down; and of an evening he is refreshed by the appearance of some local personages endeavouring to secure a meal or two by means of the "otter."

Now, no angler, however patient and long suffering he may be, will stand such a reception as this; people who slaughter trout in the spawning season, and take them in spring with the net and the "otter," are, according to his creed, Goths and Vandals, and he returns forthwith to his old haunts in Scotland or Ireland, never to repeat the experiment.

Throughout Norway the universal complaint is the shortness of the summer season during which foreigners visit the country; but here is an opportunity for lengthening it which necessitates no elaborate preparations. To say that there is no trout fishing worth having until July, or until the snow flood has run off, is absurd. The writer has made excellent baskets with the fly during the first days of June in Thelemarken, and with the same lure he last year caught fish in good condition at a height of 3000ft. above the sea, in lakes where the water was composed entirely of freshly melted snow, and on whose shores the drifts still lay deep.

Because the climatic conditions throughout June are not usually such as to induce professional tourists to visit Norway so early in the year, there is no earthly reason why anglers should not be encouraged to do so. The extent of water in which, during that month, trout may be taken with the fly is enormous, and were systematic efforts made to inform angling communities abroad of the fact, we venture to think that the results would be more satisfactory than attempting to induce Englishmen to face the North Sea and the fogs of the Christiania Fjord in search of a winter climate, when an equally good one can be reached from London in twenty-four hours or less, the entire journey, except the Channel, being performed by train.

But, as already remarked, no angler will stand the net and the "otter"; at places where those contrivances are in use nothing will induce him

to remain, and the sooner the hosts of hotels, sanatoriums, and such like establishments throughout rural Norway realise this the better will it be for their pockets. To tell a man that by putting up at a certain house he can enjoy good fishing, and after his arrival to feed him upon trout taken with nets from the very lakes advertised as the scene of his prospective sport, is altogether too ridiculous, and hardly calculated to induce either a return of the guest or future visits from his friends.

And so with regard to July and August. During these months the area of possible sport is vastly increased, and the lakes and streams on whose shores the angler might enjoy himself are innumerable; but in the great majority of instances the inhabitants do their best to destroy the stock by netting, preferring a few barrels of salted trout to the much more satisfactory harvest they might reap from the presence of the rod fisherman.

RUGDE.

MARKET DEEPING AS AN ANGLING RESORT.

MARKET DEEPING is a small market town in Lincolnshire, pleasantly situated on the banks of the Welland. Practically, it is connected to Deeping St. James, the two forming one extended district; but, theoretically, they are quite distinct, their institutions and everything connected with either place being peculiar to each town. Years ago the fishery rights on the Welland, from some little distance above Market Deeping Bridge to the Kenulph Stone, Deeping St. James—a distance of about five miles—were bought by a number of noblemen and gentlemen, and generously thrown open to the angling public on the annual payment of a merely nominal fee. For some years the subscriptions failed to balance the expenditure; but now that this pleasant stretch of water is becoming more largely patronised, the financial aspect has considerably improved. The annual subscription is 5s. to residents within ten miles of the boundaries of the fishery; labourers and journeymen, 2s. 6d. each. The annual subscription for all persons residing ten miles beyond the boundary is one guinea. A daily ticket can be obtained for 1s., and a weekly ticket for 2s. 6d.

The statutory close season is in force, pike fishing commencing on Aug. 1, the minimum size allowed to be taken being 18in. between the eye and the fork of the tail.

Any angler who visits Market Deeping with the anticipation of finding deep, quiet swims, such as are the delight of numbers of London anglers, will be disappointed. Nottingham fishing, fine and far off, is the style to be adopted, as, with the exception of a few deep holes, the water is very shallow. If the angling reader will accompany me, I will, in imagination, stroll downstream, pointing out the likeliest holes, and enumerating some of the best methods to be adopted in each. Commencing at Market Deeping Bridge, and glancing over into the water, fine chub will be noticed swimming about. This bridge consists of three arches, the middle and southern ones being the best to fish.

Undoubtedly the best bait is a minnow, mounted on a hook, chub size. Let the line float gently through the arch, and when it reaches the other end you will probably be rewarded with a bite from a chub, or, perhaps, a perch.

I once took four fish in four swims under the south arch, standing in a field where I could see my float. The fish taken were a 2½lb. jack, a ½lb. perch, and two chub, weighing respectively 1½lb. and 2½lb., the hook being mounted on fine gut. Some little time should be allowed before the fish is struck.

With regard to minnows, they are plentiful enough—too plentiful in fact. Many a time have they stripped a hook of its covering of wasp grubs, which, I may mention, are the best all-round bait for this water, just as a large chub was thinking of sampling them.

If the middle arch is fished a boat is necessary, but caution is essential, as the wash of the boat will scare the fish.

I once saw a fine trout scaling 3½lb. that was captured here by a comparative novice. The bait used was a large lob worm, and the fortunate captor brought his prize round to me, when we weighed the fish.

Such a capture in the Welland is certainly unique. Trout were placed in some years ago, but no doubt they became toothsome morsels for the pike with which the river abounds, and which afford splendid sport, as I can testify from experience. Leaving the bridge, the angler passes downstream till he reaches the gasworks. Here the water is about 5ft. deep, and is a good spot for pike. It is useless trying for other fish, as the opening of the locks nearly empties the river, and fish never settle here for any length of time. In the Welland, and in this upper reach especially, the position of the pike varies with the state of the water, and an angler may catch pike one day where some little while before hardly a fish was to be seen. In the hot weather, when the water is low, pike work their way upstream in considerable quantities, finally settling in a large mill head, which is private property.

Pike fishing in the upper reaches is then almost a waste of time. The first flood, however, brings the pike down again, and the angler may expect good sport as soon as the water has sufficiently cleared. The fish have been buffeted about by the strong current, which has probably prevented them from obtaining their accustomed supply of food, and are madly on the feed. If the lock gates are wide open the fish will be carried through, and may be angled for in the lock hole. If the water is escaping over the overflow, the fish will remain in the upper reach. The best pike fishing is always obtained after a heavy flood, and the observant angler who watches the water will be rewarded by some fine catches.

Some few years ago large baskets were made, but nowadays, as anglers have increased, the number of fish per rod is relatively smaller.

For years the Welland was fished by two or three enthusiasts, and the captures at times were something to be remembered. But the day of great things is past, and the angler patronising this well-known angling resort must expect ever-increasing competition.

The usual method of pike fishing adopted is a live bait on a Jardine snap.

From five to ten seconds should be allowed before striking, the time varying with the season and the appetite of the fish, whether madly on the feed or only moderately hungry.

A snap on which I have landed some good fish consisted of a Jardine snap, with an extra triangle hanging the opposite side of the bait, after the manner of a "Bickerdike" snap. The tackle thus consists of three triangles, most certain in hooking. Any angler can make them up himself, and friends of mine have ordered them from Carter's at a cost of 4d. each.

The largest pike I ever took in the Welland—a 12-pounder—was captured on one of these snaps.

Between the gasworks and Deeping St. James' Lock good sport may sometimes be obtained with an artificial bait, and an ordinary spoon is as good as anything; but I should only adopt this method when baits were not at hand. The bank is fringed with trees, which prevent the angler from covering all the water when spinning. Of course, when the water is in flood, spinning is worse than useless.

Just below the lock the water runs rather shallow, and pike can often be seen basking in the sun's rays. Imagine a pike of, say, 5lb. lying on these shallows. The angler's tackle should be light, with a small lead, and a float no larger than is absolutely necessary. A small bottle cork, with a cut in its side, is as good as anything. Carefully letting out the necessary line, the angler throws well over and above the fish. This is necessary; first, to prevent the pike being scared by a heavy splash; and, secondly, to work the bait to the spot with the assistance of the current.

This is often more difficult of accomplishment than it seems. However, in five cases out of six the pike will take the bait painfully floundering in front of him. Sometimes, when he is not on the feed, he can often be deluded into sampling the bait by a slight jerk of the line. This trick, well known to pike fishermen, throws the bait on its side, and the light causes it to appear a sheen of glittering silver, often proving an irresistible temptation to a pike. Many a wary fish have I captured by this method. If the roach is too lively, a slight blow on the head will partially stun him. The great thing to be remembered is that a bait should be presented to a pike in such a manner that it appears disabled.

Bottom fishing does not account for many fish in the lock hole. I have often fished it, but never captured anything worth having, and the experiences of other fishermen are somewhat similar. Good sport can, however, be had lower down among the roach with the artificial fly, and decent baskets are often made. This branch of the sport is practised mostly by visitors. The local anglers as a rule, make a speciality of pike fishing. I have taken decent roach in the upper reach by floating live bluebottles downstream.

I used to keep the gentles in a large cardboard box until they turned into flies. This box had a little hole at the top, with a sliding arrangement to let them out one at a time. One day I managed to drop the box, the lid came off, and the air became thick with escaping insects. It was a kind of plague of flies in miniature. They swarmed into my landlord's pantry, and simply filled the place.

He was puzzled to know where they all came from, and I am afraid he remained so, for I did not think it necessary or wise to enlighten him. I can imagine him now, frantically beating the air with a duster, and making energetic sweeps at the offending insects.

A. H. LAW.

(To be continued.)

WELLINGTON ANGLING SOCIETY.

THE twenty-fourth annual dinner, arranged under the auspices of the premier fishing organisation in Nottingham, the Wellington Society, was held at the Spread Eagle Hotel, Goldsmith-street, on June 5, and in every sense it was a highly successful gathering. The society had the pleasure of having Sir Henry Bromley, Bart., the hon. president, in the chair, Mr. F. Wareop, always prominently associated with the Wellington Club meetings, officiating as vice-chairman. There was a numerous assembly, including the Hon. R. Bromley, the Rev. Canon Ferris, Mr. W. Gaskell (president), Mr. G. H. Howard (*Fishing Gazette*), Mr. A. Henry (Wyresdale Fishery, Scorton, Lancashire), Mr. P. S. Clay, Mr. J. T. Hodson (vice-president), Mr. J. Baines, Mr. F. Hobson, Messrs. E. Hooton, H. B. Hoe, J. K. Irwin, J. Lewis, J. Greaves, J. Taylor, H. Lewis, F. Baker, H. Daykin, J. Cooper, F. Lindley, T. Luge, C. Hickling, J. W. Foster, W. Bass, J. W. Jones, J. C. Slasher, W. Marshall, A. Johnstone, A. Collishaw, W. Hewson, A. C. Johnstone, R. Bailey, W. Blore, J. Clayton, H. Birks, F. Flewitt, George Gilbert, W. Gregory (hon. treasurer), and Harry Smith (the genial and enthusiastic hon. secretary).

Following a capital dinner, served in characteristic style by Mr. Charles Smith, the CHAIRMAN submitted the loyal toast, which was honoured with the customary cordiality.

At a subsequent stage in the proceedings Sir HENRY BROMLEY submitted the toast of the evening, "The Wellington Angling Society." He spoke of the pleasure he had in attending, and his appreciation of the opportunity to propose success to the Wellington Society. He was glad they had secured the presence of the rector of the parish (the Rev. Canon Ferris), an experienced and scientific angler, of the Chief Constable (Mr. P. S. Clay), who, unfortunately, had to leave rather early, but who is the head of the most civil and obliging force he knew, of Mr. Howard, their old friend of the *Fishing Gazette*, and also of a representative of the Wyresdale Fishery, so admirably administered. In relation to the society itself, Sir Henry said he was gratified to learn that it was in such a flourishing condition and accomplishing so much for the development of the best and truest interests of angling. It was a grand thing to unite at an annual social function and exchange views upon various branches of the art and their respective experiences. After all there was nothing so beneficial to health as the popular pastime in which they were all interested. When at the riverside they drowned all their cares and little troubles.

The CHAIRMAN spoke encouragingly of the attempt on the part of the Wellington Club to promote trout fishing, and urged the members to develop the more scientific branch of the art, namely, fly fishing. There were some beautiful shallows at Fiskerton, and quantities of fish. They were all reputed expert bottom fishermen, but he wanted them to become equally skillful anglers with the fly rod. By doing so they would have countless opportunities of stimulating interest in natural history, both as regarded flies and animals. Sir Henry spoke of the necessity of an increase in membership, the importance of maintaining their position as the premier angling association, not only of the county of Nottingham but of a very extensive area. Coupled with the toast were the names of Mr. Gaskell and Mr. Howard. (Loud applause.)

Mr. HOWARD addressed a few observations to the members, expressing the hope that the club would continue to prosper as it had since its establishment. It was the duty of the members, now an endeavour was being made to promote trout fishing, to support it heartily by subscribing and popularising fly fishing in the Trent. (Applause.)

In returning thanks on behalf of the association, Mr. Gaskell acknowledged the sincerity and cordiality characterising the acceptance of the toast. They felt greatly honoured that Sir Henry Bromley had accepted the invitation of the society to preside at its annual dinner. He (Mr. Gaskell) was gratified to be able to endorse all that had been said about the prosperity of the association up to the

present. From time to time he had had some reluctance in accepting the presidency, but he should be miserable had he not accepted the position. He loved it and the members very dearly, having been connected with sport all his life. He admired the hearty goodwill and spirit of harmony which existed between all associated with the club. It was really a society of brotherhood. There were no bickerings or little differences to settle between the members, and his position as president was an exceedingly happy one. He only hoped that as they made advancement they would enlarge the roll of membership and possibilities of accomplishing greater things. The speaker went on to refer to the subject of the pollution of the Trent, and said he pleaded the cause of great tribes—of the finny tribes, whose inherent right to breathe a pure air was equal to our own, of the feathered tribe, of the cattle, of the human tribe, of those who sought recreation upon its surface, and to stiffen the sinews of youth by aquatic exercise, of the hundreds who used the water as a highway for commerce, of the thousands of anglers who threw in the tempting bait, fearful lest the turbid water should obscure the dainty morsel, and of the many households whose domestic wells were fed by its precolating and would-be filtered water, that they might become wells of life, and not remain cesspools of fever and diphtheria. Such, as the president of the Wellington Club, was his brief. They fully recognised on the part of the city officials a sincere desire to remedy the state of things existing in the river below Nottingham, but did not the prospect of a cleaner river impose new duties upon fishermen? Yes. It would be for them to devise means for doing their share for the betterment of sport. Up to the present anglers had thought only of taking fish from the river. For the future the question of re-stocking should occupy a prominent place in the yearly programme. Their society had already taken the initiative, and through the generosity of a few of the members, fifty large breeding trout had been turned into the Shardlow stretch. That was only a start, and the society solicited the interest, sympathy, and practical support of all sportsmen in its endeavour to complete the experiment. Such was their position at the present time, and he had very great pleasure in announcing that Sir Henry had promised a donation of £5 towards the consummation of the object in view. Mr. Gaskell also referred to the kindness of Sir Henry in using his influence to obtain a certain trout stream for the club under reasonable conditions. (Applause.)

The health of the chairman was cordially and musically honoured, as also were toasts to "The Hon. Secretary" and "The Host." Both Mr. Spray and Mr. Smith returned thanks, the last named gentleman speaking at length upon the efforts of the Nottingham Corporation to prevent pollution.

During the evening an excellent musical programme was presented. Messrs. Arthur Lakin, W. Downing, and T. J. Turner sang with conspicuous success; Mr. A. U. Smith contributed entertaining musical sketches; whilst the members of the Wellington Band individually and collectively rendered several very acceptable selections. Mr. Gregory supplied the pianoforte accompaniments.

REPORTS FROM RIVERS, LOCHS, &c.

ENGLISH AND WELSH REPORTS.

Lower Thames.—GENERAL REMARKS.—In another few days the river will be open to the great body of anglers, and it is just possible in another week one may be able to report their presence on the Thames. I can remember years ago there were then living anglers who always made a point of being out as early as they could to first wet their lines, and to go to their daily duties in London with the record they had taken their first fish of the season, and this was particularly the case with some devoted anglers in the neighbourhood of Hampton. It is very gratifying to me to hear of the continual changes in the angling clubs in regard to gross weight competitions being abolished, and prizes only given for specimen fish. In the early days of the *Fishing Gazette* I started the movement in that direction, and it was not received without considerable opposition, the particular ground of objection being it would materially destroy the interest and attraction of the clubroom on the meeting night in not making a good show of fish, and, until the establishment of the Anglers' Association, many of the clubs had a very low standard of sizes of fish, and some of them none at all. I can well remember in one instance, in the neighbourhood of Staines, examining the takes of the bank fishers. I found a very large quantity of miserably small fish in the possession of one of the anglers, and on calling his attention to the illegality of retaining fish under the Thames standard, he said: "My club allows us to weigh-in all sizes of fish in the prizes for gross weights; and as others do it, I am only doing the same." I did not take any action against him, and contented myself in advising him not to repeat the offence or the law would have to be vindicated, and nothing would save him from the consequences. It was from instances such as this that pointed out to me the necessity of making a movement against gross weight competitions; and the results which have been achieved since are very gratifying to me. There were several of the leading angling clubs at the time offering prizes only for specimen fish, and notably my old society—the Piscatorial Society; and in speaking of that society I would here express my deep regret at the death of my good friend, Mr. E. Foreman.—B.

(Datchet).—The water is very low at present. I have not been out trout fishing for some time, but am going with a gentleman this afternoon (Wednesday). Not much chance till late in the evening, I am thinking.

There have been two fish caught here since I wrote last. Mr. Skelton had a nice one on May 19, 5lb.; I caught one, 3lb., on May 26.—G. LUMSDEN.

(Hampton Court).—William Milbourne, who had nothing to write about last week, writes: "There has not been anything done in the way of trout catching since I last wrote to you, as for want of rain the water is getting a dirty brown colour through the great heat. There is still a quantity of large barbel being caught at the weir. The roach have now done spawning, and are dropping down in the deep water. There is a great show of coarse fish, which look well for the opening day of the season if we can only get some rain."—B.

(Hampton Wick).—Head river keeper W. Douglas, in his official report from all portions of the river, says he has not heard of any trout being taken, and the water everywhere is low and bright.—B.

(Lechlade, Cricklade).—Thames is low now here, and some good rains will be wanted for the opening of the season on Friday, the 16th inst. There is a splendid show of big chub throughout these districts, which should show good sport for the fly fisher, as well as the caddis, cheese, paste, or gentle fishers. They are about in shoals. There is also a good supply of roach, perch, dace, and pike. Several pike have been caught by trout fishers when spinning or live baiting. One brace I saw at St. John's Bridge weighing 12lb. A few small trout have been taken on the May Fly and large Brown Alder with gold ribs.—RAMBLER.

(Weybridge).—The only report from this neighbourhood is that a small otter, weighing 8lb., has been shot by a gardener.—B.

Ancholme District.—It is now too hot for successful trout fishing during the middle of the day. The only chance then is by dapping the Green Drake or Bloa Fly in the shady places. Fish, however, rise pretty well after five or six o'clock in the evenings, and as the waters are very low and bright, the smallest flies are best. There must be something specially sweet about the Dotterel Dun, for trout are very fond of it. It should be made on No. 0 or 1 Kendal hook with a bright yellow body and simple twisted feather from the shoulder of wing. This and Black Gnat now kill as well as anything I know. Prospects for coarse fishing are very good. The Ancholme teems with fish, amongst them are some large trout and king carp.—THOMAS FORD (Caistor).

Coln, Leach, &c., East Gloucestershire.—During the past fortnight, whilst the May Fly has been on, there has been some splendid sport had on many of the Gloucestershire streams and tributaries. One splendid creel taken on the upper Coln, in the Bibury Court waters, by the Rev. Francis Carbonell, vicar of Fairford (one of the best dry fly men of the day), on Saturday, amounted to no less than ten brace, weighing nearly 21lb., or a good 1lb. average, on the Grey Drake. Other anglers, on their unique waters, have taken their five and six brace per day. Mr. Carbonell returned all fish under 1lb. each, amounting to some ten brace. Mr. Crowley put in a pretty bit of work on the Bull Hotel waters on Friday, with three brace of average pounders. Messrs. Hooker, Powell, and Bloxsome have also done well on this water, some fine trout being creeled in splendid condition. Mr. Edward Chard on the Quenington waters, killed a magnificent *fario* on the Grey Drake, its weight being 3lb. 10oz., a grand fish for the Coln. The Duke of Leeds has been putting in some good work on the Williamstrip Park waters with good creels and heavy trout. A number of trout fishers have been out on the Hatherop Castle waters, amongst others Mr. Berry having some nice sport. Mr. Arnold Gibbs has been having capital sport on the Ablington Manor waters; Messrs. Yeates and Galpin have been out on the Bibury Court water with sport, and several rods have been out at Winsor and Willington. Col. Porter's house party at Fairford Park, including the Honourable Greville, Mr. and Mrs. A. Hall, and other rods, have been having excellent sport on the famous Park waters, heavy creels being the order of the day, some of the trout being very fine ones of 2lb. and 3lb. each. A number of other rods have been out on this water. Dr. Lockwood and friends have been having capital sport on the Little Faringdon and Lechlade Mill waters; and Capt. Wylde, Messrs. John and Chas. Barton, Mr. Assington Smith, Mr. Cunniffe, Mr. A. Iles, and several others, have also been out, with nice sport, on this well stocked water.—PAN.

Darent (Horton Kirby, Farningham, &c.)—Conditions have entirely changed this afternoon, and in place of the brilliant weather, prevalent for the last week or more, heavy clouds have overspread the sky, and a chilly east wind is blowing. No May Fly, and very little other fly is about. Some small Olives were floating down, but the fish scarcely noticed them; the only fly I saw taken being a brown one, probably an Alder. Most of the trout seem to have retreated in the sulks, apparently expecting rain, which would do good, though the water is not low at present.—J. P. T.

Dart (Totnes and District).—Although fishing generally has been somewhat quiet, some very fair baskets have been made during the past week with the caterpillar, but the fish have now gone off this bait; in fact, it is difficult to attract them in consequence of the pest of maggots. Mr. T. Browne and Mr. Crichton, of Whimple, killed twenty-eight between them one day, and had a couple of dozen on another occasion, and on Thursday Mr. E. Distin killed twenty-seven, getting twenty of these by about an hour's fishing in the evening. Mr. Bowden creeled thirteen nice fish in Hempton Leat; and Mr. E. Ackrell and other Totnes rods have had a few brace each; and Mr. H. Ackrell, jun., killed a few on the Harbourne; and Mr. H. Wright and others are getting small lots near Buckfastleigh. The men at Totnes Weir continue to get some big hauls of salmon, and I hear they netted over three

dozen on Friday, whilst the boats at Stoke are also doing well. A number of fish have also run up to the moorland waters, where fishermen above Dartmeet have had capital sport. Recent takes include: Mr. H. Martin, three, 13lb., 10lb., 7½lb.; Mr. W. Leaman, one, 8lb.; Rev. C. Rickard, one, 7lb.; Mr. Angel, one, 7lb. At Holne Chase, the Rev. C. Forster killed a nine-pounder, and Mr. Edbrook landed another of 11lb. at Buckfast Weir.—DEVONIAN.

Devonshire Streams.—The days this week have been very hot, and day fishing has only resulted in small baskets. On the southern streams, although there have been a few exceptional takes, catches have not run above a couple of dozen. On both the Avon and Dart others are still prevalent, and trout are by no means plentiful on the latter river. On Monday, Mr. W. G. S. Morrish killed a 2-pounder on the Teign, but sport this season has been very quiet, although some very fair baskets have been made on the higher waters. Several Devonshire gentlemen, viz., Sir John Ferguson Davie, Bart., Sir John Shelley, Bart., Gen. Sir Redvers Buller, and Mr. H. Ferguson Davie, have been salmon fishing at Inveran, N.B., and were rewarded with some excellent sport.—DEVONIAN.

Eden (Carlisle).—The Creeper has been the most killing bait during the last week, being about a month later than in ordinary years. Mr. John Hills had twenty-six trout, weighing 12lb., on June 3, in the Corby water, and several others from 7lb. to 10lb. They are now getting scarce, having turned into Stone Flies. These latter and the small worm can now be depended upon whilst the fine weather lasts. Some good baskets have also been made by the night fishers, old Bob McAlister having brought in about 16lb. last Sunday morning. On Jan. 1, Mr. Heywood Thompson killed a salmon of 15½lb. in the Nunwick Hall water, above Armathwaite. There is at last a good run of sea trout in the Solway, and the river nets are having good catches. Messrs. Osman got a sea trout of 13½lb. on Monday night below Carlisle. Grilse are very scarce.—SILVER GREY.

Esk (Whithy).—Only moderate sport has been had on this river during the past week, the water being much too low and clear for salmon fishing. Most of the anglers who have been out have gone in for trout fishing, and have had fair baskets, the principal bait used being minnow. The catches to hand are: Mr. R. Hay, fifteen brace of trout; Mr. J. W. Nicholson, nine; Mr. W. H. Rhodes, eight; Capt. J. Leng, five; Mr. Graham, one brace.—J. JACKSON.

Exe and Canal (Exeter).—Lovely summer weather has prevailed during past week, and fair sport has been had with the trout early mornings and late evenings. Among the most successful Mr. J. A. Kelley takes premier position with a lovely Exe trout of close on 2lb. weight, which is somewhat of a *rara avis* for rod and line men in this district. I had the pleasure of seeing this beauty soon after its capture, and found it a perfect specimen both in condition and marking. Other anglers who have scored on Lower Exe are: Messrs. Pike, French, Snell, Taylor, Pitts, Fox, Milton, Bastard, Harris, and Roberts. Water is now running somewhat low and clear, and a few showers would tend to improve matters. Flies doing well for present are Blue and Yellow Duns, Governor, and Red Spinner.—RED PALMER.

Fen District (South Lincs. and Cambs.).—Magnificent weather has come with the May Fly, and the trouting season, which hitherto had proved poor and profitless, will, after all, have its redeeming qualities. Some good catches, I believe, have been made lately by the fly fishers, particularly in the evening. We have got so near to the opening of the coarse fishing season that it is beginning to rouse special attention. The rainy season finished up with a heavy downfall, but its effects are not so bad as anticipated. Shoals of bream have been noticed during last week sunning themselves during the heat of the day.—LIMPET.

Idle District (North Notts.).—Better reports come from this Nottinghamshire district. The waters south of the forest have been yielding some good bags on the club waters. The waters on the north side are chiefly in private hands. It may be interesting to coarse fish anglers to learn that a party was recently out on the drains about the Isle of Axholme, where they had special facilities. They were mostly after bream. Some good baskets up to 40lb. each, and specimen fish were landed up to 4½lb. This is something like a *rosy* prospect for the season, which opens next week.—L.

Lake Vyrnwy (N. Wales).—Tropical weather has prevailed throughout the week—bright sun, great heat, and no breeze. Two hundred and eleven fish were killed during the week, the total weight being 135lb. 11oz. Chubbing operations were also begun yesterday, the haul for the first day being 940 fish, weighing 1175lb. On the 31st, twenty-seven trout were taken, the weight being 16lb. 8oz. Mr. Townshend made the best basket with ten fish, 5lb. 12oz.; Mr. Feathers had five, 2lb. 9oz.; Mr. Jackson, four, 2lb. 10oz.; Mr. Malpass, three, 2lb. 1oz. The remaining baskets held two each or less. On the 1st, twenty-six fish weighed 15lb. 5oz. Mr. Malpass made the best basket with nine fish, 4lb. 11oz.; Mr. Melly made six, 3lb. 9oz.; Mr. Townshend, five, 3lb. 1oz.; Mr. Jackson, four, 2lb. 9oz.; Mr. Feathers, two, 1lb. 7oz. On the 2nd, twenty-seven fish weighed 17lb. 1oz. Mr. Townshend's basket was the best with eleven fish, 6lb. 8oz.; Mr. Chance killed seven fish, 4lb. 14oz.; Mr. Malpass, seven, 4lb. 5oz.; and Mr. Feathers, two, 1lb. 6oz. On the 3rd, thirty-one fish scaled 19lb. 5oz. Mr. Garside made the best basket, with seven fish, 4lb. 7oz.; Mr. Moss killed seven, 4lb. 2oz.; and Mr. and Miss Newton, seven, 4lb. 1oz. Mr. Malpass, four, 2lb. 15oz.; Mr. Jackson, three, 1lb. 14oz.; and Mr. Townshend, three, 1lb. 14oz. On the 5th, fifty-five fish scaled 34lb. 5oz. Mr. Garside made the best basket, with eighteen fish, 10lb. 9oz.; Mr. Newton killed nine, 5lb. 4oz.; Mr. Moss, eight, 4lb. 12oz.; Mr.

Townshend, eight, 5lb. 2oz.; Mr. Malpass, five, 3lb. 3oz.; and Mr. Jackson, five, 3lb. 2oz. On the 6th, forty-five fish weighed 33lb. 3oz. Mr. Garside killed ten, 6lb. 1oz.; Mr. Townshend, eight, 6lb. 5oz.; Mr. Malpass, eight, 6lb. 3oz.; Mr. Moss, seven, 6lb. 1oz.; and Mr. Jackson, six, 4lb. 14oz. On the river the best basket was made by Mr. Jackson, with eleven fish. Some very fine specimens of chub were killed, weighing from 2½lb. to 3lb. each. Coch-y-bondhu has been the best fly this week.—LONG DRIFT.

Lea and Tributaries.—Trout anglers have been doing very little in the Lea, but better results have been obtained on some of the tributaries. The Lea, owing to the hot weather, has become rather stale, and a good thunderstorm would be welcome, as it requires freshening up badly. The perch have spawned, and some of those taken and returned by trout anglers have been in splendid condition. The dace should be found in good order by next Friday, when the Lea fishery bye-laws again permit them to be taken. At Ware (the Boom) and below Hertford Lock very heavy dace have been seen, and they should be attracted by "cads" and the fly when the season opens. I would remind anglers that no roach can be retailed until July 1. There has been a fair rise of May Fly at times on the Lea and Beane. In the latter tributary Mr. J. Green has taken a trout of 1½lb.; Mr. Tebbuth, one, 1½lb.; Mr. Stocker, several brace; and Mr. Connellan, one and a half brace, taken with the May Fly. Another angler took a grayling of about 1lb. These fish also come into season in the Lea on Friday next, together with dace, as before stated, gudgeon, popper, bleak, &c.—ISAAC WALTON.

Lugg and Arrow (Leominster).—Both these streams continue to run clear and a nice level, and in good order for fishing. The water is in perfect state, but the excessive hot weather has been against good sport during the day except in the shaded spots. The fish have been well on the feed, and have been rising at fly well. The May Fly is still coming up, and the trout are taking them better, but not so well as was expected. Some very good lots of trout have been landed this week, the evening sport being best. The flies used are the Ork, May Fly, Coch-y-bondhu, Wickham, and Yellow Dun. The prospects for sport are good, especially in evening and early morning. The Pinsley is running clear and in order.—GWYNNE.

Lugg, Arrow, and Pinsley (Kingsland).—Rivers are in capital order, yet sport on the whole disappointing. The May Fly is still up, some places in quantities; other varieties scarce; but the trout do not seem to have been eager for them. Have heard of no heavy baskets made with it. Alder, Yellow Dun, and Spinners have proved more successful. Weather is anything but favourable; very hot and bright days, with wind for the most part north-east. Glass high and fair; no present indications of a change.

Nene (Peterborough).—The weather experienced here for the past week has been really splendid, creating a feeling of pleasure among our anglers at the near approach of the end of the close season, so that they may once again participate in their favourite pastime. The water now is in fairly good condition for the opening of the season, although if the tropical weather we are now having continues much longer, and we get no rainfall, our river will very soon experience a change to low water. With the promised clearance of the weeds, and a reported plentiful supply of fish (some good baskets of roach having lately been taken), and granted suitable weather, there are indications of an excellent season's sport fairly in evidence.—E. A. S.

Otter (Budleigh Salterton).—For the past week fishing has been very poor, and even the best rods on the river have found a difficulty about getting a brace of fish. In the daytime of the last three or four burning days fish have not moved at fly at all, but at dusk there is a small rise which should be taken advantage of. The small Red Spinner and Flit's Fancy are likely flies.—HERON.

Ouse (Holywell Ferry).—Everything points to a good start on the 16th inst. Immense shoals of bream have been disporting themselves in the sunshine here, the river being literally alive with them, and roach also are in abundance. The weeds are not nearly so numerous as they were last year, and the swims that are cleared out look most inviting to the anxious angler.—A. SCARD.

Plymouth.—River fishing pretty much the same as last week. Some nice dishes of trout have been reported. A gentleman fishing in the Erme from eleven o'clock until 3.30 had fifty-nine fish; and another, fishing in the Meavy, had nineteen one day last week. I have heard also of some nice baskets on the Cad and Tavy. I notice some fine peal in the lower waters of the Meavy, and also on the Tavy. A few have been taken, but it is rather early yet for this class of fishing. During this hot weather good sport can be obtained in the wooded parts of the rivers dapping with a natural Blow Fly, grasshopper, maggot, or any of their imitations; and, as a rule, the biggest fish are taken by this method.—WILLIAM HEARDER.

Severn, Vyrnwy, Tanat, and Cain (Llanymynech).—At present the weather in this neighbourhood is simply delightful, and has been so for some time past. These rivers are now in the best possible condition, and anglers are quite recompensed for the unseasonable weather which prevailed for so long, and which rendered angling occasionally quite impossible. The May Fly has now made its appearance on all these rivers, and the trout are rising very freely to it, and also to the Dun flies, which have been exceedingly numerous for some time past. Trout anglers are having excellent sport, and the recent floods have taken all the samlets down the rivers and out of the neighbourhood, so that anglers are not troubled with them in the least, as they cause a great loss of time when too numerous, as anglers have to return them all to the rivers again. Some very nice trout have been taken

from the Vyrnwy, Tanat, and Cain. Sport in the Severn has been chiefly confined to trolling for pike, of which many are captured. One fine trout of 3lb. was recently taken from this river above Shrewsbury, and from a lake near that town an angler took a large pike 45in. in length, and which weighed upwards of 20lb., but was not in very good condition. Mr. Buckley's otter hounds had a capital day's sport in the Vyrnwy, from Meifod upwards, on Tuesday last. They found at once a very large otter, which they hunted in tropical weather for nearly three hours, and he eventually took refuge in the large and deep pool above Glasgoed Weir.—VYRNWY.

Sussex Rivers and Chichester Canal.—The weather has been a shade too warm and bright, and water too clear for successful sport. Dace on the Ouse have taken May Fly, but there is no record of trout worth noting. A brace of trout were taken from the Rother on Monday evening with minnow; the heaviest fish weighed 1½lb. Three perch were also captured, one of which had spawned, but they were returned to the water. Fish are spawning on the Ouse shallows, and eels are busy among the spawn. Myriads of fish may be seen in the Chichester Canal—carp up to 14lb., and some fine perch. At present all augurs well for the opening in June. A few small bass, eels, and flatfish have been taken from the harbour.—GEORGE F. SALTER.

Taff (Llandowror, Carmarthenshire).—The river is in fairly good order, but not much sport with trout during the past week. The net fishermen are doing fairly well with salmon in the estuary.—H.

T-w (North Devon).—Fishing not over good. Rivers bright and getting low. Mr. Woodgate and friend last week took four dozen trout, but it was just after a thunderstorm, with the minnow at the Mole, South Molton Road. Mr. Jorlan has also the same luck, twenty-three trout in the Molland stream; whilst the hot thunder weather is on not much hope by day. One person took half a dozen nice trout about ten o'clock Saturday, night fishing. Many people are fishing in the shady Lynn. Just now there is good bass fishing; one gent told me of many being taken, and he took four over 4lb. each, losing a very heavy one. Salmon fishing a deal better.—RUSTY GAME.

Teifi (Llandyssil, South Wales).—Water rather low, and rain wanted again for good sport. Trout rise well in early mornings and evenings. Good baskets taken, from 3lb. to 12lb., principally with the minnow, during last fortnight; also three salmon taken from 9lb. to 12lb. Alder and Stone Fly now on.—A. E. S.

Teme (Ludlow).—The Teme in this part is still running clear and a nice level, and in capital order for fishing. The weather has been very hot, and the sun has been too bright for much sport during the daytime; the best time for angling at present is in the evening. The May Fly has been coming up, but not thickly, and the fish on the Teme have not been taking them so freely. A good few anglers have been out of late, which is usual during the May Fly season, and some very nice-sized trout have been landed, but no large baskets have been taken. The flies used are the Ork, Wickham, Coch-y-bondhu, Yellow Dun, and Iron Blue for evening fishing; and some nice fish have been taken. A few have tried worm in early morning and late in evening; and trout, perch, eels, and chub have been taken. The fishing up Oakley Park has been tried of late, but during the day the fish have not moved well; during the evening some good lots of fish have been landed. On Saturday one angler landed twelve good fish. In the Ashford water, with the May Fly, a trout 1lb. 6oz. was taken on Tuesday. By the end of the week sport will be good with May Fly. Minnow fishing has accounted for some good trout. The Ony, Corve, Clun, and Ledwyche are all running in good order. The May Fly is out on them thickly, and the fish move well at them, and some good lots of trout have been taken this week.—S. LUDLOW.

Teme (Tenbury).—The water in this district is running in capital order for fishing, being clear and a nice level; but the weather has been so very hot during the daytime that angling has been very slow until the evening or the early morning. The fish are now rising well, and the May Fly has come up in good numbers. The fish have been taking them fairly well, but not so well as expected. Good sport has been had in the evening with Ork, Yellow Dun, Wickham's Fancy, Coch-y-bondhu, and Iron Blue, and good sized fish taken. Worm fishing has been tried, but sport slow. On Monday a nice lot of trout were taken with the May Fly. Prospects for sport are now good. The Rea, Kyre, and Ledwyche are now in order.—WORCESTER.

Upper Yore.—During the last week sport has been good on this part of the Yore. Some good trout have been caught. Pedley had two brace in three hours, two of them weighing over 27oz. The best lures have been fly, worm, and minnow fished upstream, which is a favourite mode of fishing this part of the Yore. The best flies are Orange and Blue Partridge and Knotted Midge. The Green Drake is making its appearance. Anglers should not lose this opportunity. Also Bantard fishing is good now, viz., the brown and white, with cinnamon body; best time, from 10.30 p.m. to 1.30 a.m.—JIM FAWCETT.

Urk and Tributaries (Senny Bridge).—Rivers at present rather low and clear, and with the bright sun fly fishing during the daytime is nearly useless. The trout rise freely to the fly during the evening, and several good baskets have been caught lately with the fly in the evening.—PONTSENNY.

Witham, &c. (Mid-Lincolnshire).—During the last few days fly fishers have had a turn. We heard of a couple of anglers getting eight brace in an afternoon in the Wold district. Others have been successful on waters nearer Sleaford and Grantham. Public attention is turning to the prospect of sport among bream, roach, &c., in the Lower Witham, which commences next week. I hear

the angling visitor for the Fen district of Lincolnshire this year is to be an object of solicitude on the part of the railway companies. The G.N.R. and the G.C.R. used formerly to take the talk of them down the Witham by joint agreement. Since the latter has opened up their London traffic a hitch has come over the arrangements of these companies. Both are now trying for the traffic separately; the G.E.R. is sailing in the same boat.—**LUCI.**

Wye and Derwent (Derbyshire).—These rivers are now in good order for fly fishing, and reports from the various districts are much more cheering. Gentlemen that have fished the Wye have obtained baskets ranging from two to six brace each, and better sized fish than heretofore, and in the pink of condition. The May Fly has hatched out better this week, and is out now in greater numbers than has been seen this season, and this week will be the record for this fly, and trout are showing up well. On the upper reaches of the Derwent, Ashopton, Bamford, Calver Bridge, Hatherage, and Chatsworth fisheries, as far down as Rowsley, reports are that gentlemen that have fished this portion of the river when some nice trout have been creel, both with fly and other modes of fishing. The Darley Dale Club's water has been better patronised with much better success, members of this club obtaining several brace each. The free and private water about Matlock Bridge has also yielded some very good fish. The Matlock and Cromford Angling Association water has produced a nice lot of trout. Mr. Keeling has taken some very good ones, mostly from Matlock Dale. E. H. Maule, Esq., fishing from a boat, has taken some good trout, the evening being the best time. Mr. Newton, below Cromford, three brace; and on two other occasions one and a half brace each time. The Homesford and Whatstandwell reaches of the Derwent have also accounted for a few good fish, and the prospect for the next few days is very good. Useful flies: May Fly, Yellow Dnn, Cooper's Fancy, Dotterel, Ash Dun, Sand Fly, and Bumble for evening.—**DOTTEREL.**

Wye (Bulth Wells).—River low and clear; no salmon taken. Salmon anglers complain of the poor run of fish this season; and no wonder, when in one week over 300 salmon were taken in the nets between Ross and Symond's Yat—hard lines for owners of fishing on the upper reaches of the river. Good baskets of trout have been had; and the most successful were Messrs. Hussey and friend, A. G. Vanghan, L. Price, and E. Lord. Baskets from 6lb. to 13½lb.; evening fishing best; fly, Coachman; bait, natural minnow. Correspondents of local papers please don't copy.—**W. B. ROBERTS.**

Yore, Swale, Wharfe, Nidd, Dove, &c. (Yorkshire).—The tropical weather and low water, particularly in the upper reaches of our rivers, has of course been against angling, and few piscators have been out, and there has been a falling off, in spite of the fact that those killing lures the Stone Fly and the Green and Grey Drakes have been on. The Yore on Saturday was in good trim for other hunting, and Mr. Wilkinson finished up his visit with a kill, as I anticipated he would. The meet was at Ushaw Bridge, and after a good hunt (past Jervaulx Abbey, Kilgrim Bridge, and Ellington) of three hours' duration a bitch otter was killed. The pack hunted the Beale Beck down to its junction with the Swale on Monday, but had no sport. The Stone Fly has been the favourite lure during the week up the Yore, and expert anglers have done well with it morning and evenings, but sport in the middle of the day has been moderate, and few anglers have ventured out, the heat being excessive up till to-day (Wednesday), when the wind got round to the north-east, and the atmosphere was clouded. Mr. Collinson, on Monday, got a good dish of fourteen. Similar dishes have been caught by other anglers, but all complain of the heat and a scarcity of water. Considering these drawbacks, sport of an evening has not been bad in the Swale and its tributaries, both the Stone Fly and the Drakes being on. Very little has been done up the Nidd, but I hear of several good takes on the Wharfe with the Stone Fly, one angler getting twenty-three, seventeen, and twenty-five on three successive days. Other gentlemen have done quite as well with the "up stream worm," and up to Saturday last some good baskets were made with the Dark Watchet, Stone Midge, and Knotted Midge. Since then the Stone Fly and the Alder Fly in the evening have been better than the smaller flies. Until we have a freshet the trout will require a lot of catching now, and the best time to angle is in the evening or early in the morning. The Dove has been in good trim. Mr. J. Crack, Dr. Jackson, Mr. Stoor, Mr. M. Snowden, and others have had good sport. The Green Drake is on this stream and the Hodge. Several foot bridges have recently been erected for the benefit of anglers fishing these streams.—**J. E. MILLER, Northern Anglers' Depot, 19, New Station-street, Leeds.**

By TELEGRAPH.—The weather is much cooler now, and, in spite of low water, sport is very fair indeed. Some very good baskets have been caught in the upper Yore with the "up stream worm," minnow, and Stone Fly. The Green Drake is on to-day, and there should be some good sport with this fly for some days to come. I got a very good dish of fish yesterday with the natural minnow, fished on Ariel tackle.—**J. E. MILLER, Northern Anglers' Depot, 19, New Station-street, Leeds.**

SCOTCH REPORTS.

Altnacealgach Hotel Waters (via Lairg, N.B.).—On 1st inst., Mr. Campbell-Gibson, Edinburgh, fished Loch Cam, and landed two dozen trout 10lb. On 2nd, Mr. Campbell-Gibson and Mr. Bell, Edinburgh, on same loch, had thirty-eight trout, 13lb. The weather for some time has been most adverse, but this week it has improved.—**B.**

Awe.—On the Taynuilt Hotel waters on May 31, Mr. C. J. W. Gardner had a salmon of 13lb. On June 2, Mr. Harris had one of 16lb. On the 3rd, Mr. Cox had one of

17lb. Grilse and sea trout are now beginning to run.—**D. McDONALD.**

Bona bridge (Sutherland).—On Monday this week, Mr. Wm. Bethune fished the Kyle of Sutherland, and made a fine basket of sea trout, several of which weighed from 3lb. to 2lb. each.—**B.**

Border Esk and Liddle.—The fine summer weather which now prevails in Eskdale and Liddesdale is most favourable to night fishers. The waters are running very clear and a trifle low, and although a storm was foretold there are no indications of the predicted flood that was to be the result thereof. The sea trout migration in the Solway is now proving a much better one than the season promised a few weeks ago. The nets made some fair hauls last week. Trout are now of heavier weight, and some fine ones have been caught in splendid condition, the average weight being about 2lb. Salmon are still very scarce in the Firth, only an odd one or two being caught at a number of the principal fishing stations. The first grilse of the season was caught last week, and one or two others have since been taken. Sport in the lower reaches of the Esk has not been very good during the past week, and catches of sea trout have not been large, although there were several expert anglers out from Carlisle and Longtown in the Metal Bridge water. Sport has been fairly good in the Canonbie division of the Esk. Dr. Anderson, Eskbank, took five sea trout at evening fishings with fly, a very successful lure at the present time being silver body and thrush wing. The trout were in fine condition, and the weights were 3½lb., 3lb., 2lb., and two of 1½lb. Mr. Stronach, staying at that famous old angling resort, the Cross Keys Hotel, Canonbie, had two sea trout in the Long Pool, with fly. Mr. H. Law, Canonbie, caught a couple of sea trout with fly in the stream of Jock's Pool. Mr. J. Johnstone, Edinburgh, had a sea trout in the Byreburn foot water; and Mr. Little, Claygate, and John Davidson, Canonbie, had each a sea trout in the same water. Sport is principally confined to evening fishing. Although a good number of trout are in the pools in the middle and higher reaches, yet, owing to the bright sunshine and the low condition of the river, they are shy and difficult to lure. Some good baskets of yellow trout have been got, the best of the season being obtained by Mr. C. Elliot, Langholm, in the Ewes. His basket contained 15½lb. of fine trout. Fishing in the same water, Mrs. Anderson, Langholm, had a dozen nice trout. The Tarras is also yielding fair sport. In the Liddle water at Penton Linns, Mr. W. Murray, Canonbie, had two sea trout with worm. Mr. Renwick Calvert, Rowanburn, had a couple in the same river, weighing 1½lb. each. The Hermitage has been well patronised during the past fortnight, and some fair hauls of yellow trout have been made, principally in the Thirty-shilling Haugh Pool, near Hermitage Castle. Mr. Graham, Canonbie, had two sea trout near Liddle foot. Other anglers have been fairly successful with yellow trout in the lower reaches of the Liddle. In order to vary the sport on the Esk, an otter, in making its way from Irvine Burn to the Island Pool, in the Esk, got confused at some wire fence obstruction, and was caught by a man and a boy, who passed a box over the animal. The same evening it was liberated and put in the Esk near to Tarras foot, no doubt in order to be in readiness to afford a morning's sport to the Carlisle or Dumfriesshire otterhounds. It weighed 12lb.—**GILNOCKIE.**

Breadalbane Arms Hotel (Aberfeldy).—Mr. Kidd, fishing Loch-na-Craig, caught, on June 5, twenty-five trout, 4½lb.; on the 6th, seventeen trout, 5lb.; on the 7th, twenty-one trout, 6lb. 10oz.

Carron (Easter Ross, Ardgay, N.B.).—On Thursday last week, Mr. Crawshaw Ralston, Balmagown Arms Hotel, fished the lower waters, and landed three salmon, the heaviest of which weighed 16lb. Since then up to Wednesday this week not a fish caught, though several rods have been out.—**B.**

Deveron (Banffshire).—For the past week the river Deveron has been extremely low. Light showers of rain have fallen, but they had no effect on the stream, which is naturally small, and in consequence fish refuse to enter. A flood is greatly required to open up a free passage for salmon and grilse. The bright sunshine also affected the rod fishing. On the Carnoustie section a fine salmon of 15lb. was landed on the 2nd inst., and on the Netherdale section, on the 29th ult., Mr. Burton, M.P., killed one of 18½lb. The net fishermen met with a little difficulty in working their nets on certain parts of the river owing to the thin volume of water. On the lower pools below the bridge a number of trout were taken of an average weight of 1½lb.; very few salmon were got, and no grilse. On the coast there was also a falling off, and only one small box was consigned in the end of last week, and one on Tuesday last, weighing 2½cwt. The few grilse got from the nets on the coast averaged 4½lb., and the salmon from 10lb. to 12lb.—**H. W.**

Inchnadamph Hotel (Sutherland).—May 29, Mr. Hurst, Head Assynt, nine trout, 5lb.; Mr. Cookson, Loch Awe, thirty-four, 12lb.; Messrs. Bortholomew and Frost, Loch Gillaroo, ten, 9lb. 30th, Messrs. Bortholomew and Frost, river Inver, six, 4lb.; Mr. Cookson, Loch Letteressa, thirty, 8lb. 31st, Mr. Cookson, Loch Awe, twenty-nine, 10lb.; Mr. Frost, Loch Gillaroo, four, 4lb.; Mr. Hurst, Loch Assynt, nineteen, 3½lb. June 1, Messrs. Bird and Morgan, Loch Awe, twenty-four, 8lb.; Mr. Hurst, Loch Letteressa, twenty-six, 8lb.; Mr. Cookson, Skiag, thirteen, 8lb. (heaviest 4lb.); Messrs. Bortholomew and Frost, river Inver, twelve, 7lb. 2nd, Messrs. Bortholomew and Frost, Loch Letteressa, twenty-six, 7½lb.; Mr. Cookson, Mid-Assynt, twenty-four, 8lb.; Messrs. Bird and Morgan, Skiag, thirteen, 4½lb. 3rd, Messrs. Bortholomew and Frost, Loch Awe, seventy-six, 23lb.; Mr. Hurst, Head Assynt, thirteen, 5lb.; Messrs. Bird and Morgan, Skiag, twelve, 4½lb.; Mr. Cookson, Mid-Assynt, fourteen, 7lb.—**WILLIAM WALLACE.**

Lairg (Altnaharra Hotel).—Angling on hotel waters, May 31, Mr. Day, on Loch Hallam, had twenty-four trout, 9lb.; Mr. and Mrs. Straker, on Loch Break Bine, had seventeen trout, 9½lb. June 1, Mr. and Mrs. Straker, on Loch Hallam, had fifty-two trout, 27lb.; Mr. Kirkbride, on Loch Tarvie, had nine trout, 4lb. 2nd, Mr. Deverall and party, on Loch Meaddie, had sixty-eight trout, 19lb.; Mr. and Mrs. Straker, on Loch Hallam, had twenty-six trout, 11½lb.; Mr. Day, on Loch Tarvie, had eight trout, 4½lb.; Mr. Kirkbride, on Loch Naver, had one ferret, 5½lb., and seven trout, 3lb. 3rd, Mr. Deverall and party, on Loch Meaddie, had 26lb. trout; Mr. and Mrs. Straker, on Break Bine, had forty-one trout, 12lb.; Mr. Kirkbride, on Loch Hallam, had twenty-five trout, 8lb.; Mr. Day, on Loch Loyal, had three trout, 4½lb. 5th, Messrs. Deverall and Stedall, on Loch Meaddie, 13lb. trout; Mr. Kirkbride, on Loch Naver, had one salmon, 8lb.; Mr. and Mrs. Straker, on Hallam, had thirty-nine trout, 21lb. 6th, Miss H. Straker, on Loch Naver, one salmon, 8lb., two grilse, 5lb. each; Mr. Steele, on Loch Meaddie, had 15lb. trout; Mr. Deverall and party, on Hallam, sixty-six trout, 20lb.—**W. D. M.**

Loch Katrine (Stronachlachar Hotel).—Out from Stronachlachar Hotel on Wednesday, Mr. Jacques caught twelve trout, Mr. King caught six, and Mr. Seton Thompson caught seven. On Thursday, Mr. Jacques caught eight trout, Mr. Allen caught six, and Mr. King seven trout. On Friday, Mr. Jacques caught twelve, and Mr. Sam Sinclair fifteen trout, the heaviest weighing 2lb. On Saturday, Mr. Sam Sinclair caught eighteen trout, and Major White twelve. On Monday, Mr. Phillips caught eight trout, and Mr. Allen thirteen, the heaviest weighing 1½lb. Sir David Richmond, fishing from the Royal Cottage, caught thirteen trout. Owing to the cold weather of the last week the takes were not so good.—**H. M.**

Lochleven (Kinross).—The weather has been bright and oppressive with a gusty wind from the south-west during the week, and the catches up to Tuesday were fair. On that day, however, a dullness which continued for a few hours enabled anglers to obtain capital sport with fly. Mr. R. D. Croall, Edinburgh, had thirty trout, 21lb.; Mr. Dixon, Glasgow, eighteen, 10lb. Several anglers who came from England to engage in the national competition on the loch on Wednesday had fair creels, viz.—Messrs. Wright and Woodruff, London, eleven trout, 6lb.; Mr. D. Slater, Newark, twenty-one, 10lb. 8oz.; and an angler from Northumberland, seventeen, 10lb. Other anglers out were Mr. Cargie, Edinburgh, seventeen trout, 14½lb.; Mr. J. Gordon Mason, Edinburgh, twenty-five, 13lb.; Mr. Young, Glasgow, eighteen, 12lb.; Messrs. Clarke, London, fourteen, 6lb. 8oz.; Mr. O'Hanlon, Manchester, eighteen, 11lb.; Mr. Wilson, Falkirk, fifteen, 12lb.; Mr. C. Stewart, Edinburgh, seventeen, 11lb.; Mr. T. B. Bennet, Edinburgh, twenty-three, 12lb. 8oz.; Mr. Spencer Shelley, Ceylon, twenty-one, 13lb. The two most successful angling clubs out during the week were Glasgow Buckland (nine rods), sixty-three trout, 41lb. (first, Mr. A. Brown, seventeen trout, 9lb. 9oz.; second, Mr. N. Thomson, nine, 9lb. 2oz.); West of Scotland Club (sixteen rods), ninety-nine trout, 51lb. 14oz. (first, Dr. Clark, eleven trout, 6lb.; second, Mr. J. M. Ross, nine, 4lb. 12oz.). The number of trout captured last month was 5448, which weighed 3785½lb., or 1292 less than in May last year. Their average weight was only 11oz, compared with 11½oz. in 1898, which also produced smaller fish in May than usual.

TELEGRAM.—Thursday Morning, June 8.—The twentieth annual competition of the National Angling Clubs was held on Loch Leven on Wednesday, June 7, in favourable weather; and good sport was got by the forty-three club representatives who took part. The championship was gained by Mr. Lewis Spence, Edinburgh, for the second time, with a catch of twenty-eight trout, 16lb. 8oz. He represented the Ellem Fishing Club. Fuller details in next issue.—**ROBERT LAING.**

Loch Ness (Foyers Hotel, N.B.).—Fishing on Loch Mhor has been satisfactory on the whole during the past week, very good baskets having been taken. On Monday, Mr. W. J. Maclean, Inverness, had a nice basket of nine trout, weighing 7lb.; Mr. Burstall, of London, seventeen trout, 11lb.; Mr. J. C. Shaw, Cheltenham, three trout, 1½lb.; Capt. Cowans, Fort George, nine trout, 6lb.; Capt. Walsh and Mr. Morgan, of Cheltenham, ten trout, 7lb. On Wednesday, Capt. Walsh and Mr. Morgan got sixteen trout, 8½lb.; and Mr. Shaw, nine trout, 5½lb. On Thursday, Mr. Shaw and Mr. Morgan got five trout, 5lb.; Capt. Walsh, twenty-three trout, 11lb.; and Mr. Pemberton, five trout, 2½lb. On Friday, Capt. Walsh and Mr. Morgan got twenty-one trout, 11½lb.; Mr. Parsons, of Brighton, and Mr. Pemberton, eleven trout, 5lb.; Mr. Shaw, fourteen trout, 9lb. On Saturday, Mr. Morgan and Capt. Walsh got twenty trout, 11½lb.; and Mr. Shaw, nine trout, 8½lb. The heaviest trout for the week was killed by Mr. Shaw, and weighed 2½lb.—**S. TILSTON.**

Melviech (Sutherlandshire).—On May 31, Mr. Fraser had fifty trout, 16lb.; Messrs. Howden and Drysdale, twenty-five, 13½lb.; Messrs. W. Fraser and Fisher, thirty-three, 12lb.; Mr. W. Randall, thirty, 12lb.; Mr. A. Morrison, three, 2½lb.; Mr. Pritchard, twenty-nine, 19lb.; Mr. C. Randall, sea fishing, 100lb. cod. On June 1, Messrs. Fisher and W. Fraser, twenty-eight trout, 13lb.; Mr. Deas, thirty, 11½lb.; Messrs. Fraser and Drysdale, thirteen, 8lb.; Mr. Pritchard, three, 4lb.; Mr. W. Randall, twelve, 8lb.; Mr. C. Randall, eighteen, 8lb.; Messrs. Glass and Heywood, eleven, 5lb. On June 2, Mr. Pritchard had eight, 6lb.; Mr. Nicholson, twelve, 6lb.; Mr. W. Randall, twelve, 6lb.; Messrs. W. Fraser and Drysdale, sixteen, 8½lb.; Messrs. Glass and Greig, fifteen, 8½lb.; Messrs. C. Fraser and Heywood, sixteen, 7lb.; Messrs. Howden and Deas, thirty-three, 12½lb. On June 3, Mr. Tom Morrison had a salmon of 10lb. on the

Halladale; Mr. W. Randall, five trout, 4lb.; Messrs. Howden and Heywood, twenty-two, 11lb.; Mr. Pritchard, thirteen, 4lb.; Messrs. Fraser and Deas, thirteen, 6lb.; Messrs. Glass and Fisher, twenty-four, 9lb. On June 8, Messrs. Glass and Fraser had thirteen, 7lb.; Mr. W. Randall, seven, 5lb.; Messrs. Greig and Fisher, seventeen, 9lb.; Mr. Heywood, twenty-eight, 13lb.; Messrs. Drysdale and Howden, thirty-five, 17lb.; Mr. Pritchard, one, 1lb. 11oz. (first fish off this loch, stocked April, 1895); Mr. Deas, twenty, 9lb.; Mr. Nicholson, eighteen, 8lb.—A. MACINTOSH.

Naver (Bettyhill, via Thurso, N.B.).—During the past week very little salmon angling has been attempted, owing to unfavourable conditions. Most of the anglers betook themselves to trout fishing on the lochs. Mr. Gill, Syre Lodge, had only three salmon for the whole week; Major Burnell-Milnes, Dalvina Lodge, had only two; and Mr. and Mrs. Smith, Skelpick Lodge, one each. Mr. Smith's fish was a beauty of 18lb. On 1st inst. two gentlemen from Bettyhill Hotel made a lovely basket of trout, one of which weighed 3lb., and two others, 2lb. each, and the whole 10lb. On 2nd, one angler was out for about an hour, and got a fine basket of 6lb.—B.

North-East of Scotland.—The advent of real summer weather at last has sent down the level of the streams with a vengeance, and angling, difficult before, is doubly more so now. The only sport a-going is with morning or evening angling. The supplies of salmon are but light as yet, and grilse are so scarce that they are sometimes not quoted, so that there are really few fresh fish entering the river, and what are getting away during the Sundays are running right through. On the Braemar waters Mr. McDonald's guests are having very fair sport. On the Balmoral waters, Viscount Cross, Lord Privy Seal, has been out daily, and along with Mr. Mather, the Munsie, and others, have creeled a considerable number of fish. On the Crathie section of the Dee, Mr. Nicol had one of 10lb., one of 5lb., one of 16lb. on different occasions last week; while Mr. Ferguson caught two, of 6lb. and 7lb., and Col. Hickson, one of 5½ lb., on same beat. On the Fife water, McHardy, gillie, creeled one of 6½ lb. and one of 6lb.; while Mr. Webster had one of 10lb. On the Ballater and Cambus O'May reaches a shower is much needed to freshen up the pools. Sport fairly good. On the Birkhall section, Capt. Lumsden creeled one of 8lb., one of 6½ lb., and one of 7lb.; while Lundie, keeper, had one or two of similar weights. On the Glentana water, Mr. Buntel creeled two, of 8lb. and 9lb., three, of 7lb., 7lb., and 14lb., and one of 8lb.; while Mr. Farrer had one of 18lb., two, of 9lb. and 14lb.; Mr. Baily, three, of 8lb., 8lb., and 8lb.; and Mr. Style, three, of similar weights; and Campbell, two, of 8lb. and 11lb. On the Huntly Arms water, Dr. Stephenson and others creeled ten fish, ranging from 6lb. to 23lb. On the Dess water, Harper and others had five fish, scaling 6lb., 9lb., 10lb., 11lb., and 19lb., making over a hundred for the season up to date. On the Kincairdine Lodge section, Mr. J. G. Orr creeled three, of 6lb., 6lb., and 6½ lb. On the Borrowstone water, Mr. Beck had one of 6lb.; and Nicoll, keeper, four, of 6½ lb., 7lb., 11lb., and 12lb. On Carlisle, Mr. J. C. Haslam landed a beauty of 8lb.; while Capt. L. Scrivener had one, 8lb., W. Levett one, 6lb., and Mr. Crawford Logan two, of 7lb. and 8lb., on the Balligoe water. On the Woodend section, John Mortimer creeled three, of 7lb., 9lb., and 9lb. On the Cairnton water, Mr. T. Turner Farley had to do with thirty fish in three days of last week, seventeen of which he landed, all ranging from 6lb. to 18lb. On the Kinneskie and lower waters an occasional fish is being got. On the Ugie, Mr. Blankert, Leicester, and friend had a week's fishing later with but fair results. The Ythan tidal is now open, and good baskets of finnock and sea trout are being made. **WEDNESDAY NIGHT.**—The dull weather of past few days has been very favourable to sport, and prospects are of the brightest, although the pools are of the smallest and clearest, and daily getting more so. On the Braemar waters, Mr. Illingworth had two, of 7lb. and 8lb., on Monday; and four, from 6lb. to 9lb., on Tuesday; while Mrs. Illingworth creeled two, of 7lb. and 9lb. On Upper Invercauld water, Col. Morland landed three, of 6lb., 7lb., and 7½ lb.—G. M.

Overscaig Hotel Waters (via Lairg, N.B.).—Dr. and Mrs. Nesham, Newcastle-on-Tyne, were out Loch Grian on 29th, and got two and a quarter trout, 11lb.; on 30th, on same loch, three dozen, 12lb.; on 1st inst., on Loch Shin, one and three-quarter dozen, 11lb.; on 2nd, on Loch Grian, twenty-five trout, 11lb. On 3rd, Dr. Nesham, on Loch Shin, made a splendid basket of thirty-one trout, 16lb., an average of over ½ lb. each; and Mr. Dodgson, Keston, Kent, on Loch Grian, seventeen trout, 5½ lb. On Monday, this week, Dr. Paradox, Newcastle-on-Tyne, fishing Upper Flag Beat, Loch Shin, landed two and a half dozen trout, 19lb., or an average of close on ½ lb. each; and Mr. Dodgson, on Top Shin Beat, nineteen trout, 6lb. The weather has been unfavourable, but this week there is a change for the better.—B.

Rhiconich Hotel Waters (via Lairg, N.B.).—The weather has been thundery and otherwise adverse to angling. Mr. R. G. London, Kettering, has had the following sport: On 31st ult., on Loch No. 1, twenty trout, 8lb. On 1st inst., on Loch-na-Fechial, thirteen trout, 6lb. On 2nd, on Loch Skirra, fifteen trout, 8lb. On 3rd, on Loch No. 3, thirty trout, averaging about ½ lb. each; and on Monday this week, on Loch Paterson, twenty trout, 12lb.—B.

Scourie Hotel Waters (via Lairg, N.B.).—Although climatic conditions have been adverse to successful angling, there is now a change for the better, and the prospects are excellent. Out for a few hours on Tuesday last week, Dr. Anderson, Perth, had four trout averaging 1lb. each; on Wednesday, fifteen trout, 10lb.; and on Thursday eight trout, 10lb., or an average of 1½ lb. each.—B.

South of Scotland.—Very fine summer weather prevails over the south of Scotland this week. The whole of the streams in this district are down to mid-summer level, and fly fishing during the daytime is about at a standstill. A fair head of sea trout are in the rivers, but, with the low waters, they take some catching, even with the night fly. On several days nice breezes have been on the waters, and some catches of yellow trout have been reported from the different waters. Sea trout, however, have, on the other hand, been very shy. The Stewart tackle should now prove deadly in the hands of those who know how to fish the clear water worm. The Creeper bait is hardly ever fished in the rivers on the Scotch side of the Border. On the Eden of Solway it is a favourite lure for brown trout. Loch fishing is giving better sport, and some fair baskets have been caught on windy days with fly. For the lochs nothing has killed better than the Black and Silver, the Black Spider and Silver Body. The Hare Lug and Woodcock, the Quill Body, and Blae Wing has also done well. One angler had a fair basket with a small fly of Jungle Cook Wing and Silver Body, and for a dropper a Black Gnat. The first grilse of the Solway for the season was caught in the nets on the evening of Wednesday of last week, and several others have been captured since that date. Salmon have been very scarce for a fortnight. The Solway was at one time noted for its grilse migration, but for nine or ten years the annual run of these fish have been exceedingly poor, and the lessees and fishermen now rely more upon sea trout and salmon to square accounts. The following is a note of the angling from the different rivers of this district. **THE ANNAN.**—This river is very low and clear, and angling has been of little good during the daytime with fly. In the Mount Annan water Mr. Pasley-Dirom's keeper killed sixteen sea trout during odd outings in May, and he has had several since. Other rods on the same water are killing an odd sea trout with the Night Fly. In the higher waters the streams are low, and not much sport is going just now. Mr. Learmont had two or three sea trout in the Hoddum Castle water by fishing after dark with Night Fly. The sport in the tidal reaches is of very little account just now. Two anglers had a few yellow trout on Friday night, as also on Saturday evening. A fine brown trout was hooked off the quay wall by a lad on Friday with worm. Some fishermen went to assist, but in hauling the trout up the wall the line broke. The trout was put down at 5lb. **THE NITH.**—This river is too low for sport. Mr. Dick landed a yellow trout of 5½ lb. on the Maxwellton side between the two bridges on Friday. An odd trout or two have been caught, but generally the angling is of little account near Dumfries. In the Mid-Nithsdale portion at Thorhill fishing is confined to the Night Fly, and an occasional sea trout has been landed. Nothing doing on the tributaries. **GALLOWAY LOCHS.**—The lochs are giving better baskets now. On Loch Dungeon, Mr. Walls and Mr. Stewart had fair baskets. A number of visitors out from the Lochinvar Hotel, of Dalry, have had fairly good sport with fly. On the Ken, above Allangibbon, two local anglers killed four dozen yellow trout at two outings. The trout averaged three to the lb. The Deuch, the Polharrow, and Blackwater have done fairly well. **AYRSHIRE LOCHS.**—About a dozen anglers were out on Loch Doon on Saturday. There was too much wind on for heavy baskets, but a number of rods did pretty well. Mr. John McGugan killed a basket of yellow trout weighing 6lb. 8oz.; Mr. D. Fisher, 3lb. 12oz.; Mr. P. Pringle, 3lb.; Mr. R. Craig, 2lb. 9oz.; Mr. McLennan and friend landed twenty-four trout. All the above catches were made with fly. Moderate sport was had on Loch Finlas by members of the angling club and friends. **THE SOLWAY DERWENT.**—Some good sport is to be had on this river among yellow trout by fishing late in the evening. Sea trout are beginning to ascend the Derwent, and after the next flood sport is sure to be first-class. Among the most successful of the Cockermouth and district rods mention may be made of Messrs. J. Wilson, J. Soulsby, J. Thompson, J. Plasket, W. Hetherington, and J. Muller, all of whom have had good catches during the past week in the river and lakes. Brown trout up to 1½ lb. each have been taken in the Cocker. Much heavier trout have fallen to the rods on the lakes. Crummock has afforded some fine fish. The best baskets have been made by Messrs. J. Dixon, J. Beck, G. Falcon, and R. Mitchell. Visitors have had large lake trout by spinning. Mr. and Mrs. Collins and Mr. Melvor, and several others, have done well. Mr. J. Armstrong killed over 100 trout on Wasdale lake last week. There is little sport this week on Ehen, Calder, Irt, &c., owing to the waters being low and the weather against big catches. At the time of writing there are no signs of rain, and not much sport is expected until the rivers are freshened up with a spate. With the first flood after the middle of June, the herling—which affords such rare sport in July—should appear. They always give the best baskets about the middle of July, and on into August. The tidal reaches are the best stretches for these trout.—HEATHERBEEL.

Tweed, Teviot, and other Border Rivers.—During the past week the weather has been all in favour of the fly fisher, glorious sunshine having brought out the natural fly in countless myriads; thus, the trout are now getting into splendid condition. I am sorry to have to chronicle the death of Mr. John Mechie, sen., Kelso, one of the originators of the Kelso Angling Association, and for many years one of its leading members in committee. His demise took place last week, after a very short illness of three days, he being in his eightieth year. None knew better where to get a few nice trout at the time of day or year, and no one knew better how to lure the salmon to his fly. We have seen him many times on the Teviot with his 20ft. bamboo rod, throwing a line from bank to bank, and taking a fish out when the place had been thrashed over by four or five anglers before. There

has not been much doing in the way of big baskets of trout being got during the past week, but on the whole takes have been very fair. Mr. George Robson, on the Tweed, on Monday, had 4½ lb.; Mr. Wm. Sbiell, on the same stream, had 3½ lb.; Mr. James Thompson had also 4lb.; and Mr. A. Simpson 4lb., including one trout of 1lb. weight. On the Teviot some fairly good baskets have also been killed. On Friday, Mr. Robert Affleck, Heiton, had 3½ lb.; his son, Robert, jun., had a similar take. On Saturday, Mr. James Affleck had 5½ lb., of which there were five grayling of nearly ½ lb. each. On the Tweed on Monday morning, Mr. Jas. Steele had a nice dish of two dozen, weighing 7½ lb.; and yesterday he had again a nice lot of fourteen trout weighing 5½ lb., all caught with clear-water worm fishing. Angling competitions amongst the various district clubs have been in evidence during the past week. Evening fishing is now in full swing, and takes are fairly good. Salmon angling on the Tweed and Teviot is just about over for the season on the various waters, but as a rule rod fishing is now done until the back-end. On the Tweed at Tillmouth, Mr. Wm. Stoddart, the keeper, has had one of 6½ lb.; while he had one of the same weight on the Till. On the Rutherford water two salmon have been got, one of 10lb. and one of 11lb. The Tweed net salmon fishings do not improve.—MAXWHEEL.

IRISH REPORTS.

Ballina (Imperial and Royal Hotels Private Waters, and Gortnorrabey Hotel, Lough Conn).—Weather very bright; morning and evening best time for angling. Trout anglers are doing fairly well. The best basket was had by Mr. C. Fletcher, getting nine fish, the largest weighing 5lb. Mr. J. Willis Quigley, on the 4th, took a splendid trout, weighing 7lb., with a salmon fly, namely, Lord Kitchener; Messrs. Little and MacNulty also had some good takes of trout. Mr. Jackson had two grilse, 8lb.; Mr. Houghton, one salmon, 11lb.; Dr. Davis, one grilse, 5½ lb. The river is now well stocked with grilse and salmon, and if the weather becomes a little more cloudy anglers may expect good sport.—THE MANAGER.

Ballina (Moy Hotel, Private Waters).—Since last report we are having very fine weather here; water in good order; fish getting more numerous, all the pools being well stocked with grilse, but rising badly owing to bright sunshine. Mr. J. Browne rose several fish during the week. Trout fishers at Rannagar are doing very well, having had some nice baskets during the week, largest scaling 5lb.—JOHN DEVERES.

Ballinderry (Coagh, co. Tyrone).—The water is lowering fast, but this does not so much matter, as angling is only practicable during the evening rise, or natural fly fishing in well timbered portions of the water. An odd salmon has been seen below Ballinderry Bridge, but none killed yet by rod fishers. Up till this week some fair trout bags were made on these and the Ardrea sections.—J. A. B.

Belfast.—The bright weather and clear water have reduced angling almost to a minimum, for scarcely anything has been done on the rivers in the past week. Except in the evenings, on Woodburn dams, few anglers have been out. The recent disturbances also prevented many of the military officers from fishing. These disturbances, bad as they were, were greatly exaggerated, and are now over. Tomist anglers who have to pass through Belfast need have no fear of doing so.—J. A. B.

Blackwater (Benburb, co. Tyrone).—The river is rather low, but in perfect order for evening fishing, which sets in next week as a rule. During the last spate some good baskets of trout were taken by bait fishers, and at the same time the first run of salmon occurred, which was exceptionally early and due to the heavy floods. Mr. John Mills, on the 2nd inst., killed a grilse of 6½ lb. and lost two others.—J. A. B.

Boyle.—As I anticipated more than twelve months ago, the May Fly season of 1899 would be a record one here if the weather had given us only half a chance; as it was, Lough Gard has done exceedingly well, and by the Fish Preservation Society giving it the same attention for another year or so, it is bound to be the greatest trout lake in the three kingdoms. As it is a very large lake, fourteen miles in circumference, I can only give in this report a very small idea of the fish killed there this May Fly season; but I hope to give an accurate account of the full result a little later on. Col. Echazal, on Gara, latter part of season, killed thirty-four trout, largest 3½ lb.; best day, ten fish. Mr. Dickie, in ten days, two rods, in boat, killed ninety-seven trout, largest fish 5½ lb.; best day, sixteen fish. Mr. F. Monson, who fished Gara every day during May Fly season, which was from May 18 to June 4, killed the grand total of 132 trout, largest 6½ lb., total weight 260lb., himself and son only fishing, and during his best day he broke five casting lines in heavy fish. Mr. Fenwick had very fair sport on Gara for the few days he fished it, his best day being eight fish, weighing 19½ lb., largest fish 5lb. Messrs. Lockwood and Shield, of London, had very nice fishing during their stay at Boyle. They fished the three lakes—Gara, Key, and Arrow—but Gara gave their best day, fourteen fish, to boat, Arrow doing next with seven nice fish, largest 5lb. Capt. Watkins killed between Loughs Key and Arrow twenty-three trout, 53½ lb., largest 4½ lb. Mr. and Mrs. Holland, London, were not so fortunate as to numbers; but Mrs. Holland was very fortunate in capturing her largest trout, which scaled 7½ lb., and is now in the hands of Mr. Williams, Dublin, to be set up. Mr. and Mrs. McKenna, Conway, Wales, had nice sport on Arrow, but were a bit late, as the dry, hot weather that set in just as fishing was at its best made each succeeding day worse for the Green Drake fishing. They killed eleven trout, which weighed 30lb., their three largest being 6lb., 5½ lb., and 5lb. each, the laurels in this case also falling to a lady, as Mrs. McKenna

was fortunate in killing the best fish. Mr. Venour from same place, got twenty-four trout, 50½lb., largest 6lb. This fish was a perfect beauty. Mr. Jones, Ardern, Boyle, was fortunate in killing largest fish of season, a beauty of 10lb. It was killed on Lough Key; and Col. Butler, London, got next best fish on Arrow. I have not his exact weight, nor the Colonel's list of fish. The last three days has completely finished our season—broiling hot sun, no wind, and fish completely off. It is such a pity, as up to Sunday, June 4, Gara was keeping good, Messrs. Cahill and O'Connor getting eight trout, which weighed 20lb., but no fishing since. P.S.—Since writing above I got from Col. Butler result of his fishing for this season: Thirty-two trout, largest 7½lb.; most for one day, five fish.—GEORGE TAYLOR.

Cork Rivers.—On the whole sport has been of a poor description on all waters, though on a few favourable days some average takes were had. Salmon and (on those waters that hold them) sea trout are numerous, but it is quite useless to angle for them in the present state of the weather. The waters are running low and the weather is getting hotter, so that prospects are bad for the next few days all round.—T. J. D.

Corrib and Lough Corrib.—Since the present spell of bright, glaring weather set in, morning and evening fishing has been the rule. The river is in fair trim, and seems to be exceptionally well stocked with peal and salmon.—J. A. B.

Erne (Ballyshannon and Belleek).—The following are the particulars: Mr. John Thomson took one salmon of 12lb. on 1st inst.; Sir H. B. Robertson took one salmon of 9lb. on 5th, and one of same weight on 6th; Mr. W. Johnston took one grilse of 5lb. on same day. Trout angling was not so keenly followed up as in the previous week, still the following gentlemen took a good many fair sized trout in the late evenings since last report: Mr. E. A. Ralli, Mr. C. G. Ralli, Mr. T. M. Pike, Mr. G. Antonini, Mr. W. H. Wood, Dr. F. Condon, and others. On Lough Erne a fair number of decent baskets of trout were taken during the past week, but the May Fly has not proved a success up to time of writing in consequence of the bright, hot weather which has continued all the time since the fly came on the water. Amongst the most successful anglers were Mr. Hobson, Mr. Wells, Mr. W. Johnson, Mr. A. Artindale, &c. The weather at present looks anything but prosperous for angling, not the sign of a cloud in the sky, very hot, and north-east wind.—M. ROGAN AND SONS.

Kerry Rivers.—On the whole sport has been decidedly very poor on all the Kerry rivers owing to the very hot weather of the past week.—T. J. D.

Lough Currane (Waterville, co. Kerry).—Sea trout are beginning to give sport at last. A dozen sea trout were had last week, averaging about 2lb. each, and only a few anglers were out. Salmon, peal, and sea trout are now coming up in increased numbers, and should a change to rain take place good sport will follow in all departments. In the tidal waters large shoals of peal and sea trout are awaiting a "fresh" before ascending.

Lough Mask.—Major Ferguson and Mr. Alington's take of fish on above lake, from Mount Gable Hotel, Clonbr: Major Ferguson, in twenty-seven days, caught 324 trout, ranging from ½lb. to 6lb., average weight 1lb. 4oz. Mr. Alington, in fourteen days, caught 164 trout, average 1lb. 3oz., all taken on the fly. I defy any other lake in Ireland to show such a record; other anglers making also large baskets. While trolling on June 5, Mr. Hopkins caught two large trout, 12lb. Weather favourable.

Lough Melvin.—The very bright hot weather during the past week spoiled to a great extent the chances of successful angling for both trout and salmon in this neighbourhood. The following are the particulars: Mr. Chas. Rogers took one salmon of 8lb., on June 1; Mr. James Ellis took one grilse of 5½lb., on same day; and Mr. A. Henderson took another grilse, 5lb., on June 2; Mr. E. Mulhern took one trout (*Salmo ferox*) of 5lb., on June 1, and one of 3½lb. on June 4. Trout fishing was poor during the past week, although late in the evenings a few fair-sized baskets of gillaroos and brown trout were taken.—M. ROGAN AND SONS.

Lough Melvin (Lower Reaches, Kinlough End).—Sport was rather dull in all departments in the early part of the past week, owing to bright weather; a change to rain in the latter part has greatly improved matters, and good baskets are had daily by fly anglers. The May Fly is out in good numbers, and trout are taking the artificial well on some days. Mr. Martin lost his cast in a nice salmon on the 2nd (the artificial Drake). A few salmon are reported to be had trolling. Messrs. Crofton, Loverock, Stinford, and Martin were amongst the successful anglers, trolling with natural minnow, on the 23rd. Mrs. Crofton had rather a curious experience. Hooked a nice trout, about 3lb., and when coming to the net, after some minutes' play, the hold gave way; the same fish made a second bound for the bait, still dangling in the water. Weather at present is very favourable for angling purposes.—P. GALLAGHER.

Lough Neagh.—The pollen fisheries are in a flourishing state, and not for some time has trout netting been so good on the lough as in the past fortnight. I learn that some attempts at fly fishing over the sand flats off the Antrim shores were successful. A few salmon are in the lough, but the nets have not yet taken any. Trolling on the tributaries has fallen away greatly.—J. A. B.

Moy (Coghlan's Hotel Waters, Foxford).—Fishing here for the last few days, Major Watkins landed two springers, one 10lb., one 8½lb.; Mr. Scargill, two, one 5lb., one 7½lb. A lot of fish up on the pools. Weather very bright. Some very nice baskets of trout caught. Very good prospects of sport.—ANGLER.

Moy, Loughs Conn and Cullen (Ballina, co. Mayo).—Weather bright and hot; morning and evening

best time for angling. A good many grilse and salmon are showing on the lower pools of the river, but somehow not taking well. Mr. Sampson and friend, four grilse, 19lb.; Mr. Perks, three grilse, 13lb., one salmon, 11lb.; Dr. Franks, two grilse, 7½lb. Trout anglers on the lough are doing fairly well; best take in one day Mr. Cook, seven trout, 5½lb. I have heard of some salmon and grilse being taken on the lough.—PAT HEARNES.

Shannon and Lough Derg (Killaloe).—It is all "up" with the Green Drake fishing on the lake for the present, anyhow. It would occupy too much space to give a list of all the baskets made during the last two or three weeks, so I will content myself with mentioning a few of the best. Mr. W. Malsbury Cotham and his son, Mr. Bertram Cotham, have, as usual, had the largest catches. In three days they got ten trout, ten trout, and six trout, weighing 23lb., 22lb., and 16lb., amongst which there were several fish, scaling 3lb., 4lb., and 6lb. Mr. G. Rush's best day was seven trout, largest a gillaroo, 4lb. Mr. A. P. Thornley, of Birmingham, has accounted for a good many creels of big brown and gillaroo trout, and on the river he has had some nice sport among the salmon and grilse. On Friday he landed one salmon 17lb. and two grilse, 6½lb. and 6lb.; on Saturday, one salmon, 14lb., and one grilse, 7lb. Mr. Thornley has been coming to Killaloe for the salmon and trout fishing for twenty-three consecutive years, and those of us here who have known him through all those seasons hold him in the highest regard and esteem. Mr. W. Malsbury Cotham killed, on June 5, on river, two grilse, 7½lb. and 6½lb. Grilse are ascending in vast quantities, and are taking freely on the preserved and free beats. Several have been landed this week, both by visitors and local anglers. We had a fearful thunder, hail, and rain storm yesterday (Tuesday), with the pleasing result that the river has risen considerably, which will induce the salmon and grilse to keep on running.—S. J. HURLEY.

Shannon (Castleconnell).—The river is now in very nice order, but during the past week the sun has been far too brilliant for anglers to have much chance of sport. On Doonass, Mr. G. C. Williams killed one salmon, 24lb., on 30th ult., and one peal, 5lb., on 31st ult. On Prospect, the fishermen killed one peal, 2½lb., on June 1, and one salmon, 16lb., on June 2. On Newgarden, Mr. Astley Creswick killed, May 31, one peal, 5lb.; June 1, one peal, 5lb.; June 2, one peal, 3½lb.; June 3, one peal, 4lb.; June 5, two peal, 4½lb., 5½lb.; June 6, two peal, 3lb., 6½lb. On Hermitage, Lord Massy killed one salmon, 13lb., on May 29. On Woodlands, Mr. G. W. Greenhill killed one peal, 7lb., on June 6. On the Castle fishery, Mrs. Ingham killed one salmon, 8lb., on May 31.—J. ENRIGHT AND SON.

Westmeath Lakes (Mullingar).—Two causes have arisen to put an extinguisher on dapping with the Green Drake, at least for the present, upon these lakes. Since Sunday morning last intensely hot and calm weather has set in, which, No. 1, effectually blocks the sport, and No. 2, the perch fry are now being hatched out, and all the attention of the trout is devoted solely to this diet. Even on Saturday, the 3rd inst.—a perfect day—the fish would simply rise lazily to the fly, but no more. Friday I could not go out. Fair sport was had on the preceding Thursday. Not being in luck I only got two, weighing 6lb., the largest I saw killed on that day being a trout of 7lb., on Lough Owel. A lady informed me to-day that in portions of fifteen days on Lough Ennell she took (two rods) thirty-one trout, weight 54lb. Not so bad for very bad weather.—T. J. W.

Angling Fixtures.

June 11.

Crown and Buckland: Annual dinner.
Hoxton Brothers: Annual dinner.
Lychnobite: Leigh-on-Sea competition.

June 12.

Great Northern Brothers: Visit.

June 13.

Good Intent: Distribution.
Gresham: Lantern lecture by "Straw Hat."

June 14.

Albion Brothers: Distribution.

June 16.

Dalston: Dinner and distribution.
Opening of coarse fishing season.

June 17.

Cambridge Heath Brothers: Outing to Dagenham.

June 18.—Clapham Junction: Outing to Amberley.

" 18.—Clapham Strollers: Match at Pulborough.

" 18.—Dibdin: Outing.

" 18.—Earlsfield: Outing.

" 18.—Izaak Walton: Prize outing.

" 18.—Lincoln: Outing to Pulborough.

" 18.—Ormonde: Outing to Pulborough.

" 18.—South Bermondsey: Competition at Pulborough.

" 18.—West Ham Brothers: Match.

" 18.—Woolwich: Outing to Yalding.

" 21.—Brompton: Annual dinner.

" 21.—Izaak Walton: Prize outing.

" 22.—Albion Brothers: Supper.

" 24.—Lychnobite: Benefit concert.

" 25.—Albion Brothers: Brake outing.

" 25.—Allason United: Pegged-down match.

" 25.—Amicable Waltonians: Outing to Watlingtonbury.

" 25.—Battersea Friendly: Match at Amberley.

" 25.—Duke of Norfolk: Outing to Uxbridge.

" 25.—Elgin: Brake outing.

" 25.—Ormonde: Outing and dinner to Hastings.

" 25.—Phoenix: Brake outing.

" 28.—Walthamstow Brothers: Annual dinner.

Reports from Clubs

We beg to remind Secretaries that their Reports must reach us not later than **SIX o'clock on Thursday Evening.** Address "Editor, FISHING GAZETTE, St. Dunstan's House, Fetter-Lane, London," marked "CLUB REPORT" outside envelope.

Anglers' Association.—The monthly finance committee and trustees meeting will take place on Monday evening next, at the Cripplegate Institute, Golden Lane, at eight o'clock, and the general committee at nine.—R. GHURNEY.

Anglers' Benevolent Society.—Since my last report I beg to acknowledge with thanks the receipt of 10s. from Mr. F. G. Cottrell (South London A.S.) as annual subscription for 1898-9.—R. GHURNEY.

Albion Brothers' Angling Society. The Frampton Arms, Well-street, Hackney.—Wednesday, the 7th, brought us a very good attendance. During the evening the prize money was paid out to successful competitors. We should like to see a good muster on June 14, when, with a little harmony, the prizes will be distributed. I hope that donors of prizes will kindly bring them up to time, nine o'clock. On June 22 we have our supper at the club-room, and June 25 we have a brake outing to Stamford Rivers. All members intending to come to the supper kindly send in names to the secretary.—C. J. K.

Allason United Brothers' Angling Society. Duke of Sussex, Uxbridge-street, Notting Hill Gate, W.—Our A.B.S. concert on June 7 was a gigantic success. Mr. J. W. Harris was chairman and Mr. E. Baxter vice, and a good round sum was added to our A.B. box. The chairman and vice and also all kind angling brethren of the neighbouring societies were thanked, also Phil. Phillips, pianist, and all visitors. We made three more members. Will members attend on June 14?—BEN.

Alma Angling Society. Coach and Horses, Portsmouth-place, Lincoln's Inn Fields.—On June 6 the meeting was poorly attended, and as there is a lot of business to be transacted before the fishing season commences, I hope to see all members present on June 11.—J. CHAMBERS.

Amicable Waltonian Angling Society. The Fox and French Horn, Clerkenwell Green.—At the last meeting of the above, on June 7, the delegate gave his report of the Central Association, and a vote of thanks was passed for same. Most of the members signified their intentions of taking part in the great Central competition, and it was also arranged that the first competition of the club should take place at Watlingtonbury on June 25 for six good prizes.—G. MERRY.

Anchor and Hope Angling Society. Duke of Kent, Old Kent-road, S.E.—A large number of members assembled on Wednesday evening, when a lot of important business was gone through. Mr. Wyatt was elected an hon. member. Will members who have not already done so kindly attend and clear books, when they can receive their privilege tickets? Our first monthly competition will be held in July. I have still a few tickets left for the Central Association competition on June 18.—F. W. MARTIN.

Anglers' Pride Angling Society. Duke of Suffolk, Brandon-street, Walworth.—Will all members, old and new, attend on Wednesday next for important business and privilege tickets? Club open at nine o'clock. This society is out for new members every Wednesday evening. Rules can be seen at the above house.—A. A. C.

Battersea Friendly Angling Society. Queen's Hotel, Queen's-road, Battersea, S.W.—On June 6 Messrs. Hines, Griffiths, Clephane, Newman, Stafford, and Loudon were elected members, and Messrs. Harris and Gillingham were proposed. The prospects of the coming season are very encouraging. Our delegate presented a satisfactory report of Central Association meeting, and a prize was forwarded for the coming competition at Pulborough.—A. JENKINS.

Battersea Piscatorials. Lord Ranelagh, Verona-street, Battersea.—Since last report we have nominated another new member. Will members who require privilege tickets kindly let me have their subscription for same? We have had three more prizes added to our list—Mr. Hart, two, of 10s. 6d., and Mr. Stratton, 7s. 6d., for largest perch.—T. TRINGHAM.

Blackfriars Angling Society. The Imperial, Southwark-street, S.E.—Will members turn up in force next Wednesday, as I expect to have privilege tickets and prize list in hand? Any gentlemen, honorary or working, kindly let me know whether they require privilege ticket or silver cup competition tickets.—J. WHEELHOUSE.

Bloomsbury Brothers' Angling Society. Rose and Crown, Broad-street, Bloomsbury.—On May 31 Mr. G. Gill was elected a working member. On June 7 a hearty vote of thanks was accorded to Mr. J. Yong on his retirement from the post of salesman, which he has ably filled for many years. Mr. J. Taylor was elected his successor for the coming season. Mr. J. Neale was elected a working member.—T. PATERNOSTER.

Brompton Angling Society. Doyley Arms, Marlborough-road, Chelsea, S.W.—The annual dinner takes place on 21st instant, and as the prizes are to be distributed on that occasion it is to be hoped that they will be to hand at least a week before. The influence of the approaching season has already made itself felt, and good attendance is now the order of the day. I am pleased to say that we have made several new members, and have hopes of more. Old members will be sorry to hear that Mr. Moody, who was a member for so many years, is in a very bad state of health, &c., and in this connection I shall be glad to hear from any old friends who can remember their old comrade.—C. ASHBY.

Brunswick Brothers' Angling Society, Cherry Tree, Brunswick-road, Bromley-by-Bow, E.—Our annual dinner on the 6th was a great success. The spread provided by our worthy host, Harry Jackson, did him credit. Mr. Powell West occupied the chair, and kindly presented the prizes won last season to the various winners. After honouring the usual toasts, a pleasant musical evening was spent. We have a long prize list, and I beg to thank those donors who have kindly contributed to same.—F. RANDALL.

Cambridge Heath Frothers' Angling Society, The Good Intent, Mowlem-street, Bishop's-road, Cambridge Heath.—We hold our first prize outing at Dagenham Lake on June 18, for eleven prizes to the value of £7. Members can go down on the 17th by signing the book at the clubhouse after 2 p.m. Start fishing at day-break, cease at 5 p.m. Show fish at the Chequers not later than 6 p.m. Stewards, H. Deverill and C. Wicks. Annual general meeting, June 13, for election of officers, &c. The prize committee's report was accepted with thanks on June 6, when thirty-four members were present, and the membership increased by the election of one working and three honorary members.—P. LOTT.

Clapham Junction Angling Society, The Clarence, Winstanley-road, Clapham Junction, S.W.—Our first day's outing will take place at Amberley on June 18, for six club prizes; boundary from Park Gates to Timberley Bridge; train from Clapham Junction 8.27, return by the 7.14 from Amberley. We have made three more new members; also seven more prizes have been added to our list.—G. T. JAMESON.

Clapham Strollers' Angling Society, Alexandra Hotel, Clapham Common, S.W.—We fish a match for three prizes on June 18, at Pulbore; in addition to this, nearly all members will compete in the big competition in aid of the "Jubilee Nurses Fund." Should like to see all our members next Tuesday to receive privileges, and any who have not taken them up kindly communicate to me at once.—S. VIOLET.

Clerkenwell and District United Visiting List.—The concert in connection with the above was a great success, in spite of the hot weather. The arrangements were well carried out by Messrs. Franklin, Pavitt, Parrott, and G. Watling. Mr. Thorling in the chair; Mr. Lummes, vice; and Mr. Eallett, pianist. Plenty of good talent. The committee meet on Tuesday next, at the Empress, to settle up. All returns for programmes to be sent on by that date. The next return visit on this list will be to the Great Northern Brothers, Robin Hood, Southampton-street, King's Cross, on June 12.—F. CASTELL.

Clissold Angling Society, The Cricketers, Northwold-road, Stoke Newington, N.—On Wednesday committee met and arranged prizes for the first outing. On the second Monday in July we have a smoker in aid of A.B.S. and open our box. All friends cordially welcome. Members who require A.B.S. and privilege cards renewed please let me know without delay.—T. FAULKNER.

Collingwood Angling Society, Lord Nelson, Nelson-square, Blackfriars-road, S.E.—All members who wish to enter the Central competition please apply at once for tickets. Those who have not given in their names for privilege tickets please do so at once, in order to make sure of getting them in time. Will members please attend next Wednesday, in order to run over proof of prize list? New rule-book has been given to printer this week.—W. H. STAFFORD.

Dalston Angling Society, Brownlow Arms, Brownlow-street, Dalston.—On June 4 the members and friends had their annual outing to Arundel, where they partook of dinner, served in a very satisfactory manner by Mr. Lee, of the Black Rabbit. A most enjoyable day was spent, all being perfectly satisfied with the arrangements made. On Tuesday, the 6th, a very fair meeting. Some important business was got through, including the arrangements of the season. I am pleased to state that our prize list is up to the usual standard. Will members kindly attend on Tuesday, June 13, to arrange our first outing?—S. MALBY.

Duke of Norfolk Angling Society, The Apollo, All Saints'-road, Westbourne Park.—Our first match of the season takes place on June 25, at Uxbridge.—W. JENKINS.

Earlsfield Angling Society, Half-way House, Earlsfield, S.W.—At our general meeting, held last Tuesday, the following office bearers were elected for the ensuing year: Chairman, Mr. S. Gathercole; vice-chairman, Mr. F. Mathews; treasurer, Mr. Rotherham; auditors, Messrs. Mathews and J. R. Smith; hon. sec., Mr. A. Traquair. An outing has been arranged for June 18; particulars will be found in next week's *Fishing Gazette*.—A. T.

Firm and True Angling Society, Prince Regent, Beresford-street, Walworth.—Those wishing to join a club for the coming season would do well by calling at the clubhouse on Thursday next. We shall be pleased to enrol a few good working members. We have a substantial prize list to start with. Anyone joining by June 14 will have free access to all prizes.—C. ROSSER.

Golden Barbel Angling Society, Sir Isaac Newton, Union-street, Middlesex Hospital.—We had a fair muster on Tuesday night; several more prizes given. Will members come on Sunday or Tuesday? There are some prizes to allot so as to have the list printed before the opening of season. We have room for a few more working members. Any gentleman wishing to join can see rules at the bar.—A. W. ELLINS.

Good Intent Angling Society, The Crown, Chunch-street, Shoreditch.—Through unforeseen circumstances our return visit had to be postponed; thanking all those that took the trouble to come. Our distribution of prizes takes place on Tuesday, the 13th inst. The secre-

tary will be at the club-house on Saturday and Monday evenings to receive and pay out.—R. MURPHY.

Great Northern Brothers' Angling Society, Robin Hood, Southampton-street, Pentonville.—The next Clerkenwell and district visit will be paid to the above society on Monday next, June 12, when we hope to receive the hearty support of our brother anglers.—J. A. FITCH.

Greenwich Angling Society, Morden Arms, Circus-street, Greenwich.—Our annual dinner took place last evening at the clubhouse, Mr. G. H. Dowsett, our president, in the chair, when about forty sat down to an excellent repast provided by Mr. Wilson, of 50, Cleveland-street. Mr. Church was in the vice-chair, and the following members and friends attended: Messrs. W. Marshall, E. and A. Lewis, H. Long, J. Dupere, W. Vernon, W. Lambert, Dr. Whitewood, A. T. Waring, J. Steer, J. K. Orsman, H. Scott, A. Slater, M. H. Smith, A. and H. Burgess, T. Thurston, G. Allen, A. R. Mathews, W. Gorton, Harvey, Hodgson, Jones, McManns, McMiller, &c. A capital programme, under the direction of Mr. Gorton, musical director, was arranged, the artistes being Mr. Frost Lambert, Mr. Rutter, Harry Knight, J. F. Crowley, Fred Putner, Harry Boorman, and a recitation by Dr. Whitewood, our oldest hon. member. During an interval the secretary read the list of prize-winners for last season, as follows: Mr. Church, 1st gross weight; Mr. Robinson, 2nd ditto; best perch, Mr. Freak; best roach, Mr. Dryden; best pike, Mr. Church; best barbel, Mr. Robinson; best roach, public water only, Mr. Harvey; best bream, Mr. Dryden; best chub, Mr. Robinson; best dace, Mr. Steer; best trout, Mr. Young; best fish at outing, Mr. Dupere, with whiting, 2½lb. Our prize list for the ensuing season was opened and £16 16s. promises in the room.—J. DRYDEN.

Harcourt Angling Society, Harcourt Arms, Harcourt-street, Marylebone.—We had our annual supper and distribution of prizes on Monday last, and I am pleased to say it was a distinct success. We booked over £20 private prizes. To-morrow night will be the first night of the change, and I hope to see all members present.—A. E. PAYNE.

Highbury Angling Society, Globe Hotel, Upper TOLLINGTON-road, Holloway, N.—Taking advantage of the May Fly season several members have met with success, the best result being a 4lb 2oz. and a 1lb 10½oz. fish to Mr. C. Briggs, scoring four points in the challenge cup competition. Three new members were elected on Wednesday, when we also completed the prize list for the coming season.—E. W.

Holloway Angling Society, Holloway Station Hotel, 295, Holloway-road, N.—On Wednesday evening last the first annual meeting of the above society was held, at which the officers were appointed for the ensuing year, and the balance-sheet, which was a very satisfactory one, with a good balance in hand, was passed. The members attended in force, and we have every prospect of a successful year.—A. CLAYTON.

Islington Brothers' Angling Society, Myddleton Arms, Canonbury-road.—The above met on Tuesday, 6th inst., when the minutes of the last meeting were read and confirmed. Mr. H. Gates in the chair. The privilege tickets are ready, so that members who intend competing in the cup competition may obtain them from the secretary. Mr. Bolser was proposed as a working member.—J. H. HERBERT.

Isaak Walton Angling Society, Old King John's-road, Mansfield-street, Kingsland-road.—The distribution of annual and special prizes took place on June 7. To celebrate the event the members had a supper, which was served up in a very nice manner by our worthy hostess, Mrs. W. Brown, and was much enjoyed by all present. Mr. G. Nunn presided; vice, Mr. C. Hayward. The prizes were presented by the president, who congratulated each recipient upon their success, and a good list was offered for competition during the coming season. During the evening some capital songs were rendered, and a very pleasant time was brought to a close by according the usual hearty votes of thanks to president, vice-president, secretary, hostess, and pianists. The members will compete for two special prizes on June 18, at Harlow, also for two prizes on Wednesday, 21st inst., at the same place.—H. B.

Jubilee Angling Society, Prince Arthur, Golborne-road, North Kensington.—Our concert on the 5th was very successful and our room well filled. Our A.B. box was well patronised. Mr. B. Abrahams was in the chair, and his brother officer, Mr. J. Harris, vice. A very enjoyable evening was spent. We return our sincere thanks to the various clubs that gave us their kind support on that occasion.—G. BENEC.

Limehouse Piscatorial Society, 12, Stratfield-street, Limehouse, E.—Our next meeting will be held on Friday, June 16. Will all members wishing to join the outing on the opening day send notice to one of the secretaries not later than Wednesday, 14th inst.? Since our last meeting several valuable prizes have been offered for specimen fish.

Lincoln Angling Society, Metropolitan, Winchester-street, Pentonville-road, N.—I must request

FOREIGN COMPETITION is often declared to be the cause of much of the suffering in this country, and we are told that the number of foreigners in England make it very difficult for the Englishman to get a living. However this may be, it is certainly true that the presence of foreign matter in the blood endangers the health of the whole system. To purify the blood and to correct disorders of the liver and stomach, the only certain, safe, and agreeable medicine is Holloway's Pills. If you suffer from gout, rheumatism, or lumbago, scalds, burns, or similar evils, you must use, with the least possible delay, Holloway's Ointment. For over half-a-century these famous remedies have been the faithful friend of man.

members in arrears to turn up on Wednesday next to make themselves eligible for our outing at Pulbore on the 18th, on which occasion we have six good prizes. At our last meeting Messrs. E. Bryant, T. Evans, J. Moffat, W. Symes, and J. Field were proposed as working members, and will be balloted for next week; Messrs. G. Green and F. Alger, honorary members. Members that wish to go by the conveyance from the club on the 18th must give their names in next week.—W. WATLING.

Liverpool Angling Association, Bee Hive, Queen-square.—The splendid weather now prevailing, and which appears to have come to stay, has made angling the pleasantest of recreations, and many fish have made acquaintance with strange quarters. Several members of this association have done well with trout and grayling, but I am not allowed to mention names or waters. It is too calm and bright for our Pen-y-Cae fishery to do well, as a hard, windy (fairly) day is the weather which appears to bring them on. Anglers are very chary in telling where they have had sport, which may be the right thing nowadays, when permission in good water is difficult to obtain, but it used not to be so. The Rivington reservoirs are now providing very fair trout fishing, being almost a sure find, and not dear. It was a "happy" thought—readers kindly excuse my saying so—when it occurred to me to approach the water committee, to ascertain if the right of fishing which was originally vested in the landholders could be bought back. After some correspondence and interviews with the late town clerk and the water engineer, it was conceded that in the next Act of Parliament compulsory powers should be sought to enable the rights to be bought back. The Act was passed, and the corporation became possessed of the "spoiling" rights, fishing, and shooting. Only one gentleman refused to sell, but, as the result of an action at law, he was compelled to do so. Thus the fishing became the property of the ratepayers through the corporation, and they and others are permitted to angle at 1s. 6d. and 3s. per day, and under a code of conditions. I then went in for stocking with trout, and finally induced the water committee to place 1000 two-year-olds in the upper reservoirs. I asked for 2000, and I believe the other 1000 will be put chased. I am now endeavouring to induce the committee to put on punts or boats for the comfort and convenience of fishermen.—R. WOOLFALL.

Mildmay Angling Society, Clarendon Hotel, Mildmay Park, N.—A meeting of this society will be held on Tuesday evening next, at nine o'clock sharp; and as this is the first one held since the beginning of the close season I hope to see a good attendance of members.—A. E. HENDON.

Original Alexandra Angling Society, The Lamb, Three Colts-lane, opposite Bethnal Green Junction.—Our dinner at the Railway Hotel, Brixham-on-Crouch, was a grand success. Will honorary members please remit payment for their privilege tickets? Our meeting nights are now Wednesday and Sunday, at the Crown and Anchor, Cheshire-street, Bethnal Green; C. Friedlander, proprietor.—G. BARRS.

Ormonde Angling Society, The Rose, Saville-place, Lambeth-road, S.E.—We have an outing to Pulbore on June 18. On June 25 we have an outing and dinner at Hastings. There was a good muster on our meeting night, June 6, when two more honorary members were made.—A. HOLBROW.

Peckham Brothers' Angling Society, Windsor Castle, Cator-street, Sumner-road, Peckham.—A special meeting will be held on June 16. Members who want privilege and benevolent tickets must let me know at once. I have the tickets for the competition at Pulbore on the 18th; I hope every member will take care. Mr. W. J. Luff has promised to photo the club members at Pulbore on that date.—G. ETHERINGTON.

Phoenix Angling Society, The Tavistock, Stibington-street, N.W.—Will members please show up next week to arrange prizes for brake outing to King's Langley, on June 25?—R. C.

Queen's Piscatorial Society, Queen's Arms, 1A, Chapel-street, Edgware-road, N.W.—On June 6 we had a fairly good meeting, making four new members. Will members please call for privilege tickets; all those who have not yet paid for ticket are requested to do so at once.—GEO. KEENE.

Royal George Angling Society, Queen's Arms, Bateman-street.—At our last meeting we were very well attended, and got through a vast amount of business. Mr. F. Pain was elected a working member. We also added four new prizes to our list, which bids fair to exceed all previous seasons. We have some important business to transact next meeting, and should like to see all members present.—J. GIBBONS.

St. John's Wood Piscatorial Society.—Several of our members were out on the 4th inst., among those weighing in Mr. Ashley having a nice trout of 4lb., which is the largest up to the present.—H. B.

Second Surrey Angling Society, the Sun, Boniface-street, Westminster Bridge-road.—At our last meeting Mr. G. Richards was elected a member, and Mr. G. Newcomb was proposed a member. Mr. W. Bignell was elected secretary in place of W. Anstey, who, owing to removing to the country, has resigned the post.—W. ANSTAY.

Silver Trout Angling Society, Bedford Head, Maiden-lane.—The above club held their annual general meeting on Tuesday last, when there was a good attendance, and the following officers were re-elected and elected for the ensuing season: President, Mr. Fletcher; vice-president, Mr. Williams; secretary, R. Smith; committee, Messrs. Thurston, Abrahams, Dent, Clark, Jacobs, Woollen, Williams, Fletcher, and Tree. Hon. members' subscriptions are now due, and the privilege tickets are ready. Will members kindly meet at nine o'clock on Tuesday next?—R. SMITH.

South Bermondsey Piscatorial Institute. Rotherhithe New-road, S.E.—Eighteen members met at Mr. Fawcett's house on June 4 to form the group photo, and I am sure it is worth a vote of thanks to our old friend for the manner in which he supplied us with refreshments and cordial greeting. Mr. Fred Viner, of Southwark Park-road, was punctual to his promise, and was very pleased the weather permitted without delay. The following are the names of members that were present: Messrs. Fawcett, Giddy, Sutherland, Read, Mills, Pascoe, Beasley, Smith, Clark, Castin, Byers Bros., Thomas, Farmer, Whiclow, Moore, sen., Moore, jun., and your humble servant. I have further to inform the members that I intend sending off for Central tickets on Friday next, so any member requiring same please attend on Friday, nine o'clock sharp.—J. H. DAVIES.

Stockwell Angling Society. Old Queen's Head, Stockwell-road, S.W.—A special meeting of the above took place on Thursday last, the secretary producing balance sheet showing a satisfactory amount in treasurer's hands. Two new members were enrolled and five prizes presented by members, in addition to those already on the list. The previous acting officials were re-elected, and a vote of thanks tendered to them for their services. A brake will leave the White Horse, Brixton, on June 18 to enable members to catch the early train.—THOS. LUCAS.

Sundial Angling Society. Plough and Harrow, King-street, Hammersmith.—I wish to remind members that next meeting night is the last before the opening of the season, and members requiring privilege tickets and A.B.S. tickets to give their names in on that night.—C. E. LOCK.

Wagoners' Angling Society. White Lion, Albert Embankment.—We had a good attendance on the 6th, Mr. H. Walton in the chair. Some very important business was got through. Eight more prizes have been added to our list, and we have a grand one to start upon. Members please notice the arrangements take place on Tuesday next for our first match.—H. C.

Walham Green and Chelsea Angling Society. Black Bull, Fulham-road, S.W.—We had a full attendance of members on Tuesday night, and several members made application for tickets for the A.B.S. competition for the opening Sunday, when we hope to fully represent the society. Arrangements will be made for a brake to convey our members to London Bridge on the morning, and members are requested to attend next week and give in their names if they wish to go in the brake.—TIDDLER.

Walthamstow Brothers' Angling Society. Essex Arms, Forest-road, Walthamstow.—Will members please note change of secretary? Our annual dinner takes place on June 23, at above address, at which they hope to see a good muster. A special meeting takes place on Wednesday next, 14th inst., and all members are requested to attend.—W. PAPWORTH.

Walworth Waltonians Angling Society. St. Paul's Tavern, Westmoreland-road, Walworth, S.E.—I want every member to turn up on Wednesday next, as we have to elect several new members, and also officers for the ensuing season.—W. WRAY.

Wellington Angling Society. Prince George, Hillingdon-street, S.E.—Our distribution of prizes took place on Tuesday, May 30. Our host offered a substantial prize to fish for. After the distribution the rest of the evening was spent in harmony. Mr. Cook being specially to the front with his merriment. Our quarterly night is on Tuesday night, June 13. I hope all members will attend.—F. WESTOBY.

Wenlock Angling Society. Rydon Arms, New North-road.—On the 1st inst. we had a good number of members present when some important business was done. Hoping those absent members will now show up early to arrange prize list for the ensuing season; we had two new members proposed, and still have room for more.—W. HARDEN.

Western Piscatorials. Berwick Arms, Berners-street, W.—We held our annual supper and concert on June 7, when, with the united efforts of members and friends, a most enjoyable evening was spent.—ED. L. STOWEY.

West Ham Brothers' Angling Society. Coach and Horses, The Grove, Stratford.—I wish to remind our members that it is our quarterly night on Wednesday next, June 14; and I hope our members will not forget our peg-down match on June 18, at Hatfield Peverel; all to go down by the train that leaves Stratford at 12.9 a.m. on Saturday night, and leaves Forest Gate Station at 12.21 a.m.—R. LOWTHER.

Woolwich Brothers' Angling Society. Railway Tavern, Plumstead-road, Plumstead.—The annual dinner and distribution of prizes took place at above on the 18th ult. After doing justice to the excellent spread put on by our host, Mr. H. Garland, the numerous prizes were presented to the prize winners by the chairman, Mr. A. Sanders, of the Lord Howick. During the course of the evening a good prize list was compiled for the ensuing season, and a most enjoyable night came only too soon to a close. The prize winners were: Messrs. F. Cresswell, J. Hicks, J. R. Howcroft, W. G. Northam, F. D. Caywood, G. Bird, W. A. Jeff, J. Sharp, P. Smith, J. Wensley. Artists: Messrs. J. Howes, W. Everett, J. Cramp, G. Rowlerson, F. Cresswell, and G. Wilson (pianist). Will members please turn up in force on Wednesday next to finish the adjourned meeting before the season opens; also let me know which association ticket they require.—P. SMITH.

Ye Olde Clapham Rovers' Angling Club. The Windmill, Clapham Park-road.—The annual supper and distribution of prizes, followed by a select smoking concert, took place at the Windmill, Clapham Park-road, on Tuesday evening. The supper was excellently served by Messrs. Chivers Bros., and after the guests had duly enjoyed the excellent bill of fare, harmony was the order

of the evening. Amongst the artists who contributed in no mean manner to the enjoyable vocal talent was Mr. Harry Edwards (mine host), Mr. J. Wyatt, Mr. Whiting, Mr. Nat. Linden, Mr. A. Cook, Mr. E. Clarke, and Masters F. and J. Edwards played a pianoforte and violin duet in excellent style. Mr. T. Gloster, one of the oldest anglers in South Lambeth, also gave "Hopping in Kent." Mr. C. Edwards and Arthur Gibbards likewise proved excellent entertainers, Mr. C. Clarke efficiently accompanying. A presentation of prizes was made to Mr. T. Gloster, Mr. Harry Gloster, Mr. F. Taylor, and Mr. J. Johnson, it being mentioned that the heaviest weight of fish for the year being also prized to Mr. T. Gloster. The prizes next year are to be for articles, and not money, and a large prize list was immediately promised, Mr. Wyatt, Mr. Piper, Mr. Nat. Linden, Mr. Wheeling, set of fireirons; Mr. J. Jones, Mr. Chivers, Harry Edwards, G. Gloster, T. Gloster, all offering prizes from 5s. upwards. The secretary mentioned the great saving effected by the privilege tickets, and asked for new members to come into the society. It was resolved that each prize should be fished for separately. After the usual toasts and votes of thanks, the evening passed very pleasantly away.

LONGLEY'S HOLIDAY GUIDES FOR 1899 are, if possible, better than ever. Written from the publisher's actual observation, bountifully illustrated (many with maps or plans), and thoroughly up to date, they are, indeed, wonderful value for a penny, and as George Augustus Sala (no mean authority) justly wrote, notwithstanding their cheapness, "could scarcely be equalled in their handiness and conciseness." They are sixty-seven in number, and cover most parts of the Three Kingdoms, besides several Continental resorts, and a specimen copy, with full list, will be sent on receipt of three half-penny stamps, by Mr. Longley, 39, Warwick-lane, E.C.

Doatings by the Way.

THIS was on the back of the very pretty menu of the Nottingham Wellington A.S. My friend, Harry Spray, "culled" it from "Nottingham Bailey":

Of all the rivers in the land,
Thou most I love, fair Trent,
For in thy stream and by thy banks
My happiest hours I've spent.
'Twas here, hard by, I first drew breath,
There hope to end my days,
And everywhere I'll tell till death,
My native river's praise.
O Shannon hath a wilder shore,
And Thames a richer freight,
And silver-linked Forth is banked
By more baronial state;
But neither hath a purer wave,
Nor deeper, stiller stream;
'Tis quiet as a grassy grave,
Or a saint's dying dream.
Let me, in sunshine or in storm,
Still linger by her side;
I'll always look on her with love,
And speak of her with pride.
By rock and mead, and grove and isle,
She goes from deep to deep;
I love her in her dawning smile,
And in her sunset sleep.
And when she riseth with the rain,
And bringeth forth her flood,
And sweeps up to the high town's foot
Her spoil of field and wood,—
I love her more than ever then,
For then she hath her will;
And over mounds, and herds, and men,
She bears the victory still.

May such a calm triumphant course
To sacred souls be given,
That, river-like, though born on earth,
They image only Heaven;
And tending ever towards the light,
In this their earthly race,
Meet, mixing with eternity,
In joy, their Maker's face.

THE *Daily Mail* says: "Llanfblodwell Church is without an incumbent, and through some oversight no arrangements were made for the conducting of the service at a funeral last Saturday. The mourners waited half an hour, and then requested the Mayor and Town Clerk of Oswestry, who were present, to read the service. Then somebody recollected seeing a strange clergyman fishing in the river, and ran off to beg his help. The rev. gentleman soon arrived on the scene, and, although not in quite suitable attire for a burying, performed the service." [May the day be far distant when I shall have to run about to find someone to bury me "dacent"! Was there not an epitaph to the following effect? "Sure, if I live till I die (which I hope I never shall), that I'll never be buried in Whittlesea Churchyard, to be drowned all the days of my life."]

NOTWITHSTANDING the intense heat of the past week, the Royal Aquarium has been kept delightfully cool. This is due in part to the construction of the building, and for the remainder to the capital ventilation. A continuous entertainment is kept going throughout the day, which for

all-round variety and general excellence it would be impossible to beat. The Chess Congress continues daily in St. Stephen's Hall.

"YE Olde Ben Jonson," in Shoe-lane, besides being noted as the headquarters of the Lychnobites Angling Society, is one of the most ancient of the old London taverns, its history being associated with such men as Dr. Johnson, Boswell, Goldsmith, and goodness knows who besides. The news reached me the other day that the entire business has now been transferred to Mr. L. Chaplais, and I was pleased to hear it. No one wishes Mr. Chaplais more success than I do, as during his long connection with the old house he has proved himself a most genial manager, and above all a good friend to anglers, as the Lychnobites can testify. His brother, Mr. C. Chaplais, also presides at the Elenheim Arms, Notting Hill, the headquarters of the Elgin Angling Society.

WHAT a pity it is that we cannot have more than seven days in one week. Just imagine the advantages of fourteen. There would be two Mondays for languishing, two Tuesdays for thinking about starting business, two Wednesdays for work, five Thursdays, two Fridays for contemplation and anticipation of the double screw on Saturdays, and two—who said anything about fishing? Surely in this age of progress the dream is not quite without hope of realization?

"TROUT CULTURE ON THE ITCHEN" forms an attractive article, beautifully illustrated, in the *Illustrated Sporting and Dramatic News* of the 3rd inst. Mr. Corrie's fishery, which is described in the article, has been again and again referred to in these columns. It is most interesting to note that at last the theory of years seems to have been practically put into operation, and the hatching of fly larvae and its transfer to foreign waters is an accomplished fact. It would appear that Mr. Corrie has worked out a method for raising fat Olive Duns, May Flies, &c., literally by the million. The value of this cannot be over-rated; given swarms of fly larvae, shrimps, snails, &c., and trout will always multiply and pay for stocking. It is on water which is barren of natural food that money is so often thrown away on re-stocking with trout, whether it be two-year-olds, yearlings, or fry.

WITH the issue of No. 1, the proprietors of *The Penny Pictorial Magazine* have most certainly "gone one better." The new pennyworth is full from cover to cover with bright and cleverly written articles exceptionally well illustrated. "Snapshots of celebrated people" form a most attractive page; "How animals are trained to do tricks" is indeed an eye opener; "A fleetlet in being" makes one hunger to know the proprietor and the locale of this miniature navy; "How I photographed Eve's tomb" is quite up-to-date magazine work; "The language of perfumes" is a charming disclosure, and the other "specials," far too numerous to be detailed, contained in the fifty-six pages under review are of exceptional excellence.

THE adjourned annual meeting of the Kingston Piscatorial Society will be held on Monday evening next, at 8 o'clock. Subsequent meetings during the summer at 9 o'clock.

A CORRESPONDENT sends me a cutting from a Limerick paper, in which is propounded a poser: "When is a trout not a trout?" I have have had this sort of worry before.—"When is a man not a man?" "When he's a shaving." "When is a child not a child?" "When it's (forgive the neutral, ye mothers of British boys and girls) a-teething" (tea-thing, see?), and so forth, and so on; but it would appear from the serious decision of Mr. Hickson and his brother magistrates, sitting in all solemnity at the Limerick Petty Sessions, that a trout ceases to be a trout when it is white! or, in other words, when it's a sea-trout. Certainly! Why not?

SERIOUSLY speaking, in the eye of the law, I believe that migratory salmonidae come under the jurisdiction of the Salmon Fisheries Act, and therefore—though still remaining trout from Dame Nature's point of view—are actually salmon when viewed in a legal aspect. It did not require a Hibernian decision to make evident the fact that the law still continues "a haas." Here is the report referred to:

"Mr. Hickson and his brother magistrates were engaged at to-day's Petty Sessions in deciding the momentous question, 'When is a trout not a trout?' The answer, as settled for them by that great authority on Natural History, an Act of Parliament, was, 'When it's a sea trout.' This valuable information was conveyed through the medium of a prosecution instituted by the Fishery Conservators against Mr. Michael O'Shaughnessy, who apparently laboured under the mistaken impression that a trout is always a trout and not a salmon. The 5 & 6 Vict. c. 106, and half a dozen other acts quoted by Mr. Connihan, solicitor, conclusively proved that there was a case in which a trout was not a trout. A brown trout is a trout, undeniably; but a white sea trout is not a trout, but a salmon. The magistrates thought that Mr. O'Shaughnessy's mistake that a trout was always a trout was an excusable one, and that if he went fishing for trout it was reasonable that he should assume a sea trout was a trout. By Act of Parliament, of course, a sea trout is a species of salmon, and the angler requires a salmon license to fish for it, and, by virtue of this doctrine, Mr. Connihan pressed for the minimum penalty of double the amount of a salmon license. The bench, who had no doubt profited with the defendant by the information that a trout might

not be a trout, dismissed the case without prejudices. It is stated that the prosecutors, shocked by this flouting of the Act of Parliament, will appeal."

ON Thursday, June 1, the remains of the late lamented Mr. E. Foreman, formerly chairman of the Piscatorial Society, were laid to rest in Brompton Cemetery. The attendance was very large, comprising not only the relatives and personal friends of the family, but the employees of the firm of which he was the head, together with their wives and families, who came to show the last respect they could to their excellent and kind employer. Several members of the Piscatorial Society were present, including Mr. O'Dowd and Dr. Coaks, who came from Margate to attend the funeral. There were also present Mr. Brown, of the Brompton A.S., and Mr. W. H. Elsmore, who attended on behalf of the Central Association, by special request.

THE coarse fishing in the river Stour, at Grove Ferry, under the care of the Canterbury Preservation Society, will open on 16th inst. The river keeper (Mr. J. Kirby) reports that immense quantities of roach, &c., have been noticed on the spawning beds, in larger numbers than have been seen for many years, and have safely returned to the deeps, there being every prospect of an exceptionally good season. One member, during the winter months, captured 127 pike, all of fair size.

It is not often that fifty tench weigh 1cwt., yet this number and weight were sent away from the Manor Fishery, Caistor, Lincolnshire, this week, and safely reached their destination. Mr. Ford also recently took from one of his ponds six carp, of only four years old, that weighed 48lb. He has probably the largest Loch Leven trout in the British Isles. They are monsters of 12lb. to 16lb., and about a yard in length. Mr. Ford has had a record season.

THE Central Association of London Angling Clubs announce a roving angling competition, to take place in the Central's fishery, at Pulborough, on June 18, for the Walter Emden 20-guinea cup, the vice-president's 5-guinea cup, and several other valuable prizes. Additional prizes will be thankfully received. Complete list of prizes and conditions of match will be distributed on the morning. Tickets to be stamped and weighing of fish will take place at the Arun Hotel. Tickets, 1s. each, to be obtained of Mr. C. A. Medcalf (chairman), 13, Holywell-row, E.C.; Mr. Eldridge, "Rose and Crown," Goswell-road; or of the secretary, Mr. W. J. Wade, 6, Priter-road, London, S.E.

THE particulars of the capture of a large trout from the Thames are not to hand, but the fish is said to weigh 17lb. 3oz., and was taken at Radcot! We shall see!

It is not often that the *Daily Mail* spreads itself prematurely. The angling doves were fluttered on the 5th inst. by the mighty voice of the Harmsworth h'porth proclaiming to the world that a regiment of 150 or 170 men went forth on the previous Sunday to kill fish. "Angling Trippers," is a capital lift to our genial and deserving friend Eldridge, of 110 miles for 2s. 6d. renown; but had it not better have been pigeon-holed until after the 16th inst.? The Mundella Act surely applies to the Arun. Here is the report:

"ANGLING TRIPPERS. Sunday Morning Scene at London Bridge. London Bridge station was the scene of a strangely interesting gathering and departure in the early hours of yesterday. In the main hall of the famous terminus there assembled a company of men whose looks denoted an errand of grave issue. From the north they came, and from the south, possibly from the east also, and from the west. Over London Bridge they strode with swinging step, for there was no traffic at that hour and no cross-current of humanity to bar their way. Up High-street, Borough, they swept on the wings of the morning. In twos and threes they appeared in rapid succession between twenty minutes to seven and five minutes off seven o'clock, and when the last man to bustle on to the platform had arrived there was a regiment of 150 or 170 men, who, it was plain to see, were going forth to kill. Each man carried over his shoulder a weapon of death, neither rifle nor blade, and each in tin can of curious shape his ammunition for the day. The more sanguine had empty baskets slung about them, with a slit in the lid, and spoke airily of the dead these baskets would hold before night. During the few minutes before the train started eager men tested their weapons to see that all was well. From long canvas coverings they slipped lengths of slender cane, with which they swished at the air. Satisfied that the canes would stand some expected strain, they tied them up again, and then busied themselves with reels of gut and spider twine, which they took from their pockets.

"EVEN at seven o'clock the morning was warm, and some of these early risers wiped their brows after their exertions, and talked in snatches of the grim business of the day. 'It will be warm when we get there,' said one, 'but we'll catch them nicely in the shade.' 'Well, I hope to have a few myself,' replied another, 'and eat 'em, too.' To capture and devour was the desire of those 150 men. And while London still vainly strove to shut out the morning sun, while milkmen were a-yodeling in the Borough, and the hot-roll merchants were creeping from their lairs, those 150 men steamed out of London on Sunday angling bent. They were having half a crown's worth each—a hundred and some odd miles there and back

by rail, and nine and a half hours to prow about at the other end. They were bound for Pulborough and Amberley, on the Arun, in Sussex, and they hoped to capture anything from perch and roach to grayling.

"EVERY Sunday in summer they go forth to fish the waters of the south, or to nod in the sunshine by the river's brim. In August they number sometimes 500 or 600, and some of them go on Saturday night and stay until Monday morning. They are anglers of the most pronounced and most amiable type, and they exert themselves in this manner every week-end, month after month, in scorching sunshine or soaking rain, simply for fun. They have been doing it for years, and, being anglers, will probably never lose their curious habit." [Dear! dear!]

THE fourteenth annual dinner of the New Albion Piscatorial Society was held at Bridge House Hotel on June 8, when Mr. Selwyn J. Willie, in the absence of Mr. J. Bailey, M.P., proposed the toast of the evening. W. F. Grimmert very ably responded, Mr. Joseph Wood presided. The preservation and angling societies were toasted with enthusiasm, and a great future was prophesied for the club, the members of which were reported to have caught a record number of big fish. This up-to-date club numbers nearly one hundred.

A CORRESPONDENT, at present on a visit to Llanymynech, writes: "This pretty neighbourhood is now seen at its best, as, in addition to the chestnut trees, which are now at their best, the white and purple lilacs are in full bloom, the laburnum is showing a wealth of bright yellow blossom, and the hawthorn—red and white—will in a few days arrive at perfection. At this season of the year a more delightful stroll could not possibly be enjoyed than a walk up the north side of the river Vyrnwy, from the bridge at Llanymynech to the aqueduct at Newbridge, on the road to Llansantffraid, as the whole of these fields are full of beautiful hawthorn, nearly all now in full bloom."

THE following account of a peg-down fishing match is from the *Toronto Evening News*, dated May 1: "One of the greatest events in modern piscatorial annals took place on Saturday afternoon at Center Island, when the first peg-down fishing match in Canada took place under the auspices of the Toronto Rod and Gun Club. The scene was the entrance to the Long Pond. The shores of historical Mugs' Landing were visible in the distance on one hand, and on the other could be seen the bridge with the Alpine ramp, which is one of Ald. Hallam's 'foot-prints in the sands of time.' The voices of the Australian swans, whose detention by the Customs caused an international difficulty between the said alderman and the Dominion authorities, lent their glories to the surrounding beauties. It was a great match. The fish heard of it in the morning from some corporation labourers who were out of the foreman's sight on a dock smoking at the rate of fifteen cents an hour. Thereupon the fish gathered up their household goods and emigrated to Ashbridge's Bay. The corporation labourers saw them go, and grinned, and when the members of the club arrived later and took up their allotted stations the enterprising patrons of the public taxes proceeded to haul a mud scow along the front of the fishing station. Then the fishermen rose in wrath and went away to another spot.

"HERE once again they lined out and took up positions. The rules of the sport were that each man must finish with the boundaries of his station on the shore, but there was no limit to the length of his rod or line, or quantity of bait. Only one hook per man allowed. Secretary Page started the match. 'Are you ready?' he yelled. 'We are,' replied the members. 'Then let her rip!' shouted the secretary. Fifteen lines ripped the surface of the lake, and fifteen pairs of eyes watched fifteen floats bobbing about in the water. The sun shone peacefully on the Hallam monument, and all was calm and still for a time. There came a yell from the extreme left, and Bro. Pearsall was seen working vigorously as he manned the capstan of his rod. After an interval of excitement he landed a cat-fish about four inches long. Then Bro. Domelle gave a shout which widened the break of day, and flicked a gasping perch from the water with much grace and sang froid.

"ALL this roused Brother Ellis to action. He had been sitting in a box with a rail across it, but for once this well-known device had failed to bring him luck. He got out of his box, got into a canoe, and, heaving up a flock of fish with his raddle, proceeded to drive them over to his fishing station. He succeeded in this, but the unforeseen intervened. Another member got into Mr. Ellis's box and took up his rod and line. Just as the fish came within sight of the bait the angler in the box saw them. He was so filled with admiration of Brother Ellis's ingenuity that he lost his balance and fell out of the box. This frightened the fish, which broke and scattered in all directions. One of them took along the shore, and as it passed Vice-President Howarth the latter saw it. With a quick and adroit movement he hooked, but the speed of the fish was too great and it got away. It was a big fish.

"BUT it was not the big fish of the day. That one got away, too, after giving Brother Morgan an awful time. Having caught two perch he felt he was away in the lead, and crossed to the other side of the pond. He was fishing away with great energy and vigour when he felt a jerk which almost pulled the boat from which he was fishing under the water. He struck hard and played out the line;

there was a rush and swirl, and a huge pike rose out of the eddies caused by its tail, and then shot under. Brother Morgan felt that this pike was 3ft. 6in. long. He played with the fish, and the fish played with him, and again it rose to the surface. Brother Morgan saw half of it out of water. He declared it was 4ft. long. It dived and darted and plunged and came to the top again. This time the angler saw all but its tail. He vowed it was 4ft. 6in. long.

"AND then the creature went through its final manoeuvre. It turned a double-back/somersault, swallowed itself, turned itself inside out and spit itself up again. By this simple trick it disengaged itself from the hook. Then it came to the surface, and Brother Morgan saw its full length. He declared it was 5ft. long. It turned over on its back, fanned itself with its fins, rolled over and winked at Brother Morgan. 'If I had caught you I would hold a greater empire than has been,' said the fisherman. And the pike beat twice on the water with his tail, and swam away into the red eye of the setting sun. As Brother Morgan saw him go, he was quite positive that the fish looked 6ft. long. And he reeled up his line and declared that his enthusiasm had gone from him. The history of that fish and its marked length will be preserved in the archives of the club."

THE "Angler's Record" (No. 23) is to hand, and right worthily does it sustain its reputation. Amongst the good things it contains is an article on barbel fishing, from Messrs. Hardy Brothers' catalogue; "An Angling Tour in Norway," by W. A. Cummins; a lot of chatty news connected with the Leeds clubs, &c. In answer to several correspondents, the "Angler's Record" will be sent post free for 1s. on application to Mr. F. A. Redding, publisher, Wellington-road, Leeds.

I HEAR from a Deal friend that six days ago a certain well-known sea fisherman took his annual dip, "since which time only two fish have been taken from the pier!" Was the gentleman's name Squid?

THE excursions to Pulborough and Amberley, engineered by Mr. A. A. Eldridge, are now in full swing, leaving London Bridge station at the usual time. Mr. Eldridge always has a monster competition once a year, and it will take place on July 2. Entrance fee 6d., added to the prizes. Full particulars on application to Mr. Eldridge, Rose and Crown, 21, Goswell-road, E.C.

A SPLENDID specimen of the South African eagle was shot on Tuesday afternoon at Warren Farm Paddock, Suffolk, by Mr. James Harris, of the Sausage Grill Restaurant, St. John-street-road, Islington, while shooting with some gentlemen. The bird was in excellent condition, and measured, from tip of tail to end of its beak, 4ft. 2½in. in length. Last week the capture of a double-headed bream was announced by this skilful Nim-rod. ("Nim" stands for "gun," and "rod"—well, for "rod.") I must certainly try and get half a day off to accompany Mr. Harris, in the hope of securing a few more curiosities to fill up my menagerie.

A RECENT visit to Brandon naturally found me on the banks of the Little Ouse. In company with Mr. Eels, of Newmarket, we were "towed" up the stream (too hot to row), and saw countless thousands of fish only waiting the 16th inst. I may say that there is no close time on this river, but Mr. Rolph, of the Ram Hotel, does his level best to cater for anglers during the legitimate season. I saw a nice chub of 5½lb., and a dace of 10oz. taken by Mr. W. C. Mathews.

I MAY mention that the dining car is a great boon. A fellow who has to leave home before his appetite for breakfast comes round can have a nice little "snack" en route. The attendant and conductor on this Sunday morning train do their work admirably, and it is a big feather in the cap of the G.E.R. for thus catering for their numerous passengers.

THERE is no necessity to remind London or any other coarse fish anglers that before another issue of the *Fishing Gazette* appears the season will be open. A list of stations to which privilege tickets are issued by the various railway companies is given, and next week it is intended to commence a series of short articles on the fishing to be obtained.

THE Gresham A.S. will have "Straw Hat" (of Epsom) on Tuesday next, when he will deliver his lantern lecture on "The Thames." This will be a treat for those who have not heard it, and those who have will go again. His songs (especially the one which sends you all to sleep) are very funny. Instruction as well as amusement will be doled out on Tuesday. All are welcome; come at 8.30 sharp, to Masons' Hall Tavern, Masons'-avenue, Basinghall-street, City, and you will meet as jolly a lot of *bona fide* anglers as are to be met with.

IN another part of the paper will be found a short account of the Nottingham Wellington annual dinner. I journeyed to the Lace Town on Monday, and was fêted, feasted, and treated—well, like a lord. I was very ill, and Mr. W. Gaskell, Harry Spray, and other good boys (not forgetting Mr. Henry, of the Wyresdale Fishery) did their level best to get me to the banquet. I must wait till next week for a full description of my Nottingham visit. DRAGNET.

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PISCATORIAL SOCIETY.

THERE was a large attendance at Monday's meeting (Mr. E. McFee in the chair), and members had the pleasure of admiring a very handsome Thames trout of 6lb. 12oz., taken by Mr. J. E. Evans. The fortunate captor, in responding for the toast of the successful angler, mentioned that the fish took a tiny bleak, the size of a minnow, and gave most excellent sport. Mr. J. W. Zaehnsdorf and Mr. C. H. Bywaters, who, with Major Graham Gordon and Mr. H. Harden, had made a fishing excursion to Lough Derg, gave a graphic account of their Irish trip. They explained the method of capping followed on the lake, and gave most valuable information to intending visitors there. Considering that the four Piscatorials had rain and hail nearly every day they were out, and that they were too early for the May Fly, they had good sport amongst trout, the heaviest fish taken being one of 4lb. 8oz. The scenery was said to be lovely, the country delightful, the fishing excellent, and the hotel charges most moderate. The May Fly was reported to have been up on the Kennet, but trout had not been taking them freely on the society's waters at Newbury. Mr. W. G. Fletcher had a big fish on, but failed to land it; Mr. C. Stallibrass had a fair trout, and on adjoining private water Mr. Frank Ward creel'd a brace and a half, the largest going 2lb. Dr. Paterson stated that he had had the unique experience of catching trout with the May Fly when there was no fly up, and of being unable to rise a fish when the fly was coming down. Mr. H. H. Brown had six brace of trout from the Lambourne, and one of 2lb. 12oz. from other water, and Mr. H. A. Rolt had several brace (also from the Lambourne) over the size limit. Mr. R. C. Blundell, at Uxbridge, took a brace of fish (returned), and Mr. M. G. E. de Courcy hooked and lost a very large fish in the same water. It was mentioned that chub and dace were taking the fly well, and, as coarse fishing opens on Friday next, the 16th inst., the outlook is most favourable and promising on the society's water there. M. G. E. DE C.

BRITISH SEA ANGLERS' SOCIETY.

THE usual weekly meeting was held at the Holborn Restaurant on Wednesday, June 7, at 8 p.m., Mr. E. H. Biamley in the chair. Mr. Lane gave some interesting experiences from Walton, where he had seen large quantities of garfish and a large skate about 5ft. long. The water was rather clear for good sport, but a few smelts were taken. Mr. Bates stated that he had been fishing at Torquay, but had not had great sport, which he attributed to the use of long hauling lines, over two to three hundred fathoms in length, and from eight to ten fathoms in depth. Mr. Parker reported good sport from the Royal Sovereign Rocks off Eastbourne, taking plenty of pouting up to 2lb. in weight. Mr. Wood reported fishing off the Five Mile Rough at Southwick, taking plenty of pouting and a sea bream of 2½lb., and further reported that the local fishermen had been taking up to fifty sea bream per day up to 4lb. weight. He further reported that a linesman fishing at the entrance of the harbour took on a small hook a 17lb. bass on soft crab bait. Further, he reported that the Sussex Sea Fisheries Committee had given the netsmen two years for use of present nets without restriction of mesh, and therefore our members would be able in future to obtain living sandeels for bait, the lure so greatly advocated by our veteran, Mr. J. C. Wilcocks, who also spoke on the subject. Mr. Linfoot asked for information regarding August fishing in the Channel Islands, and received information from Mr. Wilcocks, who highly recommended Ferguson, of the fish market, St. Peter's Port, Guernsey, as a reliable man from whom to obtain local information. Mr. Parker showed a chart of the coast near the Sovereign Rocks, and explained the best method of determining one's position by the chart. In reply to a query from Mr. Lane, Mr. Wilcocks explained the best method of taking garfish, or, as they are commonly called, long noses. Speaking of sea bream fishing, the hon. sec. said how gratified he was to hear that these fish were again being taken in quantities off Southwick, and pointed out that the best success was to be obtained by the use of long snoods of at least 4ft. or 5ft. in length. Mr. Minchin spoke in praise of the good sport now to be obtained at Dungeness; members should book to Lydd, and notice should be given to Tom Mills. He also spoke as to the necessity of using wire lines, owing to the heavy tides. The usual vote of thanks to the chair closed the meeting.

CHARLES S. PATTERSON (Hon. Sec.).

GRESHAM ANGLING SOCIETY.

At the committee and ordinary meetings of this society, held at the Mason's Hall Tavern, Mason's Avenue, Coleman-street, E.C., on Tuesday last, Mr. W. Marshall occupied the chair. There was not a particularly large attendance, so many members having taken advantage of the May Fly season to have a few days' fishing. Reports from various districts showed that the May Fly was still "up," and providing opportunities for good sport with the trout. Still, the May Fly is not so great a favourite with all anglers, even during a very heavy rise, as many remain faithful to the smaller flies, such as the Yellow Dun and the Alder, and claim to do equally well, and, in some cases, infinitely better with these flies. The society's water at Chesham is still yielding good trout, Mr. Wright taking a nice fish of 13in.; Mr. Budgen, several good trout; Mr. Eldred, three, two of which were returned. Mr. Lund secured three brace, but unfortunately found them to be just under the standard, so they were returned for improvement. Mr. Connellan also had some small trout, and from Hertford three trout with the May Fly, besides some dace. Mr. Emery had some fair sport with the May

Fly, including a couple of fine dace (returned, of course). Messrs. Close and Woodruff some fine trout from the Kennet. Mr. Hesse good sport on the Roding, taking some very fine chub with the fly, all returned. Mr. Parker had been away sea fishing at Eastbourne, and did fairly well, considering the time of year, with pouting, flat fish, and ling. Flat fish have been taken up to 1lb. weight at Southend and Leigh, but they were not found to be in good condition. A telegram was read from two members fishing at Loch Leven, but they only captured some 6lb. or 7lb. of trout, the weather not being favourable. Three gentlemen were nominated for membership. A vote of thanks to the chair terminated the meeting. On Tuesday next, the 13th, Mr. J. Jeffrey will read a paper entitled "The Thames," illustrated by the lantern. There will be several songs, too, rendered by Mr. Jeffrey and his son, and we look forward to a very entertaining and instructive evening. Members are requested to bring their friends, and others who do not happen to be friends of the members will be welcome all the same.

HON. SEC.

CENTRAL ASSOCIATION OF LONDON ANGLING CLUBS.

THE adjourned delegate meeting was held at the Bedford Head Hotel, Maiden-lane, W.C., on Monday last, with a crowded attendance of delegates to support the chairman, Mr. Medcalf, and the vice-chairman, Mr. W. H. Elsmore. Several important letters were read concerning railway matters, and referred to the committee. The secretary reported the past season's working of the association had been the most satisfactory of any, and the issue of tickets the largest on record. The private waters, rented for the exclusive use of members, had yielded exceptionally good sport, and the fifteen miles of fishing, without exception the best to be found within sixty miles, had again been rented. Receipts for same were laid on the table for inspection, it being the unanimous opinion of the delegates present that the members had received good value for their subscriptions in the past, and everything pointed to an exceptionally prosperous year. Privilege tickets and guide books for ensuing season were in readiness, and being rapidly distributed to the members. The general committee had performed their laborious duties during the year with signal success, perfect harmony reigning throughout all their deliberations, and a unanimous vote of thanks was accorded them and all officers for their services. The election of officers was proceeded with, and the following were re-elected: President, Mr. C. A. Medcalf; vice-president and T.A.P.S. representative, Mr. W. H. Elsmore; honorary solicitor, Mr. Arthur Price; trustees, Messrs. Thos. Crumplen and W. J. Wade; visiting officer, Mr. C. Watling Tyler, Mr. J. Smith; general committee, Messrs. R. Clark, H. Holder, W. Lawes, J. Levien, G. Merry, R. Marshall, J. Poole, J. Smith, C. Watling, F. J. Williams, and J. Wheelhouse; auditors, Messrs. T. Crumplen and W. H. Elsmore; auditor to the A.B.S., Mr. Elsmore; Anglers' Benevolent Committee, Messrs. C. Watling, J. Levien, G. Haynes, G. Merry, F. Vanbegan, and J. Smith.

The visiting officer reported successful visits to the Royal George, Seymour Brothers, and Victoria Brothers; also that the visiting list would be suspended during the summer months until the end of September. Mr. Elsmore gave an interesting report of the work of the T.A.P.S., giving details of the success and cost of the housing of the barren swans and ducks during the spawning season.

A new society, to be known as the Wandsworth Piscatorial, applied for enrolment; their address is the Winning Post, South-street, Wandsworth, secretary Mr. C. Beale, with eighteen members; also the Merry Anglers, meeting at the Sun, Great Sutton-street, Goswell-road, secretary Mr. G. Merry; and an old established society, the Clapham Junction A.S., requested to be enrolled. In each case their rules were found satisfactory, and they were duly accepted.

On the motion of the president, seconded by Mr. Levien, a letter of condolences and sincere sympathy from the delegates was ordered to be sent to the widow and family of the late Harry Patman. The secretary gave particulars of the arrangements made by the committee in reference to the forthcoming competition at Pulborough on the 18th inst., when the cup presented by Mr. Walter Emden, also one by Mr. W. H. Elsmore, and about fifty valuable prizes will be offered for competition, the following being received since the last list was published: Massive silver Albert from Mr. W. Musgrave, senr.; spinning rod from the Walham Green A.S.; half-guinea from the Battersea Friendly A.S.; a most useful patent briar pipe, "Ours," by the inventor, Mr. A. Clarke. In response to a request from the delegate of the Richmond A.S., the committee have decided to permit any members whose clubhouse is over eight miles from London Bridge the option of going down by the last train on the Saturday evening, providing they have their railway ticket initialed by the president and stay at the Arun Hotel. The host has arranged a special tariff for the members, particulars of which can be obtained from the secretary. All letters should be addressed to W. J. Wade, 6, Priter-road, London, S.E.

THE Thames Yacht Agency, 50, Pall Mall, S.W., have just issued Andrew Thomson's Yachting Guide and Time Tables for 1899. They charge 1s. for it, and it is good value; the tide tables alone are worth more to a sea fisherman, and as many of our readers are yachtsmen as well as fishermen, we make no apology for drawing their attention to this handy little guide, which is easily slipped into a side pocket ready for reference.

RE-STOCKING SUTHERLAND WATERS WITH SALMON AND TROUT.

THE SHIN.—At the instance of Dr. Almond, Edinburgh, 2000 salmon fry from the Duke of Sutherland's hatchery at Brora have been deposited in tributaries of the river Shin. We understand that his grace gave the fish free, and that Dr. Almond bore all the expenses in connection with the conveyance of the fry from Brora to Shin, where the youngsters recently arrived all safe. What result upon the Shin angling this experiment may have remains to be seen, but it will be watched with interest.

THE SKIBO WATERS.—Mr. Andrew Carnegie, Skibo Castle, Sutherland, seldom handles a rifle, but is an ardent votary of the rod. Besides enlarging the castle and making other improvements on his estate, he is also endeavouring to improve the angling sport on the various lochs and streams with which it abounds. Including fry, one year olds, two year olds, and selected large ones of 10in. in length upwards, some 65,000 fish in all are introduced. Into a large pond within the policies of the castle 15,000 *Levenensis*, besides 450 selected fish, have been introduced. Loch Migdale gets 10,000, Loch Gour, Loch Buir, and Loch Laggan, 10,000 each. The remainder are distributed over minor lochs and streams. The bulk of the fish are Loch Levens, the other varieties being rainbows and Sutherland loch trout. Almost all, except the large selected fish, have been taken from the hatcheries of Mr. Arns Sutherland, of the Reay and Melvich Hotels, and the whole have been deposited in the various waters under Mr. Morrison's personal superintendence. The selected large fish and some others were supplied by the Howietoun Fishery Company, Stirling. It is somewhat remarkable that from their homes to their destinations by rail and road no fatalities occurred. After long journeys by rail, carts, and other means the various fish have been successfully lodged by Mr. Morrison in their new homes.

W. T. B.

EARLY MORNING ANGLING ON THE BURE.

KEEN and enthusiastic anglers as many of us are, it takes a great deal to induce us to forsake our beds for a few hours early morning fishing. Although at this time of the day, nine times out of ten, fish are well on the feed, yet few of us, even in summer, care to risk the chilly night and early morning air, notwithstanding the fact that good sport is almost always assured us. Many anglers, however, can look back at "bags" taken in an hour or two at daybreak that would make those who had fished all day envious indeed.

My initial experience of early morning angling took place in some of the lower reaches of the Bure, about a couple of years back. A great friend of mine, George W—, who, by the way, is also a most enthusiastic fisherman, pinned for a day's angling. We had been companions in many a successful expedition to the well-known rivers and broads of Norfolk and Suffolk, until the excursions in question had become very common place and routine. We felt that a new departure was absolutely necessary, and when one of us suddenly thought of an early morning raid upon the stream we eagerly took up the idea, and it was not very long before we were able to put it to a practical test.

Living as we did in that well-known watering-place famous for its bloaters, we were of course in close proximity to several excellent swims; but the greatest difficulty we had to contend against was how to get to them at the proper time. We had made up our minds to fish the Bure, and the first railway station from Yarmouth, near it, is Acle, nine or ten miles away by road or rail, and about twelve by water. Now, we knew of several good swims nothing near so far up the river as that, and consequently it meant either taking a late train to Acle, walking back and hanging about the river bank until day-break, or rowing up from Yarmouth. As I was fortunate in having a small skiff, we decided upon the latter alternative, for it had this advantage, that we could fish on either side of the river.

We agreed that our rendezvous should be a spot near Stracey Arms, a lonely riverside hostelry, which is designated by the wherry-men and others on the river as the seven-mile house. Stracey is a place well known to all local anglers, but, unfortunately, no boats are to be obtained, so, perforce, anglers have to conduct their operations from the banks. Perhaps the greatest difficulty which votariss of the gentle art experience at this spot is the tides. During the spring tides the water comes up from the harbour at Yarmouth in great volume; so much so that salt water can be found several miles through Acle Bridge, and, as a matter of course, angling is entirely out of the question in all the lower reaches of the river. Quite the opposite, however, occurs during the neap tides, when roach have been taken as low down as the Suspension Bridge at Yarmouth.

We had thus to take into consideration the tides in planning our excursion, and this we did. Accordingly, about midnight one Saturday in July, George W—, Toby Blake, and myself embarked in my little skiff for a seven or eight mile row. Our craft was, indeed, pretty full, what with crew, baskets, rods, ground-bait, &c., and there was but little room to move about.

A word about Toby Blake might not be out of place, for, in his way, Toby was a local character. He was a most enthusiastic angler, and his favourite swim was undoubtedly Stracey Arms. It was here that many a grandfather bream has been grased by him. His gear was of the most crude description, his rod, for instance, being a species of a linen prop, whilst his top joint was composed of three umbrellia wires tied together. He used to assert that he had more play with this apology of a rod than we had with ours, costing a guinea or two. Anyhow,

as a proof of Toby's capabilities, he could hold his own with any of us. He was much appreciated by anglers in Yarmouth, for he has on many occasions gone up to his knees in water to help us. His precarious mode of life had its effect, for he died a few months back; but those who knew him best will always reverse his memory.

Such was the man that completed our crew; and, as Toby was an expert oarsman, I think he paid for his keep that day. As I have said, the town clocks had just chimed midnight when we entered from Breydon water the rather insignificant entrance to the Bure. We found we had somewhat miscalculated the tide, for instead of having the benefit of the flood we had to pull against the last drainings down of the ebb. So our progression was but slow. It was very dark, and we had to be very careful of the sloping mud banks on either side of us. Gradually we left the lights of Yarmouth behind, and when out in the open country, with nothing but marshes all round us, it seemed dreary indeed. We each took turns at the oars, whilst Toby now and then would cheer us with some of his favourite ditties. When we had gone a mile or two a ghostly fog came from off the marshes, and the slight breeze sent it scudding in banks to meet us. It chilled us to the marrow, and left us as wet as if we had passed through a shower. The only person we met on the journey was an eel catcher, who, sitting in his punt, loomed out of the fog like a spectre. Soon we began to feel the effects of the flood tide, and the heavily-laden boat made better headway.

When we had gone about five miles Toby tasted the water, and as he asserted it was quite fresh, and all of us having had quite enough of rowing, we decided to stop and try our luck. There was just a suspicion of a streak of light in the east—the fog had lifted, and revealed to us an old water-mill on the left bank. Opposite to this we made the boat fast to the bank, and then put our gear together. I lent Toby a rod and line, with which he clambered ashore, whilst George W— and I fished from the boat. The only ground-bait we had brought with us was creed wheat, and having put a good sprinkling all round us we made a start.

The water was not more than 6ft. deep at this point, and there was a remarkably lazy flood tide—remarkable because hereabouts it nearly always runs like a millrace, and floating is generally out of the question. On this occasion we were able to use a well-shotted goosequill float. Although the light was improving every minute we could only just discern the tops of our quills. George hardly had his line over a minute before I saw him make a grab at his landing net, and into the boat came a bream of about a pound. His very next swim produced another of about the same weight, whilst a cry from Toby heralded the fact that he also was busy. This went on until they both had secured several nice fish, whilst I had not yet had a look in. I was conceited enough to think my reputation as an angler was at stake, and as they appeared to be fishing well on the bottom, I altered my float accordingly, with the result that the very next swim I landed a large bream, and in ten minutes had landed five more, all averaging between one and two pounds.

For two hours or thereabouts, while the tide remained flood, George W— and I were busy landing fish. Toby got so excited at our success that he soon laid his rod down and came to our assistance. On an average, in nearly every other swim, we landed bream of various sizes until our wrists ached. All sorts of baits we used, but the most successful were brandlings; very few of these, however, we had taken with us, for just at that time they were rather difficult to obtain. We economised as much as possible, but the fish were so ravenous that they were satisfied with pieces of worms or the mangled brandling taken out of the previous fish landed.

As I have said, for nearly two hours this went on, but then a great change came o'er the scene. The tide slackened, was stationary a few minutes, and then down came the ebb, and with it away went our good sport. Although the spot was now well ground-baited, and notwithstanding that we tried both ledgering and floating, not the sign of another fish did we see. Soon my patience was exhausted, and then I suggested a move further up the river to our original destination—Stracey Arms, and this we proceeded to do. At Stracey we found a number of anglers who had experienced but poor luck, and we somewhat surprised them by the magnitude of our catch.

After trying several spots with very indifferent success we decided to row back home. The seven miles scull was indeed a toil in the hottest part of the day, but we managed it rather expeditiously by keeping Toby well oiled, or rather by keeping his throat well moist.

Of course the first thing to do upon reaching home was to weigh the catch, and this we found just turned the scale at 5st. We had only taken half a dozen unsizeable fish, and these were at once returned to the water. The "bag" consisted of nothing but bream, and was not a bad one considering the short period it took to obtain it. Besides, only two of us were really responsible for it, as Toby had contributed but two or three fish when he came to watch and assist us. About 3lb. was the weight of the heaviest fish, but more than half the catch was probably under 1lb.

My first trial of early morning fishing was thus a decided success. Many a time since my friend and I have tried our luck at similar expeditions, but we have never beaten in so short a time the catch taken at our initial attempt.

E. W. BUCKLE.

THERE are four short stories in the June *Scribner's*, suitable for the season when the summer travel has just begun. Two of the best known American writers, Henry James and Joel Chandler Harris, will be represented, and two new writers, William Allen White (famous for his editorial, "What's the Matter with Kansas?") and Robert Shackleton, a New York journalist.

Notes from the North.

THUNDER has been frequent during the past week, and some heavy accompanying showers which were welcomed by the hill stream trout, where the water has been getting somewhat thin and clear.

No grilse have as yet reported fallen to the rod of any angler on the Dee. This is somewhat strange, as they are usually seen about a week or so after they are got in the nets, and sometimes even before then. On the other hand, an angler on the Deveron is reported to have creel'd one, and the Deveron is not particularly an early grilse stream, while the Dee undoubtedly is.

The smelt season is now over, and anglers are again in force on the tidal reaches. The Ythan tidal has been yielding some heavy fish, and good average baskets during the past week.

Major Davidson and friends have killed 100 fish on the little water of Dees up to date. It is not half a mile in extent, and on only one bank; but the right one for the fish, although it is the other way about, as the geography would say, being on the north side of the Dee. Harper, the famous salmon slayer, has no doubt accounted for a good few of these. John's favourite moment is just as it is getting dusk.

Mr. Farley had to do with thirty fish in three days on the Dee Cairnton water last week, seventeen of which he landed. One gentleman had thirteen fish to his own rod on the Cambus O'May Dee water the week before last. This is the top score of the season anywhere.

Fresh fish have been running right on from the sea to Aboyne, where they have been got with sea lice on them, thirty miles inland as the crow flies.

Fresh fish are very scarce in the lower pools of the Dee. They are still scarce on the coast, and what fish do get away with the Sunday's slap are running right through to the mud reaches without resting. Hence the phenomenal takes on some beats, while both above and below them blanks are the usual order of the day. Such is luck.

Mr. George Bankart, of Westwalk, Leicester, has been trouting on the Ugie, Aberdeen, and Loch Awe, Argyle. He and a friend came north to the Ugie by way of experiment, but, unfortunately, the weather conditions were dead against them most of the time. Their average was only twenty fish, scaling about 4lb. each, for five days out of ten on which they could fish.

He thinks the Ugie will make an excellent finnock stream in early spring and a sea trout reach in autumn, and we are glad to have our own private opinion endorsed by such an authority. This is all we claim for it.

William Birnie Dewar was mulcted in the Aberdeen Sheriff Court last week in the sum of £44 3s. 10d. for aiding and abetting poachers to dispose of their fish. He had thirty-nine salmon in his possession at different periods during the close time, and disposed of most of them in Edinburgh at about 1s. per lb.

He pleaded guilty; so some very interesting particulars, and some as interested witnesses, were accordingly suppressed. It's a pity, for we revel and gloat over details of this description. It is the lifting of the corner of the curtain revealing a life—the poacher's—the world knows little of. Mr. Duncan, of the Dee Fishery Board, and Mr. Morris, of the Fishmongers' Company, have been working up the evidence for months past.

Anderson, another of the same kidney as Dewar, was mulcted in the sum of £7 11s. 8d. for being in possession of two salmon, which he was trying to send off by parcel post.

Now is the time for lady anglers being abroad if they want sport. They come by the round dozen in September, when there is actually nothing to kill, and they are gone before the October floods prevail. If they would put in an appearance just now they would have the best chance of the season under normal climatic conditions. Mr. and Mrs. Pickering have been killing fish daily on their Dee water scaling up to 12lb.

Mr. Ingram, Inverurie, had a basket of 25lb. one day last week on the Ugie. He is the champion trout angler in these parts. A gentleman writing me thus describes him: "Mr. Ingram (the lessee) was out every day, and basketed a lot of trout. He is the most active man I ever saw on a water—here, there, and everywhere—all over the shop in a few hours. He knows every stream and eddy where a trout might lurk, and, putting his flies over them, would for a certainty make his kill, and then off; always on the move."

Mr. James Berry, Banchory, has let the Kinneskie water for June, but has July yet to dispose of, by day, week, or month. July is the best grilse month, and the

Kinneskie and immediate vicinity is just the place to get them.

"Pheasant Tail's" paper in last week's issue on the otter was so interesting that I scarcely care to intrude any awkward questions. Is it not a fact, however, that where an otter is known to work salmon angling may be suspended, for not a single fish will rest in the pool, however tempting the "lie" may be otherwise? This is a personal observation on the Dee. SPECIAL SCOTCH.

Provincial Notes

FROM BIRMINGHAM AND DISTRICT.

A committee meeting of the Birmingham Association was held on Thursday evening last, June 1, at the headquarters. Mr. T. Coles presided, and Mr. L. A. Dance occupied the vice-chair. The meeting was well attended. The minutes of the past meeting were read and adopted, after which the reports of the visiting committee were received. The report of the visit to the Harborne Club was first taken. The report went to show that the club was properly constituted, and that they had a membership of over sixty fully paid-up members. The club had gone in for private water for their members, and had succeeded in renting a trout stream, and also a pool at Bartley-green, and that the whole of the subscriptions would be devoted to renting water and re-stocking. The report was adopted, and the club was accepted. The report of the visit to the Gun Club was also of a satisfactory nature. This club also had about sixty fully paid-up members on their books. No objections were raised by any of the neighbouring clubs, and as the report was in every way satisfactory the club was accepted. The visit to the White Hart club was also satisfactory. The membership of this society was about forty paid-up members. This club was accepted, and the travelling cards were ordered to be issued forthwith. A report was also presented by the committee of the visit to the Baltic Society, who wished to remove from the Baltic Inn, Sherlock Street, to the Albion Inn, Hope Street; the removal was sanctioned. The secretary presented a balance sheet of the late annual dinner, which was received and adopted, after which the committee took into consideration the preliminary matter relating to the annual contest. Three places were named for the approval of the general body of delegates, namely: the Avon, at Wyre; the Severn, Tewkesbury; and the Thames, at Abingdon; the committee being of the opinion that the latter place would be the most suitable. A recommendation was also made that the sum of £55 be granted for prizes. A member of the committee brought a charge against two members of one of the societies of taking a large number of undersized fish from the canal at Kingsbury; the matter was referred to the club to which the members belonged. A number of our clubs that do not rent water have made arrangements to fish their opening contests in the canal at Alrewas; but owing to the locks having to undergo repairs, the canal for some miles has been emptied, and it will be useless for fishing for some considerable time. The part below the Spring Planks has not been interfered with. The length of water here is only sufficient for a small number of members to fish, so large clubs will have to arrange to fish their contests elsewhere. The large Rose and Crown Club have decided to fish their opening contest on June 25 next, in the river Avon, at Bredon. The Lamp Society have decided to fish their opening contest on July 2, in the canal at Droitwich. The members of the St. George's and Birmingham Heath clubs have allowed their members to fish for eels during the close time on the river Anker, the result being that a large number have been taken, some of them close upon 3lb. each. The fine weather has induced a good few of the members to leave Birmingham by the 11.20 p.m. train, and commence to fish before daylight. All those who have adopted this plan have been very successful. The half-yearly subscription of 2d. per member will become due to the Birmingham Association on Saturday, June 17, when the general secretary will attend at the headquarters to receive the same. All clubs not paying on or before this date will be fined 2s. 6d.

FROM DERBYSHIRE.

The glorious summer weather which has at last come to us has brought with it a great improvement in fly angling on the streams of the Peak country. With it also has come the welcome May Fly—the Green Drake—to spend its transient existence on the waters. Other flies, too, are out in countless numbers on the various streams. The changed weather has brought a large increase of angling visitors into the fishing districts, and many of them appear to have met with satisfactory sport. Fish are rising pretty freely in the morning and evening, as late as nine o'clock. The middle part of the day is too hot, and the waters are too bright for successful angling; but dibbing in the shade under trees and bushes has afforded some very fair sport, fish up to 2lb. having been taken by that method. Angling is much better on all parts of the Wye, and both on the open and private waters fly fishers have been numerous and fairly successful as a rule. The Ashwood Dale, Blackwell Mill, Miller's Dale, and Cressbrook lengths have afforded good sport, and several good-sized creels have been made on the private reaches of Monsal Dale, and on the lengths between that place and Ashford and Bakewell. There has, on most days, been the full number of allowed rods on the Bakewell, Haddon Hall, and Rowsley waters, and several good baskets of fine fish have been killed there. The Marquis of Granby, with a party of friends, is staying at the Peacock Inn, Rowsley, for the drake season on the Bradford, Lathkill, and Wye, his father's waters. Several anglers have been out on the two first mentioned of these well-preserved streams, and

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11ft., " " 28/-. 30/-. 36/-.
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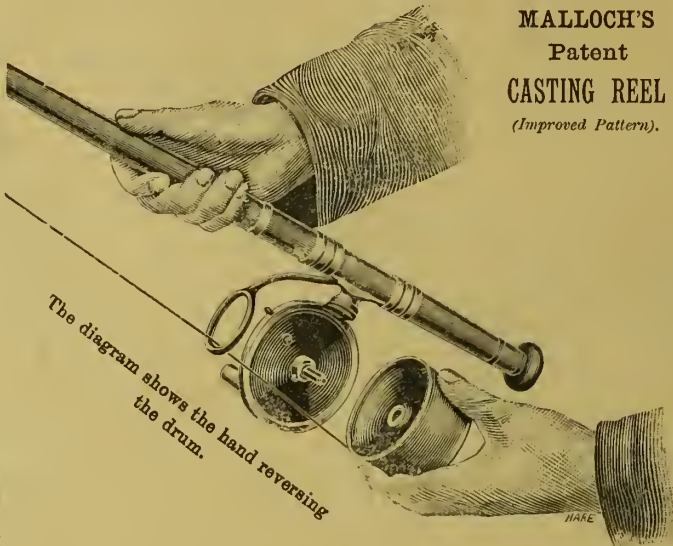
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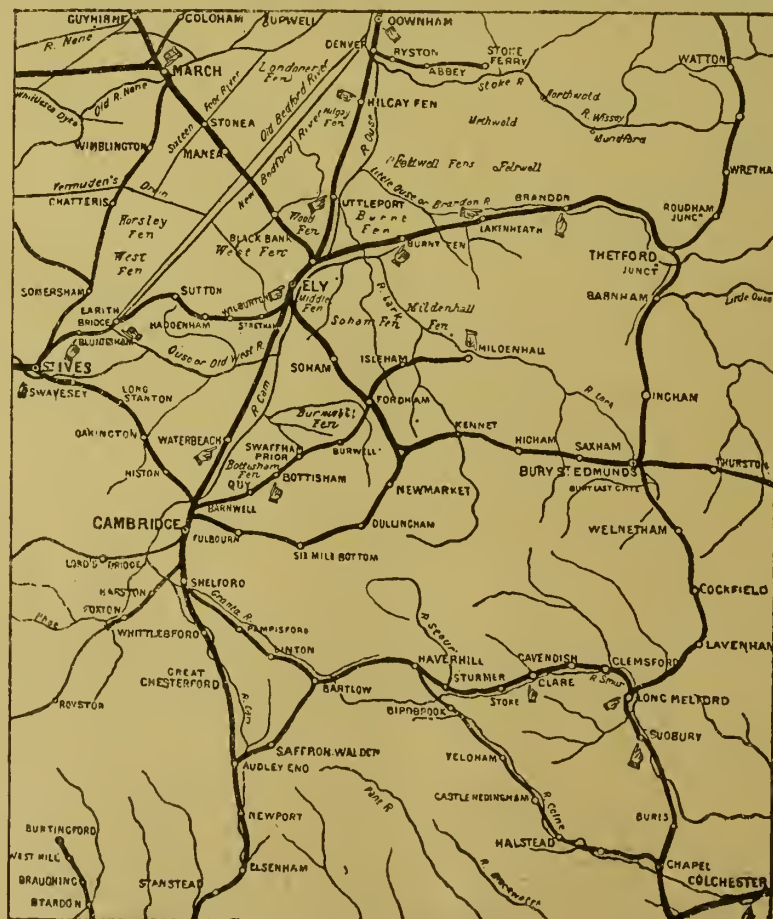
STATIONS AVAILABLE TO ANGLERS BY PRIVILEGE TICKETS.

ADDLESTONE (Wey), D. Surrey, 21; 2s. 2d.
ALTHORNE (Crouch), A. Essex, 36; 3s.
AMBERLEY (Arun), F. Sussex, 5s. 8d.; 5d. (By Eld-
ridge's Excursion, 2s. 6d.).
AMERSHAM (Mishorn), I. Bucks, 23; 2s. 3d.
AMPHILL (Lakes), G. Beds, 44; 4s. 4d.
ARDLEIGH (Stour), A. Essex, 56; 4s. 9d.
ARLBSEY (Ivel), E. Beds, 37; 3s. 11d.
ASHURST (Medway), F. Kent, 32; 3s. 4d.
AUDLEY END (Cam), A. Essex, 44; 3s. 6d.
AYLESBURY (Thames), H. I. Bucks, 48; 3s. 8d.
BARCOMBE MILLS (Ouse), F. Sussex, 50; 5s. 6d.
BATTLEBRIDGE (Crouch), A. Essex, 29; 2s. 4d.
BEDFORD (Ouse), G. H. Beds, 50; 5s.
BERKHAMPTSTAD (G.J.C.), H. Herts, 28; 2s. 11d.
BILLERICAY (Chelmer), A. Essex, 26; 2s.
BILLINGHAM (Arun), F. Sussex, 44; 4s. 8d.
BIGGLESWADE (Ivel), E. Beds, 41; 4s. 2d.
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BLAKE HALL (Roding), A. Essex, 21; 1s. 9d.
BLUNTISHAM (Ouse), A. Hunts, 74; 5s. 2d.
BLUNTISHAM (Ouse), H. Bucks, 46; 4s. 11d.
BLUNHAM (Ouse), H. Beds, 68; 5s. 3d.
BOTTISHAM, A. Cambs, 61; 5s. 13d.
BOURNE END (Thames), B. Berks, 28; 3s.
BOX HILL (Mole), C. F. Surrey, 22; 2s. 8d.
BOXMOOR (Canal), H. Herts, 24; 2s. 6d.
BRAINTREE (Blackwater), A. Essex, 45; 3s. 10d.
BRANDON (Little Ouse), A. Suffolk, 86; 7s. 3d.
BRIKET WOOD (Colne), H. Herts, 22; 2s.
BROXBOROUGH (Lea), A. Herts, 17; 1s. 6d.
BUNTINGFORD (Rih), Herts, 33; 2s. 11d.
BURBS (Stour), A. Suffolk, 54; 4s. 6d.
BURNHAM-ON-CROUCH, A. Essex, 39; 3s. 8d.
BURN FEN (Little Ouse), A. Suffolk, 77; 6s. 6d.
BURN MILL (Stort), A. Essex, 25; 1s. 11d.
BUSHEY (Colne), H. Herts, 16; 1s. 8d.
BYFLEET (Wey), D. Surrey, 21; 2s. 3d.
CASTLE HEDDINGHAM (Colne), A. Essex, 56; 4s. 11d.
CHAPPEL (Colne), A. Essex, 50; 4s. 2d.
CHALFONT ROAD (Mishorn), I. Bucks, 22; 2s.
CHEDDINGTON (Canal), H. Bucks, 36; 3s. 9d.
CHESHAM (Chess), I. Bucks, 27; 2s. 5d.
CHELMFORD (Chelmer), A. Essex, 29; 2s. 6d.
CHESHUNT (Lea), A. Herts, 14; 1s. 2d.
CHERTSEY (Thames), D. Surrey, 22; 2s. 4d.
CHIGWELL LANE (Roding), A. Essex, 13; 1s. 1d.
CHILDREN GREEN (Lea), G. Herts, 27; 2s. 10d.
CHORLEY (Thames), B. Berks, 48; 5s. 1d.
CHORLEY WOOD, I. Bucks, 20; 1s. 10d.
CLARE (Stour), A. Suffolk, 62; 5s. 3d.
COBBHAM (Mole), D. Surrey, 18; 2s.
COLCHESTER (Colne), A. Essex, 51; 4s. 4d.
COLNE (Colne), A. Essex, 57; 4s. 6d.
COLNBROOK (Colne), E. Bucks, 16; 1s. 8d.
COOKHAM (Thames), B. Berks, 25; 2s. 10d.
COWDEN (Medway), F. Kent, 29; 3s.
CROMER, A. Norfolk, 139; 10s.
DATOHET (Thames), D. Bucks, 28; 2s. 3d.
DOWNHAM (Ouse), A. Norfolk, 86; 7s. 3d.
DORLING (Mole), C. F. Surrey, 26; 2s. 8d.
EARLSWOOD (Lakes), F. Surrey, 21; 2s.
EAST GRINSTEAD (Medway), F. Sussex, 30; 3s. 6d.
EAST FARLEIGH (Medway), C. Kent, 44; 4s.
EARLTH BRIDGE (Ouse), A. Hunts, 70; 5s. 4d.
EDENBRIDGE (Eden), C. F. Kent, 33; 2s. 8d.
EGHAM (Thames), D. Surrey, 21; 2s. 3d.
ELY (Ouse), A. Cambs, 70; 5s. 11d.
ELSTREB (Reservoirs), G. Herts, 12; 1s. 3d.
ELSENHAM (Cam), A. Essex, 38; 3s. 0d.
ENFIELD LOCK (Lea), A. Middlesex, 12; 1s.
EPPING (Roding), A. Essex, 17; 1s. 5d.
ESMER (Mole), D. Surrey, 14; 1s. 6d.
FAMBRIDGE (Crouch), A. Essex, 35; 2s. 10d.
FLITWICK (Ivel), G. Beds, 40; 4s. 2d.
FOREST ROW (Medway), F. Sussex, 39; 3s. 6d.
FULWELL (Thames), D. Middlesex, 12; 1s. 4d.
GORING (Thames), B. Oxford, 44; 4s. 9d.
GT. CHESTERFORD (Cam), A. Essex, 48; 3s. 10d.
GREAT MARLOW (Thames), B. Bucks, 35; 3s. 3d.
GT. MISSENDEN (Mishorn), I. Bucks, 29; 2s. 9d.
GUILDFORD (Wey), C. D. Surrey, 28; 2s. 2d.
GUNTON (Broad), A. Norfolk, 188; 10s.

HADHAM (Ash), A. Herts, 25; 2s. 3d.
HALSTAD (Colne), A. Essex, 62; 4s. 8d.
HAMPTON (Thames), D. Middlesex, 14; 1s. 6d.
HAMPTON WICK (Thames), D. Mdx, 14; 1s. 6d.
HARLOW (Stort), A. Essex, 26; 2s. 11d.
HARPENDEN (Lea), E. G. Herts, 27; 2s. 7d.
HARTFIELD (Medway), F. Sussex, 42; 3d. 6d.
HATFIELD (Lea), E. Herts, 17; 1s. 10d.
HATFIELD PEVEREL (Chelmer), A. Essex, 36; 3s. 1d.
HEVER (Eden), F. Kent, 27; 2s. 10d.
HIGH BARNET (Brent), E. Herts, 11; 1s.
HENLEY (Thames), B. Oxon, 35; 3s. 9d.
HERTFORD (Lea), A. E. Herts, 24; 2s. 6d.
HILGAY FEN (Ouse), A. Norfolk, 86; 6s. 10d.
HORLEY (Mole), F. Surrey, 26; 2s. 8d.
HORSHAM (Arun), F. Sussex, 37; 3s. 10d.
HORSTED KEYNES (Ouse), F. Sussex, 36; 3s. 10d.

HUNSTANTON, A. Norfolk, 114; 9s. 6d.
HUNTINGDON (Ouse), E. Hunts, 58; 6s. 2d.
IRCHESTER (Ouse), G. Northampton, 61; 6s. 3d.
KELVEDON (Blackwater), A. Essex, 42; 3s. 7d.
KINGSTON (Canal), H. Herts, 21; 2s. 2d.
KINGSTON (Thames), D. Surrey, 12; 1s. 3d.
LAKENHEATH (Ouse), A. Suffolk, 82; 6s. 11d.
LANGFORD HALL FISHERY (Blackwater), A. Essex, 44; 3s. 3d. (Change at Witham).
LANGLEY (Canal), B. Bucks, 16; 1s. 8d.
LEAGRAVE (Lea), G. Beds, 32; 3s. 5d.
LEATHERHEAD (Mole), D. F. Surrey, 19; 2s.
LEIGHTON (Ouse), H. Beds, 40; 4s. 2d.
LEWIS (Ouse), F. Surrey, 50; 5s. 2d.
LINGFIELD (Eden), F. Surrey, 28; 2s. 8d.
LITTLEPORT (Ouse), A. Cambs, 76; 6s. 5d.
LITTON (Roding), A. Essex, 12; 1s. 0d.
LONG MELFORD (Stour), A. Suffolk, 61; 5s. 2d.
LOWBOSTON (for Waveney), A. Suffolk, 117; 10s.

MAIDENHEAD (Thames), B. Berks, 24; 2s. 6d.
MALDON EAST (Blackwater), A. Essex, 44; 3s. 3d.
MALDON WEST (Blackwater), A. Essex, 3s. 2d.
MANNINGTREE (Stour), A. Essex, 59; 5s. 0d.
MARCH (Nene, &c.), A. Cambs, 88; 6s. 4d.
MARDOCKS (Ash), A. Herts, 23; 2s.
MARK'S TRY (Colne), A. Essex, 47; 3s. 11d.
MIDHURST (Rother), D. F. Sussex, 61; 6s.
MIDNALL (Lea), A. Suffolk, 76; 6s. 4d.
MOULSFORD (Thames), B. Berks, 48; 5s. 1d.
NEW BARNET (Brent), E. Herts, 94; 1s.
NEWPORT (Cam), A. Essex, 42; 3s. 5d.
NORTH WALSHAM (Ant), A. Norfolk, 134; 10s.
NORTH WEALD (Roding), A. Essex, 19; 1s. 8d.
OAKLEY (Ouse), G. Beds, 52; 5s. 4d.
OFFORD (Ouse), E. Hunts, 55; 5s. 10d.
ONGAR (Roding), A. Essex, 22; 1s. 11d.
OXTED (Eden), C. F. Surrey, 21; 2s. 1d.
PADDOCK WOOD (Medway), C. Kent, 31; 4s.
PARAGOURNE (Thames), B. Berks, 41; 4s. 4d.
PARK STREET (Ver), H. Herts, 22; 2s.
POMER'S END (Lea), A. Middlesex, 10; 9d.
POTTER'S BAR (Colne), E. Middlesex, 12; 1s. 3d.
PULBROUGH (Arun), F. Sussex, 50; 5s. (By
Eldridge's excursions, 2s. 6d.).
RADLETT (Colne), G. Herts, 15; 1s. 7d.
READING (Thames), B. Berks, 36; 3s. 9d.
RED HILL (Lakes), C. F. Surrey, 20; 2s.
RICKMANSWORTH (Colne), H. I. Herts, 22; 1s. 8d.
ROXTON (Stort), A. Essex, 27; 1s. 9d.
RUGSWICK (Arun), F. Sussex, 44; 4s. 2d.
RYE HOUSE (Lea), A. Herts, 19; 1s. 8d.
SANDY (Ivel), E. Beds, 44; 4s. 7d.
SAWRIDGEWORTH (Stort), A. Herts, 29; 2s. 3d.
SELHAM (Rother), F. Sussex, 58; 5s. 6d.
SHALFORD (Wey), C. Surrey, 41; 3s. 2d.
SHARNBROOK (Ouse), G. Beds, 55; 5s. 9d.
SHEFFORD (Ivel), G. Bedford, 87; 5s.
SHEFFORD (Cam), A. Cambs, 55; 4s. 5d.
SHENFIELD (Chelmer), A. Essex, 22; 1s. 8d.
SHEPPERTON (Thames), D. Middlesex, 18; 2s.
SLOUGH (Canal), B. Bucks, 18; 1s. 11d.
SOUTHMINSTER, A. Essex, 40; 3s. 4d.
STAINES (Thames), D. Middlesex, 19; 2s.
STANDON (Rih), A. Herts, 29; 2s. 6d.
STANSTAD (Stort), A. Essex, 33; 2s. 10d.
ST. ALBANS (Colne), E. G. Herts, 20; 2s. 1d.
ST. IVES (Ouse), A. Hunts, 70; 5s. 2d.
ST. MARGARET'S (Lea), A. Herts, 20; 1s. 9d.
ST. NEOTS (Ouse), E. Hunts, 51; 5s. 5d.
STOKE MANDEVILLE, I. Bucks, 37; 3s. 6d.
SUDBURY (Stour), A. Suffolk, 58; 4s. 11d.
SUNBURY (Thames), D. Middlesex, 16; 1s. 8d.
TAPLOW (Thames), B. Bucks, 22; 2s. 4d.
TBMPSFORD (Ouse), E. Beds, 47; 4s. 11d.
THATCHAM (Kennet), B. Berks, 49; 5s. 2d.
THEYDON BOIS (Roding), A. Essex, 16; 1s. 3d.
THREE BRIDGES (Mole), F. Surrey, 29; 3s.
TILEHURST (Thames), B. Berks, 38; 4s. 1d.
TRING (Reservoirs), H. Herts, 31; 3s. 4d.
TUNBRIDGE (Medway), C. Kent, 29; 3s. 3d.
TWYFORD (Thames), B. Berks, 31; 3s. 3d.
UXBRIDGE (Colne), B. Middlesex, 15; 1s. 7d.
VIRGINIA WATER (Thames), D. Berks, 23; 2s. 6d.
WALTON (Thames), D. Surrey, 17; 1s. 10d.
WALTHAM CROSS (Lea), A. Essex, 13; 1s. 1d.
WARR (Lea), A. Herts, 22; 1s. 11d.
WATERBEACH (Canal), A. Cambs, 61; 5s. 2d.
WATERINGBURY (Medway), C. Kent, 46; 4s.
WENDOVER, I. Bucks, 33; 3s. 3d.
WEST DRAYTON (Colne), B. Middlesex, 13; 1s. 5d.
WEST GRINSTEAD (Arun), F. Sussex, 45; 4s. 8d.
WEST MILL (Rih), A. Herts, 32; 2s. 9d.
WEYBRIDGE (Thames), D. Surrey, 19; 2s.
WHITLESFORD (Cam), A. Cambs, 49; 4s. 2d.
WICKFORD (Crouch), A. Essex, 26; 2s. 2d.
WIDFORD (Ash), A. Herts, 24; 2s. 1d.
WINDSOR (Thames), B. Berks, 21; 2s. 3d.
WITHAM (Blackwater), A. Essex, 39; 3s. 3d.
WOKING (Basingstoke Canal), D. Surrey, 24; 2s. 6d.
WOODHAM FERRIS (Crouch), A. Essex, 31; 2s. 7d.
WYRABURY (Thms. & Colne), D. Bucks, 21; 2s. 3d.
W OXHAM (Broad, &c.), A. Norfolk, 122; 10s.
YLDING (Medway), O. Kent, 38; 4s.
YARMOUTH (Bure, &c.), A. Norfolk, 121; 10s.



RAILWAY REFERENCES.

- A. Great Eastern (Liverpool Street).
- B. Great Western (Paddington).
- C. South-Eastern (Charing Cross, Waterloo Junction, Cannon Street, London Bridge, and New Cross).
- D. South-Western (Waterloo).
- E. Great Northern (King's Cross).
- F. L. B. & S. O. (London Bridge and Victoria).
- G. Midland (St. Pancras).
- H. North-Western (Euston).
- I. Metropolitan (Baker Street).

Map shows the 18 new stations.

good sport has been had on most of their lengths. Angling of most kinds has been satisfactory on most of the reaches of the Dove; and the lower waters, both private and open, have yielded some capital lots of fish; and the fishing has been equally good on the middle lengths south of Dovedale. Fly anglers have, as a rule, done well on the Dovedale waters, where the visitors are fairly numerous, and several excellent baskets have been made there during the week. Higher up, on the lengths of Mill Dale, Load Mill, and Wolfscote, nice lots of fish have been killed; and very fair sport has been had on the Beresford Dale and Harlington reaches. Some fairly good creels have been made by a few anglers on the neighbouring Manifold; and angling has been satisfactory on the other tributaries of the Dove. Angling on the Derwent has been generally good throughout the week. On the upper reaches in the neighbourhood of Ashopton, Yorkshire Bridge, and Bamford, both fly and bottom fishers, dibbers, and trollers have done well, and some very decent creels have been made; and the Sickleholme, Hathersage, and Grindleford lengths have yielded a goodly number of fine fish to members, and ticket holders of the Hathersage Angling Association. Other lengths of the Derwent valley waters, in the Stoke, Froggatt, and Calver districts, have furnished some excellent sport; and several large baskets have been made there.

FROM HULL AND DISTRICT.

The weather in this district still continues splendid for angling pursuits, and the river Hull and tributary streams being in first-class condition for trout fishing has caused quite an influx of anglers on the banks. A few brace of nice trout have been taken in the streams, and odd fish of fair size have been met with in the top stretches of the river. On the shallows, and at the several backends, there are shoals of roach, dace, and perch scouring themselves, and several good heavy chub have been noticed moving in and out of the weeds near Hempholme, so that there is every prospect of a good season on this river amongst coarse fish when it opens on June 16. Worm fishing for flounders and eels in the tidal waters has been pursued with good success during the past week or so, and at Grove-hill, Weelferry, Wawne, and Danswell several catches of twenty-five to thirty fish each have been made, some of the fish reaching $\frac{1}{2}$ lb. each. The Sandringham Angling Society fished a match on the river at Hull Bridge, and did fairly well, Mr. H. Cooper taking the first prize with 2lb. 5oz., Messrs. A. Mearns and W. H. Ward having a little over 1lb. each for second and third prizes. The fishing on the Market Weighton Canal is advertised to be let by tender, but as both the Hull Amalgamated Anglers' Association and the Hull Preservation Society have meetings during the week no doubt something will be done in respect thereof, for it would be a great pity for the Hull anglers to miss this excellent fishing ground. On the 17th inst. the Globe A.S. and the Royal Oak A.S. each fished a match on this canal at Newport. A few good-sized pike have been taken during the past week by our local anglers from various waters, amongst which Mr. W. Hull had a catch of six fish that scaled in the aggregate a little over 18lb. Worm fishers are also having a good time of it, at tide times, in the havens and drains on both sides of the Humber, amongst flounders and eels, the black-headed worm and shrimps being the best baits, using the latter for ground-bait; and from the Lincolnshire side a few nice sized trout have been shown. On June 17 the Alexandra Angling Association fished their second match this season on the river Ludd, at Thoresby Bridge; and on the same day the River Hull and the Hull Excelsior Angling Societies will hold a joint match on the river Ancholme, at Ferryby Sluice, open to all comers, and as the prizes are numerous no doubt there will be a good force of our local anglers, this being the first steamboat trip down the Humber this season.

FROM THE LAKE DISTRICT.

River fishing during the daytime is not just now a profitable employment or sport-productive. The brilliant weather of the past ten or twelve days, however welcome in other respects, has told upon the baskets now being obtained, and some of our rapid streams already show the effects of a suspended rainfall. It is somewhat early, too, for night fishing, although a few have made a start. With the first heavy fall of rain, sea fish may be looked for. Fair sport has been obtained among the lake trout, especially in Keswick Lake, where, during the past week, a number of splendid specimens have been secured by visitors and local anglers, the best fish being a 4-pounder, which fell a victim to the Green Drake. Amongst the successful ones may be mentioned Messrs. Denwood and Lowther, who have had nearly two dozen trout; Mr. H. Dixon, a score, one of which weighed 3 $\frac{1}{2}$ lb. Other nice fish, some of which scaled 2 $\frac{1}{2}$ lb. and 3 lb. have fallen to the lot of Messrs. G. Lowthian, T. and T. Hodgson, T. Mayson, Hill (Liverpool), A. Wilkinson, J. Spark, T. Hindspith, &c. In the St. John's Beck the Messrs. Stanley have taken their weekly quota.

FROM LANCASHIRE.

Our rivers are now yielding sport of a satisfactory character. The Ribble, with favourable weather, is fishing better all round; more rods get out, and with better results. The fish are in better condition, and rise freely. The most killing flies have been Duns, Dotterel, Dark Snipe, and Purple. The water in the Wyre, although in splendid condition, has not fished up to reputation, and few rods were out in the Garstang district. In the lower reaches sport has been better, but mostly in the evening. Both the fly and minnow have killed good fish, but the tributaries have fished the best. From the Lune we hear of continued good baskets; one from Sedburgh of eleven brace; from the Wenning, two or three over nine brace; from Halton, one rod with the fly,

eleven brace, in the lower reaches. Salmon and sea trout are on the move, and eel and codling fishing at Sunderland Point, near Morecambe, is good. The recent prosecution by the conservators should do a lot of good towards putting down poaching. It is always a pleasure to write of the doings of our friends at Warrington. At their last meeting they elected twenty-seven new members, fourteen senior, and thirteen junior. The next meeting will be a summoned one, to deal with an exceptionally important resolution relating to the River Gowy. Your correspondent was in Warrington on the 1st, and enjoyed his visit immensely; anything more thorough than the way things are worked in that town cannot be imagined. Even the efforts to interest and educate in the public park are worthy of imitation by every corporation. Great Scot! fancy hundreds of trout in a public park in the very heart of a smoky town, 10 in. to 12 in. long, thousands smaller, and all in the best condition. Good old Warrington, may your happiness and prosperity never diminish. The season at Leigh is opened on the 17th by an open event from the Stanley Arms Club, 1s. each entrance, to be added to cash prizes given by Mr. Dawson.

FROM LINCOLNSHIRE.

We have got a spell of warm weather at last, and trout anglers are now busy with the fly. It has been too bright in the middle of the day to do much good; in fact, the fish have shown very little inclination to rise until evening, when they have come up freely, and experienced rodsters have done remarkably well. On some waters as many as five and six brace per rod have been captured as the result of a couple of hours' fishing. Really this has been the best week's sport trout anglers have had since the season began. Bottom fishermen also continue to obtain good sport, especially those operating in the evening with maggot. The waters are in capital condition, and there is every prospect of the sport continuing.

FROM MANCHESTER.

In one short week from the time these notes are in print we shall be free from all legal restrictions as to the taking of coarse fish, and left to our own conscience as to condition. No sooner does the season proper open than we are plunged forthwith into quite a long list of open events and opening matches. On the 17th the following societies fished matches: Buckland, Ardwick; and Victoria, Longsight. On the 18th, Old Standard, Hulme; and Welcome, Hulme; together with others; and then follows in rapid succession one match after another to Oct. 31. The Horseshoe Angling Society, Pendleton, the present holders of the Bridgewater challenge shield, are fishing two contests in the canal at Worsley and Boothstown, and will spare no pains to keep possession of the trophy. The Brookfield Angling Society has joined the County Palatine Angling Association, and the secretary of the parent association informs the writer that their new water is fishing satisfactorily. Some fine perch up to 1 $\frac{1}{2}$ lb. plenty of roach averaging $\frac{3}{4}$ lb., and several pike 5 lb., 4 $\frac{1}{2}$ lb., 4 lb., 3 lb., and smaller are also recorded. The Moss Side Socials have decided to fish their first match at Roynton, on the 24th, 25th, and 26th. Messrs. D. Latimer, J. Lund, J. Birch, W. Tarr, W. Taylor, J. Fisher, J. Bartley, and W. A. Leigh, visiting the Chapel-en-le-Frith reservoir last week-end, report some fair sport. The catch included a pike of 4 lb. and some fair trout. One Manchester rod visiting Toom Bridge took, on fine gut with the Black Gnat, a lovely trout of 4 lb. 10 oz. Several others visiting Pickmere have done well with potato bait; still others at the "Flashes," Winsford, have done well when sampling the water for information as to the condition of the fish. They are convinced, when these waters are opened on the 16th, that good sport will be had with roach, perch, pike, and bream.

FROM NOTTINGHAM.

The coarse fish angling season opens on Friday next, and indications point to roach, chub, dace, and barbel being in forward condition. Recently the sultry weather has had a most beneficial effect in the scouring ordeal of the fish named, and they should provide sport as soon as the Act enables anglers to pursue their favourite pastime. Caddis grubs—the best bait for early season use—are most difficult to obtain, and yearly the supply seems to grow more scarce. No salmon have so far been caught in the river, and not much sport of late has been enjoyed on the tributaries with the various kinds of bottom bait. The Wellington Society's annual banquet was, as usual, a great success. A full report, I take it, appears elsewhere.

FROM SHEFFIELD.

The weather during the past week has been of the finest possible description, and, as a natural result, anglers have been out in large numbers. The best sport has been obtained early in the mornings and during the evenings, the latter portion of the day having been very popular and successful. In the Derwent anglers have obtained a good deal of satisfactory sport, the Darley Dale Club waters having been patronised by fly fishers in great numbers. Some capital fish have been secured, principally by means of the Yellow and Ash Dnn flies. In the Matlock Bridge district, too, the sport has been of a gratifying character. Bottom anglers have not fared so well since the Derwent and the Wye lost their discolouration, but still, some really good fish have been caught by means of worms. At Cromford bottom fishers have fared better during the evenings. The lower reaches of the Derwent have fished much better than formerly, and pond anglers have also done very well during the evenings, fly fishers accounting for a lot of heavy fish. The Amber has been fished by large numbers of Sheffielders, &c., who have accounted for some excellent fish at Wingfield. Locally the reservoir anglers have obtained the best results, the reservoir at Damflask having yielded some big fish, which

succumbed to the allurements of maggots. At Storr's Bridge and Bradfield fishing has been fully up to expectations, a lot of heavy fish having been killed. The upper reaches of the Sheaf have come in for considerable attention, with the result that some fairly satisfactory takes have been made above Beauchief, the river between that beautiful village and Sheffield hardly being worth the trouble of fishing this season. The vast numbers of Sheffield anglers are looking forward with a good deal of pleasurable anticipation to the opening of the coarse fishing season, and the two associations are busy completing the arrangements for the season. Both societies have secured valuable fishing rights in Lincolnshire and other places, but, unfortunately, there is some dispute between them with regard to the rights of a portion of the North Level Drain, Tydd, and another piece of water in the Idle, near Thorne. It is sincerely to be hoped that some means will be found of amicably settling the differences, as they will find it rather expensive if they take the matter into the law courts, which they seem disposed to do. I am glad to see that both societies are going to endeavour to stop the wholesale slaughter of small fish, which has been a bad blot on the fair name of Sheffield anglers for several years.

FROM WORCESTER AND DISTRICT.

The weather has been excessively hot this week, and has produced a marked effect on vegetation. Flies are hatching out in large quantities. The Orle and the Hawthorne are on the water very thickly, and since Monday there has been a good show of Drakes in some districts, in others not one to be seen. I have seen two dishes of fine trout taken from a well-known stream with the Green Drake, but the fish wouldn't look at the artificial fly. On the Teme the Silver Twist, Yellow Dnn, Orle, and Spinners have been killing, and the fish have come at them better, but I have heard of no big takes; five and a half brace is the most I know of, but, no doubt, heavier takes have been had higher up the stream. A brace or two of grayling were hooked, I am told, and they are said to be in wonderful condition for the time of year. I presume they were returned to the water. Several gentlemen have been fishing club waters, and have had excellent sport with fly and maggot. No game fish taken in the Severn in this district, but hundreds have been fishing for coarse fish, and the slaughter has been great. Most of the club members are looking forward to the 16th inst., and are anxious to have some sport. Several clubs have arranged their several contests, which will be more numerous than usual; Severn, Teme, and the Avon will be well patronised, and we trust sport will be good. The Worcester and District United Angling Association held a very important committee meeting on Saturday evening last at the Turk's Head Inn, Lowesmore. In the absence through illness of the president, Mr. L. F. Higgs, the vice-president, Mr. W. Bridges, occupied the chair. The meeting was for the purpose of revising the rules of the association, which were objected to by some as not being definite enough and binding on any club that liked to take coarse fish during the close season, two of the clubs, who look upon themselves as the most aristocratic clubs of the city, wishing to retain that privilege. The matter was hotly debated, but a new rule proposed by Mr. A. Glover, providing for the thorough protection of game fish and coarse fish during their respective close seasons, and also against the taking of immature fish, was put to the meeting and carried by a large majority. Other important alterations and additions were made to the rules which we trust will tend to the better working of the association. Two new clubs are about joining the district association.

FROM YORK AND DISTRICT.

The reports from the riverside stations at the end of last week were more encouraging than they had been for some time, for the wintry conditions which so sadly marred the prospects at Whitsunide had given way under the genial warmth of early summer. The rivers were rapidly running down, and fly fishers had every reason to indulge their brightest hopes and anticipations. Favourite angling resorts have yielded gratifying sport. Some record experiences are reported from the Rye and Riccall, in the Helmsley district. On the Severn, round about Sinnington, trout have risen to the fly in all directions, and good baskets have been taken by skilled anglers. On the Nidd waters fly fishing has been more successful in the evening. Minnow on up-stream fishing has been fairly satisfactory. The Wharfe has continued in capital condition for fly fishing, and good baskets of trout have been secured, the fish including several very fine specimens. Maggots and the worm have taken fairly well on the Otley lengths. The Ure has yielded some nice paniers of trout. On the Ripon lengths the water has been in good order for the Creeper, and as the hot weather advanced the Stone Fly became available. In the lower reaches at Hawes good fish have been hooked. Both here and at Leyburn fly fishers have had the best sport in the early morning and in the evening. Trout fishers have landed a good number of fish, though mostly small in size. The river has run low and somewhat stagnant, and anglers have been hoping for rain. Several fresh inn salmon and salmon trout have been awaiting flood in order to ascend the upper reaches. Coarse fishing opens shortly, and it may be remarked that several Yorkshire rivers provide excellent sport with bait. Grayling promise good sport; both this fish and trout have done well this year on the Wharfe and the Ure.

ORIENTAL BOOKS formerly issued by W. H. Allen and Co.) now published by Sampson Low, Marston and Co., Limited, St. Dunstan's House, Fetter-lane, London, Publishers to the India Office.—A CATALOGUE of these Text Books, Class Books, Histories, and Indian Government Publications can be had on application.

ANSWERS TO CORRESPONDENTS.

H. P. SATLOCK.—The fly sent with the May Fly is an Alder.

Correspondence

[We do not hold ourselves responsible for the opinions expressed by our Correspondents.]

THE RIVER WANDLE.

DEAR SIR,—Wandle fishermen will be grateful to you for drawing public attention to the lamentable destruction of fish which is going on.

I sent you, on Monday, two nice fish found on Saturday evening, done to death by the noxious poison which is being sent down the river. The first, a 7oz. fish, I took out with my landing net, at Hackbridge, about 300 yards below the junction of the Croydon and Carshalton branches, and I saw two others about the same size lying a few yards away. The other fish, of 6oz., was taken from Mr. Denyer's water, the lessee of the third mill on the Carshalton branch, which locates the pollution to within, say, 350 yards of the ponds in the centre of the village. This should materially assist the Carshalton Urban District Council in fixing the responsibility for the pollution in the right quarter.

Mr. Frost, the owner of the next mill below Mr. Denyer's, told me last evening that he had a large fish of between 3lb. and 4lb. lying dead in his mill-head, which proves that the pollution is worse than was thought at first, and I hear reports of many other smaller fish having been seen in various parts of the stream further down.—Yours faithfully,

T. BOWATER VERNON.

The Fly Fishers' Club,
8, Arundel-street, Strand.

TO CATCH SQUIDS, CRAYFISH, AND DORIES.

DEAR SIR,—In answer to your correspondent Francis Howse. When bothered with squids, or requiring them for bait, proceed as follows:

Get a stick, from a yard long upwards, according to the freeboard of boat one is fishing from. A fairly stout willow wand is as good as anything. To the small end of this lash three hooks, about whiting size, back to hack, forming a rough triangle, points outward. Haul up your squid carefully, having your hook arrangement all ready for him, and just as or before the squid lets go make a sudden snatch upwards from below the squid, and you generally hook him. Do not attempt to lift him into the boat at once, for the indignant squid is a most expert marksman and will send a shower of ink into your face, but keep dipping him in and out of the water, when he will soon exhaust his ink-bag. Then lift him aboard.

Another plan is to have two short bits of line, say, a foot long, with smallish triangles attached, hitched on to the main line, to hang about a foot below the baited hook. When the squid lets go of the upper baited hook he generally falls foul of the lower ones.

Either plan is very good, but I prefer the stick and hook one. The Cornishmen call it a cuttle drag. The second, however, is the best if you come across a big crayfish. These chaps are very like a large lobster, only have no big claws, but long sprawling legs. The crayfish holds on to the bait much as the squid does, and lets go in the same manner, when he generally gets the lower hooks twisted round his long legs and rather shabby claws. A crayfish is worth having, for there are pounds of meat in a big one, and though not quite so good as a lobster, the flesh being coarser and harder, he makes a rare curry.

Again, you may get aware of a dory cruising round the boat. If he won't take your bait, a small chad will be sure to do the trick. You take a piece of line and hitch it round just above the chad's tail, using no hook whatever, but lead enough to sink him. The dory promptly swallows the chad—anyhow, gets him well into his throat. Up goes the chad's perch-like back fin, and this sticks in master dory's throat. Hauling steadily on the line, as soon as the dory is within reach, stand by with the gaff or landing net, and welcome him aboard. These few hints are from practical experience in Cornwall.—Yours truly,

W. S. BUDDICOM.

CAMPING OUT IN IRELAND.

DEAR SIR,—Can you or any of your readers oblige me by giving me a little information about a camping-out fishing excursion, which a friend and I are contemplating this summer? For preference we would go to Ireland, if a fairly cheap passage could be got. Sea trout and brown trout fishing in an exceedingly thinly populated district—"far from the madding crowd." We would like to pitch our tent near a farmhouse, and be supplied with such plain fare as we need by the farmer. We would not be fastidious with regard to the provisions, providing everything was clean. A moderate cost would be a *sine qua non*. The fishing would have to be free, or obtainable at a small charge.—Yours truly,

R. BOWEN ROBERTS.

FISHING AT SOUTHEEND.

DEAR SIR,—Your correspondent, R. C. Graham, C.E. (B.S.A.S.), in your last issue protests against the Southend pier extension being closed to anglers. That is a matter for the pier authorities, and his protest would have been equally effectual and in better taste had his caustic remarks regarding the other visitors to the pier been omitted. He might have allowed the pier authorities to have been the best judges of "what he styles" a nuisance. He says that members of the B.S.A.S. deserve some consideration? Where do their especial claims come in? They ought not to fare better than other

anglers, but have the same consideration meted out to them as they recently gave to the working-men anglers.

What lucky Southend Pier anglers they must be who are fortunate enough to fill their larders, and so save their butchers' bills? The pier authorities would have a bad time financially if they had to depend upon B.S.A.S. members.

I am sure the "East End aristocracy" he mentions so unkindly will not mind his absence, and he can avoid contact by taking a boat. It is said that some people fancy the world was made for them alone. Cannot "R. C. G." find a little pleasure in seeing others happy?—Yours faithfully,

CHARLES NUTKINS
(Good Intent A.S.)

FISHING AT TEIGNMOUTH.

DEAR SIR,—I have been a subscriber to your valuable paper for some years, and the unflinching courtesy of yourself and readers in supplying any information is fully recognised and appreciated amongst fishermen.

I am going to Teignmouth the last two weeks in August, and should be glad to find out if there is any decent fishing to be obtained from the shore and pier (including bass). At the same time any information as to respectable lodgings (which must be moderate) for wife and self would be much appreciated.

If you are a stranger to the part, no doubt some of your numerous contributors could supply me with particulars.—Yours truly,

J. B. REED.

FISHING AT NEWQUAY, CORNWALL.

DEAR SIR,—I shall esteem it a great kindness if you, or any of your numerous readers, can give me any information concerning the pollack, bass, and mackerel fishing, during the summer months, at this station.

I much prefer rod fishing with artificial or natural bait, from rocks, jetties, &c., than from a boat.—Yours truly,

ROD AND LINE.

FISHING AT Co. DONEGAL.

DEAR SIR,—Will anyone who has fished in Co. Donegal be good enough to answer the following questions:

1. Can one obtain really good white and brown trout fishing in August in stream and lake?
2. Are plain, but clean, quarters (board and lodging) obtainable at really moderate rates?
3. Is the fishing free; if leave is necessary, from whom is it obtainable?
4. Is a bicycle of any use as a means of getting about?

I shall be grateful for any other information.—Yours faithfully,

SUBALTERN.

KILLARNEY LAKES.

DEAR SIR,—I notice Mr. W. Graham's letter *re* the best killing flies. I inclose you two dozen patterns on eyed hooks. The hackle flies I find most killing when the Green Drake makes its appearance on or about the first week in June, sometimes a little earlier, according to state of weather. The other patterns are the usual standard flies, and are made by Mr. McCarthy, the practical angler, of thirty years' experience on the Killarney Lakes and rivers. No. 1, Orange Grönse; 2, Green Grönse; 3, Green Partridge; 4, Black and Orange; 5, March Brown; 6, Claret; 7, Zulu; 8, Alder; 9, Coch-y-Bondu, Red Tag; 10, Blue Black; 11, Black Palmer; 12, Blue and Yellow Tag, which is also a very killing pattern on Caragh and Waterville, more especially on the Waterville river.

You can judge for yourself, Mr. Editor, whether these flies are well made or not. However, I have killed more trout, accompanying gentlemen fishing on Killarney Lakes, than any other angler who fished there. I kept an account of one year's take for seventy days' fishing, and I find it amounts to 1888 trout. They were all brown trout. Perhaps a few of the largest would only weigh 2lb., as most of the larger trout are taken with spoon or Devon minnow or the natural minnow. I have read Mr. Mark Bench's account of the fishing and his killing flies, made by Mr. W. Haynes, of Cork. No doubt they are good flies, and from a most reliable tackle maker. One would do worse than give Mr. Haynes a trial when coming to Killarney or Waterville; but, kind reader, I want you to know Tim McCarthy is not dead yet, and he continues to hold his own against any other who may use any other flies for Killarney or Waterville.

If the Killarney Association would take up the question of Lord Howth, and agitate for a Royal Commission, and see that they get it, and do away with the net fishing on the lakes during the months of June and July, it would prevent the killing of the goose that laid the golden egg. The fish taken, more especially in July, are brown salmon, and are not fit for market, as they only fetch a few pence per lb. Now is the time to approach Lord Kenmare and the other proprietors of the upper waters and ask them to give up netting during these two months, and they will improve the fishing very soon, and unless that is done the fishing will be worse every year. We want a Royal Commission to have a sworn inquiry into each district, and see how the fishings are managed, more especially on the Killarney No. 7 district, which is netted to death, and not a spawning fish left to run the river in winter months owing to the late fishing by those nets, of 190yds. long, with 200ds. of rope at each side, more or less, according to the different hauling grounds, which are thirty-six in number on the Killarney Lakes.

I ask you, sir, do we want our fishery looked after? I say we do, and I am prepared to give correct evidence of the different modes of netting, as I have ten years' experience on the lakes during my time, also many years at the different other kinds of fishing; and the proprietors of the upper waters are to blame for the great failure of Killarney Lakes and its fishing. I must say that the Messrs. H. A. Herbert, of Muckross, were the only proprietors who ever made the slightest move to

improve the Killarney fishing, but I am sorry to say they are not there now to improve it, worse luck for the inhabitants of Killarney, where over seventy fishermen and boatmen, who got a respectable living in days gone by, are now idle for want of employment, although we still hold the mountains and lakes, but the fish are all gone. I am sorry to see my native town so much neglected by way of depriving the inhabitants of from £200 to £300 a year, which would be gladly spent by the English angler, who spends his money freely when he is encouraged by a little sport; but it is really too bad to have the far-famed Lakes of Killarney so much neglected as they are owing to the over-netting, although several inquiries were held into the matter, and all wound up in the usual bottle of smoke. Hoping, kind readers, to see the hon. gentleman, Lord Howth, at the head of affairs, and his kind inquiry towards helping the fishing of Ireland, which may soon take place. Wishing him every success, and more power to his arm,—I remain, yours sincerely,

T. MCCARTHY

(Practical Angler, late of Killarney, now at Waterville, Kerry).

[The flies sent by Tim McCarthy are lake flies on eyed hooks (Pennell pattern), and are very good patterns. Among them we notice the Worm Fly, which the late Mr. Wm. Black considered very killing for trout.—Ed.]

FISHING AT LIMERICK.

SIR,—I have recently spent a very pleasant trouting holiday in Limerick, and as many of your readers are about this time wondering where they will wet their lines this season, I thought a few hints might be acceptable to such as have not yet made up their minds.

I have often mentally wondered why Limerick as a fishing centre is not better known to the English angling fraternity, and have come to the conclusion that the fault lies with hotel proprietors and other caterers who neglect to advertise the incomparable advantages of their city in your columns, as is done in places not having a tithe of the attractions, from a fisherman's point of view, which Limerick enjoys.

Leaving aside the Shannon, which needs no advertisement, but which it may be said in passing should be fished from a boat, there are numerous streams which contain abundance of trout, are within easy reach of the city by rail or road, and quite free to the man who does not care to sit in a boat all day on a lake, but wants to enjoy his holiday in the true Waltonian sense.

Of these streams the Hincuire is perhaps the best, although I have done much better on less pretentious rivers in the neighborhood. In nearly all the dry fly enthusiast will find ample scope for his skill, and the clear water worm fisher will be delighted with some of them, particularly the Newport river.

The grise run is now on in the Shannon tributaries, but a licence of £1 is necessary.

The Waterford, Limerick, and Western Railway are in touch with most of the streams, and I am in a position to state that they will grant special facilities to anglers making Limerick their headquarters. This railway is also in touch with the many beauty spots and health resorts of the S.W. and W. of Ireland, and any inquiry addressed to the courteous manager at Limerick, or the London agent at 2, Charing Cross, will elicit a prompt reply and full information.

Hotel accommodation is cheap and good. At Mrs. McCarthy's, Upper Cecil-street, the charges are 6s. 6d. a day, or 35s. a week; and at Geary's Hotel, Thomas-street, 30s. to 35s. weekly.

Another place I visited was Listowel, beautifully situated on the Feale, a grand salmon, grise, and trout river, in addition to which the Gale and the Inverlagh are famous for their trouting capabilities. The tariff for anglers at the Listowel Arms Hotel is 55s. a week, or 50s. if stopping for four weeks.

Should any brother angler desire further information, I shall be glad to do all in my power to enable him to enjoy a thoroughly good time in the city of the violated treaty and neighborhood.—Yours truly,

J. B.

SEATON (DEVONS).

DEAR SIR,—I shall be glad if you or any of your readers acquainted with this place would kindly say what fly fishing is to be had by a visitor, and if not free, can weekly tickets be purchased?—Yours truly,

H. E.

TROUT WITH MUDDY FLAVOUR.

DEAR SIR,—Re Mr. W. Clements, in your last week's paper, and how to remove muddy flavour in trout. Split open and take the backbone out, and fry the fish as you would a sole, but dr-dge them slightly with brown sugar, and salt when partly done.—Yours truly,

HERTFORD.

TESTIMONIAL TO BEN ABRAHAMS.

DEAR SIR,—We are pleased to acknowledge the following sums with thanks:

Sums with thanks:		£	s.	d.
Amounts previously received	...	2	14	6
Elgin Angling Society	...	0	10	6
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Several letters unavoidably held over.

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NOTICE.

THE FISHING GAZETTE is published every Saturday, and can be obtained at Messrs. W. H. Smith and Son's Railway Book-stalls, and of the principal Newsagents and Fishing Tackle Dealers in London and the Provinces.

Communications relating to the Literary Department, Fishing Tackle for Notice, Books for Review, &c., should be addressed to R. B. MARSTON, Editor of the FISHING GAZETTE, St. Dunstan's House, Fetter-lane, London.

Correspondents are requested to write on one side of the paper only, and give their real names and addresses, not necessarily as signatures to their letters, but as a guarantee of good faith. Unless this rule be adhered to no notice will be taken of such communications.

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For One year, post free to any part of Great Britain and Ireland	10s. 6d.
Six Months ditto	5s. 4d.
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To America and the Continent, annual subscription, including postage	12s. 6d.

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The Fishing Gazette

WITH WHICH IS INCORPORATED

ANGLING AND CLUB GOSSIP.

SATURDAY, JUNE 17TH, 1899.

SOME REMARKS ON THE ARTICLE ENTITLED "RESTORATION OF SALMON RIVERS."

The *Fishing Gazette* of April 29 last contained an article by "J. W. W.," prompted by Mr. R. B. Marston's article of "The Thames as a Salmon River," which appeared in the *Nineteenth Century Magazine*, also of April last.

"J. W. W.," referring to "many of the successful attempts to deal with salmonless rivers in past years," cites as a case in point the introduction of salmon into the streams entering Loch Shin, described by "Ephemera," on p. 172 *et seq.* in his "Book of the Salmon," and which "J. W. W." says "was written by Mr. Andrew Young, of Invershin, at that time manager of the Duke of Sutherland's fishings" there.

In order to be exact, I am afraid this is not, for more reasons than one, literally correct.

"J. W. W.'s" second paragraph of his article, from "Loch Shin, a piece of water," &c., to the end, although nearly *verbatim*, is not "quoted," I presume because he has made one or two corrections of the text from "Ephemera." One of these clearly, I think, stamps the authorship upon Mr. Fitzgibbon, especially where he describes Loch Shin as about twenty-one

miles "by fourteen." "J. W. W." corrects this to "about twenty-one miles by a half to four miles broad." Lyall's "Sportsman's Guide" says the loch is "some sixteen miles long by about a mile broad." It would be more correct, I think, to say eighteen miles long by less than the average of a mile broad. No part, indeed, of the loch is more than a mile broad, and for a considerable distance towards its northern end it narrows very considerably. But a further reason against Mr. Andrew Young's authorship of the paragraph is that the language is not only the language of "Ephemera," but that Mr. Andrew Young had never been able to put his observations and experiments in regard to the salmon in writing. This was done for him by Mr. William Young, parish schoolmaster at Lairg at the time (whether a relative or not cannot be said); and well, I think it should be said, did he perform his task, as the copious extracts from Mr. Andrew Young's pamphlet show throughout "Ephemera's" "Book of the Salmon." No doubt, however, the information in regard to this paragraph had been given by Mr. Andrew Young to Mr. Fitzgibbon on the occasion of his month's stay at Invershin, in the summer of 1849, of which "Ephemera" tells his readers.

The amazing part, however, of this altogether amazing par is that wherein "Ephemera" says: "The loch itself has four feeders, middling-sized rivers, viz., the Terry, Fiack (should be Fiag), Garvie, and Curry, in which, previously to the year 1836, not a salmon was ever seen." Of the conveyance, think, in that year before the spawning season of salmon from the river Shin, of the success attending their introduction, and then we are told in "Ephemera's" most picturesque style in the last sentence of the par, that, "Being nubile to perform the nuptial rights, which they do where their forefathers begot them, and so they go on increasing and multiplying in colonies heretofore tenantless of salmon, ever since volcanic action called from the 'vasty deep' the mountains and rivers of Northern Caledonia."

Well, all this is, to say the least, interesting reading. But is it true? There's the rub! "J. W. W." evidently believes it is, because immediately after he says: "The influence from the above is that salmon, although they enter a lake, will not go further into the streams beyond, unless they have been reared there, but drop back to spawn in the main river."

Well, this completely upsets all preconceived knowledge of the prevailing instinctive proclivities, no less than the marvellous powers, possessed by the *Salmonidae* in surmounting difficulties well nigh incredible in order to ascend for procreative purposes to the utmost bounds of the waters inhabited by them. I will, with your kind permission, revert to this part of the subject further on.

It may here now be stated that none of the streams referred to possess any barrier to the free access of these migratory fish to their utmost sources. That, however, there was a dearth of these fish therein at the period above indicated was undoubtedly too true.

In this regard there hangs a tale which is no less interesting than true.

The burden of Mr. Marston's able article, already referred to, about the exclusion of salmon from the Thames carries with it the story of rank pollution.

It is difficult to realise that many of the streams frequented by the *Salmo* migratory species in the far off county of Sutherland should have been subjected to a like catastrophe, both before and after the periods referred to by "Ephemera," and, therefore, by no means to the reasons adduced by him that the Terry, Fiag, &c., salmon were introduced there by Mr. Andrew Young, which had been, in the picturesque language of "Ephemera," "heretofore tenantless of salmon, ever since volcanic action called from the 'vasty deep' the mountains and rivers of Northern Caledonia."

The story of this pollution needs now to be recorded; and it will not, I think, be without interest as a chapter, for the time being, of the life history upon innumerable streams throughout the county of the Sutherland *Salmonidae*.

About the year 1818 a great economic change had been brought into operation in the depopulation of the various straths throughout the county of Sutherland, of the cottars who had occupied

them from time immemorial, in order to make way for the introduction of sheep. These straths, with their contiguous high lands, were then parcelled out into large sheep farms, which then became the staple industry of the county. Though for many years all this brought great prosperity to the county, and large fortunes to those more immediately identified therewith, unfortunately, in the interests and well-being of the *Salmonidae*, this new order of things had a very disastrous effect.

In order the better to withstand the rigours of winter, each sheep had to be "smeared" with all sorts of vile and evil-smelling and, at the same time, poisonous ingredients. At first grease and Stockholm tar formed the principal substances used, but as time went on patented articles of all descriptions came to be used, each more evil smelling and poisonous than the other. In the early summer, before the sheep were fleeced they were washed at convenient spots in the various streams upon the farm. Generally the water was impounded, in order to form a dam, the better to facilitate the work of the shepherds in the cleansing of the sheep. But unfortunately the cleansing of them but added to the pollution of the other, and with such effect—each farm having its thousands of sheep—that every living thing in each stream so used, below where the operation had been conducted, was killed outright. The early summer being the time when the "sheep washing," as it is termed, is carried on, is the period of all others the very worst for the young fish inhabiting the streams, as the latter are then at their smallest dimensions and the former—a few months old—the more susceptible to injury and irreparable damage. The Terry, running as it did through the large sheep farm of Shiness, was from year to year used for the above purpose. So also, I believe, was the Fiag. Is it, therefore, to be wondered that these streams were, while those operations were conducted upon them, "tenantless of salmon," although certainly not "ever since volcanic action called from the 'vasty deep' the mountains and rivers of Northern Caledonia?"

The Garvie referred to is the connecting link between Loch Shin and Loch Giam; and Loch Morkland is in communication with the latter by another stream. This chain of lochs extends to within a few miles of Loch More, whose waters, with Loch Stack, empty through the river Laxford into the Atlantic. The Curry runs into Loch Shin at its north-western end.

The period of the visit of Mr. Fitzgibbon to Mr. Andrew Young, at Invershin, in the summer of 1849, registered the high water mark of Sutherland sheep farming production and success. Begun about the year 1820, it was prosecuted with great success up to the year 1870, that is, for a period of about fifty years. But about then commenced the importation of mutton and wool from our Australasian colonies and other countries, which has gone on increasing to such an extent that sheep farming in Sutherland became no longer the paying business of its previous years of prosperity. That class of farming had, therefore, to be, to a very large extent, abandoned.

Possibly it might therefore be inferred that the comparative cessation of the sheep farming interests in the county would have proved disastrous both to landlord as well as tenant. This expectation, however, as regards the landlord has, so far as his interests are concerned, not only not been realised, but it is a fact that at the present moment rents greatly in excess of anything that has ever been received in respect of sheep farms are now obtained for the fish of its waters and the grouse and deer of its lands.

I would now again revert to "J. W. W.'s" inference that "salmon, although they enter a lake, will not go further into the streams beyond unless they have been reared there, but drop back to spawn in the main river."

With all respect, I would state my belief that, given pure water and not insurmountable obstacles, there is no réverine system in the kingdom frequented by the *Salmonidae* throughout which, from exit to source, they will not in their due season be found. Given, further, the above conditions, I would therefore state my belief that "heretofore tenantless of salmon" is entirely without the range of practical application. The marvellous attributes of the genus *Salmo* the more excite our wonder at the holes and corners to which they will penetrate when

the claims of the propagation of their species acutely fall upon them.

As to the salmon which "drop back to spawn in the main river," I am afraid that in regard to those salmon that would embark upon such a cause in the great majority of the Sutherland main rivers rather than into the feeders of their lochs, it would be largely equivalent to their performance of "The Hari-kari; or, the Happy Dispatch."

The majority of the main rivers are not only unique as regards their falls, but also for the impetuosity and shortness of their runs—from three to five miles—from their great lacustrine sources to their salt water exits. The Brora, Shin, Cassley, Oykel, Inver, and Kirkaig have all got their falls, the last are insurmountable. It is in the feeders of those great lakes from which every one of the Sutherland main rivers proceed, which are, I think, the true breeding grounds of the *Salmonidæ*. W. B.

RESTORATION OF SALMON RIVERS.

THE late Mr. Francis Francis, in his excellent work on "Fish Culture," gives several instances of the successful restoration or development of salmon fisheries. Here is what he says in regard to the development of the Galway Fishery. "The first of any note in Ireland, perhaps, was at Outerard, near Galway, in 1852. The Galway river is the channel through which Loughs Mask and Corrib, two enormous lakes containing a vast area of water, discharge themselves into the sea. The fishery of this river belongs to Mr. Ashworth. In 1852, finding the stock had been terribly reduced from a variety of causes, he established a breeding place at Outerard, in a small tributary stream. Here twenty boxes were laid down, after the plan subsequently adopted at Stormontfield. The plan was carried out by Mr. Ramsbottom. These boxes were stocked with about 40,000 ova, which in due time came to perfection. Subsequently, owing partly to the opening of a wide Queen's-gap in the weir, Mr. Ashworth's fishery multiplied itself in value manifold, and he cast about, adding a still larger area to the field of his operations. Lough Mask, which discharges into Lough Corrib, is separated from it by a very rugged channel and a lofty, impassable fall; consequently, although Lough Corrib abounded in salmon, none had ever been seen in Lough Mask. Moreover, the many gravelly tributaries, which salmon love to spawn in, rather discharged themselves into the upper part of Lough Mask, which again receives the waters of one or two smaller lakes, than into Lough Corrib; and as the capabilities of production of a fishery are bounded by the area of its spawning beds, this proved a serious check to the further increase of productiveness in the fishery. Undaunted by difficulties, however, Mr. Ashworth set to work, ameliorated the stream, put salmon stairs to the impassable fall, and stocked the head of Lough Mask with half a million of salmon ova." These operations were attended with great success, and a largely increased return gathered from the outlay. It is worth noting that Mr. Ashworth did not wait for salmon to some day find their way up the new pass and through the upper lake to the spawning grounds, but planted a stock in those upper, heretofore, barren acres of gravelly rearing ground, just as was done in the case of the feeders of Loch Shin, before mentioned.

STORMONTFIELD ON THE TAY.

Mr. Francis's description: "The operations here were commenced in 1853, at the instance of Dr. Esdaile and Mr. Ashworth. A slope from a mill lake, parallel with, and 16ft. above the Tay, was chosen. Three hundred boxes were laid down in twenty-five rows, each box partly filled with clean gravel, protected at each end by perforated zinc. Filtering beds were formed at the head and foot of each row, and the boxes charged with 300,000 ova by Dec. 23. On March 31, 1854, the first ova were hatched. A pond had been provided for the fry. This pond was 223ft. long by 112ft. in the broadest part. It was subsequently found to be far too small. By June most of the fry were in the pond, and about 1½ in. long. There they were fed with boiled liver daily. The year following, on May 24, a large portion of them, having

assumed the smolt scale, left the pond for the sea, an equally large number remaining behind, and showing no disposition to assume the migratory dress of the smolt. Many of the smolts which then migrated were marked by cutting off the adipose fin, and a large number of them were retaken, ascending the river again, at various periods up to August, in the form of grilse and varying in weight from 6lb. to 9lb.* according to the time they had remained in salt water. It was thought that the singular fact of some fry remaining in the river for two or three, and others only one year, might be the result of some carelessness in conducting the experiment, by using grilse and salmon indiscriminately; but subsequent attempts have shown that it was not so, as during the last season the spawn was taken only from the best and healthiest full-grown salmon, no grilse being used, and the result has been precisely the same as formerly, so that this curious problem in the natural history of the salmon still remains to be solved. From 1853 to 1862 the boxes were stocked five separate times. One of these (1854) proved a failure. It was found better to stock the boxes only alternate years, owing to the limited accommodation for the fry." Much benefit must have ensued from these operations to the Tay fisheries generally. The Stormontfield pond, and others that were subsequently constructed, are now annually stocked with fry, for rearing purposes, from the excellent Dupplin Hatchery, on the Earn. The capacity of that hatchery is 570,000, and it is annually filled (floods permitting) mainly with ova from Tay fish netted at the Almond Mouth Pool, about a mile above Perth; sometimes a few thousands from the Earn, near Dupplin Dam. We believe that much good would be done to the Tay district if it were made a rule to, at any rate, half fill this hatchery with ova taken from the early running breed of fish, which will not be found in October and November in the Almond Mouth Pool, but in the pools of the Dochart, Lyon, and other head waters of Loch Tay. That would be about 250,000, filling up all available space from the later fish. Certainly someone in authority on the Aberdeenshire Dee must hold the same opinion, as a good lot of ova were got from the far-up waters of the Dee this last season to stock their hatchery. Mr. James Grant, of Glen Grant, in his answers to the questions sent by the Inspector of Fisheries, Scotland, published in Ninth Annual Report, Salmon Fisheries, Scotland, pp. 37-38, states, "that heavy autumn fish only produce their own kind;" again, in speaking of the Duke of Richmond's hatchery near the sea, he says, "He will breed from the late run fish. This is a mistake. They will breed fish of like habits to themselves." Capt. Dunbar Brander, owner and lessee of the Lossie and coast fishings, agrees with Mr. Grant about the mistake of breeding from autumn fish. He says, "I think we make a mistake in killing every fish we can till the end of August, and trusting that an autumn fish, whose migratory instincts does not bring him into the river till September or October, will breed the fish we want, namely, spring and summer fish. Like begets like. I have a letter from Darwin, and also Dr. Gunther, British Museum, both saying that, reasoning from analogy, it is most unlikely that a salmon would breed young ones with a different migratory instinct from itself. So far as our rivers are concerned, if this held true, all the autumn fish are useless. They might breed fish that would coast along and be caught in the sea, but not fish to enter the rivers in spring or summer" (save in the grilse stage).

About the end of August, 1890, an inquiry was held at Newcastle-on-Tyne into the state of affairs on the Tyne by the then Chief Inspector of Fisheries, Mr. A. D. Berrington. This inquiry arose from a petition by the net men for an extension of the netting season till Sept. 15. The evidence given went to prove that in about twenty years the yield of the river and coast netting had fallen from 129,000 to 23,000 fish. The length of coast in the Tyne district is only about twenty miles. The season begins on Feb. 1, and licenses used to be taken out freely in that month and March; now hardly any are taken till May and June. J. W. WHELDON.

(To be continued.)

* Query, might not various fishery owners have similarly marked smolts in previous years?

OPENING OF THE COARSE FISHING SEASON.

DESPITE the important consideration given just now to the stocking of our rivers and lakes with game fish; in spite of the undoubted increase in the number of fishers for salmon and trout; and as a conclusive answer to those who would wish to oust coarse fish in favour of game fish wherever possible, coarse fishing remains as popular as ever, and the advent of June 16 finds the great and ever increasing army of coarse fishermen eager and ready for the fray. Rods, reels, lines, tackle boxes, boxes, and baskets have all been overhauled, and, with the approval of the skilled owner, are declared to be fit and ready to respond to the plunge of aldermanic roach, big bream, or barbel, and the numerous other species of fish dear to the heart of the coarse fisherman.

The great love the coarse fisherman has for his sport is as remarkable as it is instructive. With the opportunity at hand for the pursuit of the lordly salmon, the bright spotted trout, or the queenly grayling, he prefers the more humble quarry, and in many cases cannot realise wherein lies the attraction of angling for the former fish. It is not for want of skill that he abstains from indulging in the pursuit of game fish, neither is it incidence of locale. Skill—remarkable skill—he has to a certainty, and often in game fish districts he will travel farther afield in pursuit of his favourite quarry. The coarse fisherman is born even as is the artist, the sculptor, or the musician.

With the advanced education of coarse fish, the enormous increase in the number of anglers, the closing of some waters, and the restrictions on others, to say nothing of the vagaries of water companies and other authorities who seem delighted only when they are "tapping" or polluting rivers and streams most unmercifully, the coarse fisherman's chance of success would seem to become year by year smaller and beautifully less. But he has risen to the occasion in a most praiseworthy manner, and his basket is still quite sufficiently heavy when the season's average is considered. Finer tackle and more skilful manipulation of it assist him materially, while formidable difficulties are successfully combated by the extension, through the kindness and enterprise of the several railway companies, of the privilege ticket system, by which means fresh fields and pastures new may be economically visited. These privileges are obtained through the several associations at such centres as London, Manchester, and Birmingham, and to the excellent organisation of these associations is due the existing facilities for sport, no less than the stock of fish available to the angler. The increased skill in his art has done the rest, and so, for the twenty-second year, the *Fishing Gazette* has to announce that, taken all round, prospects of sport in the world of coarse fishing are favourable for the opening season.

Dealing first with the extensive and important waters, reached by means of the Great Eastern Railway Company, which company has certainly shown great consideration for the requirements of the angler, and whose series of privilege tickets covers an enormous variety of most excellent fishing quarters, it may be remarked that the map published in the *Fishing Gazette* last week, and reproduced this week, gives at a glance the easiest and best methods of reaching the new stations in the district of famous broads and rivers of Norfolk, and the prolific waters of Cambridgeshire, Huntingdonshire, Essex, and Suffolk. Accompanying the map is a list of the whole of the stations available to London anglers by privilege tickets, together with the fares, distances, &c.

SOME ANGLING STATIONS ON THE GREAT EASTERN RAILWAY.

St. Neots.—An omnibus plying from the Cross Keys Hotel meets the trains. Fare 6d. The two principal inns patronised by anglers are the Half Moon and the Angel. Mr. Nash, of the former inn, will give every information necessary to anglers *re* swims, baits, &c., and they cannot do better than put up at his hostelry. The water is free from Eaton Mills to the mouth of the pretty sinuous little Kym or Weston river, which flows into the Ouse about one mile below St. Neots. I believe that Mr. Nash has permission to fish from several fields, where the general public can only fish from a boat. I mention this in passing,

because after walking along the Ouse for miles, I have no hesitation in saying that, apart from mill pools, backwaters, locks, staunches, &c., weeds are so thick near the side a novice would have considerable difficulty in finding swims to enable him to fish from the bank in many places with much chance of success. Under these circumstances I recommend anglers, and more particularly strangers, to call on Mr. Nash, and if he happens to be absent or engaged, then the next best thing is to hire a boat and fish as quietly and as far off as possible, with a float and tackle, in the clear runs between the weeds, or allow the bait to float just above the weeds, where they are not too thick or too near the surface. I think before ground-baiting with so many grains and lobs one should be certain that the bream are there, or from one to three pecks of fresh grains may be thrown in by the thoughtless angler, and there allowed to turn bad, rot, and become a fetid mass which no fish in its senses, I should imagine, would approach. There is a good swim for bream by the brewery wall; the angler will see a ring to which he can tie his boat, and on the opposite or left side the "Warren" swim, situated just before one gets to the first clump of trees growing close to the water's edge, downstream. Anglers preferring to fish from the bank for roach and bream, &c., can do so at various places in the three miles of free water.

Great Paxton.—This charming village is only three miles north from St. Neots, on the main road to Godmanchester and Huntingdon. On arriving at Offord, on the Great Northern Railway, one can either be taken back to Great Paxton by a conveyance specially sent by that well-known angler, Mr. W. Ducker, who resides at Great Paxton; or, if the angler prefers to walk, he must go through Offord Cluny and Offord D'Arcy, two remarkable, old-fashioned, straggling, yet clean-looking villages, into the high road running between St. Neots and Huntingdon, and so on, a distance of two and a quarter miles, to Great Paxton. It is open, pleasant, and singularly hilly for Huntingdonshire. Letters addressed to Mr. W. Ducker, Great Paxton, Hunts., will receive attention. Little Paxton is about a quarter of a mile on the other side of the river, exactly opposite Wray House Island and the picturesque Wray House Ferry. Mr. Ducker has permission to fish in the river a distance of three miles, a splendid fishery little fished, and pike, perch, bream, chub, and roach abound, also rudd. Mr. Ducker can direct the angler to numerous swims, and one can find a variety of swims for either boat or bank fishing, many of which are not only free from weeds but possess a clean, gravelly, or rocky bottom, which chub much affect. Good chub are often taken under the thick overhanging willows of the old rushy island; in fact, the bottom is so hard in places that it is impossible to make the slightest impression upon it with a rypeck. Fine rudd may sometimes be caught with a brandling worm by allowing the boat to glide down very gently, securing it quickly, sitting as still as a statue, and allowing the float to glide down, say, 4yds. or 5yds., for the simple reason that some anglers will not understand fish take little notice of a boat; in fact, my experience is several fish, perch in particular, rather like to shelter near it. Ducker's Pool is just above Mr. Mackrill's Pool, and the angler should give them both a trial, and not forget that when bream are on the feed in the Ouse they often prefer either the tails or heads of big lob worms to brandlings. All comers can fish in the two fields from the reeds, and good roach and bream are often taken in these secluded and still swims ground-baiting as quietly as possible. Anglers patronising Mr. Ducker will find him an angler of great and varied experience, who knows every foot of water and when and where fish are most likely to be caught. I may just add that in a low, clear, bright water it is only a waste of time to use anything but the finest tackle for pike downwards in the Ouse. Baits, creed wheat and white paste for roach, lobs and small brandlings for bream. Anglers should write and find out if the fish they are after are on the feed before going to the Ouse. DRAGNET.

[Next week the fishing at Holywell Ferry, Huntingdon and St. Ives, will be briefly touched upon. Also other stations on various railways which grant privilege tickets].

PROSPECTING.

On the day set apart for the official celebration of her Majesty's birthday, in company with two friends, it was my good fortune to traverse three miles of the Colne, at Rickmansworth, to enjoy the sights and sounds of the riverside at its best, and to note the prospects of sport at the reopening of the general angling season.

One of my companions had been born and reared on the banks of the Wiltshire Avon, where he had been well grounded in the more elementary stages of angling, and where, by the way, he had frequently seen the great W. G. Grace ardently following the sport of gentle Izaak during the season when temporarily released from the sway of King Willow.

This Wiltshire friend of mine, at any rate, looked upon all he saw in our walk with the eye of an angler, and, therefore, understood my own enthusiasm. My other friend, although quite appreciating, as he could hardly fail to do, the numberless natural beauties of field and river disclosed during the day, was not an angler, and consequently his enjoyment was not so full as ours, and his views on angling were strangely at variance with the generally accepted canons of the craft, as exemplified in somewhat humorous fashion by the following incident:

We had leisurely surveyed the whole of the long length of society water to which we had access, and, in the afternoon, rested on a rustic seat beneath a spreading oak by the side of a weir pool, in which a fellow-member endeavoured to entice a trout to accept his delicately fashioned and dexterously cast fly.

The trout were there, and could be seen in goodly numbers; but with characteristic perversity they did not choose to rise to order, and the angler's careful casting was so long continued without reward that my non-angling friend began to regard the patient man's efforts as some sort of gymnastics or drill for the benefit of health, and we other two had abandoned hope of seeing a fish taken, when, whirr! rang out from the angler's reel, and we awoke to the fact that the unexpected had happened in the hooking of a good fish. Then followed as pretty a piece of work as could possibly have been witnessed. The fish was strong and plucky, and for a long time, without showing himself, took advantage of the many eddies of the weir pool in determined efforts to free himself, calling into play all the angler's skill, and giving many a graceful curve to the slender fly rod. At last, after many nervous rushes away from the net, he is landed at our feet—a brilliantly spangled, well-fed trout, well over a pound in weight, but not up to the society's standard of sixteen inches in length; and therefore he is carefully unhooked and replaced in the pool—much to the astonishment of my friend who had never fished for anything.

"Well," said he, "you anglers puzzle me. Here a man has spent the whole afternoon in trying to get a fish, and at last he gets a good one—just such a one as I could eat for breakfast, and—then he actually puts its back again in the river!" Those were his words, but they cannot convey the bewilderment expressed in his countenance as he uttered them. Yet he is a man not by any means insensible to the ethics of many other forms of sport. He understands why foxes are not hunted all the year round; and why partridge or pheasant shooting is deferred or wholly refrained from after a bad breeding season. But there on Colne-side he could only see the good angler's toil wasted, and the good eatable fish lost. I realised that before he could be made to understand our precautionary measures to obtain a good head of trout, he would have to be made an angler; and that would have been too heavy an undertaking on that gloriously sunny, drowsy afternoon.

Now, as to the prospects of sport at the reopening of the general angling season. Judging from observation on that holiday jaunt, I doubt whether any fish but trout and dace will be really fit to take; for other fly-fishing friends of mine, on the same day, caught chub which were very rough and limp; and I and my two friends, in our long walk, commencing at the weedy, but well-stocked canal, past the point where it is joined by the Colne, and where "Stead the Cure," a music hall and angling celebrity of former days,

made many heavy bags of roach—past shallows and deeps, until reaching the extreme boundary of the society's water, and back again on the opposite side—we saw bream that were grey from lack of condition, and roach that had not spawned. The Colne, I admit, is a somewhat late river; but in spite of sunny days, the excessively cold nights of the last few weeks are sure to have retarded the spawning and recovery of fish in many other waters.

Before the Mundella Acts were thought of, and when angling was practically permitted all the year round, it was the rule with many good anglers I have heard of to make experimental excursions about this season to various fishing stations, and to bring back just enough fish to decide on their forwardness or otherwise, and thus to judge when it would be sportsmanlike to commence fishing in earnest. But the great increase in the number of anglers since those days has necessitated a Parliamentary and arbitrary enforcement of fence months, which has mainly served to illustrate the vanity of any human efforts to treat Dame Nature as a cast iron automaton. One good solution of the difficulty would be to parcel out the country into separate fishery districts under boards holding power to fix and enforce close times suitable to each district and each season; acting, in fact, upon the principles which guided the old time anglers just referred to.

At present the law says that on June 16 we may go out and fish; and, conveniently disregarding Mr. Bumble's opinion of the law, we shall all go out on that day, or very soon after. I know I shall. And then arises the question—Where to go, and what to fish for? Well, after looking at that long list of stations available to anglers by privilege ticket, and the accompanying Great Eastern map, which appeared in last week's *Fishing Gazette*, I confess to some doubt and hesitation, for all the places mentioned are so good, and, whichever I may decide upon, I shall most likely think afterwards I might have done better at another. Anglers of the old times had no such doubts or regrets, their choice was too limited to be embarrassing.

Taking into account the recent spell of cold nights, still water fishing for such fish as bream, carp, or tench should be deferred for some weeks; for those fish are likely to be more backward than usual this season. On more freely moving waters, such as the rivers Arun and Rother, a few better-conditioned fish of those classes are likely to be met with, and the sight of the West Sussex scenery alone will make amends for many an empty bag.

Next to the more exclusively trout fishing waters, such as the Test, Chess, Darent and Kennett—the Lark, the Cam, and the Little Ouse are all likely rivers for sport just now; and all the stations nearest to them have been rendered accessible to anglers by the enterprise of the Great Eastern Railway.

In the tidal water of the Kentish Stour about Grove Ferry, to which station the South Eastern Railway now issue angling tickets, and the Sussex Ouse from Lewes to Barcombe Mills, by London Brighton and S.C. privilege tickets, the angler will find that life and movement in the water most affected just now by the fish. Whether the angler be successful or not will depend largely on the skill and judgment he employs, and more still on mere luck in happening on the spot suitable to the tide. For these rivers, the bottom baits most likely to be of service are bright brandlings, marsh worms, and gentles, in about the order given, and 4ft. of sharply moving or eddying water about the right depth to fish. I should have mentioned that very respectable fly fishing for both dace and chub is to be obtained on the Sussex Ouse from Hamsey to Barcombe Mills, and that the whole of that river from a point above Lewes upwards is in the care of an association that very properly makes a charge for the fishing. The dace of the Western Rother, from Midhurst downwards, are famous for size and gameness, and its trout, if not plentiful, are of good size and quality.

I have found an hour or so past high water generally the best in tidal waters, irrespective of season; but away from influence of tide, there is little doubt that early morning and from sunset to dark are the most pleasant and productive to the early summer angler, and caddis, either

floated or sunk and drawn, his most reliable bait in bright water.

That is certainly the lure I hope to employ on my opening essay, and, if prevented from starting at daybreak, I shall take care to choose a spot near enough to town to enable me to fish until darkness stops my pleasure. There is photographed in my mind's eye the very spot I expect to occupy. It is situated on a corner of an osier bed on a Thames tributary. The 3ft. depth of stream runs sharply past for about 10yds. over hard gravel, and quite close to the bank, until obstructed by a half sunken willow, which forms an eddy much favoured by all sorts of fish, especially large dace and chub. The rough, unhealthy cheven are not invited to my feast, but the fine, bright, plump dace will be very welcome to the caddis or other dainties that I may convey to them by means of Nottingham tackle. They are very independent, and will disdain to accept any such gifts from me if they become aware of my presence. Therefore, I must not approach within yards of their willow-shaded fastness, nor allow my shadow once to fall on the water near.

Whether I capture any of those dace or no, I am looking forward at least to be well sun baked during the day, and hope, as fervently for the sake of my brother anglers as for myself, that no sneaking east wind may mar the last hour or two of our fishing. CLAYR KENWAL.

POND FISHING.

OH, for a quiet place to fish in, is the cry of the boat-troubled angler in the summer, but how many ever give a thought to trying a day's pond fishing, where the boats cease from troubling and the angler is at peace.

Now that another season approaches a few remarks on pond fishing may prove acceptable.

Those anglers who cycle are, in my opinion, better off than those who always train to their destination, as they have more opportunities of discovering new fishing places, but how many when passing a pond by the wayside ever give one thought as to it containing the long-looked-for specimen, or at least some very good fish.

The reader will no doubt see from the foregoing remarks that I am a cyclist, and many new and good places have I found when cycling.

I remember one day riding from town to fish up the Thames, when in passing a pond I observed a slight disturbance on the surface of the water, as though a pike had just seized a small fish, so, dismounting, I sat down and watched awhile. Presently, quite close by, there was a tremendous splash, as a large carp rose to the surface. This was quite sufficient for me, so putting my rod together I commenced fishing, having baited my hook with a nice red worm, which I cast well out towards the middle of the pond. Presently the float began to give unmistakable signs of some fish nibbling at the bait. Round and round it went, then bob, bob. Suddenly like a flash of lightning it shot under the water, and striking hard, as I had a good length of line out, I was pleased to find I had hooked a nice fish. Up and down he went, making a good fight and trying to get into some weeds, but he soon had to give in, and on banking him I found he was a fine tench of 4lb. Well, to cut a long story short, I had no less than twenty-three of them in five hours, but they were none of them so large as the first one, although some nearly came up to his weight.

I always use a rod of about 11ft., as I find this length very serviceable, and plenty long enough.

In pond fishing always carry a small weed-drag, as some ponds will require it in making a clearing to fish in. The baits to be used, and which I find most taking, are worms, paste, beetles, new potatoes, sweetened by soaking in treacle after being partly boiled, cubes of bread, and sometimes gentles. The fish usually to be found in ponds are carp, tench, roach, carp-bream, perch, pike, and eels.

The tackle should be of the lightest description, as there is no stream to help the fish. I generally use a float requiring no more than four or five shot. The gut bottom should be fine, but at the same time very strong, as most ponds are clear, but very weedy. It should be borne in mind that a good light running line is very necessary,

especially if a large fish is hooked, such as a carp, when, if you do not let him run, it is ten to one you are smashed up, which is most vexatious. It is a bad plan to sit too near the water, or to move about, as the fish are rather shy, and see you long before you perceive them. In ground-baiting I do not throw large balls in, as in Thames fishing, but place a small pellet round the shot before casting, and find this method a great assistance when getting out my bait, as, the tackle being so light, I should otherwise never get far enough out; and I also think the gradual dropping of the ground-bait attracts the fish better than throwing in handfuls, and ensures the hook being near the bait.

Now, as to the fish. I will first deal with the tench, which appear to thrive best in muddy ponds. They are distinguished by the diminutive size of the scales, the body is short and thick, the head large, with thick lips, length generally less than a foot. They are sometimes taken weighing from 4lb. to 6lb., but a 3½lb. fish should be preserved. They bite very much like a bream. Bait with worms, paste, and sometimes gentles, according to circumstances.

The carp is a splendid fish, and grows to a great size, reaching 20lb. It is the most cautious of any fish I know, and requires the greatest patience in catching, and when angling for them it is necessary to be very quiet, or you will never get one. Bait with sweetened paste, grasshopper, new potatoes, and they are occasionally taken with floating bread. Use a triangle hook. The bream I will not say much about, as nearly every one who angles has caught some; but as regards the hooking of this fish, I should like to point out that a great many anglers often are too hasty in striking; they should always gather in their slack line and wait till the float disappears before they strike, then raise the point of the rod sharply, but not too high, and you will find that this way is most effective. Bait with worms, paste, or gentles. Of the latter I prefer five on the hook, as it makes more show. Roach and rudd are found in some ponds, and can be taken with the same baits as in bream fishing.

Pike grow to a good size in ponds well supplied with small fish, but I have taken some which had the appearance of soda water bottles, so starved were they, there being only tench in the pond.

Perch are occasionally met with, and are not so numerous as the above-mentioned fish, but if there should be any in the pond you are fishing you will be nearly certain to capture one when using a worm for bait.

Now, if there is a boat or punt on any lake or pond, use it, and when plumbing the depth place a piece of paste around the plummet; by this means you are enabled to know what sort of bottom you are fishing on. It was in this way once that I discovered a fine gravelly swim, in which I took several fine bream and roach, whereas before I was getting nothing but small fry, and the bottom was mud, and thick mud, too.

I trust that the reader of this article will, if he has not tried pond fishing, do so this summer; and may he be as successful as I have been.

KINGFISHER.

MARKET DEEPING AS AN ANGLING RESORT.

(Concluded from page 407.)

AFTER leaving the locks the water flows over a long series of shallows, which make any fishing but with the fly impossible. In dry weather the mud appears in places above the surface. This state of affairs continues till some distance past Deeping St. James' bridge.

Opposite Waterton Hall the river is choked during the summer by mud and weeds. Unfortunately the boundary line between Lincolnshire and Northamptonshire follows the centre of the river, and the various authorities have never been able to come to terms as regards cost of work. So while they hesitate the river is gradually silting, until there is as fine a collection of mud and weed as can be seen for miles round. From this point to a bend known as "Feneley's Hole," is a favourite resort for pike; but it is of little use trying for them till the weeds have commenced to decay, but about October good sport may be expected. My 12-pounder, previously mentioned,

was captured here. I rose early for four successive mornings, and the fourth morning I captured him, after an exciting struggle of nearly twenty minutes, with a rotten line and a jammed reel, both borrowed. Quite a crowd gathered to watch the fun.

Suddenly he made a big rush, and fairly stranded himself on a mud bank. I thought he would get off the tackle, but he wriggled into deep water again, with the hooks still attached. When I got him to the side, I was puzzled to know how to land him, for a barrier of mud ran parallel with the wall—I was fishing from the road—with deeper water inside. I towed him along until I found an opening large enough to get him through, and with a bit of easing managed to negotiate him into the water behind the bank, where he threw mud and water about in his struggles.

From that day certain anglers, whose imaginations had never before extended beyond a pound roach or an occasional perch, became ardent, and, judging from results, successful pike fishers.

But pike are, or at least were, captured by methods other than sportsmanlike. A boat, a large triangle, and a piece of stout cord comprised the paraphernalia of the poacher. Floating downstream the pike could be seen at the bottom, and were easily extracted by means of the cord and triangle.

It is fairly easy to poach pike in the Welland from a boat as they lie with their heads in the weeds. I have before now stirred them up with a "sprit." In one hole I once counted nearly twenty fish, and, with a few exceptions, they utterly refused to move until stirred. I dangled a bait against the jaws of some, and not one of them would touch it. I managed, however, to capture four just before dusk; but in the middle of the day they would not look at a bait. From here to the Low Lock, a distance of about a mile, the only sport obtainable is fly fishing for roach, good bags being often made. The Low Lock, however, is, without doubt, the best position in the river for the all-round angler. Roach, pike, eels, bream, and chub are all to be captured. At this point the river passes through two locks—one very large, with an overflow, and the other considerably smaller, the confluence of the two streams taking place some little distance down. Although fish are plentiful, yet the angler should ground-bait if he wants to make a good catch. It does not, to any great extent, bring the fish together, for they are there already, but it seems to bring them well on the feed. Whatever the reason, I have found from experience that ground-bait is essential to success. A little bran and wheat, or barley meal, thrown in the night before is sufficient. The large lock, with the overflow, is much the deeper, and is the best to ground-bait. A long rod is an advantage, as the fish lie well out into the middle.

A slider float is useful, as the water here is about 12ft. deep. I have frequently fished without a float. If the current is gentle, the best position to stand is by the left side of the lock gate, from which the baited spot can be most easily reached. The hook should be baited with a well scoured lob or brandling, and the angler will probably soon be rewarded with a bite from a bream. The bream do not run large, the heaviest scaling about 2½lb. If the angler affects roach fishing, good sport will be obtained with wasp grub. Other good baits are paste and boiled wheat.

I once saw the roach rolling over here by hundreds. I had baited for bream, and had managed to secure a few, but they were not properly on the feed. Noticing a few roach about, I dropped some ground-bait close to the gates, with the object of enticing them to a more convenient spot, and succeeded beyond my expectations. They simply swarmed up, and I stood at the side of the lock in full view of the fish, and commenced to haul them out. There was no poking their lips against the bait, they opened their mouths and sucked it in before it reached the bottom. I kept them there by an occasional handful of ground-bait. Then my wasp grubs ran out, quickly followed by a small piece of paste—worms they would not look at—and I was forced to pinch pieces of ground-bait on the hook.

This continued for a little over an hour, when I left off with something like thirty good roach,

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ranging from $\frac{3}{4}$ lb. to $1\frac{1}{4}$ lb., besides throwing numbers of smaller ones in again.

I, however, reluctantly had to leave them, but before going I threw in part of the ground-bait, treating the smaller lock to the remainder. In the evening I went down again, in company with a friend. He fished one lock while I took the other, with the result that the morning's catch was nearly doubled. The largest fish, taken by myself, weighed a good 2 lb., while several others ran it very close. The total catch during the day amounted to between eighty and ninety good fish. Some few years ago perch were fairly plentiful here, but they are now too well looked after by boys, who catch them with worms. I remember seeing about a dozen of them among the stones below the overflow, with their backs out of the water. Strange as it may seem, I caught two of them with my hand, and laid hold of others by the tail, but failed to hold them. In the small lock, if the angler does not object over much to slime, and has a few hooks which he does not mind spoiling, good fun can be obtained with eels. I can imagine the scientific angler thinking such sport beneath him, but, after all, eel fishing is not to be despised, and affords sport when other fish are off the feed. I have made splendid baskets of fish in the Welland, and one secret of my success was always carrying tackle and baits suitable for any fish I came across. If one kind of fish would not bite, I often obtained good sport with another.

Last summer, before the roach had come on the feed, my brother and myself took twenty-one eels here, the largest weighing 1 lb., and were smashed two or three times by larger ones. It was a choice between eels and a blank, and, after all, twenty-one eels were better than an empty basket. If an angler were to lay out his pike rod about dark, using for bait a lump of bacon, a small fish, or a fledgeless sparrow (commonly known as a "bare bobbler"), he would probably capture at least one good-sized eel. At any rate, I had a hook nearly straightened by one, and my brother got a large one to the side, which then broke the gut. Of course, it was his own fault, as he was using 4x gut. This hole is also a resort of chub, but they are fearfully shy, and it requires much manoeuvring to capture them. A good bait is a bunch of wasp grubs, crammed on a hook so that not a particle of steel is showing.

Pike also abound here, and a 12-pounder was captured some two years ago. But this hole has by no means a monopoly of pike. The best spots are the larger lock and some little distance down, just above the confluence of the two streams. This latter favourite resort for pike, and, indeed, other fish as well, is known by the euphonious title of "Nick's Hole."

Why it obtained such a name I do not know. At any rate, it is a fine place for fish, which run very large. After the confluence of the two streams, the Welland flows in a long series of shallows past numberless willow holts that line one bank to the water's edge, the surface of the water being only disturbed by an occasional eel fisher as he works slowly upstream to fix his eel traps or "leps," till it passes under the railway bridge. From here to the staunch, about two miles lower down, every inch of water should be tried. A live snap will be found as good as anything, but a dace mounted on a Francis flight runs it very close. Artificial baits are of little use, as they sink too quickly, and foul the bottom.

The time to commence pike fishing here is about the end of September. In the summer good sport may be had among the roach with the fly. The association water extends to the Kenulph Stone, some little distance below the staunch, but the fishing practically finishes at the latter place.

A. H. LAW.

CAPTURE OF SQUID.

MR. FRANCIS HOWSE suggests that the "Automatic Spring Hook" might be turned to account for the capture of squid, and that the squid are often troublesome. I have fished along the South Devon coast from the age of five and a half years, when I took my first three mackerel in Teignmouth Bay, until the last two years, and was always rather than not pleased with their visits, except in Shoreham Harbour, in Sussex, where they sometimes bothered me by robbing the hook

of the living sand-eel when I was drift-line fishing for bass on the flood-tide. Depend on it, the landing net is not the best implement for capturing squid, as the squid is timid as well as bold, and the landing net makes far too much show, the squid being easily alarmed by it. I use what I term the *Quocunque Gaff*, made out of four No. 7 Exeter round bend hooks lashed on to a rod the length of an ordinary billiard cue, which makes much less show than a landing net; and I took the idea from the three legs of the Isle of Man coat of arms, preferring four hooks to the three legs, as "*quocunque jecris stabit*" (whichever way you turn it) this gaff is very likely to hook Mr. Squid if you strike him at all fair. I file off the barbs of the hooks before lashing them on to the rod end, the flesh of squid being so very tough that if the hooks are not deprived of their barbs it is very difficult to unhook them—vide p. 194 and p. 213 of my "Sea Fisherman," letter "C." Fully sixty years since I practised this method of catching squid for bait, taking from six to a dozen in the dusk of the evening, when you might not always be able to see which way the point of a single hook gaff was directed.

If a clove hitch be taken close to the flattened tops of each of the four hooks before lashing them to the rod, it will be found quite practicable to fold the hooks together, like closing a book. A small leather bag should be provided to receive these hooks, when the hooks are closed on each other. All fishermen will agree with Mr. Francis Howse as to the importance of squid for bait. I therefore have given special attention to squid capture at pp. 194, 195, and 213, also noticing the "sucker or poupe" (*Octopus vulgaris*), a good bait, although not equal to the squid or cuttle. Off B. Salterton, Devon, I often put out a conger line when the "blains" (whiting pout) had finished supper, and when the squid fastened on the conger bait generally caught a fine squid to tempt conger or a big pollack; besides which, if a fresh S.W. breeze came up next day, I was well prepared for bass at Ottermouth Haven, at the east end of the beach, where I used the leger line. The squid will soon appear along the south coast if the weather continues warm, and I advise all sea anglers to follow my lead in this matter of squid capture. I have taken numbers at Plymouth, abreast Smeaton's Lighthouse, and on the Cornish coast. Cornish fishermen use what they term a "quiddle" or "cuttle rod"—a Y-forked stick, a hook, minus the barb, lashed on to each horn of the fork.

Longmans, Green, and Co. publish "The Sea Fisherman," price 6s., containing more than the two editions at 12s. 6d. previously published.

J. C. WILCOCKS.

TROUT FISHING.

(FROM THE TROUT'S POINT OF VIEW).

So much has been written on the several methods of trout fishing from the standpoint of the angler on the bank that it may not be uninteresting (as it is certainly not unseasonable) to consider them from that of the fish *under water*, to whom things are not nearly so straightforward as at first sight they might appear.

The natural food of (or the bait or line used for) the trout may be presented to the fish in one of three different ways:

- (a) Entirely submerged;
- (b) Above the surface of the water, as in the case of a flying insect; or
- (c) Partly submerged, as with a floating insect, or artificial fly.

Under condition (a) matters are simple enough. The fish sees the object through the water just as we should do through the rarer medium "air," but more or less distinctly as the water is clear or coloured.

Under (b) things are very different, and it will be shown how very restricted is a fish's vision of objects which are above the surface and not touching the water. Everyone knows that a stick held in water appears to be bent, and that this is due to "refraction." Rays of light passing from air into water are bent *towards* the vertical, and conversely, those from objects in the water into air are bent *from* the vertical. The "index of refraction" between air and water is $\frac{4}{3}$, and the so-called "limiting angle" $48^{\circ} 35'$; that is to say, any rays striking the surface of water from *below*

at an angle of about 49° with the vertical and upwards, do not pass into the air *at all*, but are vertically reflected, at an equal angle, downwards.

Without going deeper into the subject the nett result of the optical laws is that any object which a fish sees above the surface of the water must necessarily appear to that fish to be somewhere within an angle of $48^{\circ} 35'$ with the vertical. In other words, and in round figures, a fish 1 ft. deep in still water can only see objects above water within the circumference of a circle of about 2 ft. diameter on the surface level, of which the centre is vertically over the eye of the fish.

It also necessarily follows that there is only one direction in which a fish sees an object above the surface in its actual position, namely, when it is vertically above the eye of that fish. This seems to explain those leaps of apparently unnecessary vigour which fish make when rising at passing insects. No doubt they have learnt by sad experience and frequent disappointments that in that position only can they be certain of securing their prey, since the moment it passes the vertical it becomes, in fact, a "mirage" (though not inverted), and useless for satisfying the "keen demands of appetite."

Possibly this, too, is the reason why fish are so readily frightened when a person appears on the bank, since, to the fish, the intruder appears more nearly above him than he really is.

Every angler must have noticed how very difficult, and even impossible, it is to take fish above a light coloured river-bed, and I venture to think that this is due to the much greater illumination of the bait, and the consequent greater facility for detecting imposture, rather than to any extra acuteness ascribed to chalk stream trout.

Let the reader take a clean glass tumbler, nearly filled with water, hold it up and look upwards at the surface. It is absolutely opaque, with an apparently metallic surface. Any object (even a lighted match) held above the water is quite invisible. Let him now pierce the surface with any small object, such as a spoon handle, and it is surprising with what unexpected distinctness the submerged portion can be seen.

We are now studying the appearance of an object presented to the fish under the third condition (c.). If the tumbler be placed near the edge of a table on a sheet of white paper and the experiment be repeated the object is still more clearly defined, as would be the case above a chalky or light rock bottom.

Again, if a piece of cork or wood be placed, floating, on the water, it will be found that only that part which is below the surface can be seen at all, and since (from the way they are dressed) artificial flies will float with the barbs *downwards*, the fish have a fine opportunity of inspecting half the dressing and a very well defined fish hook.

The obvious inference is that artificial flies should be so made that the barbed end of the hook floats *above* the surface; or, at any rate, is so well concealed in the dressing as not to be so conspicuous. The former result does not seem difficult of attainment, but a consideration of the "form" of artificial flies is out of place in these notes.

Up to the present we have only studied rays of light passing from above downwards, and there is yet remaining a consideration of circumstances doubtless rather bewildering to the fish.

Reference has been made to the "limiting angle," and it so happens that objects on the bed of a stream (light-coloured stones and rocks especially) will all be seen by the fish perfectly reflected in that mirror-like under surface; and any insect or artificial fly floating downstream will appear to be moving over the inverted bed of the stream, and midway between the real and the ideal.

There will still, however, fortunately for the fish, be a limited area which, owing to the "limiting angle," is clear of such reflections.

Recognising the fact that a line should appear to its possible victim as nearly as possible like the genuine article, I cannot conclude these notes without reference to the absurd practice of painting artificial minnows with eyes, fins, and tail. The fact that the moment an artificial minnow "spins" these artistic decorations disappear seems to be entirely lost sight of. Indeed, it seems probable that a fish does not go for the imitation body at all, but for the more or less transparent

moving figure produced in the water by the rapid revolution of the projecting triangles.

"Contemplation" is supposed to be an attribute of anglers. I have, therefore, the less hesitation in submitting these somewhat incomplete researches to the craft, feeling assured that, failing entire agreement, they will at least receive fair criticism.

CHARLES RIGG.

THAMES SALMON ASSOCIATION.

A PUBLIC meeting was advertised as to be held at St. Martin's Town Hall, Charing Cross, at 3 p.m. last Monday, called by the Thames Salmon Association.

Those who attended waited from three until half-past, up to which time there was no one present on the platform to represent the association, and we learn that the committee had decided to alter the date and place of the meeting. Surely the secretary might have telegraphed to the authorities at St. Martin's Town Hall to say that the meeting was postponed.

It will be seen from an advertisement in our columns that the association now announces a public meeting, to be held at 3.30 p.m. on Friday, June 30, at the Mansion House, under the presidency of the Lord Mayor.

THE NEW NORWEGIAN GAME LAW.

So closely associated are angling and ryper shooting in Norway that anything affecting the one form of sport applies more or less to the other. It is well, therefore, that readers of the *Fishing Gazette* should be made acquainted with the fact that in accordance with the law just passed by the Storting shooting game birds will not be permitted in the realm whose fortune it is to have its affairs regulated by that august assembly of wise men until Sept. 15—in other words, after the trout fishing season is over. When the bad weather may legitimately be expected to set in; when it is absolutely useless to use setters or pointers; when, in fact, life on the fjelds becomes a very doubtful pleasure, ryper, capercaillie, and blackgame shooting will be allowed. But to obtain the privilege of indulging in such sport the foreigner will have to take out a license, which will cost him one hundred kroner (say £5 10s.); and even then he will not be permitted to shoot at all upon "Stats Almene," the hitherto favourite resort of the English ryper-shooting angler.

Whatever other elements may strike the casual observer as present in this truly remarkable enactment, common sense can hardly be said to be conspicuously apparent, and it may safely be asserted that no such blow has ever been struck at Norwegian sport as is contained in the peevish piece of legislation perpetrated this spring by the National Assembly—by courtesy termed a game law. That the Bønder dislike English and town sportsmen, and prefer their absence to their money; that it is better to get seven or eight öre for each ryper snared in winter than, say, from three to 500 öre for the bird shot in autumn; and that it is more just to deprive the hardworking and well-to-do professional classes from the towns of the opportunity of indulging in their favourite sport rather than that the "ryperfanger" should capture a few birds the less would seem to be the opinion of the majority of the present Storting. Eventually it may be brought home to their minds that these are fallacies. The Bønde is very fond of his freedom, and likes to exercise it; but he is by no means averse to turning the honest penny, and when he discovers that the sporting rights upon his property—with which he has been so recently invested, have been rendered valueless and unmarketable by the action of his Parliamentary representatives, his feelings toward the latter are likely to be the reverse of amicable, and he may express them by the familiar process known as chucking out. Certainly the Norwegian landowners will lose largely by the adoption of the date in question, which is simply ludicrous.

What the legal position will be of those who hold leases of shootings in Norway I cannot say, although I have been told by a well-known lawyer that rents would probably be liable to a reduction corresponding to the curtailment of the shooting season (in which case they would be reduced to

vanishing point); but many foreigners, at any rate, under such treatment will probably take the law into their own hands, and simply refuse to pay for a right which the law forbids them to exercise. Shootings (?) in Norway next year will be at a liberal discount, and "smell dogs" will probably be cheap.

It has been suggested by some thorough-going admirer of the Norwegian legislators that the latter were anxious to display their friendly feelings towards France (as another great power), that they wished to avoid the risk of seriously diminishing the attendance at the World's Fair in Paris by exhibiting to sportsmen generally any overwhelming counter attractions in Scandinavia. There may be something in this, as (apparently) in the same spirit of (vicarious) unselfishness they have decreed that all "Traek fugl" (birds of passage), i.e., woodcock, snipe, duck, &c., shall be protected during their residence in Norway. Such an exhibition of disinterested feeling would merit all praise no doubt, but the manner of its expression is likely to prove a costly affair to their constituents. Although highly unpopular everywhere throughout the country, the new law must apply at any rate to 1900, whatever may be done to alter or amend it afterwards; and by the end of that year nearly all foreign and a great many native sportsmen will have established their summer quarters in countries where their convenience and their legitimate rights are not likely to be interfered with by the action of a body of men whose political opinions (!) and necessities may at any time lead them to commit legislative indiscretions similar to the one under discussion; and they will be in no hurry to return. The rents of salmon fisheries will probably also be injuriously affected, for many salmon (as well as trout) anglers look upon game bird shooting as a necessary corollary to the fishing season; and the tourist traffic is sure to suffer diminution. For these and other mercies of a like nature may the Norwegian Storting, as assembled in conclave this year of grace, be praised.

RUGDE.

REPORTS FROM RIVERS, LOCHS, &c.

Lower Thames—GENERAL REMARKS.—There reported capture of a Thames trout over 17lb. at Radcot, near Oxford, by a working man, is regarded as making a record of being the largest specimen taken in the Thames. I do not, however, think the anglers will be fully satisfied without more particulars as to its capture. One of my practical correspondents writes: "Anglers will, of course, require positive proof of the supposed capture of the large trout in the upper Thames." I can remember some years back there was a report of one having been taken that weighed 18lb., and, as far as my memory serves me, it was said to be from the neighbourhood of Reading, but I do not think it was ever satisfactorily cleared up as being a Thames fish. I always understood the great Jubilee trout of 1887 weighed close upon 18lb., and this we know was caught in one of the nets of the netsmen in the portion of the lower Thames where they possess the privilege to use them, and was, therefore, not illegally captured. I have written to Mr. Alfred Nuthall respecting the exact weight of this fish, and in his kind reply he tells me he has "misaid the particulars, but can vouch for the genuine weight to be from 17lb. to 18lb. when turned in at Kingston." There was a large trout taken at Chertsey, which weighed 14lb. 9oz., which has been regarded as the champion fish taken in angling, and at the time was clearly reported as having been taken by Mr. James Forbes on spinning tackle. I consider in the Jubilee trout the lower Thames can yet boast of the largest fish having been captured in its waters. There have been many reports as to it being still in existence, and one last year was that it had been seen in the neighbourhood of Hampton Court. Unless there is some rain before Friday, as I am writing this on Wednesday, I am afraid the angling for coarse fish will not be attended with much success. There can be no doubt as to the river being full of fish, and all depends on the condition of the water as to results.—B.

—(Eton).—Sport with the trout up to the present has been most disappointing, and anglers will welcome the opening of the coarse fishing season on the 16th, the prospects of which are most favourable, although forty-eight hours' downpour would make sport more certain; but, with judicious baiting, good takes of barbel should be accounted for. I have seen large numbers during the past fortnight, and intend to try them on Friday in a spot that I have been feeding them up during the last few days. I was sorry to see, one evening this week, while trouting on the Windsor Weir, no less than a dozen roach, all about 1lb. each, laying up against the weir gates, all dead. After examining them, they all appeared to have been pinched in some way across the back.—CECIL HOWLETT.

—(Hampton Court).—William Milhorne, on Tuesday, writes: "Mr. Woods, on Friday last, at the weir, took a trout of 3lb.; and on Sunday evening Mr. Matthews, one of 4lb. I am afraid if we do not get some

rain before Friday the opening season will commence very bad, as there is no stream whatever—the weirs are all shut in and scarcely any water running through them. It will not be because we are short of coarse fish, as the barbel, roach, and chub lay at the weir in great quantities. This has been one of the finest spawning seasons I have ever known, there not having been any floods all through the spawning season; and the warm weather has brought the fry into life, and they can be seen in shoals."—B.

—(Shepperton).—George Rosewell, writing on Wednesday evening, says: "The river is in bad condition for fishing prospects, and looks very bad for the opening of the season. The fish have not all spawned yet. They are late this season, and there will be no fishing of any account until we have had a good rain. I have had two more trout with Mr. William Reid—both fish had lice on them—one was a nice fish of 6lb., which he kept, and the other one (3lb.) he returned, as he never takes one under 5lb."—B.

—(Streatley).—About three weeks ago, as Mr. Wm. Pearce, of Gatehampton Farm, Goring-on-Thames, was walking in his meadow leading to Hart's Wood, he saw a barn rat going from the river towards the wood, carrying something in its mouth. Just before it reached the wood, and about forty yards away, he shot and killed the rat, which had a nice perch, still alive, in its mouth.—H. J. GARDNER.

Anchorlme District.—Both farmers and fishermen now want rain. There is, however, a fair volume of water in the becks, as the springs continue to flow freely. The Hawthorn Fly is now well high over, and the Alder is less numerous. Ant flies and moths are beginning to appear, and, used at the proper time, do good execution. The Red Dnn, the master fly of the Dnn class, is usually rather late, but have seen a few. This fly is quite easy to cultivate, and I rear it in thousands. The Freckled Dan is a splendid fly just now. It is made from the Moorcock, and with red hackle and orange body. We do not get many Fern Flies. I have been heretwenty-five years now, and have not seen above twenty-five.—THOMAS FORD (Caistor).

Arun (Pulborough).—During the close season fish have been spawning well, and there are plenty of fish to be seen in the river, which is now somewhat low and bright, owing to the continued drought. The final arrangements for the Central's monster competition on the opening Sunday, June 18, have been made; all members to start from and weigh-in at the Arun Hotel.—W. G. HOLLMAN.

Cornish Streams.—Peal are now running fairly freely in the Camel and Fowey. The former river is usually a little later than the Fowey, but by the middle of June, without the streams are exceptionally low, there are always peal about. Catching them in such brilliant hot weather is another thing. Trout fishing has been fairly good, the best baskets being about thirty. Professional fishers are doing well with fern fly and tab fly, both excellent killing natural baits. It has been decided to restock the Camel with trout, and if possible, salmon. The conservators are taking most commendable means to improve the river.—BODMIN.

Darent (Horton Kirby, Farningham, &c.).—The May Fly seems to be practically over, and has been the usual disappointment on this river, though some fish certainly have yielded to this lure. There are much fewer flies of any sort than usual now on the water. I could only see an occasional Olive Dun and one or two small wild bees coming down. For these last the "Governor" is the pattern. Several good fish from 1lb. to 2½lb. were on the look-out, but seldom got a chance to rise. The largest of the trout seem still in poor condition, and no wonder! Plenty of water at present.—J. P. T.

Dart (Totnes and District).—A number of salmon continue to be taken by the nets at Totnes Weir, so that it cannot be said of the Dart that salmon are particularly scarce. There are a lot of salmon and also trout lying in the pools up to Staverton; but little sport falls to the lot of anglers, although the fish rise very freely at night. On the moor a few have been killed. Trouting is very quiet in the lower waters just now. The Black Midge, Silver Horn, and Half Stone are used by day, and the larger flies in the evenings, which is about the only time fish can be attracted. Mr. E. Distin (who creels fifteen on Thursday), Messrs. M. Revell, E. Ackrell, H. Fall, H. T. Distin, T. Browne, and other rods have had a few brace by evening fishing; whilst Mr. Furneaux has killed a few with the fly at Staverton.—DEVONIAN.

Devonshire Streams.—Only moderate sport has been obtained this week, and the takes which are made are the results of fishing after sunset. The days are very hot and bright, and many of the streams have run very low. Salmon fishing gives little or no sport, and a take of five by one of the Teign boats (two fish weighing 36lb. together) was considered something unusual. The Dart, however, contains plenty of salmon, but these do not fall to the rods. Trout fishing is decidedly dull and baskets are small, three or four brace being a good average. Visitors must find angling exceptionally quiet just now. Some good showers should brighten the prospects. Trout are reported fairly plentiful in the Upper Lyd and Tavy Cleave district, where the Black Dnn, Coachy-bondhu, and Bishop's Fancy are used successfully.—DEVONIAN.

Esk (Whitby).—This river continues in a low and clear condition, and angling operations are practically at a standstill. A good fall of rain is much needed to improve matters. The only catches I hear of are Dr. English, eleven and a half brace of trout; and Mr. J. Baker, four and a half brace.—J. JACKSON.

Ere and Canal (Exeter).—Fine warm weather still prevails, and trout fishing by day is of a disappointing order. The river has now run low and gin-clear, and the little sport met with has been principally in the evening time. Among those who have scored on the Brampford water, are Messrs. Snell, Taylor, Harris,

Litts, Roberts, etc.; and on the Thorverton water, Messrs. Kelley and Jones have had fair sport; the first-named is now keen on beating his champion 2-pounder of a fortnight ago. On the Creedy, Messrs. Snell and French had very good bags; and Messrs. Wilde and Son, Rowden, and Caseley have also taken a few brace of decent trout from this water. Flies which are killing fairly well just now are, by day, Blue Dun, Black Gnat, and Wickham; and for evening cast Red Spinner, Governor, and Coachman. —RED PALMER.

Fen District (South Lincs. and Cambs.).—The reports from the trout waters have now been satisfactory for awhile, but complaints are heard about the heat. However, when baskets run up to six or eight brace they are not so bad. Fishing begins this week on the drains, but prospects are not over bright. Fish are thought to be backward owing to the cold weather in the spring. I hear the Sheffield anglers have a dispute about the waters around Tydd. —LIMPET.

Idle District (North Notts.).—Sport will again be on the move in the Idle district at the end of the present week. Somehow the trouting season has been altogether a frost. I have already noticed fairly good prospects among the bream in the lower district. Dace are also very lively, and these two fish, irrespective of others, should be well worth looking after. It is stated that this season Sheffield anglers will have difficulties raised to fishing in the neighbourhood of Thorne. It is to be hoped that the differences will be settled without resort to law. —L.

Lake Cwellyn (Snowdon Ranger Hotel, near Carnarvon).—Nothing very extensive has been done in consequence of the very hot weather. There seems now an improvement for the better, and hope for a gentle rain to fill up the streams. —W. E. WEBSTER.

Lake Vyrnwy (N. Wales).—As everywhere else, the weather here for the last week has been excessively hot and bright, and it was only occasionally that there was even a decent ripple on the water. The fishing has been decidedly good, and the average take per rod has been about the best this year. The catch of the week (out of the lake only) has been 293 fish, weighing 181lb. 5oz.; and the average take per rod has been six fish a day. On the 7th, there were forty-five trout weighed at 25lb. 10oz. Mr. Malpass made the best basket with fourteen fish, 7lb. 2oz.; Mr. Townshend killed seven, 3lb. 12oz.; Messrs. Davies and Brown, six, 4lb. 2oz.; Mr. Gunther six, 3lb. 12oz.; Mr. Moss, five, 3lb. 1oz.; Mr. Garside, five, 2lb. 8oz. On the 8th (the best day of the week), eighty-nine fish weighed 51lb. 12oz. Mr. Garside killed twenty, 11lb. 4oz.; Mr. Moss and the Rev. Fortman, nineteen, 11lb. 4oz.; Mr. Malpass, eighteen, 10lb. 2oz.; Messrs. Davies and Brown, seven, 4lb. 5oz.; Mr. Jackson, four, 2lb. 8oz.; Mr. Gunther, four, 3lb. 2oz.; and Mr. Williamson, three, 2lb. 1oz. On the 9th, fifty-four fish weighed 34lb. 12oz. Mr. Garside was again first with thirteen fish, 8lb. 1oz.; Mr. Moss killed twelve, 7lb. 1oz.; Messrs. Davies and Brown, seven, 5lb. 2oz.; Mr. Malpass, six, 3lb. 9oz.; Mr. Gunther, five, 5lb. 2oz.; Mr. Williamson, three, 2lb. 10oz.; Mr. Townshend, three, 1lb. 2oz. On the 10th, thirty-five fish weighed 21lb. 6oz. Mr. Garside killed nine, 5lb. 3oz.; Messrs. Davies and Brown, eight, 5lb. 1oz.; Mr. Moss, six, 3lb. 8oz.; Mr. Jackson, five, 2lb. 9oz.; and Mr. Townshend, four, 2lb. 12oz. On the 12th, forty-three fish weighed 29lb. 14oz. Mr. Garside killed fifteen, 8lb. 12oz.; Messrs. Davies and Brown, nine fish, 6lb. 6oz.; Mr. Moss, eight, 5lb. 8oz.; Mr. Fortman, six, 4lb. 1oz.; Mr. Jackson, three, 2lb. 11oz. River fishing has not been good, as the water is very low, owing to the want of rain. —LONGDRIFT.

Lea and Tributaries.—Yesterday (Friday), the season for taking dace, gudgeon, and grayling re-opened up the Lea, but the water was not in condition for the occasion, the result of the drought. Dace will be principally tried for this week end, the grayling in the river not being numerous enough to warrant special operations on the part of the angler. The dace are likely to be found in streamy bits of water, and below Hertford and St. Margaret's Locks, the "Boom" at Ware, and the Dobb's Weir stream, Hoddesdon, should yield most sport. Some of the back streams lower down the river ought also to be tried for dace. Attractive baits should be the caddis grub and the fly, the Black Gnat, Red Ant, and May Fly. No trout are reported captured this week, and no good results are notified from the tributary Beane. A few eels have been caught in the Lea, but the cold winds have been against much success among the slippery ones. The Lea would be all the better for a good night's rain, and so would the Stort and Rib. In the Stort the roach have not finished spawning yet at Bishops Stortford. The water there is in very fair order, but does not favour anglers in the Harlow and Sawbridgeworth reaches. It is very satisfactory to hear that roach have been seen in large numbers in the Stort this spawning season. —J. A. K. WALTON.

Lugg and Arrow (Leominster).—Both these streams are running clear and a nice level, and in capital order for fishing. The weather has been beautiful and fine, and very hot, with the wind in the east, and angling cannot be said to be as good as expected. May Fly is still rising in patches, and the trout do not take them freely, and the season may be called a poor one. The best flies to use are the Yellow Dun, Orl, Wickham, Red and Grey Spinners, and Moths, which have been successful in the evening. Worm fishing has been tried. On Monday some nice trout were landed with fly in the Lugg; and on Tuesday fair sport was had in the Arrow. The Pinsley is running clear and in fishing order. —GWYNNE.

Nene (Peterborough).—Although we have been looking forward to the prospect of a refreshing downfall of rain, which is so much needed to improve the condition of things for the opening of the season, up to the present (Wednesday), albeit appearances have favoured it, there is

no alteration in our atmospheric circumstances, and we are afraid, as the water in the river has become so very low through lack of rain, that the season will not open here so auspiciously as was expected, and that we shall have to bide a wee until the necessary change takes place. —E. A. S.

North Staffordshire Rivers.—The May Fly has been a most peculiar time in this district. The fly has hatched up in a dribbling fashion, and fish do not seem to have taken the Green Drake well at all off the surface. Most of the bags taken have come to the Sunk Drake and Alder, but the Black Gnat has been fished fairly successfully. Streams low and clear, and fly still hatching out. The evening fishing proves best, when the Grey Drake makes for the streams. —F. W. DALE.

Otter (Budleigh Salterton).—No improvement in the fishing has taken place since last report. The fish do not move to fly at all during the day, and in the evening, about 8 p.m., they take to "tailing" in the streams and pools, and except a tiny Midge occasionally, refuse the artificial fly. Just at dusk, however, a little sport may be had, the Silver Sedge and Flight's Fancy being good flies. A good freshet is needed. —HERON.

Ouse (Holywell Ferry).—River very bright but plenty of fish, and by the time this is published no doubt there will have been some decent fish taken, as several anglers are intent on taking first dish. Some rain would greatly improve the colour of the water. —A. SCARD.

Plymouth.—On account of the bright weather not much has been done, except early mornings and evenings. Very few peal have been caught, except in the Dart and Tamar. The only chance for taking trout is in the valleys dapping, the water being so clear in the open that they can see you nearly half a mile off. I have heard of one or two nice dishes from the Meavy and upper waters of the Tavy. —WILLIAM HEARDER.

Severn, Vyrnwy, Tanat, and Cain (Llanymynech).—The weather still continues unchanged, and the heat during the day is something more than tropical, which makes angling at the time quite impracticable, but very good sport is had by early risers, and anglers in the cool of the evening have had capital sport. The Severn is now in the best possible condition for the fly, and between Llandrinio Bridge and the town of Shrewsbury some very nice trout have been taken with the fly and other baits. The Vyrnwy is now rather low, but in very fair condition; but anglers still complain of a scarcity of flies on this river, and the May Fly has been very scarce this season. The Tanat is very bright and clear, but some good baskets of trout are taken from it, especially during the evening. The Cain continues in the very best condition, but is rather low in some places. Some very nice trout have been secured from it in the neighbourhood of Llanfechan. The prospects for coarse fishing in the Severn and Vyrnwy are very promising. —VYRNWY.

Sussex Rivers and Chichester Canal.—Rain has fallen in a few districts, but as a rule rivers are much too clear and weeds far too thick for successful sport. Ere these lines reach our readers the long-looked-for season will have commenced. The Adur will fish best during the first few weeks of the opening. Some fine dace and roach may be met with in the Steyning district, and carp in the upper water. A few trout are occasionally met with. The Cuckmere, in the tidal waters, fishes best on a big tide; there are plenty of all kinds of fish, especially large bream and carp. Dace, for the present, will be the principal sport in the tidal waters with fly. A few good chub are often taken, but the roach are not in condition, and feed much better towards the middle of July. The Rother will repay a visit, as the river holds a few trout, carp, roach, gudgeon, perch, and pike. The canal at Chichester is in good order. Heavy bream and carp may be seen, and perch up to 3lb. Tench are on the increase, and pike numerous. Some big bass are in the harbour. Soft crab is the leading bait, and the best spot Pilsea Piles. —GEORGE F. SALTER.

Taff (Llandowror, Carmarthenshire).—Trout anglers have had poor sport during the past week, and only small baskets taken. The salmon net fishermen are making good catches in the estuary. —H.

Teifi (Lampeter, Cardiganshire).—Fishing not very good just now. Water low, and not many trout caught until late in the evening. —H.

Temel (Ludlow).—The Temel in this part is still running clear and a nice level, and in good order for fishing. The weather has been very hot, with wind in the north and north-east, and sport has not been so good as would have been expected. Angling has been useless during the middle of the day, and the best time has been early morning and late in evening. There has been a good few rods out of late, and some good-sized fish have been caught, but no heavy lots. May Fly still continue to come up on patches, but trout do not appear to take them, and the season may be said to have been a poor one as regards sport. The best flies to use are the Blues, Red and Grey Spinners, Orl, Wickham, and Yellow Dun, with May Fly. Bottom fishing with worm has been very successful, and large trout landed. Minnow fishing slow this week. An angler fishing near Ludford with minnow, landed an eel about 3lb. which had gorged three of his baits. In the water below Ludford several very nice trout have been landed with May Fly and Orl, one scaling 1lb. 6oz. On Monday some nice fish were landed on Castle Pound with worm. Near Ashford some good fish have been taken bobbing with Orl and May Fly. The Ony, Corve, Clun, and Ledwyche are all running in good order. In the Corve trout 1lb. and 1½lb. each have been taken with May Fly, Orl, and bottom baits. With a flush of water sport would be good. —S. LUDLOW.

Temel (Tenbury).—In this part the water is running clear and a nice level, and in good order for fishing. The weather has been beautiful and fine and very hot, and angling has been rather slow during the day, and the best

sport has been had during the evening and morning. A fair number of rods have been out, and have used Yellow Dun, Orl, Spinners, Wickham, and May Fly. The latter fly is still coming up, but trout are not very eager after them. White and brown moths have accounted for some good trout. Several good lots of trout have been landed this week, and a good fall of rain is wanted to refresh the river, and then sport would be good. The Rea, Kyre, and Ledwyche are all clear, and nice trout taken in them with fly. —WORCESTER.

Trent (Newark).—The river is low and in good order for bottom fishing. Flounder and eel fishing, with worms, will be found the most profitable pursuit for the next two or three weeks, the flounder beds being clean, the result of the late heavy waters. Roach are numerous, and barbel and chub are showing in immense numbers on all the suitable scouring grounds. These may be taken with the cad bait, but are not yet in condition, so best left alone. Chub fishermen generally obtain plenty of sport during the early portion of the season in the Muskham fishery, most of which, however, are only landed to be returned again to the river. Taken all round, I should say prospects are good. —TRENTSIDER.

Uak (Abergavenny).—Water low and clear; good for the up-worm trout fishing. Salmon fishermen, speaking generally, have enjoyed good sport. Gentlemen visiting the Ondu, near here, have been having good sport with the trout there. Anyone requiring to fish that water can get all information from Mr. Hughes, Queen's Head Inn, Cromroy, near Abergavenny. —ERNELE DELAFIELD.

Wandle (Carshalton, &c.).—A little bit of this river bordering the road, about half a mile from Carshalton, seems to be free, but the angler I saw, though throwing a capital fly, got nothing while I was there. I had a brace and a half (best fish 1lb.) on a Ginger Quill; one of the smaller ones took a Red Quill Goat. This was in private water, but the fish were very shy. The water is not very low, and there was plenty of fly, which was being taken freely by the fish when no gnt was attached. As soon as the artificial came down, ever so lightly, it was detected in a moment as a rule, and my best fish stood a siege of over an hour before he made a mistake. Nothing but dry fly is of any use. —J. P. T.

Witham, &c. (Mid-Lincolnshire).—From the Witham district we hear that some of the fish sought by the coarse anglers are this year in a poor condition, roach especially being very backward. Bream, however, are reported to be available, and so also will be perch and dace. Chub also may be worth seeking in the upper lengths. Many anglers are not sorry that the time has come round again when they can enjoy the sport. Fly fishing is very well, but too precarious in this district to be very attractive. Several special trains are advertised for the week-end, and provision is made for visitors as far as Boston. —LUCI.

Wye and Derwent (Derbyshire).—A great number of anglers have visited these rivers during the past week, and some very good baskets of trout have been taken from both streams. The May Fly has been very numerous on the Wye, but trout have not taken them so freely as on some previous years. It appears as if trout have been feeding on the grub of this fly previous to its hatching out. This remark also applies to the Derwent as well. The catches on the Wye have been fairly satisfactory. A nice lot of fish have been landed from these portions of this river; creels ranging from four to seven and eight brace each have been obtained. A party of gentlemen fishing the Lathkill (private water) landed fifteen brace on one occasion. The Darley Dale club's water has yielded some very nice baskets. Mr. Wilkinson, on two consecutive days, took seven brace each day; also several others a nice lot of trout. Grayling have been rather troublesome, frequently taking the May Fly. The Matlock and Cromford Angling Association's water, Matlock Dale, has yielded some good fish. E. H. Maule, Esq., two and a half brace, on Monday; also Messrs. Cooper, Buxton, Newton, and others have obtained several good fish. The Rev. Richard Arkwright, fishing near Masson Mill, caught a splendid trout, length 18in., girth 1½in., weight 3lb., taken with a small dun; he having no landing net had to wade in to secure it by hand. The Homesford and Whatsteadwell reaches of the Derwent have produced some good trout, mostly by dibbling under the bushes with natural flies. The following will be found useful: Green Drake or May Fly, Yellow Dun, Dotterel Hackle, Ash Dun, Throstle Wing, Cooper's Fancy, Black Gnat, and Sand Fly. —DOTTEREL.

Yore, Swale, Wharfe, Nidd, Dove, &c. (Yorkshire).—The drought continues, and all our rivers are very low and clear, consequently not many anglers have taken advantage of the Stone Fly and May Fly season. I find the Stone Fly gets scarcer every year; but, on the other hand, the Green Drake increases in numbers. Both have been very killing carefully fished early in the morning or of an evening; and James Blades, the water bailiff for the Hawes Angling Association, tells me sport in the waters has been good, nice baskets having been made both in the Yore and Lake Semmerwater. The favourite flies have been the Stone Fly, Green Drake, Blue Partridge, and Knotted Midge. Visitors staying at that well-known anglers' resort, the Crown Inn, have had no cause to complain of lack of sport, particularly if they got up early in the morning. The sun has been very bright in the middle of the day, and the experts have confined themselves to early morning or evening fishing; but so far the above named flies have been more killing than the Bustard. Some nice dishes have been caught at Aysgarth and Redmire, and below Wensley Mr. C. Dixon, of Leyburn, caught a grand dish of trout with the Stone Fly on Monday morning. Very little has been done up the Swale, owing to the bright weather and lack of water; but in the tributaries sport has been very fair. The Green Drake, fished naturally, has been the favourite lure on the

Bedale Beck. There is plenty of fine trout in the Codbeck, but they are bad to get at now it is so very low; but Mr. Frank Newbold caught a brace of beauties the other day weighing 2½lb., and one of 17oz. Mr. Fred Wright has also done well with the maggot. "Up-stream worm" has been the principal lure on the Wharfe, but some good baskets have been made with Stone Fly, and with Stone Midge, Blue Partridge, and Light Watchet in the evenings. Mr. Crow secured several good trout during the day, fishing Cooper's Fancy dry. Several anglers have been tempted to try hinstard fishing, but so far with little result. At Ilkley, Mr. Leech, four good trout, fly, on Friday; Mr. Fenwick secured five handsome trout with up stream worm. I have little news, up to closing this letter, from the Nidd, but the May Fly has been on well on the Crimble; Mr. Mitchell secured eight grand trout with the Spent Gnat and Golden Dnn Midge; and Messrs. O. Dwyer and Wood caught respectively three and two good fish. The Dove has perhaps been in better trim than any other of the Yorkshire streams. Mr. Storr, the well-known angler, writes me that the catches this week have been good. June 8, E. Hill, eighteen; Mr. McCartney, eighteen; D. Hill, four, one weighed 1½lb.; D. Storr, ten; M. Snowden, twenty; J. C. Frank, Esq., June 7 and 8, seventeen brace; a gentleman friend, eight brace; Mr. Widdicombe, six brace; Mr. Robinson Newton, nine brace. At Fawston reservoir, Mr. Richardson, Mr. Chippendale, and others have caught from four to six nice trout each on an evening. The Stone Fly and Green Drake all about off now; the Spent Gnat, Blue Partridge, Cooper's Fancy, Stone Midge, Knotted Midge, Poul Bloa, Bracken Clock, and Brown Owl are good when there is water to fish in. Until rain falls the outlook for the bottom fishermen is very moderate, and the maggot is the best bait they can open the season with for roach, dace, chub, etc.—JOHN E. MILLER, Northern Anglers' Depot, 19, New Station-street, Leeds.

BY TELEGRAPH.—There is no prospect for any rain at present unless it comes with thunder, and our rivers are at the lowest level. There is very little trout fishing in the upper waters, and the prospects for the opening of the coarse fishing season in the lower waters to-morrow are not good for sport; the best bait under present conditions for roach, dace, chub, etc., is the maggot.—J. E. MILLER, Northern Anglers' Depot, 19, New Station-street, Leeds.

SCOTCH REPORTS.

Altnacealgach Hotel Waters (via Lairg, N.B.).—On 3rd inst., Mr. Campbell-Gibson and Mr. Bell, Edinburgh, on Loch Veyatie, sixteen trout, 6½lb. On 5th, the same anglers, on Loch Boarlan, had fifty-two, 16½lb. On 6th, the foregoing, on Loch Veyatie, two and a half dozen, 10lb.; and Mr. Boyd, Edinburgh, on Loch Boarlan, fifty-one, 15½lb.; Dr. Chalmers and Mr. J. Chalmers, Aberdeen, fished Loch Cama, and got eighty, 24lb. On 7th, Mr. Boyd, on Urigill, 115, 28lb.; Messrs. Gibson and Bell, on same loch, 110, 27lb. On 8th, Mr. Boyd, on Loch Cama, one and a half dozen, 18lb.; Messrs. Gibson and Bell, on Loch Veyatie, one and three-quarter dozen, 8lb.; and Messrs. Chalmers, on Loch Urigill, 100, 30lb. On 9th, Rev. Blomfield and Mrs. Blomfield, Devon, on Loch Boarlan, forty-three, 11lb.; Mr. Boyd, on Loch Urigill, 100, 30lb.; Mr. Gibson Bell, on Loch Cama, five dozen, 19lb.; Dr. and Mr. J. Chalmers, on Loch Veyatie, eighty, 23lb.; and Mr. and Mrs. Muir, on Loch Urigill, fifty-two, 15lb. Total for the day, 335, 98lb.—B.

Awe.—Fishing from Taynult Hotel, on the 7th, Dr. Johnston had a salmon of 17lb., and lost another. On the 10th, the same gentleman had a grilse of 8lb. On the 12th, he had a salmon of 18lb., and Dr. Adamson, a grilse, 6lb. Mr. Shaw had two sea trout, 2lb. The sea trout are getting up now, and good sport is expected soon.—D. MACDONALD.

Carron (Easter Ross, Ardgay, N.B.).—River very low, and weather bright. On 7th, Mr. Crawshaw Ralston, Balmagown Arms Hotel, landed a 10-pounder; on 7th, an 8lb. salmon; and on 10th, a clean run grilse, weighing 4lb.—B.

Deveron (Banffshire).—In the river Deveron fish are very scarce. The long continued drought has reduced the stream to summer level, and the undergrowth is appearing above water. A heavy flood is necessary to clear away the debris, which for some time has been accumulating, and open up a free passage for fish. At the entrance to the river the thin volume has not been able to keep the pebbles, which the sea cast up, from obstructing the channel, and the water is very shallow, so much so, indeed, that fish would find difficulty in entering. The sun is very bright during the day, and there is light frost throughout the night. On the Beldorney section of the river, on June 9, Mr. Watson had a nice salmon of 7½lb.; and on the 10th, Mr. Boase had one of 6½lb. Trout fishing is very backward, and very few are getting. The net fishermen on the river are finding the water at different points too low for working the nets, and for the past week operations have been mostly conducted below the Banff Bridge. We understand that some fine trout of 1lb. to 3lb. have been caught, but few salmon and no grilse. On the coast the yield was fair compared with last year, and on Tuesday a large box of 2½cwt. was consigned to the market. Salmon are of splendid quality, and of good weight, the average being about 12lb. The grilse got in the nets on the coast are of an average weight of 4lb.—H. W.

Inchadamph Hotel (Sutherland).—June 5, Mr. Cookson, Loch Awe, forty-nine trout, 16lb.; Rev. Mr. Watson, Skiag, eighteen trout, 6lb.; Messrs. Bird and Morgan, Loch Lettressa, eighteen trout, 6lb. June 6, very stormy; boats not out. June 8, Mr. Cookson, Loch Lettressa, twenty-six trout, 6lb.; Mr. Corstorphine, Loch Awe, twenty-four trout, 8lb.; Mr. Hurst, Skiag, twenty trout, 7lb.; Mr. Underbay, Inver, four, 3lb. (heaviest,

1½lb.). June 9, Mr. Corstorphine, Castle Bay, twenty-four trout, 8lb.; Mr. Hurst, Head Assynt, twenty-four trout, 9lb.; Mr. Underhay, Loch Awe, thirty-two trout, 10lb.; Messrs. Bird and Morgan, Loch Gillaroo, ten trout, 5lb.; Mr. Cookson, Mid-Assynt, thirty-two trout, 10lb.; Mr. Bindloss, Skiag, eighteen trout, 6lb. June 10, Mr. Bindloss, Loch Gillaroo, two, 1½lb.; Mr. Cookson, Loch Awe, thirty-three trout, 11lb.; Mr. Corstorphine, Mid-Assynt, thirty trout, 10lb.; Mr. Hurst, Castle Bay, ten trout, 5lb.; Mr. Oakdene, Head Assynt, five trout, 2½lb.; Messrs. Bird and Morgan, Kyleskin, five sea trout, 12lb.—WILLIAM WALLACE.

Lairg (Altnaharra Hotel).—June 7, Messrs. Upcher and Stedall, on Meaddie, fifty-one trout, 17lb.; Mr. Steel, on Loch Loyal, eight trout, 9lb.; Messrs. Deverall and Kirkbride, on Hallam, thirty trout, 14lb. 8th, Mr. Steel, on Meaddie, fifty-three trout, 13lb.; Mr. and Mrs. Brown, on Meaddie, twelve trout, 4lb.; Messrs. Stedall and Kirkbride, on Hallam, thirty-one trout, 12lb. 9th, Mr. Steel, on Loch Loyal, one feroc, 7lb., thirteen trout, 6lb.; Messrs. Upcher and Deverall, on Meaddie, eighty-one trout, 27lb.; Messrs. Stedall and Kirkbride, on Hallam, twenty-eight trout, 8½lb. 10th, Mr. Kirkbride, on Meaddie, eighteen trout, 6lb.; Mr. and Mrs. Brown, on Meaddie, thirty-one trout, 9lb. 12th, Mr. Steel, on Meaddie, sixty-three trout, 18lb.; Mr. and Mrs. Brown, on Meaddie, twenty-four trout, 8lb. 13th, Mr. and Mrs. Skirving, on Meaddie, thirty trout, 8½lb.; Mr. Steel, on Loyal, nine trout, 9lb.—W. D. M.

Loch Katrine (Stronachlachar Hotel).—On Saturday, Mr. Stirling caught fifteen trout; Mr. Gunter, ten trout; Mr. R. A. Turnbull, fifteen trout; and Major-General Campbell, six trout. On Monday, Mr. R. A. Turnbull caught nine trout; and Mr. Stirling seven trout. On Tuesday, Mr. Turnbull caught fourteen trout; Mr. Gunter, ten trout; Mr. Stirling, twenty trout; and Mr. Robert Henderson, twenty-two trout.—H. M.

Lochleven (Kinross).—A week of unclouded sunshine, with light easterly winds, have not kept fish from rising as might have been expected. They have been coming uncommonly well to the fly, but were hooking very lightly, and it has been a general complaint among anglers of their hooking fish after fish before one could be netted, while it has been the experience of a number who have frequently fished the loch that they never rose so many fish. Baskets, however, have only been fairly well filled. The most successful angling clubs were Perthshire (sixteen rods), who captured eighty trout, 49lb. 10oz.; first prize, Mr. R. Dunsmore, nine trout, 5lb. 8oz. The Bridge of Allan Club killed, with nine rods, forty-six trout, 30lb. 5oz.; first prize, Mr. H. W. H. Dunsmore, ten trout, 8lb. 8oz. Private parties: Major Ussher, twenty-two trout, 11lb.; Mr. J. L. Hamilton, nineteen, 13lb. 8oz.; Mr. Pyfe Moffat and Mr. Goldie, Edinburgh, captured, in two days, forty-four, 29lb.; Mr. Thomson, London, was out most of the week, and had fair creels; Mr. Clarke, London, had catches ranging to twenty-eight, 21lb. 8oz., which was the heaviest brought in by any angler this month. In two days Capt. and Mr. R. L. Garnett, Lancaster, had thirty trout, 17lb. 4oz.; Dr. Robertson, Perth, twenty-seven, 13lb. 8oz.; Mr. Smith, East Linton, fifteen, 13lb.; Mr. J. Donaldson, Glasgow, ten, 10lb.; Mr. Ednie and Mr. Young, Edinburgh, twenty, 13lb. 8oz.; Mr. J. Gordon, Glasgow, twenty-six, 12lb.; Mr. Sheach, Newport, and Mr. Kimmond, Dundee, nineteen, 10lb. 4oz.; Mr. R. P. Wilson, Markinch, and Mr. McLeod, Bengal, twenty, 11lb.; Mr. Young, Aberdeen, thirteen, 10lb. The catches by other anglers averaged about 8lb. per boat.—ROBERT LAING.

Loch Ness (Foyers Hotel), N.B.—Trout fishing on Loch Mhor has been good during the past week, and notwithstanding the bright sunshine and easterly wind, good baskets have been taken. Fishing from Foyers Hotel, on Monday, Mr. Guild, of Inverness, killed nineteen trout, weighing 10lb., and Mr. King, on Loch Ness, got four trout, 3½lb. On Tuesday, Mr. Hawkins, of Downham, Norfolk, got a good basket of exceedingly fine trout, thirty in number, and weighing 17½lb., while Mr. Guild was again successful in getting thirty-one trout, 15½lb., and Capt. Featherstonehaugh, nine trout, 6lb. On Wednesday, Mr. Hawkins got fifteen trout, 9½lb.; Mr. Parsons, fourteen trout, 7lb.; Capt. Featherstonehaugh, six trout, 3lb.; and Mr. Guild, thirty-five trout, 13lb. On Saturday, Mr. Hawkins got seventeen trout, 9½lb., and Mr. Parsons, twelve trout, 6½lb.—S. TILSTON.

Melville Hotel (Sutherlandshire).—On June 6, Mr. Pritchard had three trout, 3lb.; Mr. Drysdale, thirteen, 7lb.; Mr. W. Randall, sixteen, 7lb.; Mr. C. Randall, two, 4lb.; Mr. Nicholson, seventeen, 8lb. 7th, Mr. W. Randall, eighteen, 7½lb.; Mr. C. Randall, twenty-three, 15lb.; Mr. Nicholson, twenty-seven, 12lb.; Mr. Morrison, twelve, 8lb. 8th, Mr. W. Randall, twenty-eight, 10½lb.; Mr. Lucas, four, 3lb. 9th, Mr. Pritchard, one, 4lb. (loch stocked with Loch Leven trout April, 1894); Mr. W. Randall, twenty-five, 11½lb.; Mr. Lucas, jun., fifteen, 7lb.; Mr. C. Randall, one, 2lb.; Mr. Nicholson, sixteen, 7½lb. 10th, Mr. C. Randall, three, 1½lb.; Mr. W. Randall, thirty-three, 10½lb.; Mr. Pritchard, fifteen, 7½lb.; Mr. Lucas, jun., fifteen, 10½lb. 12th, Mr. W. Randall, sixteen.

Naver (Bettyhill, via Thurso, N.B.).—Both rod and net fishings are being prosecuted with very poor results. On 5th, Col. Fryer, Dalvina Lodge, had two salmon on Beat No. 1; Mr. Gill, Syre Lodge, one of 11lb., on No. 2; and Mr. Smith, Skelpick Lodge, one on No. 4. On 6th, Major Burnell-Milnes, Dalvina Lodge, had two salmon on No. 1; and Mr. Gill, one on No. 3. Mrs. Smith, Skelpick Lodge, caught a salmon on Beat No. 1 on 7th, and another on No. 3 on 9th. On 8th, three gentlemen out on neighbouring lochs from Bettyhill Hotel made a fine basket of trout, ranging up to 4lb. each. On

9th, a gentleman fishing the Naver estuary had a good haul of sea trout. On 10th, a lady and gentleman fishing Loch More made a fine basket of 8lb. brown trout.—B.

North-East of Scotland.—The cry is for rain. Every side stream is becoming a white streak of shingle, and even the main streams are showing too white a margin for wholesome sport. On the upper parts of the Dee sport continues fairly good; on the middle and lower waters again angling is nearly, if not altogether, suspended. The supplies of salmon on the coast continue very light from day to day; grilse ditto. Sea trout, on the other hand, are more plentiful than they have been for the past decade, and are affording good evening and morning sport to estuary fishers and anglers immediately above. The yellow fin are also strongly in evidence this season, but too light in weight and small in size for being freely basketed as yet. On the Lower Invercauld section, Mr. Illingworth creeled a fish of 8lb. and another of 7lb.; while Mr. Ferguson had a magnificent fish of 19lb. and another of 8lb. on the Crathie section. The members of the Court party at Balmoral are having an occasional fish, seldom a day passing without one or two being banked, Mr. Mather, the Right Honourable Viscount Cross, and others being the most successful. On the Cambus O'May water, Mr. Bailey creeled four, of 6lb., 6lb., 8lb., and 10lb. last week, while Mr. Styl had three of average weights. On the Glentana section, Mr. Bunteel had two; Mr. Farrer, six; and Campbell, three, all of average weights, during the last few days. On the Aboyne Hotel water, Dr. Stephenson and others creeled a good few fish ranging from 6lb. to 18lb. The Aberdeen Harbour Board has dropped £514 on the season's sales of salmon up to date, as compared with last year's returns, the deficiency being equal to about 8092lb., and last year was itself one of the poorest on record.

WEDNESDAY NIGHT.—The drought still continues without a break in the cloudless sky, and sport more difficult than ever. A very heavy catch of salmon and grilse was made at the mouth of the Dee on Tuesday morning, more than 200 grilse being got at one tide. This is cheering if a bit of spate came away to let them up, as they are evidently on the coast in force. Capt. Mackay had four fine sea trout at one tide, and six at another, all over 1½lb., two days last week; while other anglers were equally successful—on the Dess waters, two; on Ballogie, three; and on Woodend, three fish. All average weights were got yesterday (Tuesday). Mr. Haslam has had one or two on Carlogie. On a great many reaches angling has been entirely suspended owing to the excessive drought.—G. M.

Overcaig Hotel Waters (via Lairg, N.B.).—On Tuesday, last week, Dr. Nesham, Newcastle-on-Tyne, on Loch Giam, thirty-one trout, 13lb.; and Mr. Dodgson, Keston, Kent, on Fiag Beat, Loch Shin, twenty-two, 10lb. On Wednesday, Dr. Paradox, Newcastle, on Fiag, twenty-one trout, 12lb.; Mr. Dodgson, on Loch Merland, nineteen, 9lb.; Major Dixon, London, on Fiag, nineteen, 12lb.; Rev. Canon Faber, Doncaster, on Top Shin, fourteen, 7½lb.; Rev. Mr. Beard, Glasgow, on Loch Merland (one and a half hours), twenty-three, 10lb.; and Messrs. Cumming and Mitchell, Edinburgh, on Loch Shin (two hours), twenty-three, 12lb. On 8th, baskets ranged up to twenty trout, 9lb. On 9th, Dr. Paradox, Newcastle, on Mid-Shin, twenty-one trout, 14lb., and a feroc of 6lb.; Major and Miss Dixon, on Top Shin, eighteen trout, 6lb., and a feroc of 7lb.; Mr. Dodgson, on Fiag, seventy trout, 22lb.; Rev. Mr. Jackson and Mrs. Jackson, Wakefield, on Merland, twenty, 9lb.; Mr. Mitchell, Australia, fourteen, 8lb.; and Rev. Canon Faber, on Loch Giam, seventeen, 7½lb. On Saturday and also at the beginning of this week sport was equally good, but full details cannot here be given.—B.

South of Scotland.—The weather of the past week has been excessively warm, and to-day (Wednesday) it is almost of tropical intensity. Day fishing under the present conditions is hopeless, and no anglers have been out during the past three or four days. The whole of the rivers in the Border district are down to summer level. I do not remember the waters being so low in the second week in June as they are now, and there is not the slightest indication of a change to rain. Last week-end a few rods were out fishing the clear water worm, and a number of small catches of yellow trout were reported. This lure has been more successful in the early hours of the morning, but many anglers object staying out all night, or rising in the small hours of the morning for the chance of securing a sea trout and a few burn trout. Those who have been out after dark with the night fly report fair sport among trout. The small Bustard Fly is taking best, and some good sea trout were killed with that fly during the week. The trout made a fairly good show in the Solway nets on Thursday night, more especially in the higher parts of the Firth, and some large ones were taken. One lessee had one sea trout of 13½lb. The general run of sea trout, however, are now scaling from 2lb. to 4½lb. One of the Annan haaf net men killed a baker's dozen on Monday morning, weighing from 2lb. to 4lb. each. This is an exceptionally good catch for a tide, but is not equal to what used to be the case twenty-five or thirty years ago. Grilse are not making any show so far, but the grilse in the Solway do not run in any numbers until July. The herling of the Solway rivers are not due yet, and it may be fully a fortnight before we get the first of these trout in the rivers. As a rule the Annan gets the first of the herling run. Referring to my diary, I notice that we did not get the first herling last year until July 11. If the present fine weather holds, we may have them this year by the end of the month. The following notes refer to the sport had during the week on the different rivers. **THE ANNAN.**—Angling has been very poor on this river, and all day fishing has been at a standstill owing to the excessive heat, bright sunshine, and low waters. A few small

baskets of yellow trout have been caught in the middle reaches with small pink worm on Stewart tackle. On Monday night, Mr. Thomas Shortridge-Tweedie killed a splendid sea trout of 4½lb., in the Howes Pool, with fly. Mr. Pasley Dirom's keeper landed several sea trout in the Mount Annan water with the night fly; and a few fair-sized yellow trout have also been caught. Similar sport is reported from the Hoddon Castle water, but few rods are fishing now. A lad took a fine yellow trout in the lower tidal waters with a shrimp bait. The sea trout are to be seen nightly running up the river as soon as dusk comes on. **THE NITH.**—No sport worth reporting is taking place this week on the Nith and its tributaries. The Cluden and Cairn waters are far too low for any sport now. In the Duke of Buccleuch's portion, in Mid-Nithsdale, a few yellow trout and one sea trout was caught. No improvement is expected until after a flood comes. **THE GALLOWAY LOCHS AND RIVERS.**—The pike appear to be increasing in the lower waters of the Ken, where it falls into the loch. Last week upwards of a dozen pike, varying in weight from 2½lb. to 10lb., were killed. Of course, there are many finer ones in Loch Ken, but the pike are only fished for in the slack season. Loch fishing has been fairly good, but the catches would be better with a good south-west breeze on the lochs, and a fall of rain would further improve the catches. A good number of anglers have been out from Lochinvar Hotel on the lochs of the neighbourhood, and some pretty fair trout have been caught. Messrs. Barker and party had moderate sport last week on Lochinvar, and also on Knockman Loch. The above party had six yellow trout one day last week, weighing 8lb. Dr. Murray and Mr. Shipley fished Loch Harrow on Wednesday, and killed fourteen yellow trout. A local rod had a capital catch on Loch Mossroddick. Nothing is being done on the rivers, owing to the low waters and bright sunshine. **AYRSHIRE DISTRICT.**—A number of rods have been out on the Dalmellington Loch Doon since last week. It has been most difficult to secure a basket of trout under the conditions of bright and calm weather. Mr. Baird, a visitor, killed thirty yellow trout on this loch on Friday. Other rods moderate sport. Rain is greatly wanted to improve the waters. All fishing on the streams of Ayrshire is at a standstill this week. **THE SOLWAY DERWENT.**—Among the more successful anglers out on the Cockermouth Derwent mention may be made of the following: Messrs. J. Soulsby, R. V. Cooper, R. F. Brown, and J. Tiffen. Mr. Varty, of Broughton, killed a trout of 4½lb. Mr. Cockton and Mr. J. Plaskett had fairly good sport during the past week on the Derwent and Cocker. Sea trout are beginning to run, and two or three have been got on the "coops." Mr. J. Thompson ("Matty") had a fine yellow trout on Saturday night, which weighed 2½lb., and he had a number of other good fish. Yellow trout fishing is good in this district, but few of the local anglers go out, preferring to wait for the run of sea trout. Good fish are being caught on Crummock and the other lakes. Bassenthwaite is in capital order, as also Wastdale, &c. Rain is very much wanted to improve the angling.—**HEATHER-BELL.**

Tweed, Teviot, and other Border Rivers.—The glorious weather we have been experiencing during the past ten days has caused both Tweed and Teviot to run down to small dimensions. Salmon angling is, of course, nil, but trout anglers, both with fly and worm, are doing fairly well. On the Tweed, Mr. Robt. Robertson, Kelso, had 6lb. of fine trout, one specimen being just on 2lb.; on the same river, Mr. Malcolm had 4lb., both baskets clear water worm fishing. On the Teviot, Mr. Jas. Reid had 4½lb.; Mr. Andrew Thompson, 6lb.; Mr. James Steel, 7lb. (including a trout of 2½lb.). On the Tweed, Mr. James Hogg had baskets of 2½lb., 4lb., and 6½lb. during the week, and to-day, on the Eden, Mr. Arch Steel, jun., had 5lb. of very fine trout, all killed with fly. Mr. Wm. Shiel has had three baskets of trout, weighing from 2½lb. up to 6lb.; Mr. A. Thompson, 9lb.; Mr. G. Stewart, 2½lb., 4½lb., 6b., and 3lb., all on Tweed with worm in the morning. Mr. Charles Farquharson has had some nice takes of trout, varying from 3lb. up to 6lb.; while Mr. G. Thomson has had three baskets of 3lb., 5lb., and 4½lb., all with worm clear water worm fishing. On the Teviot, Mr. James Affleck, Heiton, had 6lb. of trout; Mr. James Mather, 4½lb.; Mr. Thos. Johnston, 5lb.; and Mr. George Grey, 2½lb. A great many of very heavy grayling have also been killed during the past week by various anglers, some of the fish running up to from 1lb. to 1½lb., while one was got on Teviot which scaled 2lb. The pike season is now on again here, and several captures have been made. Mr. Frank Stephani, on Monday, had half a dozen of these fish, which weighed in all 40lb.; Mr. R. Affleck, tailor and clothier, Heiton, two pike, 6lb. and 7lb.; Mr. R. Hogarth, Heiton Mill, two pike, of 6lb. and 4lb.; Mr. James Gilson, Earlston, three fish, of 6lb., 4lb., and 8lb.; all killed on Teviot but Mr. Stephani's, which were got partly on Tweed and partly on Teviot, but all in one day. Evening fishing for trout is now in full swing, and fairly good baskets are being made ranging from 2½lb. up to 4lb. Competitions are still going on in the Border district, and on Wednesday last the thirty-second annual competition of the Berwick Anglers' Club took place on the Whitadder, which was not in good order for fishing. The gold medal was won by Mr. J. M. Watson, Maryold, for heaviest basket, which weighed 3lb. 9oz., and contained fourteen fish. The next best basket was awarded to Mr. R. Weddell, Berwick, with 3lb. The twenty-third competition of the Allanton Club took place on June 8 in splendid weather, and waters in grand trim. Ten members weighed-in. Results: Challenge bowl, Mr. James Calder, 15lb. 3oz.; club rod, Mr. A. Martin Calder, 12lb. 1oz.; third, Mr. W. A. Robson, 10lb. 15oz.; 4th (heaviest dozen), Mr. James Calder, 3lb. 5oz. The net salmon fishing in the Tweed has some-

what improved during the week, there being a slight improvement both in the takes of trout and salmon, while one or two more grilse are being got. The catches, however, on the whole are poor. Prices are: Salmon, 2s. 1d.; trout, 1s. 3d. to 2s. per lb.—**MAXWHEEL.**

IRISH REPORTS.

Ballina (Imperial and Royal Hotels Private Waters, and Gortnorabbey Hotel, Lough Conn).—The fishing for the past week has been very good on the loch. Mr. Solomon killed six salmon in the week, the largest weighing 9lb. Mr. King, in four days, killed seven salmon, the largest weighing 8lb. and the smallest 5lb., and lost three ready for the net. Mr. J. Willis Quigley killed two salmon in the week, and made several good baskets of trout, the largest weighing 8lb. Mr. Little also had some good baskets, the largest weighing 3lb. If the weather turns favourable for fishing—as at present it is too bright—we will have good sport. I may also add that most of the above salmon were killed on the minnow.—**THE MANAGER.**

Ballina (Private Waters of the Moy Hotel).—Weather getting cloudy; water in splendid order; all the pools of the private water well stocked with fish; nets taking up to seventy per day. One nice fish got on the fly on 11th inst. (7lb.), the only rod being out. Mr. Kempsey and friends, stopping at Runagry Lodge, made some very nice baskets of trout, scaling 18lb. and 20lb., for a few hours per day, largest weighing 6b.—**JOHN DEVERS.**

Bann.—There has not been much done on this river for the past week as the weather has been all against the anglers—east wind, with a cloudless sky all day and frost at night—the latter preventing the trout from rising after sunset to the few sedges that come on the water. There is a run of grilse so far up as Kilrea, three of which have been landed. Mr. W. H. Wilson took, on the Movanager reach, one salmon, 10lb.; and Mr. H. Lyle, two grilse, and one salmon, 15lb. Mr. Walter H. Wilson is back on the Bann, after having been on the Boyne for the month of May. He landed on Monday last a fish of 10lb., on the Judge, under Movanager Weir. He had grand sport on the Blackcastle reach, which he rented from Sir T. Ley for a month. He landed twenty-five salmon, the largest scaled 30lb. Only one of these fish was landed on the local patterns of flies, which Sir Thomas provided for him, the Bann patterns having taken the others. He was flooded off the river for three days, after which the fish would look at no fly but an improved Dunkeld.—**DANIEL O'FEE.**

Bann (Toomebridge, Co. Antrim).—On these sections evening fishing is now in full swing, and some good takes of trout were made since last report. Major S. A. M. Bruce, J.P., killed several nice fish up to 1½lb.; Capt. Ludlow, D.A.A.G., Belfast, had a nice dish on Saturday morning before sunrise, including a brace 1lb. and 2lb. respectively—dry fly fishing. Several grilse were also taken this week, heaviest 5½lb. At Kilrea, Mr. Davies, Glenmore, Belfast, had some success trouting, his takes including a fine 2½lb. fish. I understand that the lease of the Kilrea-Movanager reach, held by the Bann Angling Club, expires in September, the close of the season. Nothing definitely has yet been settled as to the future of that piece of water.—**J. A. B.**

Belfast.—There is scarcely anything piscatorial to report from here. Trouting is practically over on the Dams till rain falls, whilst the Clady, Crossgar, and Six Mile water are mere threads.—**J. A. B.**

Cork Rivers.—Sport has been fair at trout on the principal waters since last, but slack, generally speaking, at salmon. The weather, however, has been very sultry and bright, and it was quite useless, of course, to fish during the heat of the day. After 8 p.m. the best sport was obtained.—**T. J. D.**

Corrib (Galway).—The long drought is telling on sport on this river, though a decent number of peal and an odd springer were killed lately. Amongst those out were Capt. Bowman, Mr. Nathaniel Cohen, Mr. W. Townsend, Lieut.-General Dashwood, Capt. Curzon, Sir W. R. Williams, Bart., Col. Parker, and Commander Law, R.N., all of whom killed from a couple of fish to half a dozen per day. During the past month over 150 peal were killed. Not much is being done on Lough Corrib.—**J. A. B.**

East Tyrone Rivers.—Owing to the almost tropical heat evening fishing alone is permissible on these waters. On the Blackwater about Benburb a few good trout were killed recently and one or two grilse. On the Torrent tributary, Tuesday evening, a local angler killed five trout; and, before the water lowered, Benson and Mr. J. M. Hamilton had some successes. The Ballinderry is running down fast, and except during the evening and morning rise nothing was done in the past fortnight. Mr. Frederick Grier on his Tullylagan preserves, Mr. Charles Gausson on Loughry preserves, and Mr. Samuel Magree are credited with good sport. Coarse fishing on Roan Lake this week was productive of good bags of perch and pike.—**J. A. B.**

Brne (Ballyshanvon and Belleek).—The following are the particulars: Sir H. B. Robertson took one grilse of 6lb. on 8th inst., and two salmon, of 8lb. and 15lb., on

9th and 10th inst.; Major-General Dickins took one salmon of 7lb. on 13th inst., and Dr. E. Aiken took one grilse of 5lb. on same day; Mr. John Thomson took another grilse of 5lb. on 8th inst. Mr. W. Johnston and others took a few trout in the late evenings during the past week—largest, 4lb. weight. Rain is very much needed before an improvement can take place in trout or salmon fishing.—**M. ROGAN AND SONS.**

Kerry Rivers.—Sport has been dull on even the best of the Kerry rivers, owing to the abnormally hot weather for the season. On the Feale, Gale, Smerlagb, and Cashen, in North Kerry, fair sport was had at sea and brown trout in the late evenings; but on the Inney, Curran, Cumberagh, and Reenroe, in the South Kerry district, very little was done, though a few salmon were had on the Cara, Laune, and Flesk on a couple of days.—**T. J. D.**

Lee (co. Cork).—Salmon fishing on this river is practically at a standstill until we get some rain. The river is dead low, and the weather so bright, that only those who are up in the morning early have any chance. A large quantity of very fine grilse and salmon have congregated at the waterworks (in the tidal part of river), waiting for a rise of water to take them to the upper reaches. Mr. S. Haynes, one, 10lb.; Mr. J. Caulfield, one grilse, 4lb.—**W. HAYNES AND SON.**

Lough Conn (Cloghans).—Mr. White, one salmon and some handsome trout; Dr. Collins, three salmon in one day; Mr. Tracy, three salmon in two days, together with a dozen of trout, averaging 1lb.; Mrs. Tracy, two salmon and some handsome trout, weighing 2½lb.; Mr. Tickle, in seven days, eight salmon, with some nice baskets of trout; Mr. Conolly, fifty trout in ten days, from 3lb. to 4lb.; Mr. Rouslan, seventy trout, averaging 1½lb. Good prospects of sport for coming week.—**TOM CLARKE.**

Lough Curran (Waterville, co. Kerry).—Sport has been slack in all departments, owing to the tropical weather of the past week. In the late evenings a few sea trout have been had, and at those times the brown trout rose freely enough on many of the fishing grounds along the southern shores. Salmon and sea trout are still numerous in the tidal waters, awaiting a fresh before ascending. Peal are coming in in good numbers, but they do not show the least inclination to rise to flies.—**T. J. D.**

Lough Mask, Corrib, and Lough Na Fough.—The following anglers are fishing from Mount Gable Hotel, Clonbur: Major and Mrs. Ferguson, Mr. and Mrs. Smith, Mr. and Mrs. Booth, Dr. Grey, Capt. Watkins, Lieut. Bartholomew, also Messrs. Grey, Cock, and Smith. Weather warm and bright; fishing not so good as last report, still fair baskets are creelred, Mr. Smith getting the largest trout, a gillaroo, 4lb. (sent off to Williams', Dublin, to be set up), and a pike, 18lb.—**J. A. J.**

Lough Melvin.—Fishing was almost hopeless during the past week for either salmon or trout owing to the very bright weather. Still, the following fish were taken trolling: Mr. J. Hughes took a trout (*Salmo ferax*) of 4lb. on 8th inst.; Mr. K. Moloney took one grilse of 6½lb. on 9th inst.; Mr. A. Davis took another grilse of 5½lb. on 10th inst.; Mr. McMullen took a trout (*Salmo ferax*), 5lb., on 12th inst. Trouting was again poor during the day since last report, but some decent baskets of gillaroo and brown trout were taken in the evenings. The May Fly is now practically over, and would have been a good season with it, as some good fish were taken, but the weather unfortunately was most unfavourable all the time.—**M. ROGAN AND SONS.**

Lough Melvin (Lower Reaches, Kinlough End).—Owing to the prevailing drought fly angling was not a success. During the past week some nice catches were had trolling. Fair baskets were made by fly anglers in the early mornings and late evenings. Rain is badly needed to improve angling.—**P. GALLAGHER.**

Mountain Lakes (Waterville, co. Kerry).—Sport has been good at brown trout in the late evenings on the above waters, the best baskets being had on Lough Cumberavanig, Drenane, and Coppal. On Filealougha, on Monday, Mr. Smyrne caught three dozen brown trout, heaviest, 2lb.; average weight, 4lb.—**T. J. D.**

Mourne (Newtonstewart, co. Tyrone).—The water is running low but in fair order for evening upstream fishing. Up to date anglers from England who patronised this river have been well satisfied with the sport it affords. Tom McColgan had several nice bags of trout, including a fish of over 4lb.; and Mr. Jones had another of 3lb. The first flood will bring up salmon from the Foyle. There is plenty of salmon in the tideway, and I hear that those taken in the nets are exceptionally large. Unfortunately there is no imminent change in the weather.—**J. A. B.**

Moy (Coghlan's Hotel Waters, Foxford).—Fishing here the last week, Major Watkins, three salmon, 7lb., 6lb., 6½lb.; Col. Ewing, one 6lb. Some of the local fishers got a good many trout. The weather at present is against angling, it is so bright, and the days so hot. Very good prospect of sport if there is a change, as there is a lot of fresh fish in the pools.—**ANGLER.**

Moy, Loughs Conn and Cullen (Ballina, co. Mayo).—North-east wind and bright sunshine has made angling dull here. Mr. Pitts, two grilse, 7½lb.; Mr. C. Foster, three, 14lb.; Mr. Slaven, one salmon, 13lb. Trout fishing on the lough very poor. Quite a number of anglers trolling on the lough, few only being rewarded by an odd grilse.—**PAT HEARNES.**

Shannon (Castleconnell).—On Dooness, Mr. Hodges killed one peal, 4lb., on 12th; and one peal, 5lb., on 13th. On Prospect, Mr. A. T. Cobbold killed, 7th, one salmon, 17½lb.; 8th, two peal, 5lb., 6lb.; 9th, two peal, 5lb., 7½lb.; 12th, one peal, 6lb.; 13th, one peal, 6lb. On Newgard, Mr. Astley Creswick killed, 7th, one peal, 5½lb.; 9th, one peal, 5lb.; 10th, one salmon, 8lb.; 12th, six peal, 5lb., 5lb., 5lb., 6lb., 6lb., 7lb.; 13th,

SECRET SOCIETIES, both of a harmless and of a harmful kind, are more numerous in this country than most people believe. Some are merely foolish, and may be safely left alone, but others are a real danger to the community. The members of these latter societies are mostly foreigners, outlaws from their own land, the riff-raff of the Continent. Now, if we are to enjoy a healthy national life, these foreign impurities must be cleared out of our social system. It stands to reason that this is so, and what is true of the nation is true of the individual. Half the illness to which man is subject is due to the foreign impurities in the blood; by the use of Holloway's Pills these can be cleared away and health restored with certainty, safety, and rapidity.

two peal, 5lb., 5lb. On Hermitage, Lord Massy got one peal, 5lb., on 12th. On Woodlands, Mr. G. W. Greenhill killed one peal, 7lb., on 13th. On the Castle Fishery, Major A. D. Bulpitt killed one peal, 4lb., on 13th. We regret having to report that a large number of trout were found on Tuesday dead in the river, and we await the result of a post-mortem examination as to the cause of such a disaster.—J. ENRIGHT AND SON.

Upper Laks (Waterville, co. Kerry).—Sport is still confined to brown trout, as the outlets are too low to induce the sea trout to come up from the lower waters.—T. J. D.

Waterville River.—Sport has been backward, though salmon, peal, and sea trout are very numerous in the lower or preserved portion. The weather, however, continues quite tropical, and the only chances of sport are had in the late evenings. On Saturday Col.-Surgeon Barry had a salmon of 6lb. from the bridge.—T. J. D.

Angling Fixtures.

June 18.

Bermondsey Brothers: Match at Pulborough.
Cambridge Heath Brothers: Onting to Dagenham.
Clapham Junction: Onting to Amberley.
Clapham Strollers: Match at Pulborough.
Corvival: Roving match.
Dibdin: Onting.
Earlsfield: Onting.
Globe: Onting to Amberley.
Izaak Walton: Prize outting.
Lady of the Lake: Match at Slough.
Lincoln: Onting to Pulborough.
Ormonde: Onting to Pulborough.
South Bermondsey: Competition at Pulborough.
Stratford: Match at Hatfield Peverel.
West Ham Brothers: Match at Hatfield Peverel.
Wimbledon Piscatorialists: Onting.
Woolwich: Onting to Yalding.
Ye Olde Clapham Rovers: Onting to Pulborough.

June 21.

Brompton: Annual dinner.
Izaak Walton: Prize outting.

June 22.

Albion Brothers: Snapper.
Jubilee: Match at Welsh Harp.

June 24.

Lychnobite: Benefit concert.

June 25.

Albion Brothers: Brake outting.
" 25.—Albion United: Pegged-down match.
" 25.—Amicable Waltonians: Onting to Waterbury.
" 25.—Battersea Friendly: Match at Amberley.
" 25.—Convivial: Match at Bockhurst Hill.
" 25.—Duke of Norfolk: Onting to Uxbridge.
" 25.—Elgin: Brake outting.
" 25.—Harcourt: Match at Langley.
" 25.—Ormonde: Onting and dinner to Hastings.
" 25.—Phoenix: Brake outting.
" 25.—Sundial: Brake outting.
" 27.—Grange: Dinner at Waterbury.
" 28.—Walthamstow Brothers: Annual dinner.
July 2.—Convivial: Onting to Byfleet.
" 9.—Clerkenwell and District: Competition at Amberley.
" 9.—Cobden: Match.
" 15.—Lychnobite: Onting to Hertford.

Reports from Clubs

We beg to remind Secretaries that their Reports must reach us not later than **SIX o'clock on Thursday Evening.** Address "Editor, FISHING GAZETTE, St. Dunstan's House, Fetter-Lane, London," marked "CLUB REPORT" outside envelope.

Anglers' Association.—The monthly delegate meeting will take place on Monday evening next, June 19, at 8.30. Will secretaries of societies please inform their delegates that Rule 8 will be strictly enforced?—R. GURNEY.

Anglers' Association (WESTERN DISTRICT) Visiting List.—Anglers please take note that the next return visit will take place on Thursday, June 29, at the Sundial Angling Society, held at Plough and Harrow, King-street, Hammersmith.—J. HARRIS.

Anglers' Benevolent Society.—Since my last report I beg to acknowledge with thanks the receipt of £1, Good Intent, £2 7s., Hounslow Otters Angling Societies' donation boxes. At the last meeting two applications were entertained, and £12 was granted. The next committee meeting will take place on Friday, June 23, at 8.30.—R. GURNEY.

Albion Brothers' Angling Society. The Frampton Arms, Well-street, Hackney.—On June 11 we had a good muster of members. Being distribution night, very little business was done; we made another new member. On June 22 we have our supper, our secretary having consented to take the chair, with Mr. A. Carey in the vice; supper on table at 8.30. All financial members are eligible to come to our supper, and we hope to see every member present.—C. J. KING.

Allison United Brothers' Angling Society, Duke of Sussex, Uxbridge-street, Notting Hill Gate, W.—We had a crowded meeting on June 14, and we added six new members and several prizes. The A.A. privileges were taken by most members, and also A.B. tickets. Our match (pegged down) takes place on June 25, Veitch's

Pound, meadow side, Langley. I hope nothing will clash with this arrangement; as we have given notice previously in the *Fishing Gazette*, &c.; and I will thank other than members if they will not occupy any of our swims where the pegs are put. Messrs. E. Jackson and G. Prouten are the stewards to see where the pegs are most suitable to be placed. Every member to be present on June 21, quarter night, and to clear up, and have prizes ready.—BEN ABRAHAMS.

Alma Angling Society. Coach and Horses, Portsmouth-place, Lincoln's Inn Fields.—On June 13 (Mr. Drew in the chair) a deal of business was carried through. I hope to see a good muster of members at Pulborough on the 18th, as I have on hand some Central Competition tickets.—J. CHAMBERS.

Amicable Brothers' Angling Society, Bald-faced Stag, Worship-street, Finsbury.—Our annual distribution of prizes took place on June 14, when a good muster of members were present. Messrs. Harding, Moir, Calvert, Long, and Reeves were the principal winners. We have a large amount of prizes promised for next season; and a very enjoyable evening was spent.—S. HAYNES.

Amicable Excelsior Angling Society, Prince Arthur, Arthur-street, Battersea.—I wish to inform members and friends that, on account of the illness of our secretary, our distribution of prizes will not take place until July 12, when I hope all those that have promised prizes will let me have them as soon as possible. Last Wednesday was the first meeting we have had for a long time, when we made a new member.—J. R.

Amicable Waltonian Angling Society, The Fox and French Horn, Clerkenwell Green.—At the weekly meeting of the above, on June 14, some important business was transacted, and final arrangements made for the match at Waterbury on June 25. Most of the members will be at Pulborough on the 18th, in the Central Competition.—G. MERRY.

Anchor and Hope Angling Society, Duke of Kent, Old Kent-road, S.E.—We had a large muster of members on Wednesday last, when the privilege tickets were given out. Will all members who have not already done so attend and clear the books, and also take up privilege tickets. On Tuesday, Capt. H. G. Nichols weighed in a nice trout of 2lb.—F. W. MARTIN.

Anglers' Pride Angling Society, Duke of Suffolk, Brandon-street, Walworth.—We held our meeting on Wednesday last, and had a fair attendance of members, old and new ones together. We also have some new members to make on Wednesday next, and hope all members will rally up to this society.—A. A. C.

Battersea Friendly Angling Society, Queen's Hotel, Queen's-road, Battersea, S.W.—Members are reminded of first match at Amberley on the 25th inst. Go down on the morning by 8.27 (Clapham Junction); return by 7.14 (Amberley). Also note that the altered rules now come into operation, notably the increased standard. Several new members proposed at last meeting, and more are welcome.—A. JENKINS.

Battersea Piscatorialists, Lord Ranelagh, Verona-street, Battersea.—Since my last report we have made another new member, Mr. McEachan, and have still room for more. I am pleased to announce that the three prizes outstanding on distribution night have been paid in and given to the winners. Will members kindly attend next Wednesday for important business?—T. TRINGHAM.

Bermondsey Brothers' Angling Society, Woolpack, Bermondsey-street, S.E.—The members of the above will fish a competition for the June series of prizes at Pulborough on June 18, under the same conditions as the Central Association competition.—ALF. COHN.

Blackfriars Angling Society, The Imperial, Southwark-street, S.E.—Our meeting was well patronised on Wednesday evening, several new members being elected, and several more for election. Shall be pleased to see all members at cup competition on June 18; sorry to say we have lost our old host Bindoff for a time.—WHEELHOUSE.

Brunswick Brothers' Angling Society, Cherry Tree, Brunswick-road, Bromley-by-Bow, E.—We had a very well-attended meeting on Tuesday last for the benefit of "Old Uncle" (G. Foster), and I thank all friends who so kindly assisted him on this occasion; we also enrolled three new members during the evening.—F. RANDALL.

Brompton Angling Society, Doyley Arms, Marlborough-road, Chelsea, S.W.—It is expected that the annual dinner on the 21st will prove a great success. We have a splendid list of artists who have promised to come. The chair will be taken by John H. Richardson, Esq., faced by W. H. Elsmore.—C. ASHBY.

Brothers Well Met Angling Society, King Edward VI., King Edward-street, Liverpool-road, N.—On June 6 we had our thirty-fifth annual distribution of prizes won during last season. Upwards of forty-four were distributed among the successful members. Among them were a case of champagne, given by Mr. Burr, of Theale; our old friend, T. Goodchild, of the Florence, Islington, a case of whisky; Mr. Mills, a splendid jack rod; Mr. Gardner, a very pretty toilet set. A. Field was top weight of roach with 15lb. Our two gold medals for Sunday and Wednesdays were won by H. C. Canton and F. Lewis. Total weight of fish weighed-in during the season was 703lb. 4oz.—HY. TAME.

Cambridge Heavn Brothers' Angling Society, The Good Intent, Mowlem-street, Bishop's-road, Cambridge Heath.—On June 11 Mr. Elsworth, sen., weighed in a trout from the Lea; weight, 4lb. Our first prize outting this season takes place at Dagenham Lake on the 18th, for ten prizes. Members can go down on Saturday night, 17th, by signing the book at clubhouse after 2 p.m. All to meet at The Chequers at 2.30 a.m., to sign stewards' book. Start fishing at daybreak; cease at 5 p.m.; show fish at The Chequers not later than 6 p.m. Stewards, H. Deverill and C. Wicks. The annual general meeting

was held on the 13th, when fifty members were present. Letters were read from members unable to attend. Mr. B. Williams was unanimously re-elected treasurer for the next twelve months, and it was decided to add another officer to our list, viz., assistant-secretary. Mr. W. Yonog was elected for the office, and the secretary remains P. Loft. It was also carried that members can weigh-in on Bank Holidays, and the best resolution was that no member who has not paid for his A.B.S. membership ticket by June 27 shall be allowed to weigh-in fish, which was unanimously carried. Another working member was proposed (Mr. Stead).—P. E. LOFT.

Camden Angling Society, The Locomotive, Jamez-street, High-street, Camden Town, N.W.—The fourteenth annual supper of this club took place on Wednesday last, Mr. W. Andrews in the chair, faced by Mr. Fuller in the vice. The principal winners were Messrs. White, Taylor, Cook, Franks, Fuller, Fowler, Marshall, W. and J. Andrews, &c. The secretary announced that during the season 872 of fish had been in: Mr. White, with top weight of 276lb. 10oz., first; Mr. Cook, with 156lb., second; and Mr. Fuller, 79lb., third. The balance, after paying all expenses, shows that we have nearly £11 to begin the season with. The evening was then devoted to harmony, terminating with a hearty vote of thanks to our worthy host and hostess for the able manner in which supper was served.—R. M.

Clapham Junction Angling Society, The Clarence, Winstanley-road, Clapham Junction, S.W.—Our first day's outting will take place on June 18, at Amberley; tow-path only; boundary, from Park gate to Timberley Bridge. Train from Clapham Junction 8.27; return from Amberley 7.14. We have nominated another new member, Mr. Walter Hines.—G. T. JAMESON.

Clapham Strollers' Angling Society, Alexandra Hotel, Clapham Common, S.W.—On June 18 we fish our first match of the season for three prizes (open roving) at Pulborough; one rod only, and punts barred. Members will also compete in the Central Competition in aid of Jubilee Nurses' Fund. A brake will start from the clubhouse at 6.0 a.m., to enable members to catch early train from London Bridge. Mr. E. C. Stanley was unanimously elected chairman for ensuing season, and sixteen new members have been enrolled during the past three weeks.—S. VIOLET.

Clerkenwell and District United Visiting List.—A visit of the above was paid to the Great Northern Brothers on Monday evening, Mr. C. Watling in the chair. A good entertainment was provided, and fifteen societies sent representatives, viz., Great Northern Brothers, Lincoln, Crown and Buckland, Eastonian, Amicable Waltonians, Bloomsbury Brothers, Alma, North London, Camden, Phoenix, Royal George, Dibdin, Original Clerkenwell, Collingwood, Walton, and Cotton. The next visit will be to the Lincoln A.S. Date later. Several societies have not sent in returns for programmes. P.O.'s for them to be sent to me at the Empress, St. John-street-road, at an early date, as the competition will take place at Amberley, on July 9.—F. CASTELL.

Clissold Angling Society. The Cricketers, Northwold-road, Stoke Newington, N.—On Tuesday had a good muster, and enrolled several more members. I hope to see a good show on June 18. Members please note date of concert.—T. FAULKNER.

Cobden Angling Society, Kensal-road, W.—I hope members will attend on Tuesday next, as the conditions and place for the first match of the season will have to be made. The match will take place on July 9.—T. TWYMAN.

Collingwood Angling Society, Lord Nelson, Nelson-square, Blackfriars-road, S.E.—We made a new working member, Mr. Wm. White. Mr. Jarrett resigned chairmanship. The club has made a new prize of £1 1s., for most weighs-in. All fish to be in. over Thames measure, except Crucian carp, which will be club measure, which has been made an inch longer than before. We received further prizes from Mr. Deplige, £1 1s.; Mr. J. Donaldson, Alma A.S., a prize; Mr. G. F. Montgomery, 10s. 6d.; Mr. Virgo, a prize. All members who want competition tickets apply to Mr. Poole.—W. STAFFORD AND F. SORGE.

Convivial Angling Society, City of London, Sidney-street, City-road, N.—On June 14 a good muster of members. Dinner decided for June 25, at the Stag Hotel, Buckhurst Hill. Members kindly note: Outting arranged for July 2, to Byfleet, four prizes; also kindly note, a prize for gross weight on June 18; anywhere.—W. H. CARPENTER.

Cosy Angling Society, The Pine Apple, Wilfred-street, Buckingham Gate, S.W.—On June 14 several important items were arranged for the coming season, including election of officers; Messrs. H. Sheekey and E. Starr were elected working members. Will secretaries please note change of club address?—J. WHITE.

Crown and Buckland Piscatorial Society, Middleser Arms, 35, Clerkenwell-green, E.C.—Our annual dinner was a success, a most enjoyable day being spent by the forty members and friends who made the journey by road to Chertsey. We had a good attendance on the 4th, when Messrs. Cleaver and Pleasance were elected hon. members, and Mr. C. Glover, jnn., proposed as a working member, and will come on Wednesday next for election. A special general meeting will take place on Wednesday next at 9.30. I hope all members will do their best to be present. The committee will meet at 8.30, to arrange prize list and other business.—G. H. FRANKLIN.

Dalston Angling Society, Brownlow Arms, Brownlow-street, Dalston.—On June 13 there was a very fair attendance, when it was decided that the first outting should take place on June 25. Full particulars at the clubhouse. Members please note that the new privileges are ready.—S. MALBY.

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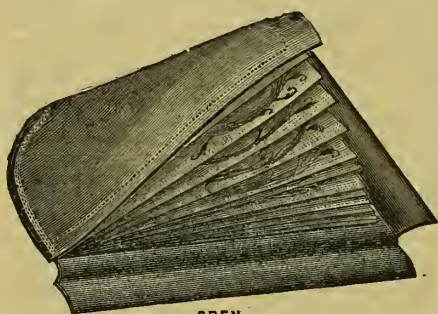
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CATALOGUES GRATIS.

Dibdin Trout Angling Society, St. Martin's Tavern, Pratt-street, N.W.—Wednesday's meeting, very good muster. Privilege tickets to hand. I am sorry to say I forgot one of our members when sending for same, but by the time this is in print it will be rectified. Our outing on June 18 is to Slough, for three prizes; members to meet at Paddington to catch 9 o'clock train. Trusting to have a better report next week, with good prospects of sport, but with the elements as at present it will be rough, at least, so thinks—JOHNNY EDWARDS.

Drayton Park Piscatorials, Stanley Arms, Landseer-road, Holloway-road, N.—Since last report nothing very special to report. A few small trout have been taken from the Thames and Lea by two members. On the 15th inst. committee met and decided that, on the expiration of the six months' notice they have given, we move to the Half Moon Hotel, Holloway-road, N., where all communications should, after this date, be addressed.—GREG.

Duke of Norfolk Angling Society, The Apollo, All Saints'-road, Westbourne Park.—Our first match takes place on June 25 at Uxbridge; usual conditions.—W. JENKINS.

Earlsfield Angling Society, Half-way House, Earlsfield, S.W.—We had a strong muster of members at our weekly meeting, with the president (Mr. T. Gathercole) in the chair. Our outing, on June 18, takes place at Hampton Court (bank, punt, or boat), to fish for Mr. Fulton's rod and three other prizes; all fish to weigh. Train leaves Clapham Junction at 8.25 a.m., returning from Hampton Court at 8.50 p.m.—A. T.

Globe Angling Society, Earl Russell, Isledon-road, N.—Our first outing will take place at Amberley on the 18th inst., when we compete for five prizes. A brake will start from the clubhouse for London Bridge at 5.45. We had two cases of roach from Messrs. Gitsen on Monday last, one case containing four fish weighing 8lb. 2oz. All members competing for above prizes must start from London on the morning.—W. LAWRENCE.

Golden Barbel Angling Society, Sir Isaac Newton, Union-street, Midsex Hospital.—A fairly good muster on Tuesday last. Many more prizes given. The list we have sent to the printers. Members requiring a prize list please come up. We start weighing-in on June 18. Any friends who would like to see the fish are heartily invited on our meeting nights.—H. W. ELLINS.

Grange Angling Society, The Earl of Derby, Grange-road, S.E.—At the last fortnightly meeting the annual outing and dinner was fixed to take place at Watlington, on Tuesday, the 27th inst. Full particulars will be announced by circular. The five new members who were nominated by Mr. Wm. Rich, jun., at the previous meeting were balloted for and unanimously elected. A vote of thanks was passed for Mr. W. J. Wade for presiding, and the proceedings terminated.—W. K.

Great Northern Brothers' Angling Society, Robin Hood, Southampton-street, Pentonville.—The Clerkenwell and District Visit paid to the above society on the 12th inst. was well attended. Chairman, C. Watling. The following talented friends contributed to the harmony: Messrs. Colman, T. Hilton, Sam and Tom Fuller, Will Brighton, H. Hinchings, sen. and jun., and C. Watling. Fifteen clubs responded. Next visit to the Lincoln A.S.—J. A. FITCH.

Harcourt Angling Society, Harcourt Arms, Harcourt-street, Marylebone.—We had our first meeting on Thursday last after the change, when we started the business by making two new members, and there are two more to be proposed. After paying all expenses of the past season, snapper included, we have a very substantial balance in hand to commence the new season with. We fish a match at Langley on June 25 for several valuable prizes, when I hope to see all members turn up.—A. E. PAYNE.

Highbury Angling Society, Globe Hotel, Upper Tooting-road, Holloway, N.—Mr. J. B. Close has had a nice trout of 2lb. 8oz. on the fly from the Kennet Fishery. Will members absent last Wednesday attend in force next week, as several important matters are down for discussion.—E. W.

Islington Brothers' Angling Society, Myddleton Arms, Canonbury-road.—We met on Tuesday last, when the minutes of the last meeting were read and confirmed. Mr. J. Howard in the chair, when Mr. Boulton was elected a member. We have room for a few more members, working or honorary. The privilege tickets are ready.—J. H. HERBERT.

Izaak Walton Angling Society, Old King John's-road, Mansfield-street, Kingsland-road.—We compete for a series of special prizes on the Stort on June 18, all competitors to alight at Harlow station. There are also a series to be fished for on Wednesday next, June 21, same place and same conditions.—H. B.

Jubilee Angling Society, Prince Arthur, Golborne-road, North Kensington.—Since my last report we have had very good meetings and also enrolled four new working members. We have arranged to fish our first match of the season at the Welsh Harp, on June 22, for season ticket and four unconditional prizes; from fence to fence around the head; one rod only; all fish to weigh.—G. BENCE.

Lady of the Lake Angling Society, Swakeley Hotel, Shepherd's Bush, W.—A club competition for two prizes will take place on June 18; Slough Canal; two rods; train 9.3 a.m. from Westbourne-park.—W. J. J.

Liverpool Angling Association, Bee Hive, Queen-square.—Glorious weather has prevailed during the last few weeks, and anglers have enjoyed their recreation under the pleasantest of surroundings. The next cry will be no water. Fishing in the Dee, Mr. R. Wilson saw a large pike basking. He had no regular bait or tackle, but put a minnow on his ordinary hook, and allowed it to swim past where the fish lay basking. Twice the bait was taken no notice of, but the third time Mr. Pike snapped it up,

and a most exciting struggle of perhaps ten minutes' duration took place, only to be terminated, as was natural, by the fish getting away. Thank goodness that plague of an angler's existence, close time, expires to-morrow (Thursday) night. I notice that in Parliament last week, Mr. Ritchie introduced a Bill, headed "Under-sized Fish." I suppose this only applies to salt-water fish, and most certainly is a step in the right direction. That eccentric M.P., Mr. Gibson Bowley, opposed the measure because, he said, "Little fish were sweet." Surely obstruction could no further go. It would not be bad legislation for Government to put through a Bill fixing a schedule of limit weights for fresh-water fish, too, below which it would be illegal to retain or have them in possession unless for bait. If this were so, many anglers' creels would be much lighter if the babies were left in the water to grow to a fair maturity.—R. WOOLFALL.

Lincoln Angling Society, Metropolitan, Winchester-street, Pentonville-road, N.—We fish at Pulborough on June 18, for six prizes; all to start first train from London Bridge on the morning. We shall have a conveyance leaving clubhouse at six o'clock in the morning. Members wishing to go by same must give their names in by nine o'clock on Saturday night. Tickets for Central competition can be obtained at clubhouse. Messrs. Bryant, Evens, Moffatt, Symes, and Field were elected working members at our last meeting.—W. WATLING.

Lychnobite Angling Society, Ben Jonson, Shoe-lane, E.C.—June 10 competition postponed. Summer dinner and competition takes place at Hertford on July 15. Printers' benefit concert at headquarters June 24; "Champion" ticket holders please settle by that date. Meeting on Tuesday next; members please note.—SID RANSOM.

North East Brothers' Angling Society, Star and Garter, Green-street, Bethnal Green.—A meeting took place on Wednesday, June 14, and a very good muster we had. A special meeting will take place on June 21, hoping that all members will attend, as business very important. We wish to state that our president was back again with us after the voyage he has had for the benefit of his health.—G. TAYLOR.

Park Angling Society, Park Hotel, Park-lane, Tottenham.—Our annual supper and distribution of prizes, which took place on the 10th, was a success. Thirty-four members and friends sat down to do justice to a grand spread provided by our worthy host. After supper, harmony was the order, the chair being taken by Mr. A. Hubbard and Mr. H. Hancock. Mr. B. Rowe, pianist. The following gentlemen rendered some good songs: Messrs. G. Curtis, A. Pemberton, J. Reitz, W. Allen, Coldwell, Hill, Lewis, Stretch, and Craine. The principal winners were Messrs. J. Hopton, jun., six prizes, and gross weight of the club for the season; J. Reitz, five prizes; G. Thompson, four prizes; Carter, four prizes; G. Tracy, four prizes; Louch, Hopton, sen., and Coldwell also took prizes. A good list of prizes was given for the coming season. Harmony was indulged in until a late hour, when the usual toasts were proposed and drank to visitors, &c., who spent a pleasant evening. Amongst the visitors were the host, Mr. Perry, King's Arms, Waltham Abbey, and Mr. Stretch, of the North London Angling Society. Will members attend next Tuesday evening on important business?—W. SKEGGS.

Phoenix Angling Society, The Tavistock, Stibbington-street, N.W.—The list for our brake outing to King's Langley on June 25 closes on the 18th. Arrangements have been made at the Bell for luncheon and tea. We start off at 7.45 sharp. There are three prizes to be fished for, in canal only—one club's, and two by Host Tinson of half-a-guinea each.—R. C.

Queen's Piscatorials, Queen's Arms, 1A, Chapel-street, Edgware-road, N.W.—On the 13th inst. we had a very good muster of members present, and plenty of business got through. We made four new members on the above date. Any member who has not yet had his privilege ticket can obtain same at any time on payment at the clubhouse.—GEO. KEENE.

Royal George Angling Society, Queen's Arms, Bateman-street.—We were very well attended last meeting night, and got through a deal of business; also had the pleasure of adding two gentlemen to our list of members. Will members kindly make it convenient to attend next meeting, as there is still a deal of business to transact that should have been done previously?—J. GIBBONS.

Silver Trout Angling Society, Bedford Head, Maiden-lane, Covent Garden.—A well-attended meeting was held on Tuesday last, when the following were elected members of the above: Mr. Carter, working member; and Messrs. Hallows and King, honorary members. Will members please note we meet on Tuesdays in future, at nine o'clock sharp.—R. SMITH.

South Bermondsey Piscatorials Institute, Rotherhithe New-road, S.E.—I beg to inform the members of the above that I have tickets for disposal for the competition which takes place at Pulborough on June 18.—J. H. DAVIES.

Stratford Angling Society, Dorset Arms, Leyton-road, Stratford New Town, E.—The eleventh annual dinner and distribution of prizes was held at the above on June 7. There was a good attendance of members, hon. members, and friends. Host Searl placed a tempting spread before his guests. Mr. H. Dawkins presided. After the distribution, prizes to the amount of £10 were offered for the ensuing season. We fish our first match at Hatfield Peverel on the 18th; to go down overnight.—G. F. WEAVER.

Sundial Angling Society, Plough and Harrow, King-street, Hammersmith.—On June 13 it was proposed that our first outing, which takes place on June 25, should be a brake outing; final conditions next meeting night. During the evening a visitor, Mr. Abrahams, showed a nice

trout, 2½lb., which was much admired by members.—C. E. LOCK.

Waltham Green and Chelsea Angling Society, Black Bull, Fulham-road, S.W.—A grand muster of members on Wednesday, and we had the pleasure of electing two new members—Messrs. Painter and Hillier. We had a host of applications for seats in the brake for June 18, and shall quite fill the vehicle. The prize list is a record one, and we commence the season under most auspicious circumstances.—TIDDLER.

West Ham Brothers' Angling Society, Coach and Horses, The Grove, Stratford.—I hope our members will not forget our match at Hatfield Peverel, on the 18th; all to go down with the last train on Saturday night that leaves Stratford at 12.9 p.m., and Forest Gate at 12.21 p.m.—R. LOWTHER.

West London Angling Club, Dartmouth Castle, Hammersmith.—The eighteenth annual dinner of this club was held at the Dartmouth Castle Hotel on the 8th inst., Mr. W. H. Elsmore presiding, who was supported by Mr. T. Crumpley, of the Thames Angling Preservation Society. Mr. H. H. Afford occupied the vice-chair. A capital menu was provided by the host, and a very enjoyable evening was spent by the company present. Mr. Afford stated that he would be pleased to present another silver cup for competition this season. Mr. Dean promised his usual donation of two guineas, and an extra guinea for the best number of attendances on club nights. Mr. W. H. Elsmore's donation was two and a half guineas; Mr. Berry, one guinea; Mr. C. G. Carter, one guinea; and several other members and friends, 10s. 6d. each. The usual toasts were duly honored, and a good selection of harmony provided.—J. J. HUNTER.

Wimbledon Piscatorials, 28, Alexandra-road.—There was a large attendance at Tuesday's meeting, when the hon. secretary read the list of special prizes offered up to the present time for competition during the coming season. In all forty-four prizes in money and kind are promised, including a handsome silver cup. The first outing takes place on the 18th inst., on club water. All who propose to take part in the contest must be at Wimbledon Station by 8.45 a.m. Special compartments will be reserved for the trip, and cheap railway tickets will be procured. Members requiring privilege tickets should let the hon. secretary know as soon as possible.—HON. SEC.

Ye Olde Clapham Rovers' Angling Club, The Windmill, Clapham Park-road.—We had a good attendance at club on Tuesday, when some good business was transacted by clearing our books of all liabilities of the past year, so that now we start entirely clear of all expenses, leaving a fair balance in hand. In addition to taking part at Pulborough in the great competition on the 18th, we ourselves compete for three prizes. A brake will leave our headquarters at six o'clock to catch early train at London Bridge, having room for two or three more should any angler wish to go with us.—NAT LINDEN.

Dollings by the Day.

THE Central News says: It is stated that on credible authority that an offer has been made to the Southend Town Council by a London capitalist to construct a huge sluice sea-wall at a cost of £600,000, in return for which he asked permission to construct an extensive generating plant and use the tidal force for its working, with the idea of supplying the metropolis with electric motive power. He guarantees that there shall be never less than 3ft. 6in. of water on the beach, which is dry for a long distance now at low water. In fact, it will be a huge marine lake. The proposal is under consideration.

ACCORDING to the *Evening News*, Monkey Island and the hotel have been taken on a ninety-nine years' lease from the owner, Mr. W. V. B. Van de Weyer, of New Lodge, by the Eton College authorities, who have let it to a tenant, with a number of restrictions. This charming islet on the Thames above Windsor is well known to river frequenters. The hotel was built by the third Duke of Marlborough as a hunting-box in the reign of Queen Anne. The ceiling in the Monkey Room was originally painted by Sir Joshua Reynolds, and occupied four years, at a cost of £4000. The island has been in the past a favourite camping-ground for river men. [But what interests many old anglers most is the fact that dear old "Bob" Plummer used to cater for anglers in a princely style.]

MR. S. J. HURLEY, of Abbey View, Killaloe, Ireland, writes: "Dear Drag,—As we are bound to have a very brilliant season here, kindly tell your angling friends who may be on the look-out for good salmon, grilse, trout, and pike fishing, on river and lake, either on reserved or free water, to hasten hither, and they will not be disappointed. The free beats are yielding excellent sport at present. One or two capital preserved waters to let. If you should be able to run over yourself for a few days, it would be a great pleasure to me to take you out on one of the best reaches of water on the Shannon." [Wish I could—but they'd have to "call me early, mother dear!"]

A CORRESPONDENT, at present on a visit in the neighbourhood of Llanymynech, writes as follows: "This pretty place is now seen to the greatest advantage, as, in addition to the chestnut trees, now at their best, the lilac, purple and white, is in full bloom, the laburnum is showing a wealth of bright yellow blossom, and the red and white hawthorn will, in a few days, arrive at perfection. At this time of year a more delightful stroll

could not be enjoyed than a walk up the north side of the Vyrnwy from Llanymynech bridge to the aqueduct at Newbridge. The weather at present is simply delightful, and does much to recompense those angling visitors to the neighbourhood who remain here, and who, during the past few days, have had excellent sport angling in the Vyrnwy and Tanat, both of which rivers are now in good condition for the sport. Tickets are now issued to Oswestry (about five miles from Llanymynech) for 16s. each, on every Wednesday, available for eight or fifteen days, from either Paddington or Euston. They are very cheap, as the ordinary third class fare, one way, is 14s. 8d. Llanymynech is on the Cambrian railways, and about five hours' ride from London, through a lovely country.

If you want a trip from "Cairo to the Cape" visit the Royal Aquarium, where an historical war tableaux, depicting the valour and gallant deeds of British heroes in Africa, will commence on Monday and onwards, about 3.30 and 8.30 daily. Many other interesting items will be added to the programme. The Chess Congress is drawing distinguished audiences in St. Stephen's Hall, among them the Lord Chief Justice of England, who has paid two visits.

MR. W. ELSMORE, of the Central Association, writing from The Lodge, Brundall, Norwich, on June 13, says: "In spite of the north and east winds, fish are now on, although, like other Londoners, I don't go after them. On Sunday, a Norwich man had 21lb. bream, close to Brundall Station, and another ingenious individual is reported to have caught the marvellous quantity of 172lb., at Buckenham Ferry. I understand he angles with a net, which is carried in a bait can. Capital dodge, this. Just the sort of move to make the subscribers to the Yare and Bure Preservation Society feel a little deeper in their pockets. Probably, however, this report, like some of those we hear of from the Thames, is put in the papers as a bait to catch anglers. Grand weather here if the N. and N.E. winds would clear off."

I HAVE received a pressing invite to be present at the grand competition to be held at Pulborough on June 18. Will go if well enough. All the same, one or, perhaps, two trains will leave London Bridge by Eldridge's excursions at 6.50 a.m., to fish for the twenty-guinea cup kindly presented by Mr. Walter Emden, J.P., L.C.C., and a large number of other prizes. Entrance fee, 1s., proceeds of which will be handed to the Queen's Jubilee Nurses' Fund, in recognition of their noble work in assisting the deserving poor during sickness, and in accordance with the wish of the donor of the cup. It is to be hoped that the day will be fine and the entries large! The river is a bit low, owing to the long absence of rain, but I am quite prepared to hear of some good fish being captured.

SPACE precludes giving a full account of the open roving contest being organised by Mr. A. A. Eldridge, to Amberley, on July 2. About £10 in money, and various other prizes will be fished for. This match is open to all comers, but they must be armed with the usual privilege ticket (6d. for the season), and early application for them should be made to Mr. Eldridge, Rose and Crown, 21, Goswell-road.

SINCE "Squid's" annual bath at Deal, I hear he has been taking a second—most unusual for him—at Dawlish. I am told that the sea was so rough he was the only, or nearly the "only" one who bathed. There was no occasion for soap, the foam answering all purposes.

DURING the recent lambing season, a ewe, the property of Mr. Jones, of Glanrafon farm, in the parish of Llanyblodwell, gave birth to a lamb which had two perfectly formed bodies, joined together at the neck. It had a single head, but four eyes, and also four ears. The ewe died in giving birth to this monstrosity, and the offspring did not long survive the parent.

A SHORT time ago, a hen, the property of Mr. Watkin, Penybryn, Llansantffraid, near Oswestry, laid two eggs, which were joined together at the smaller end by a sort of tough ligament. The greater part of each egg had hard shell as covering, but where they were joined together the shell on each was quite soft.

MR. W. HOWLETT, writing in the *Bury Free Press*, says: "A meeting of the Lark Angling Society was held recently at the White Hart Hotel, Mildenhall, under the presidency of Mr. O. F. Read, chairman. The general secretary and superintendent of the river stated to the meeting the society was going well, better than ever in fact, thanks to the energy of the local secretaries. I might here state the Tuddenham stream is private property, both the water and the river bank, and any person found thereon will be trespassing. They have no right there. The Lark stream is the water rented to the society, and it is hoped members of the angling society and others will not use the Tuddenham stream to cause any annoyance to the gentlemen who are kind enough to allow angling in the River Lark."

ACCORDING to the *Man of the World*, every information and assistance will be given to those wishing to fish the Lark, on application to the general secretary, Mr. W. Howlett, 40, High-street, Newmarket. He says: "Don't attempt to fish without a ticket, as the water bailiffs are up and down the river, and it is their duty to examine tickets of persons fishing." [The subscription is 5s. per

year. I am not quite clear as to the price of daily or weekly tickets (if any), but will give definite information next week.

ALTHOUGH still suffering from the flu and chest on the lungs I drove up to the Gresham on Tuesday evening to hear and see "Straw Hat" in his lantern entertainment entitled "The Thames." The large club-room was used to the best advantage, and the lantern was skilfully manipulated. Members and friends mustered strongly, and were highly entertained. The chair was taken by Mr. A. W. Parker. It goes without saying that a most pleasant evening was spent.

THE "Thames Angling News" for June is to hand, and crammed full of interesting and chatty news of the Thames. The subject of the "interview" for this number is Mr. A. R. Matthews, who relates his experiences with his usual bashfulness. A capital portrait is given. A very interesting article on Thames trout and salmon also appears. Altogether, the June number sustains the reputation of the brightly-written T.A.N.

I HEAR that the gigantic Jubilee Jumper has grown to 20lb. The bashful capturer has not sent on the full particulars, so I will not record them. Here is an authentic account of the capture of two respectable fish, vouchered for by the Rev. Dr. Arnold, of Emsworth: "Mr. J. Anderson, curator of the Chichester Museum, kindly sends me the following note: 'Two immense trout were recently caught in Alesford Pond with live bait. One weighed 8lb., the other 12½lb. It took nearly half an hour to land the larger fish, the net having been previously destroyed in attempting to land a jack weighing about 15lb. The larger trout measured 2ft. 5in. in length, and was nearly 20in. in girth.'"

THE *Architectural Review* for June is a sumptuously printed and particularly interesting number. The plates of "Disappearing London" represent "Milford-lane, Strand," "Booksellers' Row." Such pictures are worth preserving, as quaint bits of old London are disappearing. There is a special Art and Crafts supplement, a charming paper on "The Architecture of Guildford," and a delightful chapter on "A Lincolnshire Stream," written and illustrated by Mr. R. B. Lodge. The number is altogether full of art, and has many pictures appealing direct to the lover of nature.

ACCORDING to the Cambridge Heath Brothers' report, one of their members (Mr. Elsworth)—more than seventy years of age) captured a 4lb. trout from the Lea. About a quarter of an hour before his capture the angler "dropped in." Was it to find out whether any of his finny friends were at home? No matter: he is none the worse for his immersion. I wonder whether, if a prize is hanging to this nice trout, the captor will be prevented from taking it by some kind brother member suggesting that he went into the water expressly to hook the fish—and then pull it out? I hope not!

I LOOKED in, quite promiscuous-like, at the Bridge House Hotel the other evening, on the occasion of the N.A.P.S. annual banquet. As usual, I was not quite up to the mark. I had been warned by my doctor to beware of fogs. This was a summer's evening; the air was balmy; but on entering the room I was completely befogged. My friend, "Peter Pickup," of the *South London Press*, was present. I knew he would have something to say, in his usual genial vein, respecting the artificially-manufactured clouds which pervaded the banquetting room. I looked over his shoulder just as he was finishing his ice pudding, cool as a cucumber, calm and collected, and I "shorthanded" the following, which will no doubt appear in Peter's column of the *South London Press* this week. Serve him right. His shoulder ought to have been bigger; but, in truth, it is big enough, as his friends can testify. Here goes.

"THE angler is not the kind of man to confess himself taken by surprise. The members of the New Albion Piscatorial Society, who dined together the other night at the Bridge House Hotel, London Bridge, are now, however, talking over their singular experiences at the dinner, and admit that not only were they surprised, but some of them suffered from a feeling closely akin to terror. It happened thus: The secretary, or some other prominent official, rightly guessed that posterity would like to possess a memento of what may be regarded as quite a historic gathering, and so it was arranged that a photographer should take a picture of the 'swim' while on the 'feed.'"

"THE photographer knew that anglers were not ordinary mortals, and that some special and novel process must be used for instantaneously catching that fleeting expression of joy which is the chief charm of every angler's countenance. The ground-bait had been plentifully spread to engross attention, and the photographer came with some new patented arrangement of the flashlight character. There are differences of opinion as to whether he used gentles or paste—I mean liquid air or magnesium—but certain it is that when he thought the company were wearing their most seraphic expressions he allowed his rod—I mean his camera—to go off with a bang.

"INSTANTLY the room was filled with a greyish black vapour, occasionally illumined with fitful flashes of forked lightning, and a few minutes afterwards, with such celerity do they act in Southwark, the clatter of the fire-

men was heard outside. The secretary, with marvellous presence of mind, rushed to the table, on which there was a choice collection of vintages, thinking there was a conspiracy to rob the anglers of their harmless necessary beverages in the extemporised and artificially-produced fog. Everything was found all right, and I am told the photograph produced so scientifically has turned out a beautiful work of art. The alarm created in the anglers' bosoms, however, did not quickly subside; and when some of them reached home in the small hours of the next morning, they were glad to pour into sympathetic ears the story. 'Late, is it? Lucky, my dear, I got home at all. What's the matter with me? Not whisky, my dear, I assure you. Nearer eschape. I've been in a sort of a kind of a splozion.' [Thanks, Peter; we were in want of some fresh excuse for coming home in a cab rather late.]

THE "season" is open. Go on ahead, boys, and get fish. Don't forget to put some in as well as take them out! Don't send your club reports written on both sides of the paper. Don't send them on Friday morning when the machines are banging away in order to publish by five o'clock on Friday evening. Don't omit the name of your club and leave it to be discovered by the name of the secretary in a former issue. Don't talk about "ultra," and "insts.," and "proximos." Say June 18—or July 25—it will prevent the possibility of a dinner being announced in the fixture list (which took place a month ago) as about to take place!

"SIX-POUNDER" is the pro-pounder of the following in the *Dundee Courier*: "The following table, compiled from Loch Leven statistics, calculated on the average over a series of years, may be of interest, as showing how uniform on the whole the results are on that famous sheet of water:—Forty casts, equal to one rise; twenty rises, equal to one trout; two trout, equal to 1lb. The fractions are omitted. It is also noteworthy that every trout caught of ½lb. or over is immediately followed by another half—but this good practice is common to other lochs in Scotland."

A "Mick," in a car, with a pipe in his hand, Was accused by the 'ductor of smoking; Said "Mick," "Now, bejabbers, that's awfully grand, But really, me boy, ye are joking. For argument's sake we'll jst go to the root, You spake, and although you are talking, Take notice, bejabbers, me foot's in me boot, But you musn't suppose that I'm walking."

"A FEW nights ago," says a correspondent, "in going round the house the last thing for the purpose of locking up, I opened the pantry door, when my attention was attracted to a phosphorescent light which appeared to arise from the shelf. A closer examination showed me it was being given off by a mackerel which the cook had left there, intending to cook it for the morrow's breakfast. The light sprang from the fish's head, which was quite blazing. My cook states she has often noticed the same thing, and the fishmonger, when we told him, laughed at our fears, and stated it was only an indication of great freshness. Otherwise, amongst my friends, opinions appear to be pretty equally divided, as to whether the glow arose from freshness or putridity." I cannot enlighten my friend, but I don't mind telling him that on one occasion I came home when Mrs. Drag had gone to bed, and, feeling hungry (?), found myself in the pantry. The gas, of course, had been turned out. Guess my surprise when the match had burned out to find the place illuminated. This is Mrs. D.'s version of the phenomenon: "You see, cook left half a nice Scotch haddock for your breakfast, and as you have not eaten anything for a week, she thought it might tempt you after it had been hung for a few days." Thanks; save your gas, and light up with half haddocks.

A CHINESE philosopher was once discovered fishing by the side of a stream, and when he pulled up his line it was found that his hook was nearly a straight piece of iron, with a round knob at the end, like a pin. Being asked why he fished with a hook like that, he replied "Because I only wish to catch such fish as wish to be caught." There was method in this sage's philosophy, for it was evident that his fishing was merely an excuse for sitting still and meditating. But nowadays philosophy is held up to ridicule—if I am to judge from a case that recently came under my notice. An absent-minded individual was discovered by some boys, sitting on the bank of a river, with his eyes rivetted (figuratively, of course) to a well created F. G. His fishing rod was in his hand, but the butt was in the water, and the thin end, with the line and bait attached, was hanging on the bank. One of the cheekiest of the boys went up and asked "Caught anything, sir?" "Not yet," was the mild reply; "I've been fishing here for three hours, and haven't had a single bite." And the unfortunate angler went on his way, reading "Straw Hat's" safe advice on how to enjoy fishing—first catch your fish.

IN ORDER to "pull myself together," Harry Spray, W. Gaskell, and several other Nottingham boys are arranging an outing for me on their dear old Trent. I shall try and accept—I will 'an all! Then I shall be better able to narrate the princely manner in which I was treated at the banquet—how I lost my bag—how it was taken from the Constitutional Club to another club—how, well, how, at last I arrived home to London all the better for my outing. DRAGNET.

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A Public Meeting in support of the objects of the above Association will
be held at the Egyptian Hall, Mansion House (by kind permission of the
Right Honourable the Lord Mayor), on Friday, June 30. The Lord Mayor
will take the chair at 3.30 p.m.

The object of the Association is to conduct a series of experiments,
with a view of proving the possibility of restoring salmon to the Thames,
and all interested in the question are invited to attend.

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PISCATORIAL SOCIETY.

MR. H. HARDEN presided over Monday's meeting of this society, and with regard to May Fly fishing on the Kennet, at Newbury, at any rate, there was a consensus of opinion that it had been most unsatisfactory. There had been the biggest rise ever seen, but hardly a fish was to be got. This upward state of matters was doubtless due to the hot weather coming on so suddenly as it did, bringing the fly up with a burst. The rise was all over, indeed, before the trout woke up. The following reports were received of captures of trout since last meeting: Mr. E. M. Mayes, three brace with the May Fly at Midgham; Mr. R. C. Blundell, one of 2lb. at Newbury; Mr. H. H. Brown, two brace on the Lambourne; Mr. W. Edmonds, a leash on private water; Mr. H. Marks, one fish at Uxbridge; and Mr. H. A. Rolt, one fish from the same place. The chairman rose and hooked his old friend the 7-pounder on the society's water at Newbury, but was broken. Mr. E. M. Mayes gave a descriptive account of his visit to the Loch Leven competition last week. He had exceptionally bad luck, however, only coming out thirty-fifth amongst forty-four competitors. His score was six fish, weighing 3lb. 9oz. Mr. Mayes mentioned that he was received most kindly by the northerners. Many of them remembered the society's late dear friend and hon. treasurer, Mr. Edward Foreman, and expressed their deep sympathy not only with the family, but with the Piscatorial Society itself, in the great loss they had sustained. Being a stranger amongst them, the speaker was most touched to hear that one endeared to every member of the society was so highly esteemed and respected by so many Scotch friends as Mr. Foreman was. Mr. J. J. Hardy forwarded for the library Halford's new book on "Dry-Fly Fishing," and was cordially thanked for his kind present. The half-yearly meeting has been fixed for Monday, July 17 next, and members who desire to give notice of alterations in the rules must bear in mind that they should do so twenty-eight days previous to this date. It has also been decided to hold the summer dinner at Newbury, as usual. This interesting event will take place on Saturday, the 22nd prox., and members will be duly informed of all particulars as to trains, &c., in connection with this pleasant function in due course. Coarse fishing (except for pike) opened on the Uxbridge water on the 16th inst., but it may be pointed out that only those members who have remitted their current year's subscription, and hold the special permits, are entitled to fish the new water. M. G. E. DE C.

BRITISH SEA ANGLERS' SOCIETY.

THE usual weekly meeting was held at the Holborn Restaurant on Wednesday, June 14, Mr. G. R. Clarke in the chair.

Mr. R. H. Wood reported the capture of sea bream, pouting, and conger, and hooked but failed to land a mackerel while railing. He fished Loo Gate. The boatman took two sea bream 3b. apiece. Next day he took a pollack just under 5lb. with a small pouting as bait. The other fish were taken with lugworm and mackerel, although mussel bait took the best fish.

The hon. sec. reported for Mr. J. N. Hearn that he had been fishing at Southwick with Peacock, and had taken off the Billy Bury two congers (8lb. and 2lb.), six sea bream (best 1lb.), and a score of large pouting.

The chairman reported that he had arranged to fish for pollack at Dawlish, but was prevented from fishing by the stormy weather.

Mr. Croft Handley reported that he had been fishing with one man at Dover, but had not good sport, only taking a few pouting.

Mr. Handley further suggested that a tide table for the next twelve months for London Bridge be included in the pocket-book, as he thought it would be of great value to members if used with our plus and minus signs as given in the list of stations.

Attention was drawn to the nuisance caused by sea anglers cutting up bait on the seats of the piers at sea fishing resorts.

The usual vote of thanks to the chair closed the meeting. CHARLES S. PATTERSON (Hon. Sec.).

FISHERIES EXHIBITION AT LEEDS.

AN interesting exhibition was opened on the 8th inst., at the White Swan Hotel, Call-lane, Leeds, the headquarters of the Leeds and District Amalgamated Society of Anglers, in connection with that body, and great credit is due to the exertions of the active members in getting together so interesting a collection of specimens. Among the most interesting cases are those lent by Capt. Ormrod, of the Wyresdale Fishery, and one, entitled "Fish Enemies," showing a swarm of rats devouring a very fine trout, is greatly admired. A large three-year-old male rainbow trout makes most anglers regret that this class of fish has not proved a greater success in this country. The rainbow, Capt. Ormrod strongly asserts, will thrive well in England if suitable waters are properly stocked, but so far there is little proof of their breeding in open waters. A five-year-old king carp, from Wyresdale, weighing 13½lb., is a handsome specimen. There are few specimens trout, the best case being one lent by the Northern Anglers' Depot, a fish of 2½lb., caught by Mr. Frank. This exhibit is interesting from the fact that a small trout having been caught on a fly, was on the point of being landed when it was seized by the larger fish, and did not release its hold till after both were netted; and it is with the small trout in its mouth that it has been mounted. A Ure trout of 2lb. 4oz., caught by Mr. Walbran at Tanfield, and one of 2lb. by Mr. Parkinson,

are the only others worthy of mention. The grayling is well represented, the largest being one of 3lb. 9oz. from the Test, and a case of three from the same water caught by Mr. Walbran, and lent by the Northern Anglers' Depot. There are also several good Yorkshire grayling, but being spoiled in the setting up, comparison is impossible. Mr. J. Pickersgill is easily first in the roach class, his case containing fine specimens of 1lb. 14oz. and 1lb. 6oz., and also the only good dace shown, but of this latter no weight is given. The perch class is disappointing, not one good specimen being shown. A Windermere char receives a deal of attention but greater interest is taken in the pike class, in which several good specimens are shown. The largest is one 35lb., lent by the Northern Anglers' Depot, but it is not a pretty specimen, and case No. 126, one lent by Mr. George Helliwell, is generally voted first place for beauty. Mr. C. P. Parkinson shows one of 20½lb. Several good bream are shown, the largest being one of 7½lb., caught by Capt. Warner and lent by the Northern Anglers' Depot. Barbel are in strong force, case No. 20 being the best shown, viz., a fish 6lb. 5½oz., caught by Mr. W. G. Royston, president of the society. Tench are also in good force, and the one caught by Rev. J. W. Peppinstall, 4lb. 12oz., being the best specimen. A large eel is shown by the Leeds and County Club, and several cases of "baby" fish, representing the first catches of some enthusiastic anglers. Among the curios a case of turtle eggs and newly-hatched turtles is greatly admired; the jaws of an alligator; a collection of shells also receives attention; and a line-winder (over a hundred years old), which formerly belonged to an old Wensleydale Anglers' Depot, causes many to regret that such cannot be made to sell at a moderate price nowadays. Several handsome cases of birds are shown, and on the whole it is a capital exhibition, and I hope to see it made an annual affair, for when I dropped in on Monday morning Mr. E. P. Royston informed me that the attendance, &c., had exceeded the society's most sanguine expectations.—J. E. MILLER, Northern Anglers' Depot, 19, New Station-street, Leeds.

KINGSTON PISCATORIAL SOCIETY.

THE adjourned annual meeting of the Kingston Piscatorial Society was held on Monday, Mr. J. R. Richardson presiding. The new rules were ordered to be printed, and the following officers were elected: President, Mr. A. W. Homersham, J.P.; vice-presidents, Mr. R. B. Marston, Mr. W. Senior, Mr. G. D. Deuchar, Mr. T. Lyne, and Mr. A. Drinkwater. The committee will be as follows: Messrs. F. Arthur, W. H. Cate, F. Littlewood, C. Littlewood, T. Denniford, G. A. Cooper, G. Sinibaldi, Percival Turner, H. Pincoff Hill, W. A. Smelt, D. Hayer, and J. R. Richardson. Messrs. D. Denniford and L. H. Greig were elected hon. auditors; and Mr. F. Sands hon. treasurer; Mr. J. R. Richardson was appointed the official weighmaster; and Mr. T. Barnes is the new hon. assistant-secretary, Mr. Arnfield having resigned; and Mr. F. H. Amphlett was re-elected hon. secretary. The balance-sheet and prize accounts were duly passed, and it was decided to hold a committee meeting on June 26, at 8 p.m. (one hour prior to the next ordinary meeting), to arrange the prize list for the season. After this has been settled the society will endeavour to secure some private water.

NATIONAL ANGLING CLUB'S COMPETITION.

THE most important angling contest of the year in Scotland took place on Wednesday last week on Lochleven. Thirty-eight angling clubs sent each a representative, while four members of the committee also competed, making the total number of rods forty-three. Among the competitors were four previous winners of the National Championship, and it was to one of these that the honour again fell. The English clubs represented were: Junior Fly Fishers, London, R. G. Woodruff; Newark Piscatorial Association, D. Slater; Northumberland Angling Club, James Rea; Gresham Angling Society, London, A. Wright; and Piscatorial Society, London, E. M. Mayes.

The annual business meeting was held in the Green Hotel, Kinross, on Tuesday evening, when office bearers were elected for the ensuing year as follows:—Mr. Wm. Gillies, West of Scotland Angling Club, president; Dr. Allum, Bridge of Allan Fishing Club, vice-president; Mr. J. S. Dixon, Glasgow Western Club, and Mr. J. T. Rea, Northumberland Club, members of committee.

A letter was read from the directors of the Lochleven Angling Association, who had been communicated with by the National Angling Club's Association, asking them to prohibit anglers trolling with minnow within certain limits on the shallows. The letter stated that, while the directors sympathised in the work to discontinue minnow trolling, and would desire to do everything in their power to carry out the wishes of the club, they felt it was beyond their power to prohibit the practice of minnow fishing on the parts of the loch indicated, and all that they could do would be to recommend anglers to keep as free from those parts as possible. Mr. H. W. H. Duns-mure, the chairman, said he thought the Lochleven Association might be again communicated with and asked to prohibit trolling inside the buoys at the shallows during May and June, when fly fishing was at its best. This was agreed to. The other business was routine.

The weather before and after the competition was bright and far from favourable, but the sky was clouded over all Wednesday, and the breeze steady from the south-east, which is the most favourable direction for angling on the loch. Trout rose well, and good sport was got. The number of trout killed was 416, which weighed 261lb. 3½oz.

The championship was won by Mr. Lewis Spence, Edinburgh, who also won the same position in 1886 with a much smaller basket. The prizes were gained by:

Trout lb. oz.		
1st, championship, gold medal, and £12, Ellem Fishing Club, Lewis S. Spence	28	16 8
2nd, £10, Edinburgh Walton Club, F. G. D. Gibson	20	13 3
3rd, £6, Dundee Angling Club, D. McIntyre	15	10 0½
4th, £4, Bothwell and Blantyre Club, A. McKercher	11	8 15½
5th, £3, Glasgow Wanderers' Club, J. Gordon	13	8 15
6th, £2, Perth Club, P. D. Malloch	13	8 15

A prize for the heaviest trout was carried off by Mr. McKercher with one which weighed 2lb. 1½oz.

The following shows the unsuccessful representatives from other clubs, with their catches arranged in order of merit:

Kelvingside Academical Club, J. Murray Wingate, thirteen trout, 8lb. 9oz.; Committee (Bridge of Allan F.C.), Dr. C. E. Allum, thirteen, 8lb. 7oz.; Bridge of Allan F.C., Frank J. Pullar, thirteen, 7lb. 10oz.; Uddingston Waltonian Club, G. A. Shanks, twelve, 7lb. 9oz.; Junior Flyfishers (London), R. G. Woodruff, thirteen, 7lb. 8oz.; Buckland A.C., Neale Thomson, nine, 7lb. 7½oz.; Newark Piscatorial Association, David Slater, ten, 7lb. 7oz.; Stirling F.C., J. A. Millar, fifteen, 7lb. 6oz.; Edinburgh A.C., Martin L. Martin, eleven, 7lb. 2oz.; St. Mungo A.C., James Buloch, twelve, 7lb. 2oz.; West of Scotland A.C., James Wilson, jun., nine, 6lb. 15oz.; Dunfermlin A.C., James Fortune, fourteen, 6lb. 12oz.; Lochleven A.A., Alex. P. Haig, ten, 6lb. 11oz.; Clackmannanshire F.C., John McDonald, thirteen, 6lb. 6oz.; Committee (Edinburgh A.C.), J. Lyon Hamilton, seven, 6lb.; Northumberland A.C., James Rea, eight, 6lb.; Western A.C., James S. Dixon, ten, 5lb. 6oz.; Pollokshields A.C., John McGugan, eight, 5lb. 1oz.; Rowbank A.C. (Paisley), Alex. Morrison, seven, 5lb.; Committee (Buckland A.C.), H. W. H. Duns-mure, nine, 4lb. 12oz.; Dundee West End A.C., Wm. Irvine, nine, 4lb. 12oz.; Committee (West of Scotland A.C.), Wm. Gillies, eight, 4lb. 11oz.; Edinburgh Breadalbane A.C., A. Menzies, eight, 4lb. 11oz.; Gresham A.S. (London), Alex. Wright, nine, 4lb. 8oz.; Perthshire F.C., Robert Duns-mure, eight, 4lb. 7oz.; St. Mirren A.C. (Paisley), Thomas Russell, eight, 4lb. 5oz.; Falkirk F.C., J. A. G. Kirk, seven, 4lb. 4oz.; Waverley A.C. (Edinburgh), W. D. Niven, seven, 4lb.; Piscatorial Society (London), E. M. Mayes, six, 3lb. 9oz.; Kinross-shire F.C., James J. Harris, five, 3lb.; St. Andrew A.C., Donald A. Gow, four, 3lb.; Eek (Midlothian) A.I.A., J. S. St. Clair, four, 2lb. 14oz.; Callander A.C., Wm. Imrie, four, 2lb. 8oz.; Edinburgh Amateur A.C., Hugh G. Rose, five, 2lb. 8oz.; Coatbridge A.C., Joseph A. Thomson, three, 2lb. 4oz.; Fifeshire A.C., Dr. A. E. Watson, three, 2lb. 3oz.; Glasgow Clydesdale A.C., R. S. Kent, two, 1lb. 6oz.

THE LEGEND OF KILTENNEL.

THE LAMPER-EEL.

I WAS fishing the burn flowing down from Mount Lunster, up at Kiltennel old church reach, and at last knocked off with two or three sprats in my creel. Seeing an old, old man sitting under a gorse bush (for it was a holy day), I thought I might angle for a yarn such as an Irish countryman alone can indulge you with.

O. M.: "Any luck, yer honour?"
"Not a trout! So I will light my pipe and sit down with you."

O. M.: "Yer welcome, yer riverence; did yer riverence ever seen a big eel in the river?"

"Indeed I did, many a time; the big rocks are full of them, and they lie out on the bottom in the hot weather."

O. M.: "Begorra! they do so; an' in the big floods they come up to the mouth of the drains and feed. More nor that, they come out into the middows to greyshe (graze). I seen wan years back. I were walking across the middow and I met a big eel—a lamp-reel. He wor longer than yerself, yer riverence, an' his belly wor thicker nor yer thigh; he wor a lamp-reel, and he wor a hundred yards up greysheing! He wor a big lamp-reel, and I made off wid myself and said neer a word to him at all, at all; but I sees Mickey Finlan an' his woman cutting turf in the bog beyant, an' I ran and hailed him. Siz I, 'For the love of God hurry up, and bring the turf fack wid yez, I seen the biggest lamp-reel I ever met.' So Mickey an' the woman comes running, an' we come up wid him, an' Mickey cut him in three halves. His backbone wor thicker nor my blackthorn shtick (holding it up—a formidable weapon), and Mickey wasn't able for to cut through the bone. 'So Biddy,' siz he, 'fetch the big shtone,' an' Biddy fetched the big shtone an' sot it on his head, an' Mickey cut him in three halves, an' his head weighed 2½lb., an' he wor the biggest lamp-reel I ever seen, an' he wor greysheing up the middow when I first seen him."

T. H.

LONGLEY'S HOLIDAY GUIDES FOR 1899 are, if possible, better than ever. Written from the publisher's actual observation, beautifully illustrated (many with maps or plans), and thoroughly up to date, they are, indeed, wonderful value for a penny, and as George Augustus Sala (no mean authority) justly wrote, notwithstanding their cheapness, "could scarcely be equalled in their handiness and conciseness." They are sixty-seven in number, and cover most parts of the Three Kingdoms, besides several Continental resorts, and a specimen copy, with full list, will be sent on receipt of three half-penny stamps, by Mr. Longley, 39, Warwick-lane, E.C.

Notes from the North.

SEA trout are more in evidence on the lower waters of the Dee than has been the case for many years back. They are a scarce commodity at the best; but it augurs well for the season that they are forward in such gratifying numbers, especially in this year of lateness all round.

The heat wave is now being severely felt by anglers at the waterside. In fact, angling during the height of the day has been practically suspended, and confined to a few hours in the morning, and from about 7 p.m. till dark.

The streams are getting miserably small and clear, but for all that, a considerable amount of sport is being got on the deeper pools, and chiefly on the far inland reaches.

Loch angling is now in full swing, and very respectable baskets are being got. On the Sutherlandshire lochs the average daily basket numbers about twenty-five fish, scaling from 10½ lb. to 12 lb. The best taking flies are March Brown, Hare's Ear (lug), Lord Salton, Greenwell's Glory, The Zulu, Bumble. Mr. Malloch, of Perth, has a special selection for almost every loch.

Mr. Duncan, inspector to the Dee Fishery Board, has had his year's stock of salmon fry in the nursing pond for some time. His filtering arrangements failed inside the hatchery, and so he resolved to turn the whole lot into the pond adjoining, where they have done exceedingly well. He intends liberating about half a million in the course of the next two weeks or so, and the balance later on.

The Duchess of Fife is coming north to Duff House in the course of a few weeks. She has some excellent pools on the Deveron at her command, containing some leviathan brown trout, but they don't care to rise to the fly, and so the Duchess makes little of her opportunities. She prefers salmon angling on the Dee.

Mrs. Illingworth has been angling on the Crathie section of the Dee with much acceptance, and the other day creeled two beauties of 7 lb. and 9 lb. respectively. Mr. Illingworth is also running up a fair score.

Her Majesty the Queen has a penchant for old faces. Some fifty years ago she witnessed a circus performance, when Miss Ord, a very young *artiste* was the then child attraction. The other day Mrs. Pinder (*née* Miss Helen Ord) was passing Balmoral with her travelling establishment when she received her third command to entertain the Queen and the Royal Family, and was the recipient of a diamond brooch at Her Majesty's hands.

"Yellow fin" are now appearing in the tides, but as yet they are somewhat small. In another fortnight they will be worth killing, and then the tidal anglers will have the first of his "summer innings."

The salmon supply is not showing very great signs of improvement, and as a consequence many of the higher stations on the Don and such like rivers are being closed down for the season, and the men paid off. Had there been any prospect of a good grilse season they would have fished these stations on certain days of the week at any rate.

The Duchess of Fife has her own special patterns of flies dressed to her order by Garden, Aberdeen.

Rock fishers have had a very good season as yet. The exceedingly bright sunshine, however, of the last few days has made the baskets lighter than they would otherwise have been in more cloudy weather. A bit of cloud is as welcome to the rock as it is to the river angler.

SPECIAL SCOTCH.

Provincial Notes

FROM BIRMINGHAM AND DISTRICT.

The quarterly general meeting of the Birmingham Angling Association was held on Thursday evening, June 8, at the headquarters. Mr. T. Coles presided, and Mr. J. A. Dance occupied the vice-chair. The meeting was the best attended on record, as about 150 delegates were present, which represented some eighty-three societies. After the roll call, the minutes of the previous general meeting were confirmed, after which the committee's work for the past three months was placed before the meeting, when the minutes of April 6 and 14 were received and adopted. The balance-sheet and auditors' report were also received and adopted, together with the annual dinner account, the expenses of which were surcharged to the association. The minutes of the committee meeting held on May 5 were adopted after the minutes of the committee meeting held on June 1 were read, when the whole of the minutes were adopted, with the exception of the minutes dealing with the annual excursion and contest. The places recommended by the committee were put before

the meeting, when Abingdon or Cnlham, on the Thames, was carried by a large majority. It was also recommended that the sum of £55 be granted for prizes, but the delegates decided to increase this sum to £60. The Thames scale of measurement was adopted to rule the weighing-in of the fish. It was decided to leave the final arrangements in the hands of the committee, who will give in a report at a special general meeting to be held in the near future, when it will be considered whether the coupon system or the giving of prizes will be adopted this year. The matter of certain members depleting the canal at Kingsbury during the close season was referred back to the committee. The Dudley Angling Association held a grand smoking concert at the Crown Hotel, Dudley, on Friday evening, June 9. A first-class array of talent put in an appearance, and a splendid programme, which gave credit to the committee, was got through to the satisfaction of all present. The proceeds of the concert will go to augment the club's water renting fund. The large Highgate Park Society, which for years past have fished their annual contest in the river Avon, have decided to give the Severn a turn this year. With this in view, they will go to Stourport on Aug. 20 next. The Vine Unity have also decided to fish their contest on the Severn on July 16 next, for a valuable array of prizes, the first prize being a 18-carat gold English lever watch. No fish under 20z. will be weighed-in, and Mr. E. Mounds, the noted Kidderminster angler, will act as referee. The Queen's Head Club have decided to go to Pershore on June 25, to fish their opening contest for prizes above the average. Already fifty members have given in their names. A large number of our members will be going out to their favourite places, and I am pleased to say that the fish have got over their spawning, and that roach, dace, chub, and bream are in very fair condition. I have heard some very flattering reports of the canal at Wilmore. A large quantity of fish has been seen all the way from Brearley up to Stratford-on-Avon. Now that the canal at Alrewas and Kingsbury has been emptied, I should advise canal fishermen to pay a visit to the places mentioned. Owing to the mowing grass not being cut, a large portion of the Avon will not be able to be fished for some time yet. I have heard that the Shropshire Canal, near to Upton Magna, contains a large number of fish of a good size.

FROM DERBYSHIRE.

Angling in Derbyshire streams has during the week been good. The May Fly—Green Drake—has been out in great numbers, and has been well taken. Fish have risen freely in the early morning and late evening, and both weather and water have been favourable for fly angling. Bottom fishers have not as a rule done much, and then principally in the evening. Most of the lengths of the Dove have furnished fair sport, and both on the middle and lower lengths a goodly number of decent creels have been made. On the Dovedale waters some excellent sport has been had, and numerous nice lots of fish have been taken there, and also on the higher reaches of Beresford and Hartington, and on Lord Hindlip's waters, in the neighbourhood of Load Mill and Milledale. A few good creels have also been made on the neighbouring Manifold, but the water in that stream is in places very low. Amongst other flies used on the Dove, Foster's Little Gem and Haekle Green have done excellent service. On the Wye there has been very fair sport had on the Rowsley and Bakewell lengths, and several excellent baskets have been made there; and numerous fish have been killed on the reaches between Bakewell, Holme, Ashford, and New Bridge. The private waters of Monsdale have yielded several large baskets of fine fish to the lessee and his friends; and both on the open and private reaches of Cressbrook and Millersdale good creels have been made. Some nice lots of fish have been captured in the private waters of the romantic Cheedale by privileged anglers there; and on the adjoining higher lengths of Bakewell Mill and Ashwood-dale there has been satisfactory sport. Several anglers have been out on that charming mountain stream the Goyt, in the neighbourhood of Buxton, and in the Erwood Hall, Fernilee, and Taxal districts, on the respective waters of the Duke of Devonshire, Capt. Grimshaw, and Col. Cotton-Jodrell, very satisfactory sport has been had. The fish, however, do not run very large in that stream. Some nice lots of trout have also been taken on the river Nowe, both on the Edale and the Hope lengths; and the neighbouring stream, the Ashop, has in places yielded a few decent creels. On the upper reaches of the Derwent, between the hamlet of Derwent Chapel, Crookbridge, Ladybower Brook, Woodlane, and Bamford fly anglers have done well as a rule, and some very fair baskets have been made on those waters. Equally good sport has been had on the Hathersage Association reaches, and the angling generally has been good throughout the whole of the Derwent valley. Several excellent baskets have been made on the open waters near Calver, and also on the private lengths of Mr. Leslie, of Hassop Hall; and the adjoining reaches up to Baslow have furnished very satisfactory sport. Fly anglers have been out in full force on the Chatsworth waters, and some excellent baskets have been made there, and also on the lower lengths by Beely and Calton. The May Fly fishing on the Bradford and Lathkill has been very good, and some heavy creels have been made, particularly on the lower Lathkill. The Marquis of Granby, Lord Romney, and other friends have enjoyed capital sport, and on several days they have each made good creels up to eight, nine, ten, and eleven brace of nice sized fish. Angling prospects still good.

FROM HULL AND DISTRICT.

Our local river, the Hull, is in grand condition for all-round angling, and our local anglers are eagerly looking forward to the opening day for coarse fish angling; but, no doubt, by the time these notes appear in print some good fish will have been recorded, for both the river and

its contributaries are literally alive with large fish, and on the upper waters there is now a quantity of flies, so that the fly fisher should have a fair time of it, for above Top Lock there are several good trout on the rise. In the tidal waters several matches have been fished by our local societies during the past week or so, but they have not met with near such good sport as those who were privately fishing. The Osborne Angling Society fished their second match on the river at Hull Bridge, resulting in Messrs. A. Friend and C. Buxton taking the first two prizes with about 14½ lb. of fish each, Messrs. G. Bibbey and O. Matthews taking the next two with only about 1 lb. each. The City Employees' Angling Society also fished a match near to Beverley Beck-end, Messrs. T. Whitehead, W. Whitehead, and W. Jacques being the first three prize winners. The Sheffield Arms A.S. opened their season on the celebrated Minto Flatts stretch, but only did moderately, Mr. W. Pedder topping the prize list with 11 lb. 6oz., and Messrs. T. Bardsley and Fred. Matthews having about 1 lb. each for second and third places. The Foresters' A.S. of Beverley selected Weelferry for their second match, Messrs. G. Armstrong and J. Thompson taking the first two prizes with about 1 lb. of fish each. Some very good catches of eels and flounders continue to be made at Wawne and Dunswell, and from the latter place on Thursday last Mr. J. Cheeseman had twenty-five fish, the three heaviest, eels, scaling 14½ oz., 8½ oz., and 8½ oz. each, and other anglers have had takes of twenty to forty fish, several running ½ lb. each. Several matches will be fished on the river to-day (Saturday), and these being the first in the open season, they should have fair sport, for the fish seem to have got fairly over their spawning operations. The Central Hull A.S. fish a match to-day at Thoresby Bridge, on the river Ludd, which river is also reported in first-class condition, and to be swarming with fish. The river Ancholme will also have a share of our local societies' patronage, for the River Hull and Excelsior Angling Societies hold a joint open match to-day at Ferryby Station; and on Saturday next, the 24th, the North Myton Association will also hold an open match at the same place, the steamboat, *Her Majesty*, being engaged for the occasion. On the 19th inst. both the Tigris A.S. and Newington St. George's A.S. fish a match on the Market Weighton Canal, at Newport; whilst on the 22nd the Holderness Anglers will leave Hull by the 1.25 p.m. train from Cannon-street Station for the same place.

FROM THE LAKE DISTRICT.

Rivers have run down very low during the past week, and are, besides, in a dirty condition. This and the extreme brightness of the weather has almost put a stop to fishing, except after sundown, when a few good trout may be taken. A couple of days' rain would be welcomed by anglers and agriculturists alike. Although there is little restraint on the taking of coarse fish—pike, perch, &c.—in this district at any time, there is now a recognised close time, and the legal opening fell on Thursday, the 15th inst. Windermere and some of our other lakes literally teem with perch, and pike in lesser numbers, so that good sport may now be looked for by those who care for this class of fishing, and there are many who enjoy it immensely. Visitors with children and ladies in their train will find a day thus spent both healthful and entertaining. As to the doings of anglers during the past few days there is not much worthy of record, perhaps the feature of the week being the size and quality rather than the quantity of trout brought to bank. In the Keswick waters, Mr. H. Dixon had eight running up to 2½ lb.; Messrs. Denwood, Lowther, Mayson, Birkett, Elliott, Hill, Cowperthwaite, Conlson, and Lowthian each a number of very good fish, the last named gentleman heading the list with a splendid trout of 3 lb. Mr. John Watson (Kendal) comes a good second with a handsome fish of 2 lb. 9½ oz., taken from Loweswater. Mr. M. Towers in the Greta, Messrs. Stanley in St. John's Beck, Mr. H. Mann on the Kent, and a number of Derwent anglers have also secured a few nice fish. Sea trout are already showing in the last named river, Mr. Varty having taken one of 4½ lb., and two or three have also been landed on the lower part of the Kent. On the Eamont and the upper waters of the Eden fair baskets have been taken in the evening with the hussard, creeper, and worm. Angling in the rivers, however, will be "off" unless rain comes soon. The West Cumberland Fishery Board, despite a want of sympathy on the part of the County Council, are determined to keep pegging away in their opposition to the protection of sea gulls, which they allege are great enemies to fish in their various stages of life.

FROM LANCASHIRE.

Next Saturday is the first big event of the season, and will be an All-England match, promoted by the Northern Anglers' Association, for £30, and several gold and silver medals. Arrangements have been made for the conveyance and convenience of both competitors and visitors by the executive committee, and the same circulated to all interested centres and towns. It should be carefully noted that entries close on Monday, the 19th, and it will greatly help the officials if the entries are sent in at once. The Ribbles has been rather low and clear, so that only evening fishing has been successful. The fish have risen freely to the Black Gnat. The same may be said of the Wyre, with the addition of perhaps a larger volume of water, which has assisted bottom fishing. The Lune and its tributaries has fallen off a little, and, perhaps, a good thing. Trout are reported as feeding on eel fry, and rising badly. Not so many pike are noticed, and a few salmon are getting into the nets. The St. Helens anglers are paying a two days' visit to a private Cheshire mere next week. This is always a popular outing, and highly appreciated by the members. Next week the Levenshulme Angling Society, on one evening, will decide the first of their six championship competitions; the event takes place in

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Unsurpassed for Superiority of Workmanship,
Balance, and Casting Power.

10ft., in 3 pieces, with spare top, 26/-, 28/-, 34/-.
11ft., " " 28/-, 30/-, 36/-.
12ft., " " 30/-, 32/-, 38/-.

With cork grip, 6/- extra.

11ft. in 2 pieces, with spare top,
snake rings and cork grip ... 40/-.

SUPERIOR GREENHEART SALMON RODS.

18ft. steel snake rings, steel revolving
top rings, double brazed, waterproof fitted,
rubber button, &c. The very best Rod
that can be produced ... 67/-.

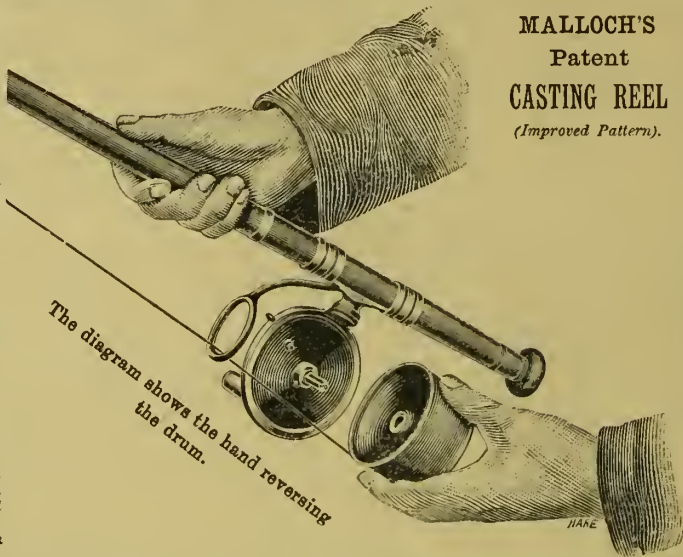
16ft. Rod, same as above, 57/-.

Very large assortment of Salmon, Grilse, Sea
Trout, Loch and River Flies, for the Scotch
Lochs and Rivers, all tested patterns and
beautifully tied.

THESE FLIES HAVE OBTAINED HIGHEST AWARDS WHEREVER
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MALLOCH'S Patent CASTING REEL

(Improved Pattern).



The diagram shows the hand reversing
the drum.

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Improved Pattern, in Gun-metal or Alumi-
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for Salmon, Mahseer, and Trout, and all kinds
of coarse fishing; unsurpassed for long distance
casting; simple, and easy to learn. Rods and
lines specially suited for these reels

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PATENT ADJUSTABLE BRAKE REEL.

In Gun-metal or Aluminium. The brake is
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can be regulated at will by simply turning the
milled disc on spindle. This should prove a
great advantage to anglers, as the check can be
regulated without having to take the reel to
pieces, as in the case of the ordinary reel.

MALLOCH'S PATENT FLY CASES.

For salmon, grilse, sea trout, and eyed flies
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ridge's Excursion, 2s. 6d.).
AMERSHAM (Mishorn), I, Bucks, 23; 2s. 3d.
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BLETHLEY (Ouse), H, Bucks, 46; 4s. 11d.
BLUNHAM (Ouse), H, Beds, 68; 5s. 3d.
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BRICKET WOOD (Colne), H, Herts, 22; 2s.
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BURES (Stour), A, Suffolk, 54; 4s. 6d.
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BURN MILL (Stort), A, Essex, 25; 1s. 11d.
BUSHEY (Colne), H, Herts, 16; 1s. 8d.
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HARLOW (Stort), A, Essex, 26; 2s. 11d.
HARPENDE (Lea), E, G, Herts, 27; 2s. 7d.
HARTFIELD (Medway), F, Sussex, 42; 3d. 6d.
HARTFIELD (Lea), E, Herts, 17; 1s. 10d.
HATFIELD PEVEREL (Chelmer), A, Essex, 36; 3s. 1d.
HAYWARDS HEATH (Ouse), F, Sussex, 37; 4s.
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HIGH BARNET (Brent), E, Herts, 11; 1s.
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HERTFORD (Lea), A, E, Herts, 24; 2s. 6d.
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HUNSTANTON, A, Norfolk, 114; 9s. 6d.
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KING'S LANGLEY (Canal), H, Herts, 21; 2s. 2d.
KINGSTON (Thames), D, Surrey, 12; 1s. 3d.
LAKENHEATH (Ouse), A, Suffolk, 82; 6s. 11d.
LANGFORD HALL FISHERY (Blackwater); A,
Essex, 44; 3s. 3d. (Change at Witham).
LANGLEY (Canal), B, Bucks, 16; 1s. 8d.
LEAGRAVE (Lea), G, Beds, 32; 3s. 5d.
LEATHERHEAD (Mole), D, F, Surrey, 19; 2s.
LEIGHTON (Ouse), H, Beds, 40; 4s. 2d.
LEWES (Ouse), F, Surrey, 50; 5s. 2d.
LINGFIELD (Eden), F, Surrey, 28; 2s. 8d.
LITTLEPORT (Ouse), A, Cambs, 76; 6s. 5d.
LOUGHTON (Roding), A, Essex, 12; 1s. 0d.
LONO MELFORD (Stour), A, Suffolk, 61; 5s. 2d.
LOWESTOFT (for Waveney), A, Suffolk, 117; 10s.

MAIDENHEAD (Thames), B, Berks, 24; 2s. 6d.
MALDON EAST (Blackwater), A, Essex, 44; 3s. 3d.
MALDON, WEST (Blackwater), A, Essex, 3s. 2d.
MANNINGTREE (Stour), A, Essex, 59; 5s. 0d.
MARCH (Nene, &c.), A, Cambs, 88; 6s. 4d.
MARDOCKS (Ash), A, Herts, 23; 2s.
MARK'S TAY (Colne), A, Essex, 47; 3s. 11d.
MIDHURST (Rother), D, F, Sussex, 61; 6s.
MIDDEINHALL (Lark), A, Suffolk, 76; 6s. 4d.
MOULSFORD (Thames), B, Berks, 49; 5s. 1d.
NEW BARNET (Brent), E, Herts, 94; 1s.
NEWPORT (Cam), A, Essex, 42; 3s. 5d.
NORTH WALSHAM (Ant), A, Norfolk, 134; 10s.
NORTH WEALD (Roding), A, Essex, 19; 1s. 8d.
OAKLEY (Ouse), G, Beds, 52; 5s. 4d.
OFFORD (Ouse), E, Hunts, 55; 5s. 10d.
ONGAR (Roding), A, Essex, 22; 1s. 11d.
OXTED (Eden), C, F, Surrey, 21; 2s. 1d.
PADDOCK WOOD (Medway), C, Kent, 31; 4s.
PANGBOURNE (Thames), B, Berks, 41; 4s. 4d.
PARK STREET (Ver), H, Herts, 22; 2s.
PONDER'S END (Lea), A, Middlesex, 10; 9d.
POTTER'S BAY (Colne), E, Middlesex, 12; 1s. 3d.
PULBROUGH (Arun), F, Sussex, 50; 5s. (By
Eldridge's excursions, 2s. 6d.).



RAILWAY REFERENCES.

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|---|--|
| A. Great Eastern (Liverpool Street). | E. Great Northern (King's Cross). |
| B. Great Western (Paddington). | F. L. B. & S. C. (London Bridge and Victoria). |
| C. South-Eastern (Charing Cross, Waterloo
Junction, Cannon Street, London Bridge,
and New Cross). | G. Midland (St. Pancras). |
| D. South-Western (Waterloo). | H. North-Western (Euston). |
| | I. Metropolitan (Baker Street). |

Map shows the 18 new stations.

RADLETT (Colne), G, Herts, 15; 1s. 7d.
READING (Thames), B, Berks, 36; 3s. 9d.
RED HILL (Lakes), C, F, Surrey, 20; 2s.
RICKMANSWORTH (Colne), H, I, Herts, 22; 1s. 9d.
ROYDON (Stort), A, Essex, 22; 1s. 9d.
RUDGWICK (Arun), F, Sussex, 44; 4s. 2d.
RYE HOUSE (Lea), A, Herts, 19; 1s. 8d.
SANDY (Ivel), E, Beds, 44; 4s. 7d.
SAWBRIDGEWORTH (Stort), A, Herts, 29; 2s. 3d.
SELHAM (Rother), F, Sussex, 58; 5s. 6d.
SHALFORD (Wey), C, Surrey, 41; 3s. 2d.
SHARNBROOK (Ouse), G, Beds, 55; 5s. 9d.
SHEFFORD (Ivel), G, Bedford, 87; 5s.
SHEFFORD (Cam), A, Cambs, 55; 4s. 5d.
SHEFFIELD (Chelmer), A, Essex, 20; 1s. 8d.
SHEPPERTON (Thames), D, Middlesex, 18; 2s.
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SOUTHMINSTER, A, Essex, 40; 3s. 4d.
STAINES (Thames), D, Middlesex, 19; 2s.
STANDON (Rib), A, Herts, 29; 2s. 6d.
STANSTED (Stort), A, Essex, 33; 2s. 10d.
ST. ALBANS (Colne), E, G, H, Herts, 20; 2s. 1d.
ST. IVES (Ouse), A, Hunts, 70; 6s. 2d.
ST. MARGARET'S (Lea), A, Herts, 20; 1s. 9d.
ST. NEOTS (Ouse), E, Hunts, 51; 5s. 5d.
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SUBBURY (Stour), A, Suffolk, 58; 4s. 11d.
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TAPLOW (Thames), B, Bucks, 22; 2s. 4d.
TEMPFORD (Ouse), E, Beds, 47; 4s. 11d.
THATCHAM (Kennet), B, Berks, 49; 5s. 2d.
THEYDON BOIS (Roding), A, Essex, 16; 1s. 3d.
THREE BRIDGES (Mole), F, Surrey, 29; 3s.
TILFURST (Thames), B, Berks, 38; 4s. 1d.
TRINO (Reservoirs), H, Herts, 31; 3s. 4d.
TUNBRIDGE (Medway), O, Kent, 29; 3s. 3d.
TWYFORD (Thames), B, Berks, 31; 3s. 3d.
UXBRIDGE (Colne), B, Middlesex, 15; 1s. 7d.
VIRGINIA WATER (Thames), D, Berks, 23; 2s. 6d.
WALTON (Thames), D, Surrey, 17; 1s. 10d.
WALTHAM CROSS (Lea), A, Essex, 13; 1s. 1d.
WARE (Lea), A, Herts, 22; 1s. 11d.
WATERBEACH (Cam), A, Cambs, 61; 5s. 2d.
WATERINGBURY (Medway), C, Kent, 46; 4s.
WENDOVER, I, Bucks, 33; 3s. 8d.
WEST DRAYTON (Colne), B, Middlesex, 13; 1s. 5d.
WEST GRINSTEAD (Arun), F, Sussex, 45; 4s. 8d.
WEST MILL (Rib), A, Herts, 32; 2s. 9d.
WEYBRIDGE (Thames), D, Surrey, 19; 2s.
WHITLESFORD (Cam), A, Cambs, 49; 4s. 2d.
WICKFORD (Crouch), A, Essex, 26; 2s. 2d.
WIDFORD (Ash), A, Herts, 24; 2s. 1d.
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WITHAM (Blackwater), A, Essex, 89; 3s. 3d.
WOKING (Basingstoke Canal), D, Surrey, 24; 2s. 6d.
WOODHAM FERRIS (Crouch), A, Essex, 31; 2s. 7d.
WYBESBURY (Thms & Colne), D, Bucks, 21; 2s. 3d.
WYOMHAM (Breads, &c.), A, Norfolk, 122; 10s.
YALDING (Medway), O, Kent, 38; 4s.
YARMOUTH (Bure, &c.), A, Norfolk, 124; 10s.

their own waters. Some gratification will be felt at the news of the death of a second dog otter in the river Bullin; there are still two to be dealt with. To-morrow, the Pride of Bolton Angling Society will fish a match at Boothstown, in the Worsley Canal, and in the same canal at Leigh the open event promoted by Mr. Dawson will be decided. The Buckley Arms Angling Society, Swindon, are due at Westwood, in the same canal, on June 24; this is their annual visit to this water. The Liverpool Anglers are discussing the question of establishing a trophy to be fished for by local clubs. The Nelson Angling Society announced an alteration in the hours for their match on June 18, from 12 noon to 4, to from 4 to 7 p.m., draw at 3.30. The East End Association (also Liverpool) are going strong in every department, headquarters, branches, and numerically and financially. The Central Association is making good progress, and now numbers close on one hundred members; they have arranged rather an attractive programme, and intend being heard from in 1899.

FROM LINCOLNSHIRE.

The conditions just now are all that could be desired for trout fishing, and anglers who have, up to recently, had a most disappointing season, are making most of the opportunity. Fly fishermen who have operated in the evenings have done exceedingly well with such flies as the Yellow Dun and Black Gnat, the latter for preference, and several baskets containing five and six brace are mentioned as having been captured in the course of a couple of hours' sport. Bottom fishing is still being followed with success by those who are not expert at manipulating the fly. Reports to hand from the fen waters show that the coarse fishing season promises to be inaugurated this week under satisfactory conditions, so far as the waters are concerned. The fish were favoured with a good spawning time; but it is feared that the heavy flood in May did some damage, although this has not yet been definitely ascertained.

FROM MANCHESTER.

More is now being heard from our city clubs. This is no doubt caused by the opening of the coarse fishing season, which has stirred up our men to a sense of the enjoyment in store for them for the next few months. To-day (June 17) the Buckland open in their own waters, the Victorias at Poynton, the Derby at Boothstown; to-morrow (the 18th) the old Standard at Chester; on the 21st, the Shakespeare at Chester; and next Saturday, the 24th, the Moss Side Socials are to visit Poynton, and the Horse Shoe, Worsley, so that a very busy match-fishing season is clearly indicated. At their next meeting the South-West Manchester A.S. will make final arrangements for the opening match, and discuss other important business. The Hanging Gate A.S. have arranged to visit Poynton Canal for their first match on July 2; they have a good prize list. The Salford Friendly A.S. have fixed Aug. 19 as the date of their annual visit to the Moss Reach length of the Bridgewater Canal. Some locals fishing the Weaver report good bags from Vale Royal and Northwich. The Welcom Angling Society, Hulme, on the 13th had the best meeting since the club was formed, the club-room being packed. Owing to the change in headquarters the match arranged for to-morrow has fallen through, but they have arranged another, to take place at Poynton on July 16, which will be the first club match. The May Fly is now fairly with us, and one local with the natural secured ten brace of fine trout. The Duke of Cambridge Angling Society open the season on the 25th, at Althorpe, and the Openshaw Central on the same date, at Torksey. Several of our locals report a rather extraordinary rise of trout in reservoirs. They describe the fish as mad on, but not hooking. Can any of our experts give a reason for this? It happens in the evening; the fish are not playing, something disturbs them, but it does not appear that any hatch out is responsible. The Kingfishers' held a meeting on the 13th, and amongst other items decided to have an outing to Cheshire, where some good fishing is to be had.

FROM NORFOLK.

The fishing season now commenced bids fair to be a very good one. Immense quantities of fish have been seen during the spawning season on Rockland and Surlingham broads, on the Yare, and in the reaches of the river Bure, from Wroxham, down as far as South Walsham. Bream have already begun to feed on the Yare. On Sunday, at Buckenham, a Norwich angler took over 1½ cwt. to his own rod. It is too early to commence yet, and the fish will be all the better for being left for another week at least. Since the close of last season there have been several changes in the occupants of the riverside hostleries, and also in the hostleries themselves. Buckenham Ferry House is being rebuilt, and other houses are being considerably enlarged and improved. Better accommodation will thus be had; and this was badly needed, especially during the months of July and August.

FROM NOTTINGHAM.

The Trent at the period of writing was low and clear, and anglers seemed unusually eager for the opening of the season yesterday (Friday). Most coarse fish are still located in rapid water, and intending fishermen will find it to their advantage to employ the lightest possible tackle, consistent, of course, with durability. Caddis grubs—the best of baits for early season use—are most difficult to obtain, and there is a great scarcity of lobworms. These, in fact, will be scarce until rain descends, and so affords the men engaged in catching them at night a chance of replenishing the empty boxes of the dealers. A few eels have been taken since last week, but nothing appears to have been passing amongst salmon. On the tributaries trout have afforded a moderate amount of sport.

FROM SHEFFIELD.

The weather has been all that could be desired for fishing, and during the last week sportsmen have put in full time, and on the whole satisfactory sport has been obtained. Amongst the many visitors to Derbyshire during the past week has been the Marquis of Granby, who has obtained some good sport on the upper Lathkill. The May Fly season is now fairly on, and is considered to be a fairly good one. Fly fishers have fared very well on the upper reaches of the Derwent, the early morning and late in the afternoon having been found to be the best times. In the district of the Matlocks a lot of good fish have been obtained, whilst in the deep pools on the Whatstandwell stretches down to Ambergate a lot of heavy fish have been killed, especially late at night, the fish rising well until quite nine o'clock. Bottom anglers have not done so well, but maggots and worms have accounted for a few good takes, but, generally speaking, bottom anglers have not had a very good time. Locally, the upper reaches of the Sheaf have been providing some splendid sport, and in the evenings several local anglers have been doing very well. In the stretch near Totley Station a lot of decent-sized fish have been secured, some weighing 1½ lb. each. Unfortunately for Sheffielders it would appear that in the near future the chance of obtaining sport in the Sheaf will become more difficult. The Midland Railway runs close by the side of the river, and as the railway is being widened a fruitful stretch close to Totley Station has to be diverted, and other alterations will make the task of preserving the stream much more difficult. In the Damflask Reservoir bottom anglers have come off best, single maggots having proved very effective, with the result that a lot of nice fish have been taken. The Hollow Meadows dams have been well fished, but the takes have been on the small side. Coarse fishing opens this week, much to the satisfaction of thousands of Sheffield working men. The early portion of the breeding season was very cold, but it is hoped that the recent warm weather will have assisted in the development of the fish.

FROM WORCESTER AND DISTRICT.

We have had a week of hot sunny days tempered by east winds which has made the nights very cold, and the trout have not been sporting so well as they might have done; still, in the evenings they have come fairly well at the fly—Iron Blue, Stone Fly, Silver Dun, and Yellow Dun all killing on the Teme, and some sport was had with the maggot; but the best baskets have been taken in private water with the maggot; Mr. Martin Perks and a friend, ten and a half brace and eight brace of beauties; and others four to six brace each. After this Friday all the clubs will be fishing for coarse fish, and the Severn will be extensively patronised; but the fish are not in condition yet, and many of the roach have not spawned, but as nothing under 3oz. is allowed to be taken, we trust but little injury will be done. Chub has been taken in quantities in the Severn and Teme during the week for the mere sake of sport; they are out of condition and unfit for food; still, as many think they are better out of the water, they will be much fished for when the close season ends. Salmon fishing is almost nil in this neighbourhood, but price is much lower, no doubt owing to the quantity of Scotch fish that are on sale. There is little news from the clubs this week; next week things will be different.

ANSWERS TO CORRESPONDENTS.

T. H. VERNON.—Send one shilling in stamps to Messrs. Sampson Low, Marston, and Co., St. Dunstan's House, Fetter-lane, E.C.; you will receive by return a copy of Mr. F. H. Amplett's hook, entitled "The Lower and Mid-Thames."

Correspondence

[We do not hold ourselves responsible for the opinions expressed by our Correspondents.]

THE OTTER.

DEAR SIR,—Allow me through you to thank "Special Scotch" for his kind appreciation of my effusion about the otter in his notes of Saturday last. I will say at once I do not see anything "awkward" in his question.

It is just the sort of thing that I had hoped would come, as by this means a subject so interesting gets full ventilation, and the good and bad side of an animal's life is properly thrashed out. I only speak, or rather write, as I find, and my experience with reference to salmon clearing out of a river because it is visited by otters is exactly in the reverse of his.

I will give an instance from which I take my stand. In the year '94 (I am not quite certain of the year though, it may have been '93, foolishly I did not make a memo. of it in my fishing diary), in November, the water hailf and myself went one day on a "voyage of discovery" for some eight miles along the bank of the river Avon (Devonshire), and during our journey we saw some twelve or fourteen pairs of salmon on the redds. Now I knew from signs which were in evidence, on this very day an otter was working that river, as we distinctly noticed a fresh "spur" at the Hazelwood boat-house, on our journey upward, and within half a mile below we had seen two pairs of fish at work. Further than this, in the same year, I saw, one Sunday morning, nine salmon in the pool below Topsham bridge, which is on the same river.

I do not contend but that otters do sometimes interfere with both trout and salmon, but what I wish to bring before the public is that they do more good than harm, and therefore should be fostered rather than slain indiscriminately.—Yours truly,

PHEASANT TAIL.

BLACK GNAT OR "COOPER'S FANCY"?

DEAR SIR,—If a fly with a black body, dun wing, and either black or dun legs is not a Black Gnat, well we do not know a Black Gnat when we see it! Of one thing we are certain, however, and that is that Mr. Cooper does not if he really believes what he writes. There is, however, one consolation; he will be likely to get nobody else to believe that he has any mortal right to appropriate an old time Derbyshire dressing of the Black Gnat as his own invention.

Let us turn to the authorities.

Ronalds, who studied and fished and wrote his important work on the Blythe, a few miles away from this place, namely, that standard work, "The Fly Fisher's Entomology," describes the Black Gnat dressing thus:

Wings.—The dark part of a feather from the starling;

Legs.—A black hackle;

Body.—Black ostrich herl;

and, he adds, to make it buzz a light dun hackle tinged with brown may be wound upon the above body.

David Foster, in "The Scientific Angler," another standard (also written in this vicinity), gives almost the same dressing, viz.:

Wings.—From a starling's wing feather.

Legs.—A dark blue dun or black hackle.

Body.—Ostrich herl.

We have received two consignments of flies through the kindness of two correspondents, who have obtained them direct from Mr. Cooper in response to their orders for "Cooper's Fancy."

Here is a description of them.

First correspondent's consignment consists of a fly dressed thus:

Body.—Black silk.

Legs.—A rusty black.

Wings.—Starling.

Second correspondent received three different patterns from Mr. Cooper in response to his order for one dozen "Cooper's Fancy."

Description:

1ST DRESSING.

Wings.—Starling.

Legs.—Black hackle.

Body.—Black silk.

2ND DRESSING.

Wings.—Starling.

Legs.—Dark dun hackle.

Body.—Black silk.

3RD DRESSING.

Wings.—Starling.

Legs.—Medium dun hackle.

Body.—Black silk.

QUERY: Is not Mr. C. rising short? Which of these flies is his "fancy"?

We may here state that our customers have been receiving Black Gnats with body of black silk, wings starling, legs black hackle, and also with legs of dun hackle as an alternative dressing, for the past quarter of a century and more, and that therefore "Cooper's Fancy" is Foster's Black Gnat.

The dressings given by Ronalds, and in "The Scientific Angler," prescribe ostrich herl for the body, and this makes what is termed a thick bodied Black Gnat; but the more modern thin black silk bodied one has been stocked by us exclusively in the time of the present writer, and he has been in the trade now for more than a decade. Therefore it comes to this, that Mr. Cooper has not a leg to stand upon in claiming this pattern as his invention.

If anyone is still sceptical we can bring evidence galore in proof of our having made and sold this fly as the Black Gnat for a generation.

Mr. C. suggests in your issue of June 3 that we should find better occupation in looking after our own productions. Well, that is precisely what we are doing. We hold Mr. C.'s own fancies, several versions of them, and we hold the Black Gnat, and we will send both to any first-rate authority and will abide by the said first-rate authority's decision in the matter, having every confidence in the result. If we do not know our business we do not think Mr. C. is sufficiently qualified to teach us. A man who says a "fly is not a Black Gnat in any form" because "neither wings or hackle are black," is writing like a — well, we will leave your intelligent readers to fill in the blank, as all may readily do after the quotations we have given from the works of standard authorities of the district, seeing that neither gives black wings as a dressing, but both the starling wing Mr. C.'s fly has, and both mention dun legs (which also Mr. C.'s fly has), as an alternative dressing to the black for the Black Gnat.—Yours truly,

W. H. FOSTER

(Manager to D. and W. H. Foster).

Ashbourne, June 5, 1899.

FORMALIN.

DEAR SIR,—Will some of your readers kindly inform me whether formalin does as a preservative for prawns for salmon fishing, or whether the smell of it in any way detracts from the killing properties of the bait, and, if so, how much should be used in proportion to water?—Yours faithfully,

SALMO.

BASS AND POLLACK FISHING.

DEAR SIR,—Can you or any of your readers kindly inform me where to go for large bass, pollack, and conger fishing? Some very quiet village not more than 250 miles or thereabouts from London. All the more agreeable if a little rough shooting from shore, &c., could be obtained.—Yours truly,

J. H. D.

TO TOUGHEN WASP GRUBS.

DEAR SIR,—Having made several inquiries (not in your esteemed paper) how to toughen wasp grubs, and not meeting with the required information, I venture to send the following extract I have just copied from an old number of the *Field*, Sept. 28, 1855, in "Answers to Correspondents," as it may be of use to some angler, viz.:

"WASP GRUBS.—Let 'W. B. M.' pick the grubs out of the comb and put them into a cullender inside a large

basin, and then pour boiling water from a large saucepan over them and stir with a spoon till, by the touch, they feel firm. Then instantly drain and pitch them into a little bran and shake them until quite dry (for on this success depends). He will find them very firm and very dead (for trout especially). If they are placed on a plate or slab and kept very cool and coated with honey they will keep well for weeks."

Yours, &c., JOE.

P. S.—I should feel grateful if you could tell me how to keep gentles during hot weather. I tried burying, but they were all smothered. An article on earthworms in the *Fishing Gazette* would be acceptable to several of us—how they breed, rate of growth, &c. What inexpensive book could I get on the subject?

[Get "Darwin's Book on the Earth Worm."—Ed.]

BLACK BASS.

DEAR SIR,—In your issue of May 27 the introduction of the black bass into such English waters as are suitable for pike is brought forward by Dr. Henshall with the remark that the fish has done well in Germany and the Netherlands.

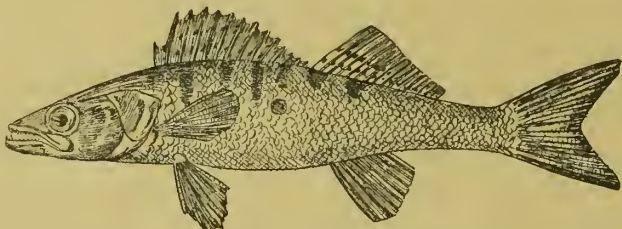
The fish has indeed been well acclimatised here, and Dr. Henshall might have added in the big Bohemian fisheries, too, where great hopes were based on its introduction, but on the whole it has not stood the test well.

It feeds here principally on small fish, and its appetite is something phenomenal, whilst its growth by no means compensates for the amount of food consumed.

If in very good quarters three-year-old fish will weigh 1½ lb. to 1 lb., and it is something very rare to find a four-year-old weighing 2 lb.

A great drawback is their early sexual ripeness. Quite small fish of two years of age will sometimes already spawn and stock the water with such a host of small fry that food for the bigger fish soon gets rare.

The black bass was introduced into the big Bohemian carp ponds at Wittingau, with the express purpose of keeping down roach and rudd like plant-feeding fish, and did this very effectually, but in spite of the big range and full supply of food in the ponds (the ponds are lakelike stretches of water of 1000 acres each and more), the growth of the



black bass was not even quite as good as the one given above from my experience of the fish.

Fry and yearling of this fish are now quite easily procurable here, and could, I think, be quite well got to England alive, but it would be easier to introduce the fish than to get rid of it.

Our European perch quite fills the place which the black bass would be likely to usurp, and if any fresh predatory fish is required to clear off a surplus amount of food, I think the pike-perch (*Lucioperca sandra*) a much more desirable introduction.

The fish—a fine sporting and a good table fish—will thrive where pike thrive, excepting in very peaty waters. It prefers, however, waters with a clean, sandy, or stony bottom, and a slight run. It has this advantage over the pike, that its mouth and stomach are much smaller, and that it is thus restricted to smaller sized food.

The growth of the pike-perch is much better than that of the black bass under similar conditions. Three-year-olds will weigh 2 lb. to 4½ lb., and four-year-olds 5 lb. to 6 lb. The fish spawns from April to June, the female making a sort of nest in a clean sandy place, and producing 2,300,000 eggs per fish.

The eggs could, I think, be safely got to England. They require no sort of hatching apparatus, and will hatch out in two or three days if kept on a sandy bottom with no more than 6 in. of water over them. A big pond full of small roach and rudd, and with no pike nor perch, would be the best to try it in.

The fish has done very well over here, and where there is no chance of driving out better fish we stock it largely in the public interests, particularly in slow-running rivers unsuitable for *Salmonidae*.—Yours truly, S. JAFFÉ.
Sandfort Trout Fishery, Osnabrück.

FISHING AT SEATON (DEVON).

SIR,—There is no free fishing to be obtained. Tickets, however, can be obtained for the Shute Estate waters from A. V. Kyrke, Esq., Estate Office, Shute, Axminster.

The terms are: Weekly tickets, 10s.; monthly, 21s.; season, £2 2s.; four days a week; Wednesdays and Thursdays are the days excepted. Fly only. No fish under 9 in. to be retained.

The waters extend over some five miles, perhaps more, consisting of about three miles on the Coly and two miles on the Axe. They are easily reached from Seaton, Colyton, and Colyford, being the stations on the Coly, and Seaton Junction for the Axe. Part of the fishing on the Axe is near Colyford. There are some peal in the Axe, also salmon, but these are practically all netted. A licence must be taken out from the Axe Fishery Board (clerk, W. Forward, Axminster). Trout, 2s. 6d.; salmon and trout, 10s.—Yours, &c., W. E.

FISHING AT KESWICK.

DEAR SIR,—Would any of your numerous readers oblige me with information as to the fishing at Keswick in July and August, with names of waters to be fished, charges or licences required, and best lures? Is the coarse fishing any good at that time?—Yours truly, TYRO.

BASS AND GREY MULLET FISHING.

DEAR SIR,—In answer to "A. P. W.," I am afraid he will not be able to procure any chervie from these islands this year, as I am informed a law has been passed in Jersey prohibiting the exportation of same. Some of the fishermen in St. Mello catch and sell it, but they do not preserve it nearly as well as the Jersey men. Thanks for information regarding bait for bass. I have not tried it, but will do so, that kind of bait being plentiful.—Yours truly, MULLET.

FISHING WANTED.

DEAR SIR,—I am desirous of taking my two boys for a fortnight's fishing in some still or slow running water, or a combination of lake and stream would be preferred. We should like rooms at a farm or private house near to the water, with use of boat if possible, in a bracing locality anywhere within 150 miles of York. If any reader, knowing of such a paradise, will kindly communicate with me direct or through this paper, I should be greatly obliged. If he adopts the former course any confidence will not be abused.—Yours very truly, C. W. R.

CAMPING OUT IN IRELAND.

DEAR SIR,—If R. Bowen Roberts will communicate with me, I will inform him of a quasi paradise for camping beside the tranquil shores of Lough Melvin. He can have the required attendance and provisions to his satisfaction; also good fishing. English parties often camp at this place.—Yours truly, P. GALLAGHER.
Rossfriar, Kinlough, co. Leitrim.

FISHING IN LANCASHIRE.

DEAR SIR,—I have two friends staying at Grange-over-Sand, Lancashire, from July 1 to July 7, who wish to obtain some fishing if possible.

Can any reader give information as to what coarse fishing (mention kinds of fish and baits) is obtainable,

whether free or otherwise, and charges—if any; also if good sea fishing is to be had, and tackle to use?—Yours faithfully, ALFRED H. LAW.

FISHING NEAR LONDON WANTED.

DEAR SIR,—Can you inform me where, within forty or fifty miles of London, I can get a week's fly and bottom fishing, with quiet, inexpensive inn accommodation or lodgings.—Yours truly, J. ROWE CHASE.

PIKE IN THE RIVER CLWYD, N. W.

SIR,—I think it will interest some of your readers to learn that *esox lucius* has made its appearance in the river Clwyd, North Wales, and that, until this season, its presence there was unknown.

On the 13th inst. I hooked a pike in the Clwyd, which was deftly gaffed for me by my companion, Mr. O. Conran, and proved to be a pike of 8 lb. weight. The questions interesting us now are: "Where did this pike come from, and are there many others?"

To those of your readers who know the Clwyd, it may be of further interest to know that this pike was killed a short way above the junction of the Clwyd and Elwy rivers.—Yours truly, F. M. LESLIE.

FISHING QUARTERS RECOMMENDED.

DEAR SIR,—In answer to your correspondent "Subaltern" in your issue of June 10, may I recommend the hotel from which I am writing, viz., Church Hill Hotel, Letterkenny. I am here with a bicycle which I find very useful. I biked here from Letterkenny, ten miles, leaving my luggage to come on by mail car. Roads are much rougher than in England, but quite serviceable. The quarters here are what "Subaltern" desires—plain, clean and moderate, 35s. a week for board and lodging. Fishing is free, except for a small charge of 1s. 6d. a day; on part of the river it is quite free. There are two lakes full of brown trout, rather small. Last year, in one day's fishing, less than six hours, I had a basket of seven and a half dozen. Charge for boat and boatman on lake is 2s. 6d. a day. There are no white trout, but there are salmon, free for fishing equally with the trout. Salmon are hardly up yet; but in August I understand it is good fishing.

I may add that the proprietor, Mr. Wilkin, is very obliging, and makes his visitors very comfortable.—Yours faithfully, H. A. HAINES.

WATERVILLE, CO. KERRY.

DEAR SIR,—Would you kindly allow me to have the following inserted in your far-famed columns of the *Fishing Gazette*, of which many readers visit the free waters of Lough Currane, which once held its own among the free waters of Ireland for salmon, but now is down to its lowest, and this is due to over netting in the month of

July in the estuaries. The sea trout fishing is unequalled in any free waters of our country, and we hope very soon to make it hold its own as in days of old for the salmon. We have started a hatchery here, and began the work on Nov. 9, 1898, and our first consignment of ova was laid down on Jan. 1, 1899, which took fifty-two days to hatch out. The temperature is from 48 to 50 degs. We have forty-two boxes, 6ft. long, 18in. wide, 9in. high, with 3in. of a fall from one to the other. The boxes are filled with 5in. of gravel and about 2in. of water over the ova. These boxes are fed from a filtered tank through a let pipe and tap. We have put 60,000 foreign ova of the salmon, kindly supplied by S. Jaffé, Sandfort Fishery, Germany; 40,600 rainbow trout, which hatched out most successfully, and are doing very well now in our rearing ponds, which are 78ft. long, 4ft. deep, 16ft. wide, divided in three, for the salmon, the rainbow trout, and the Loch Levens, of which we laid down 40,000. Those were not as successful as the rainbows, nor as healthy, but are now improving fast, and seem to get climatized. Whether they will take some of McCarthy's flies or not has yet to be tested; they ought, as he has spent many an hour looking after them, and gathering insects from the different streams and shores of the lakes to stock the ponds, which they now enjoy. His hatchery was started out of private enterprise, thanks to Mr. T. Galven, of Bay View Hotel, who spared neither time or money in making the hatchery what it now is. It would be well for the hotel proprietors of Kerry to study the interest of the English anglers and sportsmen who visit our place, and secure sport for them. They come to spend their money freely, and as long as they get any fair share of sport will come again. There is nothing to improve the fishing quicker than those hatcheries and change the breed of the fish, which, I have no doubt, will thrive in our waters. In addition to this we got 35,000 young fry from the Killogrin Hatchery; some Glencair salmon, Caragh river, Laune, Killarney Lakes. So, with the German Rhine, we will have a nice collection of 95,000 turned out this season. This is very good for the first start, besides securing the netting at the estuary or river mouth, and for some years to come the hotel keepers at Waterville deserve the greatest praise; they have taken steps to improve fishings and encourage sporting gentlemen to visit this locality. If other proprietors did similar to those hotel keepers at Waterville, the English sportsman would find his trip sporting and pleasant and would bring his friends among the old sporting lakes and mountains of Kerry, hoping to be able to give good accounts of the fishing as the season advances. It looks much brighter at present. On Saturday last I counted eighty-four sea trout with several salmon pass to the Waterville lake. Some of those trout were as large as 4 lb. The year's take in the weir is by far the largest for some past years. This is due to the netting being stopped for the past two years, which will improve the lakes very soon. Several large shoals came up on Sunday also, and early on Monday morning before the weir was put down at twelve o'clock. On Saturday I got a nice peal of 6 lb. on a single-handed rod, and fine cast off the bridge with fly, while some of those fish were passing. He fought well for his life, but I have been at the game before, and he could not play his old tricks on—yours truly, TIM MCCARTHY.

REED FLOATS.

DEAR SIR,—Enclosed herewith, I beg to send you a sample of four sizes in Reed floats, which I have made for the coming season, and shall be glad of your opinion of them in the *F. G.* I sell them at 6d., 8d., 10d., and 1s. each, and I think you will say they are well made and finished, and good value. For Norfolk fishermen we leave them as they are; local anglers generally fix their lines to the end ring of the float only, but when we send any away we put a rubber cap on them. A. J. RUDD.
54, London-street, Norwich.

[The Reed Floats are very nicely made; we can recommend them.—Ed.]

A NEW GOLF TEE.

DEAR SIR,—We note the paragraph *re* the new golf tee, which appeared in your issue of the 10th inst., and in reference to the size of the cup, we beg to say that this can be immediately remedied by cutting a little from the top of the I. R. cup with either a pair of scissors or a pocket knife. These are made to the regulation size, but of course any golfer may reduce the size to meet his taste.

If you will kindly name this in your next issue we shall esteem it a favour.—Yours faithfully, ANDERSON, ANDERSON AND ANDERSON, LTD.

TESTIMONIAL TO BEN ABRAHAMS.

DEAR SIR,—We are pleased to acknowledge the following sums with thanks:

	£	s.	d.
Amounts previously received ...	...	0	6
Elgin Angling Society ...	...	0	10
Bloomsbury Brothers' Angling Society ...	...	0	5
Duke of Norfolk Angling Society ...	...	0	5
Clapham Junction Angling Society ...	...	0	2
H. Slack (Allason United Brothers) ...	...	0	1
H. Taylor (Allason United Brothers) ...	...	0	2

Trustees: J. W. Harris (Western District Visiting Officer), G. Bence (secretary Jubilee Angling Society). Secretary: E. Jackson, 2, Bulmer-place, Notting Hill-gate, W., where all communications are to be addressed.

Several letters unavoidably held over.

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NOTICE.

THE FISHING GAZETTE is published every Saturday, and can be obtained at Messrs. W. H. Smith and Son's Railway Book-stalls, and of the principal Newsagents and Fishing Tackle Dealers in London and the Provinces.

Communications relating to the Literary Department, Fishing Tackle for Notice, Books for Review, &c., should be addressed to R. B. MARSTON, Editor of the FISHING GAZETTE, St. Dunstan's House, Fetter-lane, London.

Correspondents are requested to write on one side of the paper only, and give their real names and addresses, not necessarily as signatures to their letters, but as a guarantee of good faith. Unless this rule be adhered to no notice will be taken of such communications.

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The Fishing Gazette

WITH WHICH IS INCORPORATED
ANGLING AND CLUB GOSSIP.

SATURDAY, JUNE 24TH, 1899.

THE SALMON PROBLEM.

"AN open confession is good for the soul," and an honest owning up that the present condition of our salmon supply around the coasts baffles all reasonable attempts to account for the continued falling off is much more sensible than hatching theories in one breath, only to be discarded or discredited in the next. There is no use of setting up house after house of cards only to meet the inevitable collapse when the analytical moment arrives to take them in hand. However disagreeable the truth may be, the fact remains that all this season through there has been an alarming scarcity of salmon entering our rivers from the sea, and the significance of the truth is made all the more emphatic when it is frankly confessed by those whose business in life is to deal with salmon problems that, whatever be the cause, it is a mystery meantime which cannot be explained away.

The bad spring of 1895 is pointed to in some quarters, but this is only a contributory cause, not the main one. We do not rely on the produce of one season for our salmon supply. "One swallow does not make a summer," neither do salmon of a certain age make up our salmon supply. We can easily understand a scarcity of four-year-old fish from the effects of the long-

continued frosts of 1895; but, as yet, our "Intelligence Department," so to speak, in the sizes, weights, and approximate ages of the salmon, is not kept with such precision, that it is meantime possible to authoritatively state that there has been any marked falling off of salmon likely to have been hatched out in the very uncongenial spring of 1895, the remembrance of which makes a cold shiver run through our very marrow even at this distant date. That theory must be discarded.

The weather conditions have not been all that could be desired, yet we have often experienced much worse and the supply of fish been above the normal average. The winds have been badly "aired" for the north and east coasts, but otherwise experienced fishermen do not blame the easterly and south-easterly direction of the prevailing winds. They may be also set down as a contributing cause, but they do not explain the mystery of the present scarcity of fish on the coast, nor offer a satisfactory solution of the problem. The temperature of our rivers and streams has been low all the season through, and it is still so for the advanced period of the year; but salmon will run into fresh water, although not freely, in the teeth of snow broth, and so the temperature theory cannot of itself be held sufficient to explain the collapse of the salmon season. And so the various points may be taken up which apologists offer with, of course, the usual egotism, and when weighed in the balance of reason and probability will be found sadly wanting.

What then is the cause? We honestly confess we cannot but hazard the faintest guess, not by way of giving an explanation, but by way of not being able to give one. The herring fishing is a parallel to that of the salmon harvest. There are good seasons and bad seasons, sometimes alternating, sometimes following each other in succession, and once every fifteen years or so there is a series of bad seasons, followed by a sudden "slump," which marks the crisis in the cycle.

Fishermen can no more explain the controlling agencies or forces when there is a sudden failure in the herring supply than salmon fishers can do when the same thing happens with regard to the salmon supply. A year of great plenty may as unaccountably follow the seasons of dearth; and herein the mystery surrounding all fishery problems, and more particularly salmon fishery problems, is doubly intensified.

It is well known that meteorological conditions, atmospheric depressions, climatic changes, &c., have a great controlling influence in inducing the fish to run inshore or otherwise; and this knowledge, coupled with the fact that trawlers and other white fishers have observed salmon leaping in the sea thirty miles off the coast, incline us to the belief that the bulk of this season's crop of salmon have not yet come on the coast.

It may be that there will be an extra good show up in the autumn, and it may be that the scarcity will continue right on till next spring, when the years of plenty, it is hoped, may then commence.

During the month of May 1090 boxes of salmon were sent from Scotland to Billingsgate in 1898. Last May the total was 1050—only forty boxes behind the previous year. This is as good results as we have yet obtained, but it must be strongly borne in mind that last year was also one of the worst salmon seasons on record. However, June promises much better than May did, and, as far as the month has gone, there has been a daily increase in the salmon and grilse supply and a constant fall in the wholesale prices—a sure sign of a plentiful market.

The quality of the salmon and earlier grilse was said to be excellent, but latterly the grilse have not been improving in this respect. We saw upwards of fifteen on Saturday last, all taken north of the Dee, and they were anything but the lithe, plump beauties we care to deal with. Silvery they were, but as thin as eels, and it is hoped that these were exceptions to what the season's crop will be when they come away within the next week or so.

Owing to the bright weather and strong sunshine salmon angling has been somewhat erratic during the past five or six weeks, some anglers being thick in luck, while others, again, have been dead beat to get a rise for days on end, although the pools show good evidences of a fair stock of fish. On the Cambus O'May

Dee water the lessee had thirteen fish in one day to his own rod, and thirty for the week—the top score of the season for Scotland—while others, both above and below him, fished blank for several days on end. On the Cairnton Dee water last week Mr. T. Turner Farley had to do with thirty fish in three days' angling, seventeen of which he landed, all scaling from 6lb. to 22lb; yet on the Inchmarlo waters immediately below, and on the Crathies below that again, scarcely a single fish is being seen, besides being landed. Yet sportsmen, who happen to be disappointed in their own reaches, go away from such rivers as the Dee and give it out broadcast that such reports—phenomenal, we admit—as those given above of the Cairnton or Cambus O'May waters are pure inventions, or at best exaggerations!

Some very fine salmon were caught during the closing days of May on the Tay. One rod had five heavy fish one day, averaging 25lb. each. The river has been in excellent order for angling, and a very large number of anglers have been on the water daily. The Tay Syndicate Improvement Association are beginning to reap the fruits of their labours already, but not very much need be looked for till their system of control has been in working order for a year or two. However, they have hit the nail on the head, and taken a firm grasp of the situation in seeking to buy up the control of the nets. Whatever may be the advantages of artificial propagation—and we would not desire to minimise them by a single hair's breadth—nothing can compare with having the complete control of the netting stations, so as to enhance the sporting prospects of our salmon rivers. In this respect the Dee has been an outstanding example for nigh a quarter of a century now. The South Esk is forging ahead, and the Deveron, although not up to expectations, will soon redeem the initial cost when once it has had a fair chance of a few good average seasons.

The smolt season has been a most prolific one all over. It has been a late one, like most other matters piscicultural, as well as agricultural, but not for years back has there been such a fine show of healthy young fish as was witnessed during the latter weeks of May and early days of June. They are all down now except on the later streams, such as the Ythan, where the other day they were coming to the trout fly more like young finnock than salmon smolts, as far as size was concerned.

The Spey has been fishing better than at any time during the present season, but there is still great room for improvement. Some fine, heavy fish of 30lb. and thereabout were got on the lower reaches; and Mr. McCorquodale, on the Tulchan House water, had six one day to his own rod—the top score for the Spey. Grilse and sea trout are showing up well on the coast, and the prospects of a good summer fishing are on the whole very gratifying. The Beaully, hitherto very poor as the season has gone, has been yielding better results to the rod, and sea trout have, within the past few days, been more plentiful than for some years back. In the far north results are not over bright, and the best basket on the Kyle of Sutherland, up to date, has been four fish for one day. However, the coast fishings are steadily improving.

The fly has been the most successful lure, and just now the tiniest patterns, on $\frac{1}{2}$ in. and $\frac{3}{4}$ in. irons, are all the rage. The Loggie, Mar Lodge, Silver Doctor, Jock Scott, Jeannie, Silver and Claret, Silver and Blue Bumble, and such like on the lightest of salmon casts have been equally successful. Tiers cannot make them small enough so as to keep pace with the demands of anglers. The bright sunshine and the daily diminishing streams need these mite salmon lures, else there is little chance of securing a rise. The small hooks and the light tackle are accountable for not a few breaks and disappointments, and especially so where the heavy spring rods are still being wielded instead of the regular summer set to correspond with the reduced fly.

The yellow trout season is now at its best. Fish are plump and fat, and still rising freely to the fly. On the Don last week some magnificent baskets were creel'd, heavy fish being conspicuous. This is not often the case, but then there have been frequent thunder pelts, and on the whole the rivers are more like March size than June dimensions. On the Ugie, Deveron, Findhorn,

Beaulieu, and such famous yellow trout rivers, the season has all along been a very good one, and the prospects till the end of the month at least are of the brightest. The very smallest of trout flies are being used with best results, and the standard patterns reign supreme as the killing lures.

G. M.

"DRY-FLY FISHING IN THEORY AND PRACTICE."

By MR. FREDERIC M. HALFORD.

THE OBSERVATIONS AND REFLECTIONS OF A WET-FLY FISHER.

THE new and revised edition of this beautifully-written and valuable work lies before me as I venture, "like little wanton boys that swim on bladders," over "a sea of glory" "which may for ever hide me" if Mr. Halford only punctures the aforesaid bladders when I am out of my depth!

I write in no captious mood. I have learned many a wrinkle during the perusal of the book, with which I wish to deal in a sincere and, I hope I may add, a fraternal spirit. Alas! I feel I cannot refrain from commenting upon the self-satisfied complacency with which experts of the "dry" fly view us of the "wet" fly; and, while entering a disclaimer, Mr. Halford is not quite free from this almost patronising tone, especially if one reads between the lines here and there.

It is the one "littleness" in what I must call a great art, and is unworthy of the "school."

As for "chuck and chance it"—that school-boyish heavy piece of wit, wearisome as it is stale, and absolutely false in its misleading tendency—I wish it were tabooed, for it is really childish.

I desire to "compare notes" as I go along, and to show that there is much in accord with our ideas, and much we can now cordially praise, since we cannot imitate.

I met a former vicar of mine a few days ago. He had been in Norway with the bishop of his diocese last summer, and he was going again this year. He said he had only had some trout fishing in a river, but this year they were to have more water, and he thought nothing of the fact that he had killed with the fly two trout of 5lb. each, and a good many from 1lb. to 2½lb., apologising and saying that "he had not fished since he was a boy!" How unlike the bragging one reads occasionally, when a sprat is called a whale.

And then he said to me, "What about this dry fly? What does it mean?" and I told him of this "Work," shook hands, and left him with a puzzled look on his face, as I said that the flies were not only not allowed to sink but must float with their wings cocked at the will of the thrower! Possibly he did not wish me to say much more, lest I might be tempted to tell "more on 'em," and so, like a good man, bolted for my sake.

I now refer to the notes I have made, and I may add that I have deliberately gone through the original edition, and then, finding this new work was published, I ignored my former notes and began afresh.

At least I am painstaking, Mr. Halford!

My first remark is from chap. I., p. 5, where Mr. Halford speaks in favour of a single-handed rod for fly fishing, a remark with which I entirely agree.

I do not follow him in his remarks that greenheart is so brittle, and is "always liable to break off short." I know that this has been said by many other anglers.

It has not been my own—and I have had a large experience—I and my friends with greenheart rods made by Forrest and Sons, of Kelso and London.

Many so-called makers pay no attention to details, and err either through ignorance or wilfully, but when picked and seasoned, and the ferrules are put on properly by a finished workman, I believe that greenheart is a most reliable wood. It has one very bad point as a trout rod. It is too steel-like and hard in action, and when a trout takes to jiggering, the shock of each shake of head or tail is communicated to the angler's hand in a way that suggests a smash if the finest drawn gut is being used.

For this reason the rod that Messrs. Forrest make—called by my name, the "Tod" rod—is composed of a butt and middle joint of hickory; tops, lancewood; and this makes a very "sweet"

and efficient 'rod, free from the objection just stated.

As to split cane, I entirely agree that when well made they are fine weapons, and I most certainly agree with the author that only the best should be purchased. A cheap and good split-cane rod is a moral impossibility. It cannot be done! The two objections to these rods are, it seems to me, (1) their price, and (2) that a broken joint, when far from a good maker, is not easily repaired—not half so easily as in the case of whole wood rods. The latter is a great objection.

I observe, to my surprise, that the "horizontal cast" seems to be most used by the dry-fly school. We of the wet fly most frequently use the "vertical cast."

I am grateful for a good wrinkle—one of many such—the use of paraffin oil when the joints get jammed (see p. 20).

I am not a little pleased to find that many of the best dry-fly men "have recanted," and are again going back to the loose rings instead of the upright. I prefer loose rings save in the butt, and here bridge rings (especially in our clear water worm fishing) are of advantage.

At page 34 the author advises striking from the reel. I cannot say that I consider this of much value. Of course a man who places his whole hand on the line is all wrong. My plan is to feel the line with my forefinger till the trout is hooked, when it comes off instinctively and in a second.

Also, unlike Mr. Halford, I prefer to use the reel with the handle to my right side, and the reel and rings below, and not above, the rod.

I never knew a good rod of my own get "a set" on it by using the rod in the usual way, but if it did, can anything be simpler than its cure? At the end of the season get the rings reversed, and the rod re-varnished, the butt excepted.

At page 36, the hint that plaited silk lines should never be round but square (as round lines mean plaiting round a core—and often of jute) is of real value.

Pages 46 and 47, eyed hooks are preferred for dry fly work, and I am puzzled to find that turned up or turned down eyes make little or no difference in their hooking and holding powers. This is a bit queer to me. As a rule, I prefer hooks tied to gut best. My prejudices are very thin nowadays in this respect, and were I young instead of being somewhat past the prime my prejudice would be thinner still.

If I might express it, I would like an eyed hook where only one hook is used, or for the end fly; but for "droppers" I have an old-fashioned faith in hooks attached to gut.

I have no hesitation in saying that all loch and sea trout flies should be tied on eyed hooks. The weight of the iron (in a large sized fly) so constantly cracks the gut (and thick gut not least) just where the iron is whipped on, that I certainly think all such flies should be dressed on eyed hooks. To follow my reasoning, how long would a salmon fly last if tied on the finest single salmon gut like a trout fly?

So, Mr. H., you see you are making us wet-fly men acknowledge that we are picking up wrinkles from your side as we go along. My "triple gut hinge" is the next best thing, but I confess I prefer the eyed hooks, as it is so hard to get fly dresser to do this "hinge" well. I can do it myself, but I have had some woeful looking things sent to me by some fly dressers, till in despair I gave its use up altogether; as I try to live a quiet life, and don't like to swear!

I see that Mr. Halford advises a basket instead of a bag. My opinion is that a basket fitted like my own, with a close-fitting indiarubber lining hung to the inside of the creel by large-sized hooks (such as ladies' dresses are fastened by), a split cane being first attached to the margin of the creel, inside, of course, and a loose piece of indiarubber added to lay over each fish or layer of fish, is invaluable, and I never use anything else, because I know of nothing so good and so practical. All bags rub the fish together till they are ruined long before they get home. I hate all fishing bags for trout.

And now I get on familiar ground, where Mr. Halford remarks (p. 56): "Thus, wet-fly fishing is often termed 'fishing the water,' in contradistinction to the expression 'fishing the rise,' which is applied to the method of the dry-fly fisherman." And then the author goes on and

deprecates "the presumption of superior scientific knowledge and skill on the part of the dry-fly fisherman," a modesty which is almost transparent.

I wish emphatically to say that no really good wet-fly fisherman "fishes the water, except in the absence of the rise," but the knowledge and skill, and intuitive perception displayed by a really skilful wet-fly fisherman when fishing a river when no sign of rising trout is visible, is a sealed book to those of the dry-fly school, and is also, I may add, only known to the wise and prudent of the wet-fly school itself—i.e., those who are "far ben."

The moment the birth of fly begins to show, and the trout to feed, every man worth his salt fishes "the rise," by necessity as well as by choice, if he wants to kill a good basket of fish. Besides, it is far more sportsmanlike and pleasure-giving. To see those who have none of this intuitive perception, backed by keen observation and crowned by experience, hopelessly fishing useless stretches of water (full of trout as they are), whilst the man "who knows" is filling his basket elsewhere, is a very sufficient answer to the "chance it" ideas of certain men of Mr. Halford's school who have never made the wet fly a study.

Now page 63 goes beyond all my conceptions of legitimate fishing, taking as it does the high standpoint that it is (in club or subscription waters) not sportsmanlike to cast a fly save over a rising fish, and that if a good fish is seen in position for feeding he should be left alone, unless he is rising at the natural insect. How funny and ceremonious! "On private or on exceptionally well-stocked waters" the author thinks that if the angler sees a fish in a likely place he may be justified in casting a fly over it.

Really, I think this is going too far, for it plainly implies that the man who does not do all this is not quite a sportsman. Permit me to remark that such an unwritten law is all very well for the man who has a house or cottage on the banks, and also has the sweet privilege of fishing wherever he chooses; but the hard worker who rushes down from town for a day, or even half a day, surely is not bound by any code of honour, written or unwritten, to adhere to such stringent rules, which, if applied thereto,

Would bring religion's self into disfavour.
—Hood.

Of course, I write only as a wet-fly man, but I find that many good dry-fly fishers (the editor of this journal for one, and Mr. Alfred Jardine for another) do not hold these exclusive and dogmatic ideas. And if I am right, the same opinions are not given by the author himself at page 43 of the old edition of this work as are now given at page 63 of the present one.

Mr. Jardine's article at page 334 of the *Fishing Gazette* of May 20, 1899, is too long to quote here, but is well worthy of perusal and consideration. Again, at pages 64 and 65, the author trots out "the great Scotch fly fisher." Now, I cannot speak for all, but for myself, as a Scotchman and a wet-fly fisherman, I shall simply say that, were I to go to the Test or Itchen with my wet-fly tackle and methods, and fish—not for a day but for a season, the only real test—I should be wholly unable to hold my own, for our system is not suited to such circumstances, just as a purely dry-fly man on a hard thrashed rapid stream suited for wet fly would find that he had some thing to learn.

I am amused to find that highly-educated South of England trout are still contented with whole gut. Mr. Marryat, I am glad to see (p. 81), used "the finest of drawn gut." In Scotland, for a number of years, I have looked on anything but fine drawn gut in river fishing (save in the early spring) as a retrograde step. Of course, we are not often troubled with weeding trout in the north.

At p. 82 I find a remarkable corroboration of of my own ideas, viz. (and here I put it in my own words), I never throw a long line if a short one will suffice.

At p. 86, Mr. Halford speaks of "the ordinary switch cast as used by the wet-fly fisher."

Last year I was honoured by an invitation to give a few lessons in fly casting to some members of a well-known and flourishing angling society in my neighbourhood, and amongst other lessons I showed how to throw a fair amount of line in a river if one could only wade in a yard or two, but where it was impossible to throw behind, owing to a high hedge or fence. I throw the line first close to the very margin of the stream, and then,

having raised my hand, I instantly turn the wrist, and forcibly drive the line across the stream; and if, one on making the cast, can only take a step forward at the same moment, the effectiveness of its delivery is much increased. I had to show all this on the tennis lawn of a popular club, and to demonstrate it I placed myself at the bottom of a sunk fence, with the tennis-net of another lawn on a higher level above and behind me; a tolerably fair test. It would be of no use, I fear, for dry-fly work.

All the same, such places are so seldom fished that the result is—sport to him who can fish them, and not get hung up in the process. It is a wrinkle. At page 89 we are advised, whenever possible, to fish upstream. In moderately broad streams, and in all narrow streams, this is the proper way to fish with the wet fly also. In rivers of large volume, unless when they are very low, up and across “the half drift” is generally the best practice; but whenever circumstances favour it, I say, face the source rather than turn your back on it, unless the sun is on your back the while. Mr. Stewart made this very plain thirty-five years ago in his most excellent work, “The Practical Angler.”

I remember the day when I used firmly to imagine that dry-fly men made a perfect study of the natural fly, and would fish with no understudy, and it comes as an eye-opener to learn that you should not imitate the “cuss,” and that when in doubt you should play trumps, in the form of a Pink Wickham, or a gold-ribbed Hare’s Ear, and a few other such “fancy” flies—all of which makes me content with my own praise of Greenwell’s Glory, and a few such good wet fly patterns.

At page 104 the author refers to “fishing over good places on spec,” and I myself consider it a very sensible thing to do, and in no way derogatory (he does, p. 108). As fishing against the wind has ever been a familiar experience to me, I cordially thank Mr. Halford for the term “glass edge” in this connection. It is admirable! As is also his advice never to hold a fish hard when it is bolting under an arch. His reasoning is excellent here, I consider. Of pages 114 and 115 my pencil notes quote the Psalmist: “Such knowledge is too wonderful for me,” &c., and I dare not even attempt criticism.

“Cheating the wind” when throwing upwards against the wind expresses what it means exactly. Thanks, many!

At page 117 it says: “How strange to us wet-fly men this throwing of a slack line to achieve the best results. I only know of one single instance of this being done by a very old friend in one strong stream on the Tweed, with an eddy on the far side, where the good trout lay, and he could thus catch trout which others only pricked.

But to lay a line in loose coils on the bank of a river to prevent the fly dragging is, indeed, very wonderful to me.

Also, that “we often strike far too quickly” a rising trout. This is to me a new idea. I generally thought that we did not tighten soon enough as a rule, especially in the case of highly educated trout—quick at divining false from true. I am equally surprised to find that during heavy rain, hail, or wind “even unlikely places may be tried with success.” And that during rain “trout go silly.” Now, as a wet-fly fisherman, this has not been my experience, as a rule. Once on a small Highland loch I started fishing at 2 p.m. in a dead calm, with a continuous fall of rain. The trout were boiling like a pot, and as I could not see any flies I presumed that the falling water brought down with it millions of midges (cusses); anyhow, in four or five hours I had basketed 24 lb. of trout with the fly. I quote this as a decided exception, and I never remember of Scottish trout “going silly” during rain, as they did on this occasion.

I may say that I look on dace fishing as a far higher art than trout fishing, since here one should strike instantly, else the fly is ejected in a second, indeed, I was once advised to anticipate the rise of a dace. I need hardly add that I do not wish this taken too seriously, as I seldom waste my time fly fishing for dace. All the same, I have a sincere respect for their cleverness in spitting out the fly, and this in a manner which even a Test trout need not be ashamed of, despite his superiority in birth and education.

Much is made of “the first cast” over a rising

trout, and I must say that to be able to measure distance so as to place the fly always where it is wanted fills me with envy, as well as with honest and genuine admiration; indeed, nothing in the whole book makes me so envious.

When the first cast is made with accuracy, it would seem that even the exact pattern of the fly itself is of secondary importance. This is worth considering.

Page 153 explains the difference of the two terms “tailing” and “bulging” trout, and very valuable are such terms to us all.

I confess I am rather sceptical concerning the theory advanced that in hot weather, and especially in the evening, the fresh water snails come to the surface sometimes, and are then and there pounced on by the trout.

A rise of snails and a show of tails is a thing I will only believe in when I see it. At present it is put forward purely as a suggestion, and to account for certain phenomena otherwise hard to explain.

I find I must hurry up and deal more briefly with the rest of my notes, as space has to be considered.

At p. 169, the author is evidently of opinion that all wet-fly fishing should be prohibited on dry-fly streams, where high rents are paid, &c. As this is a matter for the members of each club (or owner) to deal with, I shall say nothing against it here, save that it seems a little tyrannical at first sight.

Fancy any Scottish angling club forbidding the use of the dry fly; and, indeed, our South of Scotland trout need no new educating process.

I find that the Iron Blue is the favourite fly on most chalk streams, and Greenwell’s Glory is a very fair imitation of this fly; and I maintain that no individual fly is so generally successful on ordinary North of England and Scottish streams as this grand fly.

Thus we find we are shaking hands again in exchanging experiences and notes. Page 190 “I find that during northerly and north-easterly winds a large hatch of flies is frequently seen on the Test. I have seen this again and again on the Deveron and other Scotch rivers, and I have often killed my largest baskets of trout when I could hardly manage to tie a fly on, so bitterly cold was the wind, and yet the flies were hatched in great numbers, and the trout fed on them greedily in the coldest days.

I should like to remark that, being one of the old school, who think “Nature unadorned adorned the most,” I do not care to fish artificial ponds and so forth, and I confess I am inclined to feel that there is a good deal that is rather artificial in this dry-fly business, with all its punctilio! The map at page 100 gives me that idea—I dare say it is necessary—but is it equally poetical, this scientific weed cutting? Is “walking up” or “stalking” game on the same level as having the game driven right on to “the guns?” I think not. To me it is artificial, and the poetry of sport suffers a loss.

There is another thing I would just like to say, and it is this: The dry-fly fisherman rules yards for miles in comparison with the wet-fly fisher, and, while we of the wet fly school gladly acknowledge the skill which has been brought to bear by this advanced section of the fly fishers of the world, we claim that the grandeur and the poetry of angling is the birthright and the inheritance of the wet-fly men, whose rushing waters extend the whole world over! May I ask where is the poetry in angling literature which is the outcome of the enthusiasm of the dry-fly school.

I know of none save that of “Cotswold Isis,” whose cultured “Lyra Piscatoria” are so well and so deservedly known.

As a rule, dry-fly rivers meander by peaceful meadows and through quiet vales, which, though beautiful and full of peace, do not stir the pulse or fire the imagination as do the more mighty and tumultuous rivers which are so frequently fished by the votaries of the wet-fly school.

We have each to learn something from the other, and I have learned much from this splendid work. Only last Easter one of the most famous authorities on dry fishing, in corresponding with me, volunteered the avowal that he could not really succeed as a wet-fly fisherman—just as I could no more imitate him as a dry-fly fisherman (at my time of life) than I could fly.

Although it may seem inconsistent, I shall not close this paper till I have said a few words of the

man to whose memory Mr. Halford has dedicated this work so feelingly. I never knew him personally, but many years ago our mutual friend, Mr. M., of Lazonby Hall, Cumberland (whose lovely stretch of the Eden, extending through the famous Baron Wood, I have fished so often), told me when dining at his house, after enjoying a day’s fishing together, how Mr. Marryat had fished his waters whilst he was his guest, and then he brought out with pride a book which Mr. Marryat had sent to him afterwards. I also remember his showing me some trout flies grandly tied by the same authority. Like Mr. Halford, he would not throw a line unless over a rising trout, even in the Eden, where trout only run three to the lb.!* Let me just add this tribute to his worth, that, had I met him, I should have been content to sit beside him to watch him at work—a real treat, especially on his own pet streams. Of course I should have quizzed him on coming north with his southern prejudices still clinging to him so closely that he could not (or would not) alter his usual methods.

There is in such a rigid adherence to “form” something of human pride. He was the best known authority on dry fly fishing, and hardly dared to sacrifice his dignity, lest in doing so he lost, in some measure, his prestige.

May I give my own opinion of the man, based on all I have heard and read, for I have fished with a good many celebrated fishermen in my time, and have been at times compelled to admit the presence of a “something” beyond the reach of ordinary mortals. I have witnessed it in one or two wet fly fishers, and it is conspicuous in Mr. Marryat’s case. He was not of the type of man of whom we Scotch say “there is naething in him save what the spoon put there.” Such men become leaders in spite of themselves. I mean, I need hardly add, that Mr. Marryat was, in his bold originality and the ease with which he out-distanced others, a man of genius.

E. M. TOD.

THE BEGINNING OF THE SEASON.

MANY anglers visited the Shepperton district on the 16th inst., and the Tumbling Bay had a rare “combing” on the opening day of the coarse fishing season. Herbert Curr baited a barbel swim on the evening of the 15th, and seeing the clay balls being tossed into the water made me wonder what success his clients would meet with; and I fancy they did well, considering the state of the water, as I saw them land a few barbel.

The scene on the evening of the 16th was an animated one; a punt at each corner of the bay, Poulter and Curr with their respective clients, three or four rods on the platform, and sundry others on the banks. I quietly tried the chub during the evening with a little cheese-paste, more to find out where the larger fish were than anything else, getting four fish and losing another by a bit of bad luck. When spinning for trout on the evening of June 15, I landed three small fish in three successive casts—trout, chub, and perch; this all pointed to the probability of the fish feeding on the following day.

A friend from Guildford, Mr. C. B. Sells, who recently landed a magnificent trout, over 7 lb. in weight, at Shepperton, arranged to fish with me on the Saturday; and as I walked to Weybridge station on my way to “the little village,” he came flying down the road on his bicycle, carrying a 16 ft. salmon rod with him for the purpose of giving the chub “beans” on the shallows. When I arrived at the weir in the afternoon he had landed a dozen or more. We have been trying the trout with salmon flies lately, but have only secured chub and perch.

We pottered about during the afternoon, and in one place I got a small perch at almost every cast, spinning with a Devon minnow, and now and then a chub. When the sun got low down we commenced chubbing in earnest, for during most of the time there were so many rods about that it was impossible to fish properly. After a few runs down with Nottingham tackle the fish came on in real earnest; a nice southerly breeze had sprung

* In the Baron Wood water I have caught fine trout up to 2 lb. with wet fly, and equally fine fish in the deep waters above Armathwaite Bridge using the dry fly; but the average is probably as given by Mr. Tod.—R. B. MARSTON, Ed. F. G.

up, and though the fish fed shyly, hardly ever pulling the float boldly down as usual, we got a chub at almost every swim, eight swims in succession producing a fish. Now it is the greatest mistake possible for two rods to fish at once in certain swims, and we fished one rod only, changing after landing a fish.

In about two hours we filled the punt well with big chub; so full was it that they were lying on their sides for want of water-space, and a basket of the larger fish was little short of 30lb. in weight, the best fish going 4½lb.; these, added to the fish we put back and the dozen caught in the morning, represented a catch quite 50lb. in weight of chub, not reckoning the perch. The talk one hears of the "depleted Thames" always strikes me as rather nonsensical; with reasonable knowledge of swims, tackle, baits, etc., very good sport can now and then be enjoyed with the coarse fish. Given the requisite knowledge, it is only a question of patience till the fish come on the feed, as they suddenly did on Saturday last; this I put down to the change in the wind entirely.

Perch are undoubtedly vastly increasing in numbers in the Thames, and with such plentiful feed as they can easily obtain in the shape of minnows, bleak, and the like, it is quite safe to anticipate excellent sport with these beautiful game-fighting fish in a year or two.

In the interests of preservation it does good to keep the larger chub; even at this time of year they are certainly somewhat "kelty" in condition, but for a gluttonous gobbler of small fry I fancy few fish equal chub. All those I have caught on salmon flies during the past week or two have, of course, been scrupulously put back, and my great endeavour, at present, is to land a "bonnie Thames trout," I mean a real "banger," on a fly; this I have not yet succeeded in doing, but have recently come across a customer that may perhaps be "perwailed upon to stop."

Roach are not in condition yet, and the opinion that July 16, or even August 1, is quite early enough to fish for them in the Thames cannot be too forcibly expressed; one day we shall have a revision of the Mundella Act respecting angling for coarse fish, and all sensible anglers must see that proper preservation only tends to their good sport. It is early yet for bream, but I have seen many good fish. The character of some of the best "pitches" has altered considerably, the floods in the winter have "mudded up" the river in several places.

"Never prophesy till you know" is excellent advice; but, judging from what I see of the fish and fishing at the present time, Thames anglers may expect to do well during the season which has just begun.

CHARLES H. WHEELLEY.

"STRAW HAT" PASTE FOR ROACH, &c.

WHAT a capital idea! Mr. J. Jeffrey, the well-known angler and writer under the name of "Straw Hat," has invented what will be a boon to anglers who use paste as a bait for roach, dace, chub, &c., viz., three specially prepared pastes in three colours—"white," "yellow," and "red"—and these pastes are put up in tin boxes and sold retail at 2d. and 3d. by Mr. J. Richardson, of 123, Euston-road, King's Cross, London, who also supplies the trade on special terms.

We shall try these pastes at the first opportunity, but have such faith in "Straw Hat's" skill as an angler that we have no hesitation in recommending his pastes. He would not put them on the market if he had not proved to his own satisfaction that they not only keep well but kill well.

ERRATA.

In the article entitled "Some Remarks on the Article entitled 'Restoration of Salmon Rivers'" last week the following errors unfortunately occur:

Line 34, 2nd col., p. 421, "think" should be "there."
Line 48, 2nd col., p. 421, "influence" should be "inference."

Line 25, 3rd col., p. 421, "them" should be "the one"; and in the 10th line from last in this column "riverine system" should of course have been "riverine system."

In line 6 of col. 1 on p. 422 "cause" should be "course," and in line 17 of same column "are" should be "one."

MR. P. D. MALLOCH'S NEW CATALOGUE.

WE have received from Mr. P. D. Malloch, New Scott-street, Perth, a copy of his new catalogue. It is a very business-like, well produced and well illustrated work, and we have to thank Mr. Malloch for lending us the accompanying very effective illustration from it, drawn by Mr. J. E. Millais.

Next time they are printing the cover we would suggest a line being added along the back with the date, otherwise, when the list is on a shelf with a row of books, the blank back tells nothing, and it is necessary to write in the particulars.

Mr. Malloch is, of course, well known as one of the best salmon and trout anglers in Scotland, and we see from the catalogue that he has won "over one hundred first prizes at angling competitions and casting tournaments;" while at exhibitions of fishing tackle he has carried off the highest awards, and medals and diplomas enough to stock a shop with.

As we said in 1883, "It is always especially

do not get crushed and spoiled as they do in a book. The case being almost air-tight, the tinsel remains bright a much longer time; also, the colours of the flies do not fade so soon. The whole of the flies can be seen in a few seconds, the flies being all exposed to the eyes. The flies do not take up half the room they occupy in a book. Every fly being securely fixed, they cannot get lost as they do out of a book. The case cannot get destroyed with wet. When the case is not in use it can be put aside anywhere, being quite proof against the attack of moths. It is also suitable for holding double flies.

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On p. 38 there is an illustration of Mr. M.'s patent "Automatic Boat Angler." This is a contrivance for holding three rods out over the stern of a boat, and all anglers who care for harling should see the illustration and descrip-



FROM MR. P. D. MALLOCH'S NEW CATALOGUE.

(Drawn by Mr. J. E. Millais.)

pleasing to us to notice the goods of a tackle maker who is himself an expert angler—he is pretty sure to know exactly what anglers want." Anglers going north will find Mr. M.'s new establishment only a few minutes' walk from Perth Station, and he arranges to meet any train with customers' orders, or to receive specimen fish to be cast and painted, for modelling, casting, and painting fish is an important branch of the business, and the results are admirable. In the Fly Fishers' Club there is a painted cast of a grand Loch Stenness trout, which is admired by all who have seen it. These painted casts are most moderate in price; in fact, we see from the price list that they are less than half what we imagined they would be.

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tion of this ingenious contrivance, which would also answer well in sea fishing from a boat or yacht with spinning bait.

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MR. PINGO HORTON.

A Public Meeting in support of the objects of the above Association will be held at the Egyptian Hall, Mansion House (by kind permission of the Right Honourable the Lord Mayor), on Friday, June 30. The Lord Mayor will take the chair at 3.30 p.m.

The object of the Association is to conduct a series of experiments, with a view of proving the possibility of restoring salmon to the Thames, and all interested in the question are invited to attend.

HOW AND WHERE TO FISH IN IRELAND.

By H. REGAN.

WITH MAP AND NUMEROUS TEXT ILLUSTRATIONS.

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OPENING OF THE COARSE FISHING SEASON.

SOME ANGLING STATIONS ON THE GREAT EASTERN RAILWAY.

(Continued from page 423.)

Huntingdon.—The next important station to Great Paxton is Huntingdon. The river in places in this interesting locality has a broad-like appearance on account of the sedge, rushes, reed beds, &c., and the scenery is delightful. These rush, and sometimes reed-fringed slow running deeps afford good harbour for both jack and perch, and they should be well tried for in the proper season. Godmanchester, with its round, singular, and extensive racecourse, known as the Portholme, is on the opposite side of the river to Huntingdon, and this fishery belongs to the Corporation of Godmanchester, is hired by the Huntingdon Angling Association; the charge for daily tickets is 6d., and I understand this money is all expended in re-stocking the river. Not only a boat, but good information respecting the fish and fishing can be obtained from the landlord of the Woolpack Inn, in close proximity to the bridge. St. Ives is about four and a half miles from Godmanchester by rail, and anglers can make either town their headquarters; but those anglers who prefer to stay at Huntingdon will find the George Hotel an excellent hostelry to patronise. There are so many capital swims, "pits," and backwaters in this district that it would be impossible to refer to a quarter of them except in a cursory manner, but one of the best places for chub is a back run or stream called Lee's Brook, using the natural insect in preference to the artificial. It leaves the river at Brampton Wale and rejoins it at Bleakley's Grove. A stream of sharp shallows and rather deepish holes; in many places the angler will find little difficulty in keeping out of sight, and it is most essential that he should, for Ouse chub are proverbially cautious and cunning; try all I could, it once took me over an hour to capture one out of four or five swimming round and round near the surface in the splendid pool near the paper mill below St. Neots. Who, may I ask, has not heard of the grand rudd that have been taken at Hartford?—not the only place, by the way, where good rudd may be taken in this locality. No matter how one gets out one's bait, it goes without saying that the best way to circumvent these easily frightened fish is to angle from a boat. It is a *sine quâ non* with many Ouse anglers to fish for rudd where it is weedy (no doubt this has something to do with their feeding), but I know one old Ouse angler at all events, who sometimes catches rudd with the worm (red), also gentles, fishing like one would for either roach or dace. Personally I have caught many rudd with the red or cockspur worm, fishing considerably deeper than some anglers in the Ouse, and in this river the best fish are not always taken near the surface. I believe the Huntingdon Angling Association's water ends at a spot called the Four Gate Pit, a splendid pikey, perchy, and chubby-looking pool and backwater which the angler should not forget to try, and try well, more especially if he be staying at Houghton, and also to try the water around the Portholme for jack at the proper period, using a natural bait in his spinning operations. The same baits for both hook and ground as those recommended in the last article of course apply on this occasion, with the exception that a very good bait for rudd is a mixture of King's natural bait and bread paste made from a stale loaf worked up as stiff and adhesive as possible.

St. Ives, Holywell, and Swavesey.—To save time, trouble, and probably annoyance, I recommend anglers visiting St. Ives to call upon the well-known secretary of the St. Ives Angling Society, Mr. Collinson, who, I feel sure, will give *bonâ fide* anglers the best possible information respecting the fishing in this locality. Swims (Hemingford Grey Mill Pool): This delightful tree-sheltered old mill and charming pool is a favourite spot, and much frequented by all classes of anglers; and a little distance upstream there is another splendid pool, called the "six gates," the pool or basin below these gates forming a tremendous eddy, and feeding a pretty little back-water that crosses the meadows and

rejoins the main river just below Hemingford Pool. Walking along the river between the old mill and "six gates" the river was as clear as crystal, and I saw plenty of both roach and rudd, but they were wonderfully shy. The rod to fish from these low grassy banks should be at least 18ft. or 20ft. in length. The water is so bright that the angler should be seated, and the bait should be literally sneaked in to stand a chance of success, and, as there are numerous swims on both side of the "gates," it is not wise to stop too long in one place. From St. Ives Locks to Friend's Corner is about a quarter of a mile, and the river is from 7ft. to 9ft. in depth, and at the "Corner" the river opens out into a miniature broad—a beautiful sheet of water, containing roach, perch, jack, and at certain periods bream. From here to the railway bridge (only a short distance) several good swims can be fished in comparative quiet and seclusion. The well-known Drayton shallows are situated below the railway bridge. Next we come to the celebrated "Church Hole" swim, nearly opposite Holywell Church, and good roach are captured in this swim; the river again becomes shallow until within about 100yds. of Holywell Ferry. At this point the water is often 8ft. or 9ft. in depth, and good perch, as well as large chub, have been taken with both minnow and small gudgeon. Excellent fly fishing can be obtained on the Holywell side of the river, in the shallows extending for about a mile to Swavesey Gravels, for chub, roach, and rudd affect this reach in goodly numbers. On the opposite or Swavesey side of this shallow and splendid thorn hedge the water is deep nearly all the way to Swavesey. Ducker's Hole, a splendid swim for bottom fishing and a good haunt for pike, is opposite the thorn hedge mentioned above, some 20yds. in length and 9ft. or 10ft. in depth; whilst on the Swavesey side of the river several good swims may be fished, either from a boat or the bank, the former for preference, because one has more command over the swims, and the fish can be more easily and safely landed. Some other good spots are the two well-known bank swims just above old Swavesey Drain and the field above Over Staunich, and it is a capital place for pike from Over Ferry to this Staunich. Anglers staying at the inn at Holywell Ferry can obtain not only all home comforts but the very best information from Mr. Scard, who, in the *Fishing Gazette* of June 10, says: "Everything points to a good start on the 16th inst. Immense shoals of bream have been disporting themselves in the sunshine here, the river being literally alive with them, and roach also are in abundance." OUSE ANGLER.

THE RIVER MEDWAY.

The Medway, which winds its sinuous course between verdant banks through hopland and orchard, in the Garden of England, is a deservedly popular river with the London angler, especially as it provides excellent sport in the early days of the opening of the coarse fishing season—is, in fact, essentially a summer river. It is easily get-at-able by an excellent service of trains on the South-Eastern Railway from London Bridge, Charing Cross, &c. The privilege stations on the line are Tonbridge, Paddock Wood, Yalding, Watlington, and East Farleigh, and the river in each case is close by. Dealing just with the district around Tonbridge, it may be said that the fishing has improved very much during the past five years. A favourite swim, with charming surroundings, is reached by proceeding to the Powder Mill Canal, cross the canal by way of Malion's Bridge, continue through the wood until just before you reach the Mount, turn sharp to the right, and there you are. It is an ideal swim, and, if carefully baited up and quietly fished, will well reward the angler for roach and bream. There are several good roach swims between Malion's Bridge and Enfield Bridge. A good spot for perch is where the Powder Mill Canal joins the main river. The canal itself fishes well at times. From the canal down to the Weir Hole is a capital stretch for chub, and in Roger's field is a good swim for roach and bream. The Weir Hole is not by any means an attractive place to fish in, but it holds some very good bream. Another good roach and bream shop is Twelve Post Hole, one of the best, in fact, on this portion of the river. At Stone Lock some good perch may be taken. Lucky the angler who can catch

the pool below the Point at Brightfriers in good ply. Many big baskets of roach and bream have been taken here. At Lucifer Bridge there are a lot of lay-by's well worthy of attention, and the stream which tumbles from the old Powder Mill Lock contains some big chub. The wide water at the back of Messrs. Bartram's Brewery needs no recommendation.

From Tonbridge down to Hartlake Bridge the river offers a variety of fish and fishing. Below the Miller's Bridge is a good bream hole, and below Child's Lock, for some distance down, there are many capital roach swims. The water above Eldridge's Lock is also good, and exactly suited to the requirements of the advocates of the long pole and tight line. At the mouth of the Postern stream is a capital roach swim, and immediately below High Bridge is a grand bream hole, and another will be found in the bay below Porter's Lock; perhaps the best of all, though, is the one below Hartlake Bridge. From Hartlake Bridge right away down to Sluice Weir Lock is a grand stretch of water, but it is away from any railway station too far to offer attraction to the angler who runs down for the day and wishes to fish up to the time of the train starting, or nearly so. For anyone spending a few days in the neighbourhood, or willing to tramp a few miles morning and evening, it is well worthy of attention; there are many good swims amidst delightful surroundings, none the less charming because they are little frequented. Before arriving at the water in the immediate vicinity of Yalding, however, the fishing around East Peckham, which can be reached either from Paddock Woods (for preference) or Yalding, must be referred to. It is one of the best centres for angling on the Medway, its only disadvantage being the distance from the railway stations. Sluice Weir can with every confidence be recommended for all-round fishing, and the first bend below the lock is a sure find for roach. There are two other noticeable bends between this and the village of East Peckham, both good for roach and bream. Proceeding down the river, Branbridge's Weir is reached, and here again is a warm shop. Particular attention should be paid to the tail of the run from the lock into the bay; it holds some good roach and chub. From Branbridge's down to the South-Eastern Railway Bridge are a succession of roach and bream swims with a capital sandy bottom. The next place of note is Stoneham Lock and the river immediately above; and then, passing the Sand Hole, Mouse Bay, Horse Shoe Point, and Curd's Dyke (all good swims), Twyford Bridge (close by Yalding Station) is reached, and here is another happy huntingground. Twyford Bridge has formed the theme of many a poet's lay, the subject for many an artist's brush or pencil. In the bay are many big chub, and the Old River, which flows from it and joins the navigable portion of the Medway close to Yalding Station, can confidently be recommended. Below Hampstead Lock (Yalding) the first swim to be noted is Horse Shoe Hole, famous for its big bags of bream, and then follows a splendid roach swim, adjacent to two ponds, yclept the Twins; next follows a long stretch of willows, and here chub are wont to congregate during the summer and autumn months. There are several other decent swims on the way to Watlington, which is well known to many readers of the *Fishing Gazette* as an excellent fishing centre—so well known, in fact, that it only needs bare reference in these notes.

Still journeying downstream, the Black Hole, immediately above Teston Lock, is reached, and here is a good shop for bream. Directly below Teston Weir is a splendid swim for roach and bream. And then in rapid succession follow Larking's Hole, the Black Fern swim, and the swim nearly opposite Barnjet. Passing Barming Bridge, there are one or two swims before East Farleigh is reached, and from this point right away down to Tovil the angler with ordinary discrimination cannot very well pitch in a wrong spot for either roach or bream, while chub in plenty will be found beneath the bushes and willows. It is yet early for pike in the Medway, or elsewhere for that matter, but carp may visit the angler in any swim, and if they should, look out for squalls.

So far as tackle is concerned, the orthodox Lea outfit is fairly suitable, but it must not be forgotten that the greater bulk of big roach and bream

taken from the Medway are caught *right on the bottom*. The local style may be well described as float ledgering, and it should be resorted to if the Lea style proves unsuccessful. Boiled wheat is a capital bait in the Medway, otherwise the hook baits are of the usual character. The Thames cube of crust of bread has accounted for more than one big basket in the quicker swims. The inn accommodation is quite up to the average, but it is as well to make known your requirements beforehand if you wish to stay a while in any particular district. IBIS TAG.

THE RIVER WEY.

This Surrey stream is open for public fishing from either a boat or on the towpath in many parts of its course, from Weybridge, where it falls into the Thames, to Godalming. A mile and a half from the latter picturesque little town is the village of Eashing, where, by application to the landlord of the Stag Inn, a permit may be had to fish half a mile of the stream from the mill upwards. In this water will be found roach, dace, perch, and chub, principally, of a fairish size, but bream do not make it their home. Getting higher up the Wey still, the water gradually narrows and shallows, and is essentially a trout stream, although dace are met with, and roach here and there. Of course, these upper waters are all strictly private, and permission to angle must be had from the riparian owners. The London angler's favourite pitches on the Wey are in the lower waters at Weybridge, Byfleet, Woking, Send, Guildford, Shalford, and Godalming. At Byfleet several stretches of good bream and roach water may be fished by permission of the farmers, a small daily payment, or by joining one of the clubs renting the same. I believe the Silver Trout Society lease some of the water at Byfleet. By detouring at Woking, a walk of a little over a mile brings the angler to the river at Woking old village, and immediately over the bridge, and through theirongate on the left-hand side of the road the famous "broad meads" are reached. Here there are about two miles of lively running beautiful fishing water winding through the "meads" to the vicinity of the picturesque ruins of Newark Abbey. This portion of the Wey is well stocked with fish of many varieties—bream, roach, dace, chub, perch, carp, pike, and eels.

During the last eight or ten years, however, the river Wey right away from Godalming downwards has lost much of its former prestige as an angling stream owing to sewage and pollutions from mills. This foul contamination has now luckily been put a stop to by the Guildford and Godalming sanitary authorities, and all discharges of deleterious matter now, and for the future, will pass through the filtering beds of the new sewage works.

In consequence of this the angler finds that the fish of the Wey are now feeding much better, and the river should certainly regain its lost popularity as an angling resort. Some ten years ago it was no uncommon thing to secure good bags of bream, particularly from the "broad mead" waters, besides very pretty catches of roach, dace, and chub, with an occasional fine carp.

The bream used to feed much better in the day-time than at night, and were generally taken fishing with float and gentles, or paste, as for roach. In fact, the most successful anglers were those who adopted the roach pole, with whalebone top-piece, and tight line, but a longish strike to enable them to float down near the weeds on the opposite side. Anglers are not interfered with when fishing the "broad meads" water, provided they keep to the beaten tracks when going to or leaving their swims, particularly while the grass is uncut. Some beautiful bends and deep eddies will be found, and one portion of the stream, high up the "meads," is grandly shaded with trees and bushes, where in the early mornings and late evenings carp, properly fished for, should be again taken. Leaving this water, and retracing your steps to the high road, proceed higher up for some 200 yds., and here will be found a bridge crossing the navigation cutting. By taking the towpath Send Lock is reached, from whence the river proper recommences. Higher up still there is some meadow land from which anglers used not to be interfered with, but the farmer on the opposite side will not tolerate the angler for a moment on his land across the rustic wooden bridge; in

fact, it is certain prosecution to venture on his preserve. Just in front of this bridge is the famous bend called the "rollers," where big bream may be seen priming and splashing about every now and then throughout the day. To ledger for them requires a long cast, and there is usually so much stream that nothing but a heavy lead and a light line will keep the bait in position (a lob for preference). Through the heavy lead many fish are missed, and therefore the most successful way to fish this grand bream swim is from a moored boat.

The other public portion of the Wey is a stretch of several miles from Guildford town to Godalming. Here may be found good swims all the way, and Shalford, a village about half way between the two mentioned places, is a favourite spot for the angler.

Big bream are to be found just above the Shalford Bridge (where a stream, the Wey and Arun Canal navigation) joins on the opposite bank. Here also a boat is required to fish the place properly, although an occasional fish may be had ledgering from the towpath, a long cast. Permission is required on the opposite bank.

A long stretch of the Wey, from Stoke Park to Guildford, is now rented by the Guildford Angling Society, to fish which the angler must become a member at, I believe, 10s. 6d. per annum subscription. J. D.

IMPROVEMENTS IN BICYCLES.

To those of our readers who may be thinking of taking to the fascinating bicycle, we can confidently say, try a "Singer" machine, as after more than two years' trial we can find no fault in them.

Among the latest novelties of the Singer Cycle Co., of Coventry and Holborn Viaduct, is the "Free-Wheel Grand Modele de Luxe," and its special feature consists of an arrangement whereby the pedals are thrown out of action at the will of the rider, and become stationary. The riders can then rest their feet on the pedals when coasting. Two powerful brakes are fitted to the standard patterns, one on back wheel applied by foot-action in back-peddalling, the other with hand-lever in the usual form, but acting on the rim instead of on the tyre. (This brake has just been patented.) When the pedals are at rest the chain is also stationary, as the free-wheel action, which is combined with the back hub, throws all the gearing out of action. This saves a large amount of wear and tear on the chain and bearings when riding down hills.

Another machine introduced by this company is "The Military Singer" bicycle, this being exceptionally strong, and with an arrangement for carrying the rifle which can also be used for the rod and for carrying kitbag, &c.; it strikes us as just the machine for the rod and gun sportsman. This "Military Singer" is now used by our Government in the military, postal, telegraph, police, surveying, and other departments.

REPORTS FROM RIVERS, LOCHS, &c.

ENGLISH AND WELSH REPORTS.

Lower Thames.—GENERAL REMARKS.—It is a splendid privilege for the immense body of anglers living in the great metropolis that there is a river such as the Thames to which they have free access, giving them the sport it does, and that there is such a society as the Thames Angling Preservation Society to look so well after its protection and preservation, as well as to keep up the head of fish it is so well known to contain. It should be regarded by the working class as a special gift to them in providing a healthful recreation in the pure air of the country, and enable them to return home with some wholesome food for their families, for I have frequently been assured by them it is as much enjoyed as others in better circumstances relish the high-priced salmon. There is only one thing against successful angling which is beyond human control, and that is the weather; but if we always got success in angling it would cease to give pleasure and sport. It is from the unfortunate days we enjoy that sport—that which gives the angler something to talk about. I can remember the time when anglers were not so numerous, and it was no uncommon thing to find the roach and dace yielding their twenty and thirty dozen in the day, which, on my visits far away from the river, were regarded as doubtful results, but, with my confirmatory evidence, led to the exclamation, "What a wonderful river your Thames must be!" The weather has been very disappointing for the opening of the present season with such brilliant prospects previously; in the best of evidence, rain

only required. What would the river have been without its T.A.P.S.? is a question which all should ask, and especially those who have the means and are not anglers to contribute to it, and who are so philanthropic in their views as to recognise those movements that give healthful recreation to the people. The angling will be found to have been better than expected, but more rain is desirable, both for the fish and the condition of the river. —B.

Thames (Chertsey).—Lotan Hackett, writing in the early part of this week, says: "I have been out for the last few days and have done very well amongst the roach and dace, and I have had some nice chub sealing from 3lb. to 4lb. each." There are some very good swims in this neighbourhood, and from old experience I can very strongly recommend Hackett as a clever and painstaking fisherman. —B.

(Datchet).—We had a nice rain on the 19th which freshened the water a bit. A lad on Mr. Dent's raft caught a barbel 5lb., and a roach over 2lb. under the raft. I was out on the 15th with Sir Francis Calcott, caught eight chub, returned, and a trout, 2lb. I baited the barbel for the 16th, but the gentleman could not go out. —G. LUMSDEN.

(Eton).—The first week of the coarse season commenced fairly well considering the want of rain. Barbel are feeding fairly well if well baited and fine tackle is used. I have taken about 50lb. from one swim since the opening, most of which were returned. Mr. C. Franklin and friend have also taken a few, piloted by James Bunce. Mr. R. Williams and Mr. C. Hobbs have had some good chub, the latter taking them up to 3½lb., baiting with cherries. Mr. H. Stinton, jun., had a good dish of dace on June 18, topped up with one good barbel. Some good roach have been had, but they are not at present in anything like condition. —CECIL HOWLETT.

(Hampton Court).—William Milbourne writes: "John Smith, on Friday, the first day of the season, landed twenty-four barbel, and Thomas Milbourne had similar sport. These fish were caught very early in the morning as the water is very low and bright, and when the sun gets up hot it is no use trying for them until we get a lot more rain. The bank anglers are getting the best sport at night, and taking a great many barbel, and all the best of them I have seen. On Saturday one of the bank anglers got four barbel, the largest fish about 4lb." —B.

(Henley).—June 21. Several anglers have been out since the opening of the season, and some good sport has been obtained among the chub. The welcome recent rains have freshened the river, and there is a fair stream while the mills are working. The following are among the best takes I have to record: On the 16th, Mr. Leaf, fishing with George Arlett, had a bag of chub weighing nearly 40lb.; and Arlett tells me the best fish scaled close on 5lb. On the 18th, a patron of the same professional, had three chub weighing 12lb., best fish, 4lb. 10oz.; and with Mr. T. Pullen, on the 20th, four chub, averaging 3lb. each. Mr. Norman, out with W. Vaughn on the 21st, had six chub weighing 11lb. 3oz. Most of the above fish were taken whilst worm fishing, whilst some have been secured spinning. —STANLEY MEAD.

(Kingston).—John Johnson, on the opening day, with Mr. Birmingham, seventeen bream, three eels, and one fine perch; another day, with Mr. Cull, twenty-two bream. John Knight, one day, with Mr. and Mrs. Richardson, 100 roach, bream, and barbel; and another day, with Mr. Collins and Mr. Saunders, a nice quantity of roach, dace, and bream. It is worthy of note that in each case nearly the whole of the fish were returned. —B.

(Lechlade).—Some steady rain has improved the fishing hereabouts, and at St. John's Bridge the river is now in very fair order for general fishing. Several rods have been out, amongst them being Messrs. George Moir, Browne, C.P., and others. Things are reported generally as quiet, but I hear of a big pike being taken near Inzesham. Chub rise well in the evening, and can be readily taken with fly as well as with cheese paste and macaroni. Some good roach have been got with caddis, worm, and gentles. Troutling items are quiet. —RAMBLER.

(Richmond).—I am informed there are a good quantity of fine barbel at the new lock and weir if anglers will only try for them. Mr. F. Ogden Smith and Mr. Simonds, fishing there for one hour, landed two barbel and some other fish; and the bank anglers fishing near there had crealed a quantity of bream. The punts have been getting some roach and dace. —B.

(Sunbury).—Messrs. T. and A. Stroud have been well in with roach, dace, and chub since the opening day. —B.

(Shepperton).—Mr. C. Bernard Sells and Mr. C. H. Wheeley had some excellent sport on Saturday with chub, the total weight of fish taken being about 50lb., largest fish 4½lb. —B.

Streathley.—Water in very good condition on Sunday last. Butt, the lock-keeper at Cleve, had his punt moored above the lock. On going to use it he found a fine trout, 8lb. or 9lb., in it. It must have jumped in after a fly. Mr. J. Sams (Friendly Anglers), fishing with Bartholomew, has caught to-day three fine chub, several perch (1lb. to 1½lb.), and returned many small jack. —H. J. GARDNER.

(Teddington).—Mr. F. J. Ogden-Smith, fishing here on early Tuesday morning for three hours, crealed eight barbel. Four of the fish, though sizeable, were returned, and the four retained, which I had the pleasure of seeing, weighed respectively 6½lb., 6½lb., 4lb., and 2½lb. Mr. Sinibaldi, at the same time, landed five good barbel, two of the largest being estimated to weigh together 16lb. This angler on the opening day crealed seventeen barbel, the largest 4lb., and a few chub, the largest 2½lb. W. McBride, out with Mr. A. Hemmingway, Mr. G. Blanchard, and Major Saxby, on the first four days compiled a total of twenty-two barbel, fourteen chub, and

seven dozen of dace. McBride says there is the prospect of one of the finest barbel seasons I ever saw at Teddington this year, as the weir is simply full of big fish.—B.

(Twickenham).—When I was here on Tuesday, Mr. John Spong, the piscatorial host of the Two Sawyers, informed me there had not been many punts out. The roach and dace were very plentiful, but the roach were not very clean and the dace in fine condition. H. Spiers had the best take of two dozen roach. J. Frost, in two half days, six fine barbel. One of the anglers in the Deep creeled a fine pike of 7lb. I called upon Mr. F. W. Ogden Smith who had seen the latter fish. In his shop he had a beautifully set up specimen carp of 17lb., that had been caught in private water, and will be on view for some days, and all who see it will give him credit for the style in which it is preserved.—B.

Ancholme District.—I have been out once this week, and caught in the evening, after tea, four trout and four *fontinalis*. My son also had an afternoon on a private water, and caught a dish of fourteen very nice trout. The three largest weighed just 2lb. One rainbow yearling was taken in the same brook, but returned. The river Idle, at Retford, was inspected last week, with a view to re-stocking with trout. The coarse fishing season opened on the Ancholme on Friday last under the most favourable conditions. Contingents came over from Hull, Sheffield, &c., and found the water in splendid condition. Some nice bream up to 3lb. were taken. Mr. F. North, of Brigg, had fourteen fish on Saturday morning from the Old River, and a Sheffield angler took some nice ones in the New Cut on Monday. Perch, however, have been on the feed the least of all, and a few very fine ones were taken near Broughton Bridge on Saturday. Some very fine eels have been taken during the hot weather, and large shoals of roach and bream have been seen near Brigg. The spawning season was late this year, owing to cold weather, so the roach are not yet in very good condition. The river has recently been re-stocked with 500 very fine tench. This fish thrives well in the water.—THOMAS FORD (Caistor).

Bottisham Locks (Waterbeach, Cambs.).—Rain has come at last, which has improved the condition of the water and has put the fish on a sharper edge for the bait. The opening day of the present season was bright and sunny, but a north wind checked sport. What fish were taken were much admired for their splendid early condition and colour. The fish are now seen by shoals all round the locks. Several perch, up to 3lb. each, in good condition, were secured. Bels are now giving good sport. The river is rather weedy in places, which checks sport. As to the roach and dace, they mostly are in autumn condition, having spawned very early here, and I can assure anglers in confidence as to the numerous quantity of fish in this free water for miles.—J. O. GEORGE, Becke-road, Cambridge.

Bure (Norfolk, Wroxham District).—For many weeks past there has been practically nothing worth reporting from these waters, but local anglers are now commencing to think about coarse fishing in earnest. However, owing to almost unremitting drought, sunshine, and easterly winds, the river is very low and stale, and fish are as yet in very poor condition, being, I consider, quite a month later in order than usual. Although a few small bags of ill-conditioned bream and roach have been made, in general angling has been very slack, and I advise anglers to wait for two or three weeks before coming from a distance, by which time there ought surely to be some good heavy rains to freshen the river and put fish on the feed. There has been some decent trout fishing on private waters in the upland districts, but dace fishing has been very poor as compared with last year.—C. W. TAYLOR.

Coln, Leach, &c., East Gloucestershire.—The Gray Dreke was still up on the Coln on Thursday, 15th inst., and some good trout were killed in the Fairford district on this day, Mr. Alexander Hull and Dr. Wolfendale getting some nice sport in the Fairford Park water. Mr. Perry has also had some good sport in this water, and also on the Hatherop Castle waters. Tbinge have been quiet of late on the hotel waters at Bibury and Fairford, but the trout rise very nicely in the evening at Alders, Spinners, and Gnats. Dr. March and Mr. Ellison have been having good sport on the Lower Coln. Mr. Davis, of Lechlade Mill, reported taking a pound trout from a heron which he had shot.—PAN.

Cornish Streams.—There is a grand improvement in the water, and fish are in full force everywhere. On the Camel, Mr. Gill, who is staying at Pt. Breward, has been getting about thirty a day; and further down, right away to the estuary, very fair sport has been got. Most of the fishers are spending a considerable part of their time with peal, and after the excellent rain we have had there is every chance of success. Salmon and peal are running very well everywhere.—BODMIN.

Darenth (Farningham, Horton Kirby, &c.).—The May Fly is quite over, and though the fish have not taken it freely this season, they seem, nevertheless, to suffer from the depletion which is so common towards the end of June, and sport has consequently been very poor, some of the rods on good stretches of water scoring blanks. The rain has not affected the height of the water, but the warm weather is bringing on the flies, and a few Sedges are to be seen. The best time is late in the evening.—J. P. T.

Dart (Totnes and District).—The rains of Sunday and Monday have done the river an immense amount of benefit, and there should be some capital sport. The caterpillar has been driven off, and trout are not on the feed just at present. Before the rains some good baskets of trout were made on the moorland waters, takes running up to two dozen. Exceptionally fine trout have been creeled, including a beauty of 4lb. 10oz., killed in the Double Dart with the Alexander, by Mr. S. R. Slade. The same rod with his brother on another day took three

scaling 9lb. Fine truff have also been killed by Mr. E. Tucker (Ashburton) and others. Evening fishing on the lower waters has produced small baskets. Mr. E. Ackrell has had some nice catfish; whilst Messrs. Revell and E. Distin killed one and a half dozen at Park Stickle. Small loke have fallen to Messrs. H. T. Dietin, Townsend, and others.—DEVONIAN.

Devonshire Streams.—The streams are now running in fine order after the rain. Previously, however, the rivers were too clear for good fishing, although dapping was freely indulged in. Sport on the Otter has been somewhat dull, but some big fish were taken by one rod a few days since, seven trout totalling 63lb. in weight, two of these each being 15in. long, one weighing 1lb. 5oz. and the other 1lb. 3oz. The streams in the Upper Lyd district are in capital trim, and Bishop's Fancy, the Alder and Black, and Red Palmers, with Silver Twiet, are among the best flies. A recent take of four dozen is reported from the Erme, but sport on the Avon is quiet. Big trout, too, have been creeled on the Dart. Otters are doing a deal of damage to the fishing in many districts. Evening fishing on the Upper Tamar and adjacent streams, last week, gave fair results. Mr. C. Woodley got seventeen, and Mr. Gilbert fifteen, whilst two rods secured two dozen on Saturday. The Coachman, Motte, and Wickham are the best flies. Excellent sport was obtained in the Ashwater district last week. One rod had a lot of twenty-one in two hours, six being killed in one pool with the Coachman. A day's fishing gave a basket of seventy to the same rod, with the Alder and Peacock Blue, fish rising so freely that two were taken with one cast. A lady took a pounder from one of the pools.—DEVONIAN.

Dove and Tributaries.—Mey Fly is still "on" hereabouts, though they are now mostly grey. The following, amongst others, have done well in this district: Messrs. Coxon, W. Nuttall, Grindy, Gossard, Major Tinsley, and Col. Fleming. We have had plenty of rain, and sport prospects are still good. The Quill Gnat has done well on the Dove Dale length of late.—D. AND W. H. FOSTER (Ashbourne).

Esk (Whitby).—This river since last report has not altered in its condition, and continues very low and clear. A few catfish have been effected, but so meagre are they that an accurate record is unobtainable. On Wednesday much interest was evinced by several ladies and gentlemen (local angling enthusiasts principally) in the turning into the Esk of nearly 3000 fish. The fish were reared in the private hatchery of Miss Daisy Walker, a daughter of that ardent angler, Mr. J. C. Walker, J.P., who deserves much credit for the able manner in which they have been handled. The fish were turned down in splendid condition, some of which were from 23in. to 3in. in length, and which will doubtless be an acquisition to the river. The aid of Mr. Luke, the head keeper, was requisitioned, and the operation terminated successfully.—J. JACKSON.

Exe and Canal (Exeter).—The weather has changed considerably during past few days, rain falling briskly on Sunday, Monday, and Tuesday. Although not sufficient to bring the river up, it has nicely freshened it, and has also caused an enjoyable change in temperature. Trout have not fed well recently, and with the exception of some good bags of eels, not much has yet been done with the coarse fish. It is full early for the roach to put on condition, and very few of our roach artists will commence operations for a month or so to come. A lamentable loss of trout has occurred in the river Ockment during the past week, caused, it is feared, from a leakage of some poisonous acid into the stream near Okehampton. Some hundreds of fish turned up, among them many fine specimens from 12lb. to 2lb. each. This is a sad blow to the moor stream rodsters.—RED PALMER.

Fen District (South Lincs. and Cambs.).—The condition of the drains for the opening of the coarse fishing season were not altogether satisfactory. Many of them had run low, from the long drought, and the water was stale and very fine, consequently, the catching of fish was somewhat difficult. Roach were very backward, but bream, on the other hand, were sunning themselves, but indisposed for feeding. Baskets were light, and captures were chiefly confined to perch and dace. Trout fishers are having a good time of it.—LIMPET.

Idle District (North Notts.).—The opening of the fishing season on the Idle was not very promising, and many of those who patronised this district turned their attention to the drains about Haxey and Keadby. Bream in this district promised to provide fairly good sport. Some fair baskets were reported from the old Warping Drain and the Bandspinner's Drain, but, until the rain came on Sunday, they met with poor success. This week the promise is far better. Dace are furnishing some fair sport where they exist in quantity. Prospects will improve with the downfall.—L.

Lea and Tributaries.—Heavy rain has badly wanted to freshen up the Lea, especially in view of the fact that to-day week roach fishing re-opens. There have been a few showers, but they have proved of little benefit. The river is very sluggish and weedy, and the dece anglers have not done much. Good trout have been seen on the move at Ware and Hertford, but I cannot hear of any noteworthy captures this week. Too late to record last week, news reached me that a 4lb. trout had been landed in the Ware district. The fish fell to the rod of Mr. Elsworth while spinning. To-day week, fishing for bream, barbel, tench, chub, and carp re-opens in the Lea. Big dace ought to reward anglers on the tributary Rib now. In the Stort, roach anglers, so far, have had light baskets. The fish have barely got over their spawning, and are not in condition. In the mill pool at Sawbridgeworth a few decent roach have been landed.—J. ZAAK WALTON.

Lugg and Arrow (Leominster).—Both these noted streams are now running stained, and have risen a little owing to the heavy falls of rain in this part at the

beginning of the week, but it is running clear quickly, and should not interfere with sport next week. The rain has refreshed the river, and the fish have been more on the move, and are inclined to sport well, and by Saturday, if there is no more rain, sport should be good. A few rods have been out bottom fishing, and some very nice lots of trout have been landed. The Pinsley is running stained, but clearing quickly, and sport should be good on it.—GWYNNE.

Lugg, Arrow, and Pinsley (Kingsland).—After rather more than three weeks' spell of hot, bright days, followed by cold nights (often frosty), and wind almost constantly N.E., the weather broke on Sunday, when rain set in, and since we have experienced some fierce storms, accompanied by thunder and lightning. The rivers have risen some 6in. to 9in. of very dirty water, and, with favourable weather, will not be in good order before the beginning of coming week, when, as far as can be judged, sport should be good.—R. T. WILLIAMS.

Medway (Tonbridge).—Some good takes of chub, bream, and roach in the upper waters of the society above the town since the opening, the hon. secretary securing one chub of 23lb.; and Mr. Gray, a roach of 13lb. Mr. R. Race, on June 16, landed a trout of 13lb. Plenty of fish in the river.—A. BARNES.

Mene (Peterborough).—The rain that was so much needed in this district has fallen, and brought about a decided improvement in the appearance of the river in the parts close to Peterborough, which last week was fast becoming an eyesore from the lowness of the water. Since the rain our anglers have turned out, and some have been repaid with fairly good sport, a decent lot of roach having been taken. Bottom fishing for eels has been good, and some fair specimens have been caught. Higher up the river, nearer Northampton, in consequence of the water being held up by the locks, the river is in better condition, and some good sport should be obtained. At Earl's Barton, Mr. E. Drage, a member of the Angling Association, caught a fine tench weighing over 4lb.—E. A. S.

Ouse (Holywell Ferry).—The rain is putting a much better colour into the water. Dace and chub have been taken here up to 3½lb., and also some good bream, for the start of the season. Mr. Lane, president of the Mildmay's (the gentleman who manipulated the lending net to my 2lb. 12oz. perch last season), was run and smashed up by a large perch. Roach are coming on nicely.—A. SCARD.

Ouse (Huntingdon).—The water is in fair condition in some stretches of the river, in others it is low and stale. We are having some nice showery just now, which should improve prospects considerably. At present very little has been done, except that Mr. Nicholls, of this town, has had fair sport with the perch.—B.

Ouse (St. Ives, Hunts.).—River very weedy, which makes it troublesome to the angler. A nice rain would also improve matters. Perch up to 1½lb., chub up to 3lb. 2½oz., and pike up to 25lb. have been brought in. The latter, though, came by rail from Brighton, and will be remembered as the Holywell pike, taken there twenty-four years ago, and has been presented to us by our much-esteemed friend Mr. S. R. Osborne. Eighteen new members were elected last Tuesday night, and I am ready and willing to enrol more and make them welcome. All things considered, I believe St. Ives and district anglers will do well, and have good sport in seasons 1899-1900.—E. COLLINSON.

Ouse (St. Neots).—The season this year has opened more satisfactorily than for several years past. Very few of the local anglers have yet been out; but the few visitors who have done so have met with very fair sport, and seem quite pleased with themselves. The water is a nice colour, and at its normal height as it generally is, and fish of all sorts and sizes are plentiful. I have myself watched the chub in one of their favourite swims, and seen them in shoals, many being five or six-pounders, and they rise well to any small thing thrown into the water, therefore I am confident that fly fishermen would be well repaid for a visit to this locality. On Monday Mr. Boddy, of Richmond, got some very nice perch up to about 1lb.; and on Tuesday morning, in company with Mr. Hickmott, he caught a large number of roach, many of 3lb., and some exceeding that weight. Later in the day they caught several more, but they were smaller. This (Wednesday) morning he caught a nice roach of 1½lb., besides a number of smaller ones; and a lad, fishing from the bridge, got a jack of 5lb., and an eel of 2lb. Eels seem to be plentiful this year, several up to 3lb. having been taken. It is years since I have been able to report favourably upon Ouse fishing; but I hope we have now reached the turning point. The river in the early morning is, I am told, literally black with bream in some places.—WM. NASH.

Otter (Budleigh Salterton).—Fly fishing has improved during the last week. A good deal of rain has fallen, and little freebets at intervals have greatly benefited the river. A well-known rod killed on Thursday, June 15, on Mr. Rolle's water, eight trout, weighing 63lb. This is phenomenal for the Otter. Your reporter killed on Saturday, June 17, twelve fish at Ottery St. Mary, running two to the pound; and the same day another rod, on Mr. Rolle's water, took a like number. The river to-day, June 21, is in nice condition. The likeliest times are from 8 a.m., or even earlier, to 11 a.m., and from 5 p.m. to 9.30 p.m. The killing flies have been small Blue and Red Upright, Iron Blue, Wickham, and Alder.—HERON.

Plymouth.—Rain, which the farmers and fishermen have been praying for, has come, and the fields, fruit gardens, and the rivers will all benefit by it. Some nice trout over 3lb., and some 4lb., have been taken in the Tavy. There has been no time yet to get reports after the rain, but I expect some few peal will be grassed to-day and to-morrow.—WILLIAM HEARDER.

Ravensbourne and Keston Ponds.—Some fish have been taken lately in the neighbourhood of Bromley both by fly and paste. Among a number of small roach which I had from a private pond (near) on June 17, with a Wickham, was a good sized dace, which fish are not common in these ponds. The large carp can be seen, but not caught.—J. P. T.

Severn, Vyrnwy, Tanat, and Cain (Llanymynech).—During the early part of this week a long wished-for and most welcome change took place in the weather, which is at present all that can possibly be desired both for anglers and excursionists, as the tropical heat experienced during the greatest part of the past month has been succeeded by most refreshing showers, which have done immense good to the parched-up land and freshened the rivers, which were getting very low and much too clear for angling. Owing to the dust from the highways being so suddenly washed into the rivers, they have been much discoloured during the past few days, but are fast recovering their condition, and at the present time are quite at their best for trolling and worm fishing. The close time for coarse fish having now expired, anglers are busy with all kinds of lures for them, and some very nice chub, roach, perch, and dace are taken daily from the Severn and Vyrnwy, as well as pike, which are very numerous in these rivers, and have increased in numbers so much recently in the Tanat that it is intended shortly to net the lower part of it, to take out as many of these marauders as can be secured, and also the chub, which are also getting too plentiful in the lower reaches of the river, which is also well stocked with very fine dace as well as trout. The largest salmon ever captured in this neighbourhood was taken a few days ago from the Severn, near to where that river is joined by the Vyrnwy, about two miles below Llandinno Bridge. This salmon weighed 51lb., and was in splendid condition. The fortunate individual who secured this prize was an old fisherman, well known in the vicinity, named James Evans.—VYRNWY.

Sussex Rivers and Chichester Canal.—The opening of the coarse fishing has not been up to expectations. Rivers were low and bright, and the weeds a nuisance. The Adur, with the tide flowing, was covered with green weed; and although several roach were taken, there was nothing exceeding 1lb. On the Cuckmere water only small roach and bream were captured; while from the Onse above Lewes dace were taken with fly, and a Lewes angler took nine chub fly fishing. From the tidal waters below the mills roach were secured with wheat, and here the heaviest bags have been made. A few anglers have patronised the Rother, and met with sport among dace and roach. A trout of 1½lb. was taken with gentles while roaching. The canal at Chichester has been well patronised, and the juveniles have had good sport with small roach and bream. An eel of 2½lb. was taken on dead bait, and bream up to 2½lb. with paste and gentles. Bass fishing is now good in the harbours. At Littlehampton good sport has been had. Bass up to 8½lb. have been taken. Soft crab or sand-eel is the leading bait. Rain is badly wanted to clear rivers ere good sport can be obtained.—GEORGE F. SALTER.

Stour (Bures, Suffolk).—The water is very clear, and with no stream running sport is rather slow. No doubt the chief cause is that the fish have not yet got over the spawning operations, as the roach and bream, especially in the deep water, were in full spawn on the 6th of June. A good many anglers were out on the 18th, but little was done, one or two decent roach being taken, chiefly with the eadid bait. On the 20th a local angler had twenty roach in an evening's fishing, the largest 1½lb. 1½oz. We are waiting rain badly to put some colour into the water.—W. T. BAINBRIDGE.

Taw (North Devon).—Mr. Brierly has taken some good trout recently. Another angler had a nice catch of dace; whilst another captured over a hundred bass close to the town. Rain falling, which is much needed. Salmon netmen are doing a little better, but water too low for fish to run up. At Rashleigh Weir a fine dog otter of 21lb. was taken after a three hours' hunt.—RUSTY GAME.

Teifi (Lampeter, Cardiganshire).—Fishing not at all good at present. Water very low, and rain much needed.—H.

Teme (Ludlow).—The Teme in this part was running clear and a nice level up to Monday, when a change came. Heavy rain fell on Sunday, and again on Tuesday, and on Wednesday the water was coloured and had risen about a foot. Thunder was had in the district, and more rain threatens. The rain has greatly refreshed the water, and has improved the prospects of sport, and to-day (Wednesday) the fish were sporting fairly well at the fly, although the water was coloured. There have been a good few anglers out since the rain, and the baits need have been worm and live grub, and some very fine dishes of trout have been landed. Fly fishing has been quiet this week, but if there is no more rain sport should be good by Saturday with the Orl, Yellow Dnn, Marlow Buzz, Wickham, Black Gnat, Brown and White Moths. May Fly has quite disappeared. On Saturday an angler near New Bridge landed a fine trout, over 1½lb., with fly. On Monday six good trout were taken with worm. In the Ashford water a brace of trout were taken.—S. L.

Teme (Tenbury).—The Teme in this part has been visited this week with some heavy falls of rain, and thunder has been had in the district; and the water, which was clear and getting low, has been refreshed, and is now a nice level, and is a little coloured, but it has begun to run clear again, and by Saturday, if we have no more rain, it should be in splendid order for fishing. Since the rain the fish have been well on the feed, and there has been a good few anglers out. Fly fishing has been slow, but worm has accounted for some fine trout. To-day (Wednesday) the fish are beginning to rise, and the prospects for sport are

good if we get no more rain. The Rea, Kyre, and Ledwyche stained.—WORCESTER.

Trent (Newark).—The opening day found chub fishermen to the fore, several good fish being taken from the Muskham waters, both by fly and bottom fishermen. Early in the morning Mr. J. T. Alcock was whipping the shallows and taking and returning chub, the heat of which reached 21b. 15oz. Throughout the day intense heat prevailed, and nothing was accomplished, but towards evening the fish took worms fairly well, and a few harbel also fell to the same lure, Mr. H. Mountney having a nice mixed bag of about 21lb. Saturday and Monday also found them taking worms, Mr. G. Wadding (of Sheffield) bagging over 20lb., and Mr. F. Kirk several, including a harbel 5lb. 2oz. Eels provide plenty of sport, and they are evidently very numerous this season, but few flounders have been secured. Roach are still scouring in the weeds, and hest left alone for a week or two. Bream are not yet feeding, though some fair shoals have been seen. A big sturgeon is roaming about the Muskham waters astonishing those who have not previously seen one.—TRENTSIDER.

Welland (Market Deeping).—The angling season here has opened favourably, and it is generally conceded that good sport should be obtained, as there is a capital stock of roach and dace in the river.—E. A. S.

Witham, So. (Mid-Lincolnshire).—A good many visitors went down the Witham for the opening of the season on Friday and Saturday. Conditions were against them on these days, and the fish took much catching. Various baits were tried, but potato is reported to have been the most successful. Baskets were light on the Witham, but hest work was done on the Mount Pleasant drain. Bream seemed to be the fish in best condition. Prospects improved after the rainfall, and on Monday captures were more numerous. So far baskets worth reporting are few and far between. Roach are very backward.—LUCI.

Wye and Derwent (Derbyshire).—The above rivers are in order for all kinds of angling, and some fairly good baskets of fish have been obtained, chiefly by fly fishing and using the minnow, where this latter is allowed. The upper reaches of the Wye, both private and public water, have yielded some very good baskets of fish. Mr. F. C. Arkwright, J.P., with the fly, took nine and a half brace, all good fish, from private water. Several others also have obtained very nice creels between Bakewell and Lileford Bridge (public water). The Matlock and Cromford Angling Association's water has yielded some very good fish, a member from Manchester, one or two nice fish; Mr. C. H. Maule having been very successful with fly and minnow; Mr. A. E. Lawton, on Saturday, two or three nice trout; also Mr. Newton, below Cromford, having landed a few good fish. Several anglers at Homesford and Whatstandwell have obtained some very nice fish by dibbing under the bushes in the day-time and bottom fishing in the evening. The steady rain we had on Sunday evening and again on Tuesday morning slightly coloured the water, but not enough to interfere with angling pursuits, only an improvement. As grayling is now in season, and these rivers are well-stocked with this sporting fish, with this fresh on the prospect should be very good for the next few days.—DOTTEREL.

Wye (Builth Wells).—Sport has been at a discount the past week. The rains of the last few days may improve the fishing. The Hawkstone Otter Hounds hunted the river, three otters; hest bait, worm.—W. B. ROBERTS.

Yore, Swale, Nidd, Wharfe, Aire, Cuse, &c. (Yorkshire).—The drought gave way to genial showers on Sunday, followed by more on Tuesday, and again to-day, the rain coming in time to make the farmers look a little more pleasant than they have done recently, for they had began to despair for the turnip crop, and if the drought had lasted another week the grass and corn would have suffered very considerably. Up to now the thirsty earth has swallowed it all as it fell, and there is no alteration in the low and clear state of our streams. Consequently the bottom fishermen have only met with moderate sport with but few exceptions. There was a good turn out at the bottom end of the Yore and the upper part of the Ouse on Saturday, maggots being the favourite bait; but the takes of the club men were light. Higher up the Yore at Ripon little had been done except a few pike in the deeps, and trout fishing at Tanfield and Masham has been quiet; this remark will apply to the river right up to Middleham, where in the deeps some pike have been taken live baiting, the largest fish being one of 10lb. Both the Stone Fly and the May Fly have disappeared. The Brown Owl, Blue Partridge, Knotted Midge, Black Midge, Bracken Clock, Orange Partridge, and Stone Midge are now good flies, but Mr. James Blades and Mr. Ellec, of Brierfield, have killed some good baskets of trout with Bradshaw's Fancy and Claret Dun. Other anglers have done well in the Hawes Association water with the Maggot in the evenings, and some good trout have been killed at dusk with the Bustard. Until we have a fresher matters on the Upper Swale will remain quiet. The trout caught during the past week have been taken with the n-stream worm. But few anglers have been out, but from Morton down to its junction with the Ouse it has been well patronised by the coarse fishermen, but the takes of roach, dace, chub, &c., have been moderate, and will continue so until a flood clears the river. As far as the tributaries of the rivers are concerned, the best returns come from the Codbeck, a Northallerton angler having fine sport last Saturday, killing four brace of good trout with the Green Drake; and in the Bedale heck the Rev. M. Giffin (of Harrogate), Mr. John King, Mr. J. Macanley, Mr. F. W. Dohy, and others have also done fairly, the last-named gentleman killing a good pike with the Miller's Thumb Devon, one of the best baits for trout or pike that can be used. In the Cover, close to its junction in the

Yore, I got a fine dish of trout with the natural minnow, fished on fine Ariel tackle. Higher up this stream, Mr. Chaytor has done well with the n-stream worm. The North-Eastern Company have issued a capital guide to the hotels and furnished lodgings in farmhouses and seaside and country villages in the district served by the company, which includes the Yorkshire dales, rivers, and moors, the Lake District, the Yorkshire and Northumberland coasts, the Roman Wall district, and the Scottish Borderland. The guide contains, in addition to information with reference to hotels and furnished lodgings, an illustrated and descriptive introduction, a large map, and several full-page illustrations. The guide can be obtained free from the superintendent of the line, York, or at any North-Eastern station. Intending visitors would do well, before making their summer angling arrangements, to obtain a copy. Good sport has been met with on the Wharfe at Ilkley, one angler securing a good basket dapping with the natural fly. Quite a rish was made for the waters in the Leeds district at the week-end by the Leeds bottom fishermen, and many of the clubs fished "off matches." On the whole, very fair sport was obtained, but no "big hauls" have been recorded. At Roundhay Park, on the opening day, fishermen were to be seen all round the big lake, and in some parts so close together that one could have imagined it to have been a "pegged-down match." The takes, on the whole, were small, and only two or three of the rain-haws were reported caught. On Monday night Mr. Parkinson caught a good dish of rainbows with fly, and Mr. Fenwick has also had good sport. The fishery exhibition at the White Swan Hotel, Call-lane, Leeds, having been so great a success, will remain open a few days longer. Several additional exhibits have been added. Sport at Tadcaster has been good, Messrs. Richmond and Shepherd getting a mixed lot of over a hundred fish.—J. E. MILLER, Northern Anglers' Depot, 19, New Station-street, Leeds.

By TELEGRAPH.—A lot of rain has fallen during the past six or eight hours, and there is fresh water running down some of our streams to-day. There is sure to be a freshening all round, and prospects for sport next week could not be better. The maggot is the best bait for bottom fishing, and the Brown Owl, Bracken Clock, Knotted Midge, and Stone Midge are the best flies.—J. E. MILLER, Northern Anglers' Depot, 19, New Station-street, Leeds.

By TELEGRAPH (Friday).—The little fresh water that ran down the hocks has made no alteration to the main rivers, which are yet as low and clear as ever. We look like having more rain, and prospects for sport for next week are improved.—J. E. MILLER, Northern Anglers' Depot, 19, New Station-street, Leeds.

SCOTCH REPORTS.

Altnacealgach (Hotel Waters).—On June 10, Messrs. Campbell Gibson and Bell, Edinburgh, on Loch Urigill, 100 trout, 28h; Rev. Mr. Blomefield and Mrs. Blomefield, Devon, sixty, 18h; Mr. Boyd, Edinburgh, on Loch Cama, thirty-four, 16lb.; Dr. and Mr. Chalmers, Aberdeen, eighty-four, 27h. On 14th, Mr. and Mrs. Blomefield, Devon, on Loch Cama, twenty-eight trout, 8lb.; Mr. and Mrs. Halcro, Sunderland, twenty-six, 8lb.; Dr. J. Chalmers, Aberdeen, on Loch Veyatie, ninety, 30lb.; MacLaren and Cooper, Glasgow, on Loch Cama, twenty-nine, 8½lb.; Gibson and Bell, Edinburgh, on Loch Urigill, sixty, 18½lb.; and Mr. Boyd, ninety, 22h. On 15th, Mr. and Mrs. Halcro, twenty-nine trout, 12lb.; Mr. and Mrs. Blomefield, on Loch Veyatie, twenty-five, 8lb.; Gibson and Bell, on Loch Urigill, sixty, 18lb.; Mr. Boyd, on Loch Cama, twenty-nine, 12h., and three *ferox*. On 16th, Mr. and Mrs. Blomefield, on Loch Cama, twenty-eight trout, 9lb.; Mr. and Mrs. Halcro, twenty-four, 8lb.; Mr. Boyd, on Loch Veyatie, twenty-four, 8½lb.; MacLaren and Cooper, on Loch Cama, fourteen, 19h.; Dr. Chalmers, on Loch Urigill, 135, 39lb.; Messrs. Gibson and Bell, fifty, 15½lb. On 17th, Rev. Mr. Blomefield and Mrs. Blomefield, on Loch Bourlan, sixty trout, 17h.; Dr. Chalmers, on Loch Veyatie, twenty-four, 15h.; Mr. and Mrs. Halcro, on Loch Cama, sixty, 17½lb.; Gibson and Bell, fifty-two, 15h.; Mr. and Miss Brown, Glasgow, on Loch Urigill, seventy, 20h.; MacLaren and Cooper, seventy, 21lb. On 19th, Gibson and Bell, on Loch Veyatie, seventeen trout, 7lb.; Mr. Brown, forty, 11lb.; Mr. and Mrs. Halcro, on Loch Cama, 16lb.; Dr. Chalmers, 103, 33h.; MacLaren and Cooper, 110, 28h.; Mr. Laing, Kelso, on Loch Urigill, eighty, 23lb.; Rev. Mr. Blomefield and Mrs. Blomefield, eighty-six, 23lb.—B.

Altnaharra Hotel Waters.—On 14th inst., Mr. Steel, on Loch Stank, twenty-three trout, 7lb.; Mr. and Mrs. Skirling, on Loch Eilanach, twenty-seven trout, 6lb.; Mr. and Mrs. Brown, on Loch Loyal, eighteen trout, 7lb. 15th, Mr. Brown, on Loch Harald, seventy trout, 18lb.; Mr. Steel, on Loch Loyal, ten trout, 5lb.; Messrs. Tait and Langston, on Loch Stank, fourteen trout, 4½lb. 16th, Mr. Steel, on Stank, sixty trout, 17½lb.; Messrs. Tait and Langston, on Meadie, forty trout, 10½lb.; Mr. and Mrs. Skirling, on Hallam, twenty-six trout, 8½lb.; Mr. and Mrs. Brown, on Meadie, forty-three trout, 14lb. 17th, Mr. and Mrs. Brown, on Loch Harald, seventy-eight trout, 20lb.; Mr. Steel, on Meadie, sixty trout, 14h.; Mr. Skirling, on Stank, twenty-one trout, 6½lb. 19th, Messrs. Tait and Langston, on Meadie, forty trout, 10h.; Mr. and Mrs. Skirling, on Loch Break Bui, thirty-six trout, 10½lb. Mr. Steel, on Loch Loyal, one *ferox*, 6lb., nine trout, 7h.; Mr. D. Munro, on Harald, forty-six trout, 10½lb.; Mr. and Mrs. Brown, on Loch Farvis, thirty trout, 12lb. 20th, Mr. and Mrs. Skirling, on Loch Harald, fifty trout, 11h.; Mr. and Mrs. Brown, on Meadie, fifteen trout, 11h.; Mr. Steel, on Loyal, four trout, 3h.; Messrs. D. M. and D. Munro, on Hallam, eighty-one, 30lb.—W. D. M.

Bracadbane Arms Hotel (Aberfeldy).—Mr. McIntosh, Dundee, fished Loch-na-Craig yesterday, and caught twenty-three trout, 8½lb.

Culag Hotel Waters.—On 10th, Messrs. Lovell fished Loch Lewn, and landed a *ferox* of 2½lb.; Messrs. Waterfield and a Court, on Loch Beannach, two, 8lb. On 14th, Messrs. Lovell, on Badmine, one of 4½lb. On 15th, Messrs. Waterfield and a Court, on Grits Loch, a *ferox* of 4½lb.—B.

Deveron (Banffshire).—Rod fishing on the river Deveron continues very backward, owing, of course, to the long-continued drought having reduced the water so much that fish have refused to enter it. Since the beginning of the present week, however, a change has set in, and copious showers of rain have fallen, which, it is hoped, will continue until the land is thoroughly soaked, and the river put into a spate. In the end of last week a few salmon and trout were got by the net fishermen, but lately the fishing has been almost nil. On the coast towards the end of last week grilse were more numerous, but this week the returns from all the stations have been very poor. However, with a change of weather the fishing may improve, and the time that has yet to go before the season's close may bring the fishing up to the average of former years.—H. W.

Inchnadumph Hotel (Sutherland).—June 10, Mr. Hurst, Castle Bay, ten trout, 5lb.; Mr. Oakden, Head Assynt, five trout, 2½lb. June 12, Messrs. Hurst and Oakden, Loch Awe, sixty trout, 10lb.; Mr. Cookson, Mid Assynt, twenty trout, 6lb.; Mr. Corstorphine, Loch Letteressie, fifteen trout, 5lb.; Mr. Bird, Loch Gillaroo, one trout, 1lb.; Mr. Findlater, Castle Bay, ten trout, 3lb. June 13, Mr. Bindloss, Inver, six trout, 5lb.; Mr. Bindloss, Inver, eighteen trout, 3lb.; Mr. Cookson, Mid Assynt, thirty-two trout, 11lb.; Mr. Bird, Loch Awe, twenty-four trout, 8lb.; Mr. Batchelor, Skieg, thirteen trout, 5lb.; Mr. Corstorphine, Loch Gillaroo, twelve trout, 6lb.; Mr. Findlater, Traligall, eight trout, 3lb.; Messrs. Hurst and Oakden, Castle Bay, ten trout, 5lb. June 14, Mr. Batchelor, Loch Awe, thirteen trout, 6lb.; Mr. Bird, Inver, ten trout, 7lb. June 15, Mr. Oakden, Head Assynt, eight trout, 5lb., and one salmon, 6lb.; Mr. Findlater, Loch Awe, eighteen trout, 6lb.; Mr. Bird, Mid Assynt, ten trout, 5lb., and one *ferox*, 4lb. June 16, Mr. Whitehead, Loch Awe, twelve trout, 4lb.; Mr. Hurst, Loch Letteressie, eighteen trout, 6lb.; Mr. Oakden, Inver, eight trout, 6lb. June 17, Mr. Findlater, Head Assynt, one grilse, 4½lb.; Messrs. Hurst and Oakden, Loch Awe, forty-four trout, 16lb.; Messrs. Bird and Morgan, Castle Bay, six trout, 5lb.—W. WALLACE.

Kyleskie Hotel Waters (Sutherland).—On 6th, Messrs. Bird and Morgan, London, caught five sea trout, 10½lb.; the heaviest 3½lb. On 9th, Mrs. Robertson, Edinburgh, made a basket of three sea trout, 7lb. On 12th, Mr. C. Mackenzie had three sea trout, 10½lb. (one weighed 4½lb.).—B.

Loch Katrine (Stronachlachar Hotel).—Out from Stronachlachar Hotel, on Wednesday, Mr. R. A. Turnbull caught eight trout; and Dr. Gowing, six. On Thursday, Dr. McGregor and Mr. Stewart had a nice basket of twenty-eight on Loch Chon; Mr. Gunter had eleven. On Friday, Dr. Gowing caught eleven; Mr. Yule, five; and Mr. Dick, Invergyle House, sixteen. On Saturday, Mr. Ewing caught nine; and Dr. Gowing, eight. On Monday, Mr. Yule caught nine; Mr. R. A. Turnbull, fifteen; and Major-Gen. Campbell, ten. On Tuesday, Dr. Gowing caught eleven; Mr. Fergus, sixteen; Mr. R. A. Turnbull, eleven; Mr. Yule, ten; and Major-Gen. Campbell, eleven. The baskets are showing an improvement since the wet weather set in.—H. M.

Loch Maddy Hotel Waters.—On June 12, Messrs. Vallance and Porhouse, fishing Loch Strumore, had ten fish, average weight 1lb. each; and on June 13, on Loch Sheltan, they had fourteen fish weighing 13lb., heaviest fish 2lb.; on the same date Mr. Wood had 14lb. on Loch au Dune. On June 14, Messrs. Vallance and Porhouse had nine fish weighing 11lb., heaviest 2½lb., on Loch au Dune.—T. D. MACGREGOR.

Loch Ness (Foyers Hotel), N.B.—The exceptionally bright weather of the past week has rendered fishing almost useless during the day, and the only time that the trout would rise to the fly was for a few hours during the evening, when anglers have been fairly successful. Fishing Loch Mhor on June 12, Mr. J. Sherriff, of Ceylon, got six trout, weighing 4½lb.; Mr. Carmichael, Miss Low, and Mr. Low, Moniheth, twenty-six, 15lb.; Mr. Hawkins, of Norfolk, twelve, 9lb. On June 13, Messrs. Carmichael and Low got twenty-two, 10½lb.; Messrs. Hawkins and Parsons, ten, 7½lb. On June 14, Messrs. Low and Carmichael got fifteen, 8½lb. On June 16, Messrs. Carmichael and Low got fifteen, 8lb. On June 17, Mr. Sherriff got sixteen, 8½lb.; Messrs. Carmichael and Low, nine, 15½lb.—S. TILSTON.

Melville Hotel (Sutherlandshire).—The past week was a most unsatisfactory one for angling, the beat being intense, with clear, cloudless sky. On June 15, Mr. Nicholson had three trout, 3lb. On 16th, Mr. Lucas, jun., had thirteen trout, 6lb.; Mr. Nicholson, twenty-six, 10lb.; Mr. Adam, twelve, 5lb.; Mr. C. Randall, four, 3½lb.; Mr. W. Randall, four, 2lb.; Mr. Pritchard, thirteen, 7lb. On 19th, Mr. Lucas had one trout, 1½lb.; Mr. Morrison, four, 4lb.; Mr. C. Randall, three, 3lb.; Mr. Harle, eighteen, 5lb.; Mr. Pritchard, twenty, 10½lb.; Mr. W. Randall, two, 1½lb.—A. MACINTOSH.

North-East of Scotland.—Rain at last; but not enough of it as yet to swell the rivers. However, the dull outlook portends more to follow. Sport is practically at a standstill. Anglers have been leaving for the south in numbers even before their leases have expired. Disappointment with the season's results is but a faint way to indicate the feelings of some anglers who are not slack at giving forcible expression to the disgust they undoubtedly feel. Her Majesty moved her court from Balmoral on

Thursday after a net four weeks' stay. Queen's weather and not angler's weather predominated during the whole time, and although the pools in the upper waters are fairly stocked with fish, bags have been very light. Such a bad season has not been experienced during the present decade. On the Cratie section, Mr. Nicol had one of 8lb.; and Mr. Ferguson one of 6lb. On the lower Invercauld water, Mr. Illingworth crealed during the past week one of 7½lb., one of 7lb., two of 8lb. each, and one of 6½lb. On the upper water, Capt. Sanderson had three fish, of 5lb., 6lb., and 7lb. The Ballater and Cambus O'May waters are yielding little or nothing, only an occasional fish being got. During the past spring sport has been very backward, the worst on record, in fact. Salmon and grilse are being got on the coast in fair numbers, but the grilse run is nothing to what it should be at this season. There is a good show of sea trout, comparatively speaking, and if a spate comes it will just be in time to save the summer grilse run from blank failure.—G. M.

Overseaig Hotel Waters (via Lairg, N.B.).—On 9th, Mr. Dodgson, Keston, Kent, fished Upper Flag beat, and caught eighteen trout, 15½lb., and a *Salmo ferox* of 8lb.; Rev. Mr. Jackson and Mr. Jackson, Wakefield, on Mid-Shin, twenty trout, 10lb., and a *Salmo ferox* weighing 10lb.; Major and Miss Dixon, London, on Flag beat, eighteen trout, 9½lb.; Canon and Mrs. Faber, Doncaster, on Loch Merklund, thirteen, 7½lb.; and Dr. Paradox, Newcastle-on-Tyne, on Top Sbin beat, fourteen, 6lb. On 16th, Canon and Mrs. Faber, on Loch Grian, twenty-nine, 10lb.; Rev. Archdeacon Prescott, Carlisle, on Upper Flag, fourteen, 8½lb.; Mr. and Miss Leake, King's Lynn, on Top Shin, eighteen, 8lb.; Mr. and Mrs. Jackson, on Lower Flag, twenty, 8lb.; Major and Miss Dixon, on Mid-Shin, fourteen, 8lb. On 17th, Mr. Clay, Matlock, on Upper Flag, thirty-two, 14lb.; Canon and Mr. Faber, on Top Sbin, fifteen, 6lb.; Rev. Archdeacon Prescott, on Loch Grian, forty-three, 14½lb.; Mr. Leake, on Loch Merklund, thirteen, 6lb.; Major and Miss Dixon, thirty, 10lb.; Mr. and Mrs. Jackson, on Mid-Shin, thirteen, 8½lb., besides two *Salmo ferox*, 11½lb. On 19th, Mr. and Mrs. Walker, Couper Angus, on Flag beat, seventy trout, 24lb.; Mr. and Miss Leake, on lower Mid-Shin, thirty-two, 14lb.; Rev. Archdeacon Prescott, on Loch Merklund, thirty-one, 12lb.; Mr. and Mrs. Jackson, on Loch Grian, twenty, 9lb.; Canon and Mrs. Faber, on Loch Merklund, nineteen, 7½lb.; Major and Miss Dixon, on Mid-Shin, nineteen, 8lb.; and Mr. Clay, on Top Shin, twenty-four, 10lb., and a *ferox* of 6lb.—B.

South of Scotland.—For a period of twenty-five days no rain has fallen in Annandale. On Monday and Tuesday several thunder showers fell, just sufficient to lay the dust on the highways. The showers were general over the South of Scotland yesterday, but the rainfall has made no difference to the rivers; as a matter of fact, the streams are lower than last week. There was some hope last night (Tuesday) that we were going to have a good fall of rain. For three days the barometer fell, but this morning the mercury is rising again, and while we may have showery weather for the remainder of the week, the prospect is decidedly against any near approach of a sufficient downfall of rain to cause the desired spate. There is more bright sunshine to-day, with a light east wind quite unfavourable for sport. From Wednesday to Monday the heat was tropical in this part of the country, and although the air is much cooler it is still warm. Day angling on the rivers has been practically at a standstill since last week's notes. The only sport is with the night fly, or with the clear water worm fished in the small hours of the morning. The waters are so low and slow running that the finest of tackle and small flies have to be used, and even then the sport is scarcely worth the candle. In the Solway nets the run of sea trout still keeps up wonderfully, and some very fine ones have been captured in the stake nets near Annan. Grilse are not making much of a show, owing to the over-fine weather, low state of the rivers, and absence of gales. The water bailiffs have been assisting to clear the pools of "poachers' hanks," in order to thoroughly net the rivers, and clear out the pike and chub, which have increased so much of late years. All the pike and chub are to be killed, and, probably, the most of them buried on the banks. The following is a note of the sport on the different rivers and lochs of this district since last week's report. **THE ANNAN.**—Very little has been done on this river. Day fishing has not been followed, owing to the low water and the excessive sunshine and heat. A few rods have been out with the Night Fly, and odd sea trout have been landed on different stretches. The clear water worm (small pink worm), on fine tackle, has also accounted for a sea trout or two, besides yellow trout. To be successful the angler requires to be on the river in the small hours of the morning. Next week-end may probably bring a herling or two up from the Solway. Last year three trout were late in making their appearance, and it was not until the second week in July (11th) that the first herling was caught. **THE NITH AND TRIBUTARIES.**—Despite the lowness of this river and the brilliant weather prevailing in Upper Nithsdale during the past fortnight some really good baskets of trout are reported. In fact (writes a correspondent), it is many years now since the angling was so good in the upper reaches of the Nith, and the trout caught are just as lusty as they are plentiful. Last week quite a number of sea trout were taken from the pools within the jurisdiction of the Sanguhar Angling Association, and it was no uncommon thing to find two or three burn trout of ½lb. or over in the baskets which were taken. Late at night or early in the morning seem to be the best times. One angler has taken over a dozen sea trout within the past three weeks in the Upper Nith. In the Thornhill Mid-Nithsdale waters a few sea trout and yellow trout have been killed, chiefly after dark, with the night fly. Near

Dumfries the sport has been excessively poor. The Nith is a capital river for sea trout, the best in the Solway for trout. **AYRSHIRE LOCHS AND RIVERS.**—A goodly number of rods have been out on the lochs of this district, and on favourable days the sport has been fairly good on Loch Doon, near Dalmellington. On the rivers all angling has been at a standstill for over a fortnight, owing to the low waters and very bright sunshine. Mr. Keen, out from the Eglinton Hotel on Wednesday and following day, killed forty-four yellow trout with fly (heaviest trout, 1lb.), Messrs. McGarva and Simpson were out on six days, and had a total of 163 yellow trout with fly. On Friday seven rods were out, all members of the Glasgow Wanderers' Angling Club. The total catch numbered 135 yellow trout, weighing 26½lb. Mr. J. C. Douglas, a visitor, killed twenty-two, weighing 6½lb.; Mr. W. Morrison caught twelve, scaling 3lb. 12oz. On Saturday, Messrs. Malcom and Robertson killed thirty-nine with fly. Other rods have had pretty good sport this week.—HEATHERBELL.

Spey.—Owing to the late protracted drought, and consequent low water, angling has been almost a dead letter; as, however, rain has now fallen heavily matters may improve. The spring salmon fishing may be reckoned a failure, and the hope is now entertained that the grilse season may in some measure make up for it. As an example of the scarcity of fish, it is estimated that every fish caught so far from the Tulchan waters, a well-known reach of the Spey, has cost the lessee over £10. Good sport is to be had in the evenings and mornings at present, as there are plenty of large trout in the river. From the Wester Elchies water, on Friday, Mr. Duncan, fisherman, had a salmon of 11lb., while from the Aberlorn House water, Mr. McKenzie, fisherman, had a grilse of 3lb. On the Carron House section, Mr. Grant killed a salmon of 7½lb., and on the Laggan water, Mr. Skinner, a newly run one of 11lb.—J. M.

Tongue Hotel Waters.—On June 7, Mr. Marshall, on the Kyle of Tongue, had seven trout, 12lb. (heaviest, 3½lb.). On June 9, Mr. Webster, on the Kyle, six trout, 8lb. (heaviest, 2½lb.); Mr. Marshall, on the Kyle, sixteen trout, 12½lb.; Mr. Cummins, on the Kyle, four trout, 6lb. (heaviest, 2lb.). On June 10, Mr. Livingstone, on the Kyle, two trout, 3½lb. On June 10, Mr. Cummins, on the Kyle, had two trout, 3½lb.; Mr. Webster, on the Kyle, two trout, 4lb.; Mr. Livingstone, on the Kyle, two trout, 3lb. On June 12, Mr. Parker, on Loch-na-hacon, had eight trout; Mr. Livingstone, on Loch Craggie, twelve trout, 4½lb.; Mr. Marshall, on Loch Loyal, eight trout, 4lb.; Messrs. Cummins and Webster also had good baskets on Loch Craggie. On June 13, Mr. Webster, on the Kyle, had three trout, 3lb.; Mr. Cummins, on Loch Craggie, eleven trout, 4½lb.; Mr. Livingstone, also on Loch Craggie, sixteen trout, 5lb.; Mr. Marshall, on Loch Slam, nineteen trout, 9lb., and one grilse, 3lb. On June 14, Mr. Webster, on Loch-na-hacon, seven trout, 4lb.; Mr. Livingstone, on Kyle, one sea trout, 3lb. On June 15, Mr. Webster, on Loch Craggie, sixteen trout; Mr. Livingstone, on Loch Slam, twenty trout; Mr. Marshall, on Loch Craggie, sixteen trout; Mr. Cummins, on Loch Craggie, twenty-six trout. On June 16, Mr. Webster, on Loch-na-hacon, twenty-nine trout; Mr. Marshall, on Loch Slam, sixteen trout, 6lb. On June 17, Mr. Webster, on Loch Slam, had fifteen trout; Mr. Marshall, on Loch Craggie, twelve trout, 5½lb., one salmon, 5lb.; Mr. Parker, on Loch-na-hacon, ten trout, 3lb.

Tweed, Teviot, and other Border Streams.—All the Border rivers have been running in very small volume during the past ten days, the exceedingly warm weather we have been experiencing being the medium of that cause. Trout anglers, however, have been having fairly good baskets of trout, both with fly and worm, the latter lure, of course, being used during the day, whilst the takes got with the fly have been killed at night. Evening fishing is in full swing now amongst all the fly anglers, while the early birds are out with the worm in the morning. The fine weather, of course, precludes all idea of salmon angling, and this branch of sport is in the meantime absolutely nil. Some of the trout anglers here have been very successful with the "creeper," but the supply is now just about exhausted for the season. Of those who have done best in the trout takes during the week we may mention Mr. Lander Brown, coachmaker, Kelso, who on the Tweed, at Rosebank, near Kelso, killed a fine trout, 2½lb., with fly, besides which he had about a dozen of other trout, weighing in the aggregate about 5lb. Mr. James Steel, fishmonger, Kelso, on Friday morning last had a beautiful clean run trout of 4lb., killed with minnow; while yesterday (Tuesday) he had fourteen trout, which weighed 6½lb. These fish were killed on the Tweed with worm. On the same river on the 19th, Mr. D. Robson had 8lb.; Mr. Jas. Stewart, 4lb.; and on the following day the latter angler had again 4lb. on the Teviot. On the 21st, Mr. G. Robson, on the Tweed, had 8lb. with worm; on the Teviot, Mr. T. Turnbull, 5lb.; Mr. Jas. Walker, 4lb.; Mr. R. Robertson, 6½lb.; and Mr. James Robertson, 3½lb.; Mr. James Affleck, tailor and clothier, Heiton, had 8lb.; and his father, an old veteran angler, had 6½lb. in four hours' fishing. With the fine weather and clear water the presences of the pike in the Tweed and Teviot becomes more apparent every day. At the western end of Kelso Bridge, in the pool at that place, quite a number of these trout gormandisers have recently been seen, and some of these have since paid the penalty of taking a spoon bait.—MAXWHEEL.

IRISH REPORTS.

Ballina (Imperial and Royal Hotels Private Waters, and Gortnorabey Hotel, Lough Conn).—Fishing for the past week has not been very good as we are not having favourable weather, but the prospect for the coming week is good, as we are having a decided change. It is raining at present, and this will bring in a number of fresh fish, both into the river and lough. Mrs. King,

during the past week, killed four salmon, the largest weighing 11lb., and the smallest 5lb. Mr. King killed one salmon weighing 8lb., and made some good baskets of trout along with nine pike, the largest weighing 11lb. The Rev. Canon Daniel killed a few trout, not large. Mr. Terry killed one grilse weighing 6lb. Mr. Dove, two grilse weighing 8lb., and lost one large salmon.—MANAGER.

Ballina (Private Waters, Moy Hotel).—Water in good order; salmon plentiful in the pools. On Sunday Mr. J. Innlon lost a fish after playing some time. Mr. J. Browne hooked and rose several fish. Mr. Schroop got two, one 7lb. and the other 6lb. These were the only reds out. There were several fish taken on the lough. Trout fishers at Rnnagry doing well.—JOHN DEVERS.

Bann (Toomebridge).—The condition of the river is excellent at present, and trout fishing has been well favoured as regards weather, &c. The trout are very numerous in the river, and of a fine quality. A lot of anglers from the O'Neill Arms secured some fine baskets, notably Mr. McKean (Greenock), Mr. White (London), Mr. Stronach (London), Mr. St. Stephen (London), and Mr. Giles (Belfast). These gentlemen secured fish reaching 4lb. in weight, while several others had a fair number of smaller takes.—F. G.

Belfast.—Matters piscatorial were very dull about here in the past week. Few anglers were out on the dams, and the rain did very little to raise the rivers. It would take thirty-six hours' rain to put the Antrim and Down rivers in order. The North-East Ulster Angling Club has arranged for an open pegged-down 10yds. limit competition on Moira Canal, on the 15th prox.—J. A. B.

Border Esk and Liddle.—Owing to the continued dry weather sport is only poor, but during the past few days rain has fallen to a moderate extent, and the fishing has improved a trifle. In the Longtown water, Mr. Read, Arthur, caught a sea trout of 2lb. at an evening fishing; and Mr. Henry Foster, Longtown, had one of 1½lb. Anglers in the lower reaches complain very justly of the vast numbers of chub and dace, and assert they cannot get fish for them. At Damfoot Pool, where the Liddle joins the Esk at the head of the Willow Pool, great numbers of the trout are visible, but owing to the lowness of the water they are taking badly; in fact, the fish are mostly collected in the pools, and until a flood comes, one that will "sweep mills and dams" to the gate, not much sport will be had. Sea trout are making for the upper reaches, and several have been caught in the Langholm water; also good baskets have been made of yellow trout in the upper reaches. In the Canonbie water, Dr. Anderson, of Eskbank, had a sea trout of 2lb. with fly in Tommy's Pool; Mr. A. Murray, Canonbie, had four sea trout with fly, two of them 4lb. each; Mr. J. Graham had one of 2lb. at Level Mouth, Liddle; and Mr. D. McDougall caught four in the Liddle. Several others have had good catches in the same water. Sport can only be had at night fishing. The weather is threatening, and it may improve shortly.—GLENOCKIE.

Cork Rivers.—Since Saturday sport has shown much improvement on all the Cork rivers. Some rain has fallen each day, and salmon have been rising better to flies. Trout are now taking well, and on those waters that hold sea trout fair or average results have been had at those fish during the last few days. The season so far has been, on the whole, a poor one, but the prospects for the next few days at least are very good.—T. J. D.

Corrib (Galway).—The Corrib is running down fast, that well-known water-mark "the Horse-Shoe" being uncovered considerably by the rush of water. The weather is cloudless and not so hot as it was last week. Since last notes over 100 peal were killed, and a few spring fish—equally divided between the fly and prawn. Amongst the peal fishers were: Messrs. W. Townsend, Capt. Curzon, Nathan Cohen, J. Smith, Col. Parker, C. E. Hill, Sir William Williams, and C. F. Hill. Trouting has been resumed after the falling down seawards of the salmon smolts. Very little was done recently on the Lough.—J. A. B.

Cummeragh and Inny.—Sport has shown a decided improvement on the above waters as far as trout are concerned, owing to heavy rain having fallen on a couple of days. No salmon have, however, been had on either water, though those latter fish are reported numerous in both.—T. J. D.

East Tyrone Rivers.—The Ballinderry and Blackwater are low and clear, and consequently sport is dull, evening trouting being the only sport permissible. Salmon are up both rivers.—J. A. B.

Erne (Ballyshannon and Belleek).—The following are the particulars: Sir H. B. Robertson took one salmon of 12lb. on 15th inst., and one of 14lb. on 17th inst., and another of 8lb. on 19th inst.; Mr. F. T. Green took a splendid salmon of 17lb., and one of 8lb. on 19th inst.; Mr. S. V. Thomas took one salmon of 20lb., and one of 8lb. on same day; Mr. George Davies took another of 9lb. on 19th inst.; and Mr. Bentick took one on 19th, and one on 20th inst., weights of same not to hand at time of writing; Mr. J. G. Vokins took one salmon of 13lb. on 20th inst.; Dr. E. Aiken took one salmon of 8lb., and three grilse on 17th, 19th, and 20th insts., weights of the three grilse were 4lb., 4lb., and 5lb.; Mr. S. V. Thomas took one grilse of 6lb. on 20th inst. Mr. T. M. Pike took several fine trout with dry fly since last report, as also did Dr. W. G. Dunwoody, Dr. F. Condon, and Francis Rogan, several of the trout weighing from 4lb. to 6½lb. At time of writing rain has been falling at intervals for the past two days, and sport is improving all round.—M. ROGAN AND SONS.

Kerry Rivers.—Rain has fallen at last, and sport has shown much improvement in consequence, especially on the northern waters. Salmon, peal, and sea trout gave generally fair sport on the Feale, Gale, Smeragh, and Cashen. In the districts of Glenbeigh and Killarney

sport was not as good, and on the southern waters the improvement has not been very marked, though prospects are good for the coming week.—T. J. D.

Lough Conn (Cloghans).—The weather here at present is very unsettled for last few days. Mr. Tracy got two salmon on the 17th and lost one, together with a dozen of trout averaging 1lb. Mr. Gilling got one salmon on the 17th, and a half dozen of trout averaging 1½lb. Mr. Keeling got two salmon on the 19th, and a pike of 14lb. Mr. Preston got five pike in a few hours, largest 22½lb., smallest 5lb.—TOM CLARKE.

Lough Corrib.—The weather has become much cooler after the recent rain, and fish are taking freely. The peal are up in large numbers. Mr. Cooke, on Saturday, got two, weighing 10lb.; and John Loydon, one, 7lb., also six trout, 10lb. In two days the nets got ninety-seven salmon.—T. J. D.

Lough Currane (Waterville, co. Kerry).—Sport is now fairly good in the late evenings at sea and brown trout. The weather has undergone a very favourable change, and the prospects for the coming week are good all round. Salmon, peal, and sea trout are all arriving in good numbers since Saturday, when heavy rain fell for many hours, and the lake is now well stocked with all those fish, which continue to ascend freely, as the climatic conditions are still favourable. Trouting has been pretty good on the river.—T. J. D.

Lough Mask.—Fishing greatly improved. Mr. Bartholomew caught, fly fishing, on Wednesday, forty-two trout.—JOYCE (Clonhury).

Lough Melvin.—Sport was rather poor again on this lake during the past week, owing to the continued bright weather and east and north-east wind. Mr. J. Browne took one salmon of 8lb. on 15th inst.; Mr. H. P. Kelly took a trout (*Salmo ferax*) of 6½lb. on same day; Mr. B. Andrews took a grilse of 5lb. on 16th inst.; and Mr. N. Cassidy took another of 6lb. on 17th inst. Trouting improved somewhat within the last few days, and several good baskets of gillaroos and brown trout were taken. Mr. Alfred Blane, of London, caught twenty trout on Lough Erne, with the May Fly, averaging 3lb. each (largest fish, 5½lb.).—M. ROGAN AND SONS.

Mountain Lakes (Waterville, co. Kerry).—Sport has shown a decided improvement on all the above waters at brown trout, but no fish weighing more than 1lb. were had, and only a few reached that weight. The average weight of the trout had was about ¾lb.—T. J. D.

Moy, Loughs Conn and Cullen (Ballina, co. Mayo).—A north-east wind still prevailing here, and fish taking badly. The lower pools on the river are well-stocked with grilse and sea trout. Mr. Pitts, four grilse, 19lb.; Mr. Foster, two grilse, 11lb., one salmon, 10lb.; Dr. Webb, five grilse, 22lb.; Mr. C. Hamilton, in three days, thirty-five sea trout, 29lb.; Master Harry Simpson, in four days, thirty-one sea trout, 25lb.; Mr. W. Paine, in three days, thirty-nine sea trout, 32lb. A few stale grilse have been taken on the lough. Trout won't look at a fly on the Lough until we have a change of wind. Mr. F. Gore had five pike on Cullen, 8lb., 8lb., 13lb., 15lb., 21lb.—PAT HEARNES.

Shannon and Lough Derg (Killaloe).—It was rather unfortunate that my river report last week was late for the midday post on the Wednesday, as it contained full details of the disaster which had befallen the trout and other fish here at Killaloe and lower down the stream. Truth is, I had gone down the river in a boat to see for myself the extent of the damage done to the fish, and when I got back to my house I was late for the post. The sight which I saw down there was something too sad. The shores on either side of the river were covered over with hundreds of beautiful trout, ranging in weight from 1lb. to 5lb. On the evening of June 11 the river and the fish in it were all right, but on the following morning quantities of trout, dead and dying, were picked up below the bridge. During Tuesday, Wednesday, and part of Thursday, the valuable fishes continued to succumb, but on Friday I was enabled to wire the Dublin *Irish Times* that we had seen the last of the disaster. It is pleasing to know countless hundreds of fine trout that headed down stream ascended a few of the tributary rivers a short distance below Killaloe, and the constabulary have been watching the fish ever since. During the last few days these have been returning in large numbers to their favourite old feeding grounds in my water under and above the weir wall, and before the week is out there will be plenty of trout in every part of the river. About a dozen salmon came to grief during last week. Some of the dead fish and samples of the water have been forwarded to Sir Charles Cameron for examination, but we have not yet received his report. A sample of the fish was also sent to another Dublin analyst, who has reported that the mischief was caused by chloride of lime. Anyhow, salmon, grilse, and trout are rising freely, and several have been creel'd this week. Yesterday Capt. Gartside-Speight killed a fine grilse and lost another, and a salmon. Col. Longbourne also got a grilse. Mr. R. Hope has arrived from Maidenhead, England, for the fishing.—S. J. HURLEY.

Shannon (Castleconnell).—In contrast to the hot sunshine of the past few weeks we are now having rain and cooler weather, a welcome change for the angler. On Doonass, Mr. Hodges killed, 14th, one peal, 7lb.; 17th, two peal, 5lb., 7lb.; 20th, one peal, 4lb. On Prospect, Mr. A. T. Cohold killed, 14th, one peal, 3½lb.; 15th, one peal, 3lb.; 17th, one peal, 5½lb.; 20th, one peal, 4lb. On Newgarden, Mr. A. Creswick killed, 14th, one peal, 6½lb.; 19th, one peal, 6lb.; 20th, three peal, 4lb., 5½lb., 7lb. On Hermitage, Lord Massy killed, 15th, one peal, 5lb. On Woodlands, Mr. G. W. Greenhill killed, 14th, one peal, 6½lb. On the same water, Mr. Barkworth killed, 20th, one peal, 6lb. On the Castle Fishery, Major A. D. Bulpitt killed, 14th, one salmon, 9½lb. On the Worldseend, Mr. T. S. Richardson killed, 17th, two peal,

3½lb. and 4½lb. On the same water, Mr. Barkworth killed, 18th, one peal, 6½lb.—J. ENRIGHT AND SON.

Upper Bann.—Dapping with the Black Fly about Katesbridge and Ballyhoney was pretty good recently, several nice fish having been taken in this way. Re the discussion some time ago about the re-introduction of salmon into this river, we note with pleasure that a movement is on foot for the purification of the river as the contemplated source of Portadown water supply. The pollution of the water from different towns is so bad that salmon ceased to run up it some years ago. If the water be purified, it will be one step in favour of the re-introduction of salmon.—J. A. B.

Westmeath Lakes (Mullingar).—Some good sport has been had on these lakes since the close of the dapping season by trolling artificial baits and otherwise, and some magnificent pike, perch, and trout have been taken. Mr. J. Harton, of Mullingar, on the 16th inst., on Lough Owl, got two splendid trout, weighing together 9lb. On the 18th he had three trout, weighing respectively 8½lb., 7lb., and 4lb., and lost a large fish after one hour's exciting play. There are some Green Drake still rising on Lough Ennel, but the trout are feeding on the perch fry, and won't notice any lure in the way of flies. The pike and perch fishing on this lake has also been good, and some splendid trout were taken recently.—T. J. W.

Angling Fixtures.

June 25.

Alhion Brothers: Brake outing.
Allason United: Pegged-down match.
Amicable Waltonians: Outing to Wateringbury.
Battersea Friendly: Match at Amherley.
Clapham Strollers: Match at Chichester.
Convivial: Match at Buckhurst Hill.
Duke of Norfolk: Outing to Uxbridge.
Elgin: Brake outing.
Harcourt: Match at Langley.
Ormonde: Outing and dinner to Hastings.
Phoenix: Brake outing.
St. Alban's: Outing to Woking.
Sundial: Brake outing.

June 27.

Grange: Dinner at Wateringbury.

June 28.

Walthamstow Brothers: Annual dinner.

June 29.

Sundial: Visit.

July 1.

Lychnohite: Competition at Staines.

July

2.—Convivial: Outing to Byfleet.
" 2.—Good Intent: Prize outing.
" 2.—Harcourt: Match at Langley.
" 2.—Islington Brothers: Match at Chichester.
" 2.—Izaak Walton: Competition.
" 2.—Jubilee: Match.
" 2.—Lincoln: Lapsed prize outing.
" 2.—Prince Albert: Outing to Langley.
" 2.—South Bermondsey Piscatorial: Outing.
" 3.—Lincoln: Visit.
" 5.—Izaak Walton: Special outing.
" 6.—West Kensington Park: Concert.
" 9.—Clerkenwell and District: Competition at Amherley.
" 9.—Cohden: Match at Uxbridge.
" 9.—United Brothers: Outing to the Medway.
" 10.—Clissold: A.B.S. concert.
" 15.—Lychnohite: Summer dinner at Hertford.
" 16.—Amicable Waltonians: Brake outing.
" 16.—Clapham Junction: Outing to Amherley.
" 16.—Hearts of Oak: Outing.
" 17.—Amicable Waltonians: Annual dinner.

Reports from Clubs

We beg to remind Secretaries that their Reports must reach us not later than **SIX o'clock on Thursday Evening.** Address "Editor, FISHING GAZETTE, St. Dunstan's House, Fetter-Lane, London," marked "CLUB REPORT" outside envelope.

Anglers' Association.—IMPORTANT NOTICE TO ANGLERS.—Upon application by the above association the Metropolitan Railway have agreed to issue anglers' fares from Moorgate-street, Farringdon-street, and King's Cross Stations, viz.: Rickmansworth, 1s. 8d.; Chorley Wood, 1s. 11d.; Chalfont-road, 2s. 1d.; Chesham, 2s. 6d.; Amersham, 2s. 4d.; Great Missenden, 2s. 10d.; Wendover, 3s. 3d.; Stoke Mandeville, 3s. 7d.; Aylesbury, 3s. 9d. The fare from Baker-street is the same as at present.—R. GHURNEY.

Anglers' Benevolent Society.—Since my last report I beg to acknowledge with thanks the receipt of 10s. 6d. from the School Board Anglers as annual subscription, and £1 0s. 5d. from the Ealing Angling Society's donation box.—R. GHURNEY.

Allason United Brothers' Angling Society. Duke of Sussex, Uxbridge-street, Notting Hill Gate, W.—June 25 promises to be a big event. Conditions and boundary are as follows: Two rods allowed; all fish except pike and perch are weighable; sizes of fish, 1in. above Thames measurements. We fish the meadow side, Veitch's pond; pegged-down. Messrs. E. Jackson and G. Prouten are the stewards. Members may travel by the 12 13 a.m. midnight, on 24th, or any subsequent trains on 25th. Not to start before signal from secretary or fish after signal to cease. Members arriving on 25th to

report their names to secretary. On ceasing fishing, to have fish registered. We made more members on the 21st, and received more prizes.—BEN ABRAHAM.

Alma Angling Society. Coach and Horses, Portsmouth-place, Lincoln's Inn Fields.—On June 18 Mr. Utting weighed-in bream and roach, 13lb. 10oz., heaviest bream 3lb. 4oz.; Messrs. Butlin and Brandon, roach. Messrs. Smart and Tilbury have been elected working and Messrs. Norton, Perkins, Hill, and De Beriot Greene honorary members.—J. CHAMBERS.

Amicable Waltonian Angling Society. The Fox and French Horn, Clerkenwell Green.—Most of the members of the above took part in the Central competition at Pulborough on the 18th, but only one was successful in getting a weigh-in—J. Nunn, jun. From other waters: Roach, dace, perch, and chub by Mr. Fryatt; roach and dace by Messrs. Millin and Hulme. Good meeting on the 21st; final arrangements made for the outing to Watlington on June 25. The July outing will take place on the 16th by brake; annual dinner on the 17th.—G. MERRY.

Anchor and Hope Angling Society. Duke of Kent, Old Kent-road, S.E.—On June 18 Mr. J. Jones weighed-in bream from Pulboro', having taken third prize in the Central competition. On Wednesday Mr. W. Fowler weighed-in a show of bream from the Thames, 2lb. 5oz. I wish to remind all members that next Wednesday is quarterly night, and hope they will all attend on that evening.—F. W. MARTIN.

Anglers' Pride Angling Society. Duke of Suffolk, Brandon-street, Walworth.—Several of our members were out on June 18, when we had a nice show of fish, including Mr. Cornish's bream, who fished in the competition at Pulboro'; and also Mr. Charles, catching a lamprey at Amberley, weighing 1lb. 13oz., and over 2ft. in length, which he is having preserved. Hope all members will attend clubhouse early on meeting nights.—A. A. C.

Battersea Friendly Angling Society. Queen's Hotel, Queen's-road, Battersea, S.W.—On June 18 some good takes of roach, bream, and chub were weighed-in by Messrs. G. Miller, A. Ansty, G. S. Ireland, A. Dejonge, and G. Mead, the last named having in his take a specimen bream of 3lb. 12oz. Match on June 25, at Amberley; 8.27 Clapham Junction, 7.14 Amberley; reserved compartments arranged for.—A. JENKINS.

Battersea Piscatorialists. Lord Ranelagh, Verona-street, Battersea.—Since my last report several of our members have had fish, but the takes have been small. Will members turn up next week to decide locality of match?—T. TRINGHAM.

Bermondsey Brothers' Angling Society. Woolpack, Bermondsey-street, S.E.—The members of the above fished a competition for their June series of prizes on the 18th inst. at Pulboro, under the same conditions as the Central competition, and only two of them succeeded in getting above the stipulated 4lb. required by rule: Mr. J. Davis, 2lb. 10oz.; and Mr. D. Dodson, sen., 9oz. Mr. W. Taylor won a prize in the competition, although not having enough fish to take a club prize. Mr. Maitsey and Mr. T. Woodhead weighed-in bream from the Medway.—ALE. CONN.

Blackfriars Angling Society. The Imperial, Southwark-street, S.E.—At our meeting on Wednesday evening there was a very good muster. Several new members were elected, and several valuable prizes offered. Mr. Whaley wishes to give notice to alter minute on books, and we wish to have a good muster to assist. We had no fish on June 18 weighed-in, though we all competed at Pulborough.—WHEELHOUSE.

Bloomsbury Brothers' Angling Society. Rose and Crown, Broad-street, Bloomsbury.—A large number of our members were out on June 18, but were unsuccessful. Mr. J. Sinclair only weighed-in roach and dace. All members are requested to note, the new rules came into force with the opening of the season.—T. PATER-NOSTER.

Bomore Angling Society. The Britannia, Clarendon-road, Notting Hill, W.—On June 18 several members competed for our worthy host and treasurer's gift, as a send off to the opening season, consisting of a very nice briarwood and amber mouthpiece pipe, which resulted in a very easy win for Mr. H. Dagworthy. The following members also had fish: Messrs. Weeks, P. Harley, A. Cowen, F. Hall, H. Foreman, and F. Hill. During the evening Mr. G. Love, our delegate, reported he failed to find the new premises of the Anglers' Association, which was accepted. Mr. F. Hall was elected chairman *pro tem*. We made another new working member in Mr. H. Angel.—H. DAGWORTHY.

Brothers Well Met Angling Society. King Edward VI., King Edward-street, Liverpool-road, N.—On June 18 we opened the season with a very good show of roach and bream, weighing 14lb. 10oz., taken by our veteran, H. Canton; H. C. Canton, roach; A. Field, roach; H. Fame, perch.—H. T.

Brunswick Brothers' Angling Society. Cherry Tree, Brunswick-road, Bromley-by-Bow, E.—A few of our members were out on June 18, but met with very poor sport. Mr. H. Kelley weighed-in some chub from the Thames, and so saved us from a blank. Mr. C. Farmer occupied the chair at our meeting on Tuesday last. A lot of business was transacted, also several disputes were settled *re* prizes. Another new member was enrolled.—F. RANDALL.

Cambridge Heath Brothers' Angling Society. The Good Intent, Mowlem-street, Bishop's-road, Cambridge Heath.—Our match at Dagenham on June 18 was a success, all the prizes being won. The delegates' report was passed, and two working members elected. June 27 will be quarterly night, and A.B.S. tickets must be paid for, and hooks cleared, or members cannot weigh-in fish. I have several tickets for sale for H. Patman's Benefit—a very deserving case.—P. E. LOFT.

Camden Angling Society. The Locomotive, James-street, High-street, Camden Town, N.W.—The season opened very quietly with us, Mr. Galloway weighing-in a jack, 5lb.; Mr. Carr a fine bream. Will secs. holding tickets or lists kindly forward same as we are anxious to close the list.—R. M.

Clapham Junction Angling Society. The Clarence, Winstanley-road, Clapham Junction, S.W.—Several members of the above society fished their first competition of the season on June 18, at Amberley, when, I am sorry, they returned with a blank. Messrs. Clark, Thomas, and Batchelor weighed-in a splendid show of fish from other waters. Mr. Clark weighed-in two specimen dace. Our next day's outing will take place on July 16, at Amberley, boundary same as before.—G. T. JAMESON.

Clapham Strollers' Angling Society. Alexandra Hotel, Clapham Common, S.W.—On June 18 most of our members took part in an open roving match at Pulboro' for three prizes, and although two of the Strollers' weighed-in fish for the Jubilee Nurses' Fund competition none were successful in securing sufficient weight of fish to obtain club prizes. We therefore fish a match at Chichester on June 25 for three lapsed prizes, and I shall be pleased to see every member compete. An audit takes place for end of June, and I shall be glad to receive members' subs. up to that date.—S. VIOLET.

Clerkenwell and District United Visiting List.—The quarterly delegate meeting of the above will be held on June 29, at The Empress, St. John-street Road—not at the Middlesex Arms, as formerly. Meet at 9 p.m.—F. CASTELL.

Clissold Angling Society. The Cricketers, Northwold-road, Stoke Newington, N.—On June 18 several members were out, and a good show was the result, all prizes being taken. Mr. Ringrose was to the fore with a good show of roach and bream. The following weighed-in: Messrs. Ringrose, Thompson, Farmer, Pound, Mitchell, Bampton, Eastwood, and Wilkes. On July 10 we hold a smoker in aid of our A.B.S., and will Mr. Ben Abrahams please keep that date for us, as we require his attendance to open our box? All friends and anglers cordially welcome.—T. FAULKNER.

Cobden Angling Society. Kensal-road, W.—On June 18 I hear a great many of our members went out, and I am sorry to see only two members weighed-in—Messrs. J. Barnfather, with 4lb. of roach, and G. Perceval, with one tench, 3lb. 4oz. On July 9 a peg-down match will take place at Uxbridge, from the General Elliott Bridge to Swan and Bottle Bridge; one rod; to go down by first train from Westbourne Park, and return by the 8.25 from Uxbridge. Cease fishing at seven o'clock, and to register at the General Elliott not later than 7.30; to register names on arrival at the General Elliott, and start fishing by signal. T. Collins and C. Walker to peg out swims on the morning.—T. TWYMAN.

Collingwood Angling Society. Lord Nelson, Nelson-square, Blackfriars-road, S.E.—Mr. J. Deplidge in chair. Prize lists are now ready with several additions added. Mr. W. Francis has given a prize of 10s. 6d. to committee. I am very glad to report Mr. J. Dorones winning the central competition on June 18. Messrs. J. Green and G. Boyd also weighed-in at the competition. They weighed-in at the club with several others.—W. H. STAFFORD and F. P. SORGE.

Convivial Angling Society. City of London, Sidney-street, City-road, N.—On June 18 a good muster of members were out. The following weighed-in fish: Messrs. G. Hurrell, roach; C. Parker, perch; C. Crosthwaite, dace. Prize taken by Mr. George Hurrell. Our dinner takes place at the Stag Hotel, Buckhurst Hill, on June 25. Dinner on table 3.30. Trust members who were not present on Wednesday will take note.—W. H. CARPENTER.

Cosy Angling Society. The Pine Apple, Wilfred-street, Buckingham Gate, S.W.—On June 18 Mr. H. Sheeky weighed-in bream, 18lb.; Mr. A. Benham, roach and perch. I am pleased to say we had a good muster at our new headquarters.—J. WHITE.

Dalston Angling Society. Browlow Arms, Browlow-street, Dalston.—On June 18 most of the members were out trying to get the rust off, but I am sorry to say that sport was very indifferent, only a few were able to get any fish, and they arrived too late to weigh-in. On Tuesday, June 20, final arrangements were made for outing to Dagenham; members to travel which way they think best; roll to be called on the bridge at 10.15, and show fish on the bridge by 7.30. Members please note next Tuesday is quarterly night.—S. MALBY.

Dibdin Trout Angling Society. St. Martin's Tavern, Pratt-street, N.W.—The outing on June 18 was a great success; all prizes taken. The winners were: R. Bennet, first; G. Johnson, second; T. Colman, third. Wednesday delegates' report passed with hearty vote of thanks. A.B.S. tickets to hand. I am a strict observer of all rules, so I hope any member, or would-be member, will forgive my not sending for privilege tickets until he be a *bona fide* member of the club.—JOHNNY EDWARDS.

Duke of Norfolk Angling Society. The Apollo, All Saints'-road, Westbourne Park.—On June 18 most of our members were out, and several weighed-in: Mr. Viner, 17lb. of roach, tench, and bream; Mr. Targett, 9lb. roach and bream; Mr. G. Vogan, bream; Mr. Gale, bream. On June 25 our first match takes place at Uxbridge; all start by the 8.45 from Paddington.—W. JENKINS.

Earlsfield Angling Society. Half-way House, Earlsfield, S.W.—At our usual weekly meeting, with Mr. Gathercole in the chair, it was announced that the outing on the 18th inst. resulted in a blank. Although a few barbel and perch were taken, they were all under our club standard. The river was in a very bad condition, and we hope that we shall have a lot of rain before our next

outing, which has been arranged for July 9; time and place to be decided next Tuesday.—A. T.

Elgin Angling Society. Blenheim Arms, Blenheim-crescent, Notting-hill, W.—Several of our members were out on June 18, when some had good shows. Messrs. Carroll and Wilson, roach and tench; Messrs. Barnfather and Drury, chub, roach, and bream; Messrs. King and Bayliss, roach. We made Mr. W. Boxball a working member at our last meeting. I must remind members that the brakes will leave the clubhouse at twelve o'clock sharp on Saturday night. Mr. Chaplain, our host, has added another 10s. for the best roach. Mr. T. Clark, of the Islington Brothers, also gives a prize.—G. KING.

Enterprise Angling Society. City Arms, High Cross-road, Tottenham.—Our members opened this season with very little success, Mr. Wells saving the club from a blank with dace, 4lb. 12oz., winning the first fortnightly prize of the season. Messrs. Pheasy, Keene, and Balar were on the war path, but came home defeated. Will members kindly note that the above club will move from the City Arms to the Prince Arthur, Broad-lane, Tottenham, on Wednesday next, and that we hold a house warm on the following Wednesday in aid of the A.B.S., when I hope all anglers and friends will kindly support us on that occasion.—W. LEFEVRE.

Firm and True Angling Society. Prince Regent, Beresford-street, Walworth.—We had a good muster of members on Thursday night last, when we went through a long agenda. We settled all our prizes satisfactorily. I hope members will attend next week to arrange a prize outing, and to enrol some new members.—C. ROSSER.

Golden Barbel Angling Society. Sir Isaac Newton, Union-street, Middlesex Hospital.—On June 18 the following weighed-in: Messrs. Ellins, roach, dace, chub, and trout; Mitchell, roach; Crom, roach. Mr. King had some fine roach and tench on the 17th, one roach over 2lb. I should like to see more members up on Sunday nights.—A. W. ELLINS.

Good Intent Angling Society. The Crown, Church-street, Shoreditch.—Our distribution of prizes took place on the 13th, and was a great success. Mr. J. Williams was chairman, and proved a very good one. After the prizes were given up he made an appeal for prizes for the coming season, the chairman giving his usual £4 4s., and everyone in the room gave a prize, so there was a grand list at the finish. The members will have the first outing on July 2, for eight prizes, at Cheshunt; all start first train.—R. MURPHY.

Great Yarmouth Sons of Neptune Angling Society. Bowling Green House, North Quay.—This society held its first match of the season last week-end at Potter Heigham, when a score of competitors put in an appearance. The weather was all that could be desired, but sport was very poor. There were seven prizes, and the following were successful:—Messrs. J. S. Bartram, G. Himplem, J. Harris, W. Phillips, W. Plane, H. Grimmer, and J. George. The first named secured chalks towards the society's challenge cup, and also the Nicholls challenge cup. Mr. Bartram receives a medal for his success in winning the society's trophy. Mr. William Plane ably carried out the duties of umpire. Prizes have been received from Messrs. J. S. Bartram, W. Plane, and J. Harris.—E. W. BUCKLE.

Harcourt Angling Society. Harcourt Arms, Harcourt-street, Marylebone.—We did not have a large show of fish on June 18, but eight members weighed-in, so we must not complain. On July 22 we fish a match at Langley, from the tank to hutches, both inclusive, when I hope to see all the members compete. We had four new members proposed last week, and I expect some more this week.—A. E. PAYNE.

Hearts of Oak Angling Society. Ye Olde Crown, Brick-lane.—I hope members will attend next Wednesday to arrange for our prize outing. Mr. Smith had a show of roach and dace. Our first outing takes place on July 16.—C. SMITH.

Highbury Angling Society. Globe Hotel, Upper Tollington-road, Holloway, N.—At our meeting on Wednesday it was enthusiastically decided to include sea fishing in our programme, but not to compete with freshwater fish. Rules and standards for same will be adopted next week. Other important matters were disposed of, and during the evening Mr. F. Berry brought up a grand show of roach, 30lb. 15oz. (largest 1lb. 7oz.), and two tench, 2lb. 9oz. and 2lb. 6oz., total 35lb. 14oz. Mr. S. Stone has also had roach and a trout during the week.—E. W.

Holloway Angling Society. Holloway Station Hotel, 295, Holloway-road, N.—The members of the above society held their usual meeting on Wednesday evening last, when Mr. A. Norman had a good show of chub the heaviest being 3lb. 8oz., 1lb. 14oz., and 1lb. 14oz., total weight 11lb. 6oz. Messrs. G. Johnson and A. Stevens reported a catch of roach and dace on the 16th, and Mr. A. Clayton also had a very fair take of bream and roach on the Norfolk Broads.—A. CLAYTON.

Islington Brothers' Angling Society. Middleton Arms, Canonbury-road.—On June 18 several members entered the competition at Pulborough; the only one successful was Mr. J. Howard, who weighed-in dace at the match, and won a prize. The following also weighed-in: Messrs. J. Howard, dace; J. Burwash, M. Wilkes, M. Bays, all with bream, from other waters. We fish a peg-down match at Chichester on July 2; all to meet at London Bridge and start by the 8.40 train, for several prizes. Mr. Hamilton was proposed as a working member. J. H. HERBERT.

Isaac Walton Angling Society. Old King John's-road, Mansfield-street, Kingsland-road.—The members will compete for two special prizes on July 2, competitors being allowed to choose their own fishing waters (private waters barred). There are also three specials to be fished for on July 5, same conditions as the July 2 prizes.—H. B.

Jubilee Angling Society, Prince Arthur, Golborne-road, North Kensington.—On June 18 we had our first fish of the season weighed-in by the following gentlemen: Messrs. Scott, Young, and Reddington. Will members please take notice our match takes place at the Welsh Harp on July 2, not July 23, which appeared in the *Fishing Gazette* last week; also will members please attend next meeting night to arrange for brake.—G. BENCE.

Limhouse Piscatorial Society. Several of our members have been out since the opening, but with very poor results, gin-bright water and weeds being the chief causes of complaint. All members are requested to turn up at meeting on Friday next, when important business has to be brought forward.—R. J. WELLS.

Lincoln Angling Society, Metropolitan, Winchester-street, Pentonville-road, N.—On June 18 the members of the above fished at Pulborough for six prizes. Not enough weight was taken to win the prizes; they will be fished off at Amberley on July 2. Several of our members fished in the Central Competition. The next return visit on the C.D.V.L. will take place at the above on July 3, on which occasion we hope to have a good muster. Mr. Winters has been proposed for membership. We have tickets in hand for the benefit of Mrs. Patman, widow of the late Mr. H. Patman, to which I hope members will give their best support.—W. WATLING.

Liverpool Angling Association, Bee Hive, Queens-square.—Rain has fallen copiously during the last few days, and the chances of anglers having successful sport is thereby greatly increased. Many are up and at 'em, and several of our members have been on the war-path with a profitable result. These are of the hardy sort, who do not care for a wet coat if they can get a fair muster of fish. The Liverpool Centre of the Northern Anglers' Association, consisting of the above and the Central and West Derby Societies, have decided to hold a contest on Ang. 16 for a challenge trophy, to take the form of a shield costing from £7 to £10. This will be competed for by teams of ten from each of the three clubs, and the team having the six highest weights will hold the shield for their society for twelve months. Six valuable medals will be awarded the successful competitors. A open competition (date not fixed yet) will also be fished by the whole of the members for prizes, which, including Mr. W. H. Wright's gift of £2 2s., at present amounts to close on £5. This will no doubt be considerably increased as time goes on, and a grand and keen competition will result. Entrance fee, 1s. to members only.—RD. WOOLFALL.

Lychnobite Angling Society, Ben Jonson, Shoe-lane, E.C.—Members report poor sport in River Wey on June 18. Printers' benefit concert at headquarters to-day (June 24). Competition at Staines, July 1. Summer dinner and competition at Coldbath Inn, Hertford, July 15; friends cordially invited; particulars of hon. sec.—SID RANSOM.

Nelson Angling Society, Boundary Hotel, 2a, Smithdown-road, Liverpool.—This club's long looked for open competition to Liverpool anglers was fished on June 18, in the Leeds and Liverpool canal at Aintree. This being the first of its kind in Liverpool, great interest was taken in the match. It proved a success; seventy-one anglers turned out, in awful weather, to compete; there would have been close on 100 if the rain had not come. The Liverpool East End Club seems to have been favoured with the best of luck, as the three prizes were won by members of that association: Mr. E. Porter, first, with 8½oz.; Mr. J. Williamson, second, 8oz.; Mr. G. Attwood, third, 6oz. The prizes were presented on Wednesday, 21st, and a pleasant evening was spent, with a little harmony.—F. W. TAYLOR.

North East Brothers' Angling Society, Star and Garter, Green-street, Bethnal Green.—On June 22 we had a good attendance. A special committee meeting is called for June 27, at nine o'clock sharp, so that they can report their work to the members on June 28, when I hope that they will attend in strong force. We made two new members on Wednesday evening, and there are some more standing over. On June 18 Mr. Hart weighed in bream, and W. Richards, jun., bream and roach.—G. TAYLOR.

North Lambeth Angling Society, Newcastle Arms, Hercules-road, Lambeth, S.E.—We fished our first day match at Amberley on June 18, when Mr. R. Cheese was the only prize winner. Will members kindly attend on Wednesday next, 28th, to consider where they will fish for the other prizes left from the 18th?—E. ROWLES.

Original Alexandra Angling Society, Crown and Anchor, Cheshire-street, Bethnal Green.—We were represented at the Pulborough competition, only one member being successful. The committee meet next Wednesday to arrange the prizes for the coming season. Delegates for the Central and Anglers' Associations were selected. Mr. R. Breckett weighed in bream on the 18th. Wednesday next is quarterly night.—G. BARRS.

Park Angling Society, Park Hotel, Park-lane, Tottenham.—Several of our members were out on the 18th, only one returning with fish, Mr. Hopton, jun., bream. At our usual meeting on the 20th two new members were proposed, Mr. Craine and Mr. Haywood, as working members. Our prize list for the season is a grand one. All members are requested to attend on Tuesday next, as I want to get list for Benevolent tickets.—W. S.

Phoenix Angling Society, The Tavistock, Stibington-street, N.W.—There are two four horse brakes for King's Langley on June 25, and three prizes; canal only. No fish have been weighed-in as yet, but we are going strong. Mr. T. A. Smith, late of the Duke of Wellington A.S., has been made a working member.—R. C.

Prince Albert Angling Society, Prince Albert Hotel, Woodfield-road, Harrow-road, W.—The following weighed-in on June 18: A. Smith, bream; F. Stanford, roach; J. Breddon, perch; T. Burrows, perch; and W.

Fayers. Members are requested to attend on Thursday next for special business. Our first outing takes place on July 2 at Langley.—W. B. F.

Putney Ramblers' Anglers' Society, Jolly Gardeners, Putney, S.W.—On June 13 the usual fortnightly meeting was held at the clubhouse, several new members were elected, and the usual business transacted. On June 16 five of the members had an enjoyable day's outing at Mr. Lock King's estate, Weybridge, several good bream being taken.—E. H. GIRLING.

Queen's Piscatorials, Queen's Arms, 1A, Chapel-street, Edgware-road, N.W.—On the 18th inst. the following weighed-in: C. W. Matthie, F. Coates, J. Fowler, A. Beaven, J. Reeve, W. Shepherd, A. Peverall, and W. Brind. On the 20th inst. we had a very fair muster of members present. We made two new members on the same date.—GEO. KEENE.

Royal George Angling Society, Queen's Arms, Bateman-street.—On the 18th inst. several of our members were out, but only Mr. E. Bardot turned up in time to weigh-in, saving us from a blank. On the 21st we were well attended, and got through a good deal of business. Will members turn up next Wednesday to finish our prize list.—J. GIBBONS.

Royal Oak Angling Society, Coborn Arms, Coborn-road, Bow.—On June 18 the following bad fish: E. Perry, roach; G. Williams, roach; F. Gardener, roach; J. Payne, roach; Stanley, roach. Four working members were elected at our last meeting.—F. PIGNATELLI.

St. Alban's Angling Society, Rising Sun, Prince's-road, Kennington.—We had a good muster out on June 18 in the Central competition at Pulborough. Mr. T. W. Rosser succeeded in taking the second prize; also Messrs. H. Allan, J. Donaldson, sen., and Twine took prizes in the same. Mr. A. Brent had a fine show of bream from the Wey (17lb.). We have an outing to Woking on June 25; start 8.30 Waterloo; all to come home by the 8.35 or be disqualified.—J. T. LEIGHTON.

St. John's Angling Society, The Empress, St. John-street-road, Clerkenwell.—We had a nice show of chub, dace, and roach on 18th, but many of the members returned with blanks. The committee met on the 21st, and arranged that six prizes be fished for during July; full particulars at clubhouse. Six new members and two proposals in a fortnight is the next best take.—F. THORLING.

St. John's Wood Piscatorial Society.—At our annual dinner (Mr. Harris in the chair), thirty-one members and friends sat down to an excellent repast, provided by Mr. and Mrs. Reid. After dinner the evening was spent in harmony, Mr. Moody in the vice-chair, and some excellent songs were given by the following members and friends: Messrs. A. Wassop, C. Harvey, Ladyman, Booker, Mr. Reid (mine host), Burns, Cole, Brown, &c. Special praise must be given to Mrs. Reid for her excellent songs and selections on the piano, also to Messrs. Manning for their solos on piccolo and pianoforte; harmony being kept up till the small hours of the morning, when the usual vote of thanks &c., brought a most enjoyable evening to a close with Auld Lang Syne.—H. B.

Second Surrey Angling Society, the Sun, Boniface-street, Westminster Bridge-road.—On June 14 there was a fairly well attended meeting. On 18th Mr. Bignell had chub and roach from the Wey.—W. BIGNELL.

Seymour Brothers' Angling Society, King and Queen, 1, Foley-street, Fitzroy-square, W.—A few of our members were out on June 18, with the following results: Ben Smith, roach, 3lb. 3½oz. (one fish, 1lb. 1½oz.); G. Smith, roach and dace. We have our first outing in July next; particulars to follow.—W. ALDIS.

Silver Trout Angling Society, Bedford Head, Maiden-lane, Covent Garden.—June 20 brought us a very good attendance, and more prizes were added to our list, which is a very good one. Mr. Hibbert was proposed as a working member. Will members who have not already done so kindly attend and clear books?—R. SMITH.

Slough Wanderers Angling Society, Red Lion, High-street, Slough, Bucks.—Several of us had fish from the London Anglers' Association Fishery, Slough and Langley; and we are still adding to the list of membership. Two of our members are honorary bailiffs to the A.A. If anyone wishes to join this society they cannot do better, and gentlemen from Windsor, Stoke, Slough, Iver, Langley, Colnbrook, &c., will find this society very convenient. Our host will give every information re rules and subscriptions.—BEN ABRAHAMS.

South Bermondsey Piscatorials Institute, Rotherhithe New-road, S.E.—Mr. A. G. Smith (late secretary) was out on the 16th inst. and had a fair show of barbel, roach, and dace from the Thames; also Mr. R. Thomas, out on the 18th, had a fair show of chub. At Pulborough, on June 18, one of our members, Mr. F. J. Giddy, was among the winners. We have the group photos in hand, and shall be pleased for members to come up next Friday and get them. They are all right, and every credit is due to Mr. F. Viner, of Southwark Park-road. We have also to arrange monthly outing on Friday, which takes place on July 2.—J. H. DAVIES.

Stockwell Angling Society, Old Queen's Head, Stockwell-road, S.W.—At the Pulborough competition

Mr. Tickner was the only member who weighed in fish. Mr. H. Payne, sen., had 2½lb. of roach and dace from a Surrey river the same day. Will members please attend on Thursday next to arrange first prize outing? At our last meeting Mr. J. D. James was proposed and made a member of the society. Any wishing to attend the outing and going by bicycle please meet the train at Weybridge Station 2.15 p.m.—THOS. LUCAS.

Stratford Angling Society, Dorset Arms, Leyton-road, Stratford New Town, E.—The members of the above club fished their first match at Hatfield Peveral on the 18th. Owing to the bad state of the water no fish were taken. It was decided to let the prizes stand over for a fortnight, hoping that the waters by that time will improve.—G. F. WEAVER.

Sundial Angling Society, Plough and Harrow, King-street, Hammersmith.—On June 25 we hold our first outing of the season—a brake outing to Uxbridge—from the Swan and Bottle to Denham Lock; towpath only; all fish to weigh; twelve prizes. Mr. King's cup will be fished for; usual conditions. The brake will leave the clubhouse at 7 a.m. on the morning, and leave Swan and Bottle at 7.30 p.m. sharp. Members wishing to go by brake must give their names in at clubhouse by five o'clock on Saturday. The next meeting night will be quarterly night. On June 29 we have our return visit. During the week Mr. Lock weighed in 3lb. 14½oz. of chub, roach, and dace; largest dace, 7½oz.—C. E. LOCK.

Twickenham Piscatorial Society, Black Dog London-road, Twickenham.—At the quarterly meeting on June 20 Mr. F. J. Ogden Smith showed four nice barbel, the two largest going 6½lb. and 6¼lb.; he also had some nice dace. Messrs. Sanders and Holloway reported having taken some nice bream, and Mr. Bringham a barbel and some dace. Five new members were elected, and some prizes offered for competition.—J. M. BROUGHAM.

United Brothers Angling Society, Druid's Head Tavern, Deptford.—On June 18 about twenty of our members fished in the competition at Pulborough, but met with no success. Mr. R. Beeson and Mr. E. Skeets weighed in tench, the largest weighing 2lb. 1½oz. This society is making rapid progress. The alteration of meeting night from Saturday to Thursday is a great success. We have made a lot of new members lately, among them being Mr. Arthur Morton, M.P. for Deptford, who has become our president. We have one of the kindest of hosts in Mr. Mackrell, who takes great interest in the society, and Mr. Sam Drage, an excellent chairman. We fish our first club match for the season on July 9, in the Medway.—F. H. BEAK.

Waggoners' Angling Society, White Lion, Albert Embankment.—We had a good meeting on the 20th. Two new members were nominated—Mr. C. Fitts, Mr. A. Williamson; ballot next week. The fishing bad fish on the 18th: Mr. Allan, roach and dace; Mr. Clegg, roach; Mr. Powell, bream; Mr. Kenyon, roach and dace; Mr. Hall, roach and bream; Mr. Norton, roach and dace.

Walham Green and Chelsea Angling Society, Black Bull, Fulham-road, S.W.—Several of our members had fish on June 18, one member being fortunate enough to be in the list of prize winners. Will donors of prizes kindly send to the secretary any particulars as to conditions attached to their prizes as speedily as possible, as the list is ready for the printer?—TIDDLER.

Walworth Waltonians Angling Society, St. Paul's Tavern, Westmoreland-road, Walworth, S.E.—I shall be glad to see all members up on Wednesday next (28th), to receive balance-sheet. Messrs. W. Blackmore, W. O. Roebuck, and J. R. Morgan were elected working members of this society.—W. WRAY.

Wenlock Angling Society, Rydon Arms, New North-road.—On June 18 the following weighed some nice takes of roach, bream, and dace: Messrs. Renn, Wood, Dennis, and Stymah. I hope all members will attend meetings early, as we have some important business to do.—W. HARDEN.

Wes. Kensington Park Angling Society, Bird-in-Hand, Mastro-road, West Kensington Park, near Addison-road and Uxbridge-road S.W.R. Stations.—The usual weekly meeting transpired on Tuesday June 20, 1899, under the chairmanship of J. Talbot. The room was well filled by members and also gentlemen, who were added to the list of membership. The new rules were gone into, and the same ordered to be printed. Messrs. Talbot, &c., gave the delegates' report, and stated that the above was enrolled. Six more members were introduced by J. Talbot. The host, A. V. Turnham, and the hostess are doing their best to make all the members comfortable, and also adding to the list of membership. All western and other district societies are notified that our smoking concert and grand opening night takes place on July 6. Mr. J. W. Harris will be chairman, and Ben Abrahams, vice. Phil Phillips will preside at the pianoforte.—BEN ABRAHAMS.

Westminster Angling Society, The Telegraph, Regency-street, S.W.—The quarterly meeting of the above society was held on June 21, when all officers were re-elected, Mr. Goose being elected auditor. The prize list was opened, and at closing of books had reached the total of twenty-two private prizes. It was stated that five new members had been enrolled during the quarter. Two members weighed-in on June 18: Mr. Escarins, bream and roach; and Humphrey, roach and dace. There will be a special meeting next Wednesday to arrange first match.—S. H.

Wimbledon Piscatorials, 28, Alexandra-road.—The first match of the season was held at Weybridge on the 18th inst., twenty members taking part in the contest. The winners were Messrs. W. Bishop (tench and bream), C. McBean (perch and bream), and W. C. Pain (bream and roach), in the order named. Mr. W. C. Pain showed a nice bag of bream and roach, from the Thames, at

SHALL WE EVER BE ABLE TO FLY?—It is now affirmed that a Russian scientist has at length discovered the secret of aerial navigation—a secret which whole generations of inquirers have sought for in vain. If the problem has really been solved, science has, indeed, won a mighty triumph. Such a discovery would tend to change the whole character of man. And yet, if we are to judge a discovery by its probable beneficial influence upon mankind, this cannot be compared to the discovery of the new world-famed remedies—Holloway's Pills and Ointment—which have relieved the sufferings of millions of human beings, and have brought back joy and happiness to thousands of stricken homes.

Tuesday's meeting. A communication has been received from the L. & S. W. Railway Company, offering to issue cheap fishing tickets from Wimbledon to Weybridge to members of the society, on condition that 300 tickets are guaranteed for the season. This important question will be settled at next Tuesday's meeting. A good attendance is particularly asked for.—HON. SEC.

Woolwich Invicta Angling Society, Golden Marite, Francis-street, Woolwich.—The members of the above club held their first prize outing at Yalding on June 18. There was a good attendance, the following being successful: C. Foster, roach and dace; H. Russell, roach; G. Rowlum, roach; A. Bayne, perch.—HON. REPORTER.

Ye Olde Clapham Rovers' Angling Club, The Windmill, Clapham Park-road.—We had a good attendance at club on Tuesday, making two new members. Although we were not successful in taking a prize at Pulborough, we thoroughly enjoyed the day's outing, our worthy host having started us off with a sumptuous breakfast. Will all members please attend on Tuesday to arrange for future prize outings, having just received a guinea from a gentleman to add to our numerous prizes.—N. LINDEN.

Bollings by the Way.

THE outing organised by the Central Association on June 18 was a gigantic success. Mr. Eldridge announces another for July 2. It is called an Open Roving Fishing Contest, and will take place at Amberley. Get your tickets early at the Rose and Crown, 21, Goswell-road. The train leaves London Bridge at 6.50 a.m. There are twelve prizes in money, ranging from £2 to 10s., besides other prizes. Entrance fee, 6d., which will also be divided in 7s. and 5s. prizes.

THE new "Red Book" of the Anglers' Association will be issued very shortly.

THE new season's Central Guide Book is to hand, and contains an immense amount of matter in a little space.

ANGLERS will be sorry to hear that Mr. W. J. Wade is seriously indisposed. The fact is he works too hard. No matter; he will soon "pick up," and he knows that his hard work in the cause of angling and benevolence is appreciated.

ON June 18, under the auspices of the Central Association of London Angling Clubs, a competition took place at Pulborough, in aid of the Queen's Jubilee Nurses' Fund. I journeyed to London Bridge, hoping to catch the 6.50 a.m. train, but—just missed it! Saw it go out. There were two heavy trains on this occasion. Mr. Wade tells me I might have caught the 8.30. Will do so next time. Turning out of bed at 5 a.m. knocks a fellow up for the day. A programme (before me) shows a complete list of the conditions and prizes which were to be fished for; and Mr. Greg did good service in disposing of about 400—*all for the benefit of the Nurses' Fund.*

HOWEVER, Mr. Wade has kindly sent me his "official list," and from it I gather that although many hundreds of anglers, with their sweethearts and wives, took the opportunity of visiting Pulborough, only about 330 anglers competed. The start—and finish—was simply perfection. Not a "hitch" in the whole proceedings. The day was an ideal one—not too sunny, nice breeze, but river low and bright. Mr. C. A. Medcalf (president Central Association) was boss of the show, ably assisted by Messrs. C. Watling (at scales), Fred Williams, G. Greg, J. Levison, H. Holder, G. Merry, R. Marshall, J. Poole, R. Clark, W. Burkett, and J. Wheelhouse.

THE host of the Arun Hotel (Mr. Simpson) was most attentive. [He was never any other in my time!] A contingent of anglers came over from Portsmouth in the afternoon to see the weigh-in. There is no room to put in a list of all the prize winners and prizes. Suffice it to say that the three first prizes were taken as follows: Mr. J. Down (Collingwood A.S.), Mr. Rosser (St. Alban's), and Mr. J. Jones (Anchor and Hope). Further particulars as to the final disposition of the "Walter Emden Cup," the "W. H. Elsmore Cup," &c., must be held over until next week.

ON June 17 a goodly number of members of the Serapis Society of Anglers journeyed to Bures, Suffolk, and commenced the season by fishing the river Stour. They spent a pleasant day, had good sport, and among the fish captured were several fine roach and bream. The anglers made this visit the opportunity for holding their annual dinner at the Eight Bells Hotel, Bures, where the landlord, Mr. George Cousins, had prepared an excellent repast, which was thoroughly enjoyed, and voted by the partakers of it not to be surpassed for variety and liberality of *menu* and style. The Serapis Anglers intend making another visit to Bures at an early date. The hon. sec., Mr. Charles Tibbury, tells me I must come down with them next time. We shall see, Mr. Charles. I may possibly be *cousined*.

THE *Daily Mail's* issue of June 19 contains the following: "During the tornado which destroyed the town of New Richmond, Wisconsin, last week, a horse was carried by the wind into a church steeple, and wedged between the bell and the wall and killed." [What oh! Mr. Cook.]

AN angler, returning from his day's outing in last Sunday's sunshine, after calling at various places, found himself wandering in the beautiful stretch of pine forest between Weybridge and Woking, where there are said to be four millions of trees, all as straight as scaffold poles. Happily he rambled along, chanting softly as he went an angler's lullaby (written probably by the Lychnobite laureate), a soft, sweet croon that set him dreaming of things that might have been and of joys to come. Ever and anon he would bump his head against a tree, until, tired out and weary of blundering from trunk to trunk, he sat himself down on a stump and sadly murmured, "Better wait till the crowd goes by."

TWO gentlemen, both afflicted with an impediment in the eye, ran up against each other in the street. "Why don't you look where you're going?" said one. "Why the dickens don't you go where you're looking?" retorted the other.

A SMALL bottle-nosed whale 11ft. long and 5ft. in circumference has been captured off the Essex coast, and says the *Daily Mail*, is now to be seen on the beach at Southend. It was surprised near the shore by some local fishermen, who managed to take it by angling it up in an old shrimpnet. Its vitality was so great that it lived for fifty hours after capture. The idea of tackling a ton of lively whale with a shrimp net does in the least impress its captors, who, says a correspondent, "would go for a sea serpent with a $\frac{1}{2}$ in. rope."

THE other evening I looked in on Mr. Saunders, the genial and courteous manager of the C.D.S., York-road, Battersea, famous for its fine show of stuffed fish, and famous also for its trained dog and pet donkey. "Twister," the dog, is a perfect wonder. He can waltz, pray, feign death, and to see him stand on his eyebrows is enough to raise jealous ire in the breast of any respectable tyke for ten miles round. "Ned," the moke, although a jackass, distinctly shows good sense, or rather, "excellent taste," by his preference for "Scotch and soda" and biscuits to oats and water; and yet one really cannot blame poor imitative Ned, as he is only following the bad examples set him by his more advanced brethren, not even for his attempts at "making eyes" at the young lady behind the bar, to whom he seems greatly devoted. I might add, she has charge of the biscuit box. The fish, most of them caught by Mr. E. Wilson, in company with John Keen, are really a fine lot, and well worth a visit, one case of four bream, weighing 18lb. 12oz., being one of the best lots I have ever seen.

LAST winter, the weed cutters in Fairford Park left a coil of rope hanging from the coping of the "Ivy" bridge. When they came again this summer they found a tomtit had built her nest in it. There are more kingfishers on the Gloucestershire trout streams than have been seen for years, to say nothing of herons and wild duck.

MR. W. H. ELSMORE, writing from Norfolk, says: "A club match came off at Brundall, on Saturday last, on the Yare, about twenty-four members competing. I saw a few of the baskets, and they were very light, and I understand the weight taking the first prize was only just on 2lb. One angler not competing (Mr. Markham) had a fair lot of bream and roach and one eel, in all about 14lb. I went out and had a few roach and one rudd, but they were no class. The gentleman who was reported last week as having taken 172lb. at Buckenham Ferry assures me that he captured them with tackle weighing 7oz. only; so I must withdraw my remarks about the net in his case. It would be an excellent thing if the Mundella Act was in force in Norfolk and Suffolk, as, if such heavy catches are taken out of the rivers in spawning season, we shall be sure to feel the effects by loss of sport in the course of time. It is bad policy to kill fish in the breeding season." [Hear, hear, W. H. E.]

IN spite of lack of rain, &c., some of the knowing ones who made early calls on the fish on June 18 found them at home, and not altogether indisposed to "receive." I hear that Mr. Cecil (Brompton A.S.) had a nice take of bream from the Medway, among them one of 3lb. 4oz.—not a bad opening to the season. Mr. Hills, of the same club, also had some from the same river, while Messrs. Briggs and Dugate, nearer home, showed tench up to 2lb. Their chairman promised me a few words about their dinner, but he tells me this morning he enjoyed himself so much that he is unable to give a coherent description. That's the beauty of extensions till 2 a.m.; some people are satisfied with 12.30.

"A PIKE of unusual size," says 'Straw Hat,' "has been observed in the Avon, near Evesham. The monster may be occasionally seen sailing along to Charlton weir-pool. Several have had a try for him. One man went for him with an anchor, baited with a dead sheep; but he broke one of the flukes, and sailed off again. Another tried with a boat-hook (dry fly fishing) with his wife's new hat, trimmed with scarlet geraniums; but nearly lost his life in swimming back. The *habitat* of this giant is in the narrow part of the river (40yds. wide), and such is the size of the pike, that he has to go to Charlton weir-pool, where the river widens out, before he can find space to turn round. He tried a somersault the other day to get round, and fell across stream, blocking the channel until he got back into the river again." [I'll have this little beauty on my roach pole.]

MR. H. A. ROLT writes: "It may interest those of your readers who fish 'Locke King's' water, at Weybridge, to know that for the future no tickets will, under any circumstances, be issued on Sundays. Anglers wishing to fish on those days must obtain their tickets from Mr. E. M. Synge, Eastlands, Weybridge, three or four days beforehand. Visitors will not be allowed in the grounds, or to accompany an angler, without a ticket, and the only means of access to the water will henceforth be by way of the gate close to the cemetery."

AMONG the fine trout recently taken on the Devonshire streams was a beauty of just over 4lb., landed from the moorland waters of the Dart, by Mr. S. R. Slade, of Croydon. The same rod, in company with his brother, killed three on another occasion, weighing 9lb. together.

LADIES will again be to the fore in the sports competitions at the Aquarium which commence in July. This time the bicycle will be set aside, and the fair competitors will restrict themselves to foot races. With bright costumes, for which special prizes will be given, they should prove attractive. By the way, if you wish to travel from "Cairo to the Cape" in twenty minutes pay a visit to the Abvrium.

I MEAN to follow "Squid" about wherever he goes. My camera obscura saw him at Deal, on June 18; but whether it was my presence, or that his time was so much taken up by the late hon. sec. of the B.S.A.S. he did not get time to bathe I don't know—but he did not renew his natatorial ebullitions.

MR. W. HOWES, of the Bull Hotel, Barton Mills, Mildenhall, writes to the effect that the River Lark "is very full of roach and dace—more so than he remembers for many years. Rain, however, is needed before sport can be considered good. A gentleman staying at the Bull (Mr. Perkins) is having fair sport among the dace with the fly. Next to the fly, caddis is the best bait to use on the Lark. In another fortnight the roach (which were late in spawning) will be in better condition." [Thanks, Mr. Howes; I hope to sample them at an early date.]

WHILE on the subject of the Lark, I may say that I have my new season ticket, without which no person may fish the waters. Mr. Howlett (the general secretary) informs me that season tickets are 5s.; weekly tickets, 2s. 6d.; and day tickets, 1s. 6d. He also says "there are quantities of good fish all along the stream; water rather low." Tickets may be obtained from Mr. Howlett, 40, High-street, Newmarket (general secretary), or of the following branch secretaries: Charles Brown, Mill-street, Mildenhall; A. E. Kemp, 2, Buttermarket, Bury St. Edmund's; W. Howes, Bull Hotel, Barton Mills; J. W. Challice, 40, High-street, Newmarket; G. Hook, Red Lion Hotel, Icklingham; G. Fitch, Plough Inn, Icklingham; C. Crocombe, Crown Inn, Icklingham.

Oh! club reports are my delight.

Oh! secs. take warning strong:

Don't sample the malt before you write,

Or else you'll write right wrong.

And don't—do not put "inst." for "nlt.,"

Or folks will read and grin.

Oh! please take note, or take result—

Your copy won't go in!

MY friend, Mr. E. Hesse (of the Gresham) says he has had a few days with the May Fly, but is "looking forward to the much-abused coarse fishing, and hopes to capture some good dace." He also asks me to note that he has removed from Chisenhale-road, E., and taken more commodious premises at 9, Canal-road, Mile End-road, E. It may not be generally known that Mr. Hesse (fish passerer) is the inventor of the "natural eye" which he uses when mounting fish.

"Carp," says the *Portland Oregonian*, "have become so plentiful in the sloughs along the Columbia that fishermen have offered to supply farmers at Scappoose with any desired quantity for manure at five dollars per ton. No one can with justice call the carp a worthless fish after that. As tending to show how numerous carp are in places, a farmer states that a few days ago he was crossing a slough with a lot of green grass in his cart. The grass slid off into the water, and the carp came around and began eating it. He jumped into the waters with his pitchfork to throw the grass back on his cart, and a regular 'pitched' battle took place between him and the carp for the possession of it. The carp ran against his legs and nearly threw him down, but he worked away like a Trojan and managed to save about half of the grass, and with it pitched about half a ton of carp into the cart. The rest of the grass was eaten by the carp he did not catch. He was on his way to the city, and the grass was intended as a lunch for his horses. When he arrived here the carp among the wet grass were all alive and kicking, and he sold the lot to a Chinese fish-dealer for two dollars and a half. He thinks of repeating the experiment the next time he comes to the city."

"If I'm not home from the club at ten o'clock, don't wait for me, wife." "No, I'll not wait for you. If you're not home I'll go for you." DRAGNET.

NO MORE BULKY FISHING BOOKS. PALEY'S TACKLE AND FLY POUCH.



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Unsurpassed for Superiority of Workmanship,
Balance, and Casting Power.

10ft., in 3 pieces, with spare top, 26/-, 28/-, 34/-.
11ft., " 28/-, 30/-, 36/-.
12ft., " 30/-, 32/-, 38/-.

With cork grip, 6/- extra.

11ft. in 2 pieces, with spare top,
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SUPERIOR GREENHEART SALMON RODS.

18ft. steel snake rings, steel revolving
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that can be produced ... 67/-.

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Very large assortment of Salmon, Grilse, Sea
Trout, Loch and River Flies, for the Scotch
Lochs and Rivers, all tested patterns and
beautifully tied.

THESE FLIES HAVE OBTAINED HIGHEST AWARDS WHEREVER
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PATENT ADJUSTABLE BRAKE REEL.

In Gun-metal or Aluminium. The brake is easily operated by the hand, whereby the check can be regulated at will by simply turning the milled disc on spindle. This should prove a great advantage to anglers, as the check can be regulated without having to take the reel to pieces, as in the case of the ordinary reel.

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TROUT and DACE FLIES, 1/2 per doz., A SPECIALITY.

A Fine Selection of FLOATING FLIES in Stock.

"Tied by Holland."

FINE NATURAL MEDIUM AND STRONG CASTS,

3yds., 6d., 8d., and 9d.; with Drawn Points, 1/- each, 10/- per doz.

A FRESH CONSIGNMENT OF GUT NOW IN STOCK.

BOTTOM AND SPINNING RODS.

ASH BOTTOM RODS, Ringed and Winch Fitted	- - -	from 2/5
HICKORY GENERAL BOTTOM and TROLLING	- - -	" 12/6
TROLLING RODS, Superior Finish	- - -	" 7/-
EAST INDIA CANE RODS	- - -	" 5/6
LEA ROACH POLES, 16ft., 18ft., and 20ft.	- - -	" 9/6

Large Selection of REELS of every description.

The LADIES' BROOK ROD (Greenheart), weight 7½oz. - - 25/-

GUINEA SPECIALITIES.

Best Finish GREENHEART FLY RODS, 2 Tops, 9ft., 9½ft., 10ft., and 10½ft.	- - -	21/-
Best Finish PIKE ROD, Phosphor Bronze Rings, 2 Tops	- - -	21/-
Best EAST INDIA CANE BOTTOM ROD, Balanced Butt, 3 Tops	- - -	21/-
Best GREENHEART SEA ROD, Solid Winch Fittings, 2 Tops	- - -	21/-

CATALOGUES Post Free.

Mention "Fishing Gazette."

CHEAPSIDE, LONDON, E.C.

240 TROUT

Were taken in 1897 on one of our Special TAPERED SINGLE GUT CASTS, such as we are now selling at 1/- each, 10/- per dozen (3 yards).

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CATALOGUES GRATIS.

PISCATORIAL SOCIETY.

THERE was a big budget of successful angling experiences forthcoming at Monday's meeting, when Mr. Robert C. Blundell took the chair, and genially presided over a large company of members. First and foremost came a report from Mr. Chas. H. Wheelley of a grand take of chub a friend and himself had made in the Thames on one rod, using it alternately. This was on Saturday afternoon, and something like 50lb. weight of the loggerheads went into the well, the heaviest fish being one of 4lb. 2oz. The same member also related his experiences in Ireland (twenty-five miles from Sligo, to be a little more exact), dapping for trout. Despite the calm weather (the worst condition for fishing of the description named), he had had a most enjoyable time, getting a goodly number of fine fish up to 4lb. in weight, the latter with the dry fly. Mr. H. Harden, who as an exponent of dry fly work has few superiors, stated that he had been prevailed upon to take a lesson in Thames trouting, and with so enthusiastic and fortunate a mentor as Mr. J. E. Evans he made a most promising *début*, taking a two-pounder, which was returned. Mr. Harden described the *locus in quo* (Pangbourne) as an "angler's paradise," and expressed his intention of paying the place a second visit at the first opportunity. Mr. J. E. Evans himself took a trout of 3lb., which was also put back to grow in stature if not in wisdom. From the Uxbridge water more trout had been taken; in fact, they were just beginning to come on. Mr. H. Marks had one of 1lb. 15oz.; Mr. Preston Gardner a 2lb. 4oz. fish, in fine condition, and a brace of chub; Dr. Ogier Ward a mixed bag with the fly; Mr. Neville Davis a brace of chub; and other members had coarse fish. The roach, however, have hardly got over spawning operations, and are not fit to take as yet. Mr. H. P. Thompson, who had been on a holiday in Wales, had done well with trout. Dr. Chas. S. Patterson told an amusing tale of his "chasing" the May Fly, wandering hither and thither in search of a spot where there was a rise. First the fly was up and the fish were not taking; then it had been on, and the fish had fed; and lastly, the fly was over, and he was too late. The largest bag the doctor had heard of as being made was one of forty brace in a week with two rods, on the Kennet, all fish being over 1lb. 12oz. Dr. Patterson had, notwithstanding his hurrys, fair sport, and actually hooked a trout, which, when it felt the steel, skimmed across the water and jumped out on to the opposite bank to that from which he was angling. It then broke loose, and wriggled back to its native element again! Mr. H. H. Brown gave an account of his capture with fly of a splendid Colne trout of 5lb. 8oz., on private water above the society's Uxbridge fishery. The same gentleman also had several brace of smaller trout, and numbers of chub. Finally, the chairman gave a general description of the prospects of trout and coarse fishing at Uxbridge, and a most enjoyable evening was brought to a close by the toasts of "Absent Friends" and "The Piscatorial Society" being drunk with the usual enthusiasm. M. G. E. DE C.

BRITISH SEA ANGLERS' SOCIETY.

THE usual weekly meeting was held at the Holborn Restaurant on Wednesday, June 21, Mr. H. W. Lane in the chair.

Mr. R. H. Wood reported having been fishing at Southwick with Peacock. On June 17, he and Mr. Minchin took, off the Billy Buoy, five score of pout, and one pollack, 3lb., and, further off, some plaice and dabs, a "nuss," and a decent crab; and trailing home, Mr. Minchin took a bass, 1½lb. On June 18, starting in the middle of the night, they started fishing at Loo Gate about 5.30 a.m. The boatman took conger, and Mr. Wood took bream (sixteen, up to 3lb. in weight). The best conger weighed over 32lb. There were nine conger altogether. Mr. Minchin took a nice lobster. In the evening the sea anglers saw a fair quantity of sand eels.

The chairman drew attention to an advertisement: "Wanted, a valet, accustomed to sea fishing, who can bait hooks, with a good character." The hon. sec. drew attention to the first action of the *Galathea*, sent out to Iceland to look after the interests of our trawlers, which vessel had captured three British trawlers fishing within the prescribed area.

Attention was drawn to Lord Heneage's notice to move the rejection of the Trawlers' Certificates Suspension Bill.

Mr. Bates showed a new lead link, which appeared much stronger than those originally shown some weeks back.

The question of protecting iron from the action of sea water was discussed, and the general feeling was that nothing would beat coppering by the cyanide process.

The usual vote of thanks to the chair closed the meeting. CHARLES S. PATTERSON, Hon. Sec.

GRESHAM ANGLING SOCIETY.

At the usual weekly meeting Mr. J. P. Connellan occupied the chair. Messrs. Atkinson and Nelson were unanimously elected members of the society. Two gentlemen were nominated for membership. Mr. Bentley again presented the library with two books, for which he was accorded the heartiest thanks of the meeting. Fishing reports: Mr. Emery, at Chesham, two brace, one brace returned, the fish kept were taken on the Alder, and weighed respectively 2lb. 1½oz., and 3lb.; Mr. J. Tayler ("Red Palmer"), two days in Hampshire, seven trout over ten inches in length with the May Fly, Alder, and Red Palmer; Mr. Chastoney, two brace of trout, Chesham, with the Alder and Grey Quill; Mr. Goodwin, seven trout from private waters, one retained, killing fly, the Cinnamon Quill; Mr. W. Meyers, one trout, private water; Mr. H. Canton, at Buckenham, bream and roach, total bag, 14lb.; Mr. Gibson, at Hertford, trout and dace,

returned; Messrs. Norman, Basten, and Maull, at New-haven, several dabs and wevers up to Gresham standard; Mr. Connellan, at Hertford, five dace, returned. The new book for chronicling the result of day's fishing is now at the Black Horse, at Chesham, and it is hoped that members will enter fully therein the catch, fly, state of water and atmosphere. The lantern lecture last week by Mr. J. Jeffery (known as "Straw Hat") was of a very interesting character. The attendance was very large, even for the Gresham, and the lecture was received with acclamation. Space does not allow of going into details, but every well-known spot from source to London Bridge was shown upon the screen. The lecture was interspersed with anecdotes and songs by the lecturer and his son. At the conclusion, a very cordial vote of thanks to the lecturer was passed. The usual toasts and a hearty vote of thanks to the chair concluded a very pleasant evening. ALEX WRIGHT, Hon. Sec.

ANGLERS' ASSOCIATION.

At the June delegate meeting of this flourishing association, held this week at the Cripplegate Institute, Golden-lane, City, Mr. W. H. Beckett presiding, three new clubs were enrolled. They were the Kensington Park A.S., the Slough Wanderers, and the Ashford (Hoxton) A.S. Representatives from forty-eight affiliated clubs attended the meeting, and in the course of the evening cheques to the amount of £90 were ordered to be drawn to meet current expenses. The secretary (Mr. R. Ghurney) reported that he had issued 500 railway privilege tickets to members in excess of the number sent out at this period last year. Several new hon. water bailiffs were appointed in connection with the association's fisheries, and a deputation was received from the Uxbridge Rovers asking the association to approach the Great Western Railway with a view of privilege tickets being issued from Slough, Uxbridge, and West Drayton. HON. REPORTER.

THE ANGLERS' BENEVOLENT SOCIETY. ANNUAL REPORT.

THE report for the year ending April 30, 1899, is brief but favourable, viz.: "Your committee, in presenting this, the nineteenth annual balance-sheet of the Anglers' Benevolent Society, cannot but congratulate the members of the society upon its continued prosperity. After distributing £268 in grants, there yet remains a balance in hand of nearly £600. It is to be hoped that increased support will be given to the society, to enable an increased amount of assistance to be given in deserving cases."

N.B.—Collecting boxes for the receipt of small donations will be supplied to angling societies desirous of placing such in their club-rooms, and may be had on application to the secretary of the Anglers' Benevolent Society.

The committee meet on the second and fourth Fridays in each month at the committee-room, Club Union Buildings, Clerkenwell-road, E.C.

THAMES ANGLING PRESERVATION SOCIETY.

[Extracts from the Report from the Diamond Jubilee Blue Book of the Society.]

NOTHING very exceptional has occurred in the way of stocking, but the work of preservation and watching has been actively kept up. Unfortunately, the continued apathy of those who should be most interested in supporting the keeping up of a standard head of fish for sporting purposes puts an undesirable limit to the work and efforts of the society, and, consequently, without adequate funds to do better, we must "cut our coat to suit our cloth." An admirable exception to this, however, calls for attention. The committee have the pleasure and gratification of acknowledging the special kindness of the Central Association of London Anglers in organising an angling competition at Amberley, Aug. 28, 1898, whereby an accretion of eighteen guineas was made towards our funds. The committee regret that the Anglers' Association do not make a grant such as they formerly did, and appoint delegates as of yore, seeing that the committee would gladly avail themselves of their co-operation and assistance both financially and advisory, as representing a large number of anglers resorting to the Thames, and participating in the advantages of the society's work.

FISH STOCKING.

No available opportunity for netting has offered during the year, but the committee are fully alive to the matter, and will embrace every reasonable chance of improving the fishery by such means. Owing to the kindness of one of our vice-presidents, Mr. R. B. Marston, a very acceptable gift of twenty large trout, from 3lb. to 6½lb. each, was secured; and under the personal care and attendance of Mr. E. V. Corrie, of Winchester, these fine fish (after being labelled in the dorsal fin) were turned into the river without mishap by the last named gentleman, between Kingston and Hampton Court. The committee have given full consideration to the question of purchasing stock fish, and after making due inquiry from various fish-outfitters, it was decided that the heavy expense, as compared with the proportionate return, would not justify the outlay of the society's moneys in purchasing the quantity of fish offered. The committee on this subject consider it necessary to reiterate the views expressed in the last paragraph of their appeal under the heading of "Objects of the Society."

The committee have been approached by Mr. C. H. Cook, of Elm-lea, South Stoke, Reading, as chairman of the Thames Re-stocking Association (founded at Kingston some two years since), with a view to promising pecuniary support for acquiring a site, erecting, maintaining, and

running a coarse and general fish culture establishment in some neighbourhood adjacent to the river Thames. After full discussion, the committee decided that no portion of the limited funds entrusted to them could in their opinion be properly devoted to the furtherance of such a scheme.

ILLEGAL FISHING, NIGHT FISHING, POLLUTION, UNSIZABLE FISH, &c.

The committee are pleased to report that owing to the excellent and cordial co-operation of the Thames Conservancy's officers with those paid by this society, aided by that of our honorary keepers in watching and preservation work, none but trivial offences have occurred during the past year, with the exception of one offender, who, having been previously warned, was prosecuted, fined, and convicted at Staines. The absence of similar causes of complaint, combined with the undoubted fact of the highly increased purity of the river, owing to the continuous and joint action of the county councils and the Thames Conservancy Board, is highly encouraging to the objects of the society.

PROTECTION OF SPAWN FROM SWANS, DUCKS, &c.

Thanks to the action and substantial assistance of the society's newly-elected president, Mr. H. L. W. Lawson, L.C.C., J.P., &c., the committee are enabled to report that the damage under this heading has fortunately this year been reduced to a minimum. The Lord Chamberlain, through Sir J. Ponsonby Fane, K.C.B., and in conjunction with the Dyers' and Vintners' Companies, has caused the removal of the barren swans (estimated at fifty) during the perch spawning season; and this has been done at a cost to this society of 2s. per swan per week, so long as the society considers necessary. The first birds were removed between Staines and Hampton Court on Monday, April 17, 1899, and the remainder next day (Tuesday), between Hampton Court and Teddington Lock; and it is proposed to keep them off four weeks as being sufficient. But in the event of the season proving cold, &c., the committee hope to confine these birds until such time as the ova shall have hatched out. Of course, this will mean further expense to be charged to our current balance (£154 5s. 7d.).

The committee have much pleasure in reporting that Mr. H. Osborne O'Hagan, of Hampton Court, on the application of the hon. sec., has most courteously and promptly issued instructions to his bailiff to take off the ducks belonging to him from the river during the coarse fish spawning season, and to do anything further that he can to help the society in the protection of the fishery. Mr. O'Hagan regrets his inability to join the committee in their deliberations, but has generously promised five guineas annually to the funds. Some ducks, fed and encouraged by a gentleman at Thames Ditton, are alleged to be wild, and so unable to be caught and honed.

Further precautions have been taken by means of placing wire netting round the perch spawn. This has been done by W. Douglas, the head keeper, assisted by J. Knight, of Kingston; Marsh, of Chertsey Lock, and members of the committee.

PROSPECTS OF THE SOCIETY.

Although not making the headway they would desire, the committee hope that another year's work will enable them to report more cheerfully on the appreciation of their efforts.

JUBILEE DINNER AND RIVER AND LOCK-KEEPERS' DINNER.

The former of these was held at the Holborn Restaurant, and the latter at the Criterion, Piccadilly. As marking an epoch an abbreviated account of the Jubilee dinner appears on page 20 *et sequitur*. At the river and lock-keepers' dinner, which was fully attended by the "guests," a very comfortable and pleasant evening was passed under the genial chairmanship of Mr. Alfred Nuthall, J.P. The expenses connected with the foregoing functions have been defrayed entirely and independently of the society's income, and consequently do not appear in the society's accounts.

OFFICERS OF THE SOCIETY.

The only material alteration during the past year was brought about by the election of Mr. Harry Lawson Webster Lawson, M.A., J.P., L.C.C., of 37, Grosvenor-square, London, as president, under the circumstances disclosed in Mr. Alfred Nuthall's remarks at the Jubilee dinner. The proposition having been submitted after due notice to the members of the committee, Mr. Lawson was unanimously asked by the executive to accept the presidency, and in most kindly terms consented to accept the office, and to do all that he could in future for the best interests of this old society. Mr. Alfred Nuthall, J.P., Mr. T. Crumplen, and Mr. H. W. Higgins, have each consented to continue in their respective offices of chairman of committee, vice-chairman, and hon. secretary and hon. treasurer.

H. WHITMORE HIGGINS,
Hon. Sec. and Hon. Treasurer.

LARGE THAMES TROUT (REAL AND ALLEGED).

"CONCERNING the large Thames trout as to which there is neither doubt nor mystery, viz., the 10½lb. fish caught by Mr. Gwynne Witherington, as stated in the *Field* of last Saturday, I omitted to add that the fish is on view at Rowland Ward's, 166, Piccadilly, where it may be seen by any who would like to study its fine proportions.

"We now come to the mysterious fish of 17lb. 3oz., as to which the dearth of details was deplored in the same number of the *Field*. Mr. Bambridge, of Eton, who has been for many years familiar with the Thames and its fishing, on hearing of this record monster, rushed off to Radoot Bridge to make inquiries, and found that Mr

Temple, of the Swan Hotel, knew absolutely nothing about it. He then pursued his inquiries elsewhere, and thus writes upon the subject:

"I have interviewed Mr. Wilton, the fishmonger, of High-street, Maidenhead, respecting the large trout, and he assures me it was a Thames fish, but the captor did not wish his name known. It was on view at Mr. Wilton's, and attracted considerable attention whilst lying on the slab. It was eventually purchased by Sir B. L., packed up, and sent to London—whether for eating or to be preserved could not be stated. As I wrote you from Radcot Bridge hotel yesterday, the proprietor there knows nothing about it; and, though he has tried to find out, everyone he asks in the neighbourhood is as much in the dark as he is."

"No other communication has reached the *Field* office about this trout, except a letter received yesterday asking whether it is not possible that the fish, after all, was caught at Billingsgate. To what has already been said upon the subject of large Thames trout, I may now add that there was at one time a considerable discussion about a 23½lb. Thames specimen which was shown at one of the exhibitions; but this was, after considerable controversy, generally pronounced to be an old salmon kelt. The newest claimant for high honours appeared in yesterday's *Daily News* as follows:

"Mr. Edmund Foster, Clewer Manor, Windsor, writes: 'In your impression of Saturday last I read the *Record* Thames Trout.' I thought, therefore, the following incident might interest you. About the year 1834, the late Lieut.-General Sir Samuel Hawker was staying here with my father. As he was fond of fishing, he made the acquaintance of a fellow angler, the late Mr. Batchelor, who then rented Black-pots, now in the possession of the Provost of Eton. They went out fishing together in a punt, and Sir Samuel Hawker caught a trout which, on being brought home, was put in the scales, and weighed 22½lb. Sir Samuel Hawker married a daughter of the famous Mrs. Siddons, and was a personal friend of William IV. He sent the trout as a present to the king. Sir Samuel Hawker's fishing rod is still in my possession."—RED SPINNER in the *Field*.

Notes from the North.

ANGLERS on some of the upper sections of the Dee are terribly disappointed with the results of the past season. Barely 200 fish have been got on the Glentana water, which in an average season usually yields 600 or so. Some of the far inland beats have even fared worse in proportion to their size and cost.

If this be the case with Dee anglers, what can it be with others under less advantageous circumstances? It has been the worst season experienced during the past decade, if not on record. Yet on certain sections, such as the Dess, Dnrris, and Woodend waters, anglers have little to complain of in the way of sport, and, on the other hand, have every reason to be gratified at the good things which have come their way.

The cost of the spring season on the Glentana Dee waters is put down at £8 per fish up to the end of May. On the Cambus O'May waters the cost is put down at £11 per fish. Yet both on the Glentana, Cambus O'May, and Ballater waters the cost in an average season is not more than 30s. per fish at most.

The Invercauld private Dee water cost £450 till the end of May; and if thirty fish have been killed in the aggregate since the opening, at least not more than that have been got. This is at the rate of £15 per fish, and is probably the dearest-rented section for its worth on the Dee.

Anglers have themselves to blame for high rentals. It is purely the law of supply and demand, and not a matter of fish. If they will chase the proprietors with big offers, and even blank cheques, the proprietors would be fools to refuse; and yet many do not let to the highest bidder.

The river Lossie is so reduced in size that one can scarcely credit that a fatal accident was possible in any of its pools. Yet James Rogan, a young lad, lost his life last week in the Bruceland Pool near Elgin. He had been angling, and coming to the pool the temptation to bathe induced him to strip and plunge in, when he cramped and sank almost immediately.

A strange salmon case was decided last week by Sheriff Robertson, which will stand as a common-sense judgment at least. John Duncan, Aberdeen, was fined, at the Chester Police Court, £15 10s., including expenses, for having in his possession a salmon during the close time. He bought the salmon from Anderson, who, when the case arose, asked him to plead guilty, saying he would meet all expenses to keep his name out of it, but he had since then refused to do so, and hence the present action.

Sheriff Robertson, in deciding in favour of the defender, said: "It was an illegal transaction to deal in salmon, and it was wrong to impede the course of justice by pleading guilty so as to save Anderson. The court cannot now lend itself to enforce a counterpart."

The inter-university athletic contest between Edinburgh, Glasgow, and Aberdeen Universities was revived at

Aberdeen on Saturday, when the meeting was a brilliant success. It is a quarter of a century since they were last held.

On the Don some excellent baskets of trout have been got during the past season—for the season is now practically over for the fly fisher. Some two or three 6-pounders are among the few and far between heavy fish got in the middle reaches, while quite a number of 2, 3, and 4-pounders have been met with.

The Aberdeen Rock anglers are having a good time of it. On Saturday forty competitors entered for the association's trophy, which goes to the highest aggregate made by teams representing the four fishing districts. Newtonhill scored 83½lb.; Portlethen, 72½lb.; Cove, 62½lb.; and Muchalls, 35½lb.

The supplies of salmon and grilse show a slight improvement along the east coast netting station, but there is a falling off again, on the other hand, on the river and estuary waters, chiefly on account of the drought.

The Shin has received 2000 salmon fry from the Duke of Sutherland's hatchery at Brora. Dr. Almond, Edinburgh, the angling lessee, pays the initial expenses of transport.

The Deveron District Board are to erect a salmon ladder on the burn of Turriff; but, meantime, the final steps in the matter have been deferred till next meeting.

A large school of whales appeared off Thurso sands on Monday morning, all of the bottle-nose species. Great excitement prevailed as the whales were driven ashore on the sands. The sea was red with their blood as they lay floundering, and no less than 104 were captured. Most of them measured 20ft. in length. What value they may bring has not been yet ascertained. The catch lies close to the fisher part of the town, and if no external demand be made for them the authorities are dreading that they will be run into considerable expense by having to remove the carcasses for sanitary reasons. Such a scene was never witnessed in Thurso before. SPECIAL SCOTCH.

Provincial Notes

FROM BIRMINGHAM AND DISTRICT.

A special meeting of the committee of the Birmingham Anglers' Benevolent Society was held on Thursday evening last, June 15, at the headquarters, to arrange finally when and where the annual contest should take place in aid of the funds of the society. Mr. T. Coles presided, and Mr. C. White occupied the vice-chair. The meeting was fully attended. After the minutes of the previous meeting had been passed, the secretary read a number of letters bearing upon them, which went to show that certain of the minutes would have to be rescinded. In the first instance, the railway companies objected to running a half-day excursion on the Saturday. This matter was considered first, when it was unanimously decided to have a day excursion, and hold the contest on Monday, July 10. Letters were read showing that there was no accommodation at Bredon for a large number of contestants, and this year Mr. Mealing, of the Ship Inn, Pershore, could only find contest ground for 300 contestants, and as the mowing grass at Wyre would perhaps not be cut by July 10 it was decided to select another place, when, after a little discussion, it was decided to fish the contest in the river Severn at Tewkesbury, and that the Old Black Bear should be the headquarters during the contest. No fish under the association scale to be weighed-in, and that only coarse fish be weighed-in. Anyone taking trout must return them to the water with the least possible injury; anyone retaining them without a trout licence will run the risk of being prosecuted. The contest will be open to all members of the Birmingham and District Association. The entrance fee to members of the A.B.S. will be 6d., and to non-members, 1s.; the extra sixpence from non-members will go towards purchasing prizes. The competition for the challenge cup and silver medal will be again confined to members of the A.B.S. Any member of the Birmingham Association wishing to join the society, and compete as a benevolent member, must be enrolled on the society's books on or before June 30 next. A circular has been sent out asking for prizes, and the contest tickets have been sent out to the whole of the clubs. Handbills giving the train times will be issued in due course. Contest rules will be issued on the morning of the contest. The Victoria Society opened the season by fishing a contest in the canal at Alrewas on Monday. A good number of the members took part, but sport was of a very poor description, as only about six of the members succeeded in taking prizes, the successful six being in the order named: E. Wilcox, T. Squelch, J. Thompson, G. Scott, E. Scott, and L. Hunt. The secretary of this club informs me that up to the present only the pound above the junction has been emptied. The Manor Angling Society, which meets at the Manor Tavern, Clifford St., Aston, have again rented about one and a half miles of the Fazeley Canal, starting from the basin near the Navigation Inn to Salts Bridge. This water is splendidly adapted for contests, as it is near to Birmingham, and contains a good quantity of roach and perch. Any club wishing to fish a contest in this water can do so for a small sum, according to the number of members. All information can be obtained from the secretary, Mr. G. Jackson.

The St. Paul's Society held their general meeting on Tuesday evening last. About 100 members were present. The balance-sheet of the society was presented by the secretary. This went to show that the club, after paying all liabilities, had a balance of over £47 in hand. £5 of this sum was voted for a bye contest, and the sum of £6 was also added as the proceeds from the Christmas ball and concert. Other prizes were promised from one guinea downwards, and it was decided to fish the contest in the Avon, at Defford, on July 9 next. Mr. F. Hughes was appointed referee. Some hundreds of our members turned out on Saturday and Sunday last, but from all parts comes the report that the fish were dead off the feed, and that very little was done. On Sunday we had heavy rain, which, no doubt, will make things better. The roach in the Avon are anything but clean, and it will be some little time before they are fit to take.

FROM DERBYSHIRE.

The week's angling on Derbyshire streams has been good generally, taking into consideration that the fish have been pretty well glutted with their feast on the May Fly lately. Fortunately, after the long spell of warm, dry weather, plentiful and most welcome rain has fallen within the last few days, which has freshened the waters and wakened up the fish considerably. The streams are now in fine condition, and the trout are rising freely in places in the early and the late times of the day. Fly angling continues fairly satisfactory, and bottom fishing has greatly improved since rain fell, and both trout and coarse fish have been taken in considerable numbers. Anglers are numerous on most of the streams, and most of them appear to have enjoyed tolerably good sport, and some of them have made really excellent creels. The middle and lower lengths of the Dove have furnished nice lots of fish of various kinds to fly and bottom fishers. Some very fair baskets have been made on the Dovedale waters, and there, as on the higher lengths up to Beresford and Hartington, the angling, as a rule, has been fairly satisfactory. Sport on the neighbouring Manifold has improved since the rain fell, and several decent creels have been made in places, both on the open and the private waters. Anglers who have been out on the Fenny Bentley stream have taken a few nice lots of fish, chiefly by fishing under the trees and bushes. Fly fishing on the Wye has been on some days fairly good. On the Ashwood Dale, Wye Dale, and Miller's Dale lengths, and on the Cresbrook and Monsal Dale waters, decent creels of good-sized fish have been killed; and tolerably good sport has been had on several of the reaches between Ashford and Bakewell. Artificial fly fishing on the Bakewell and Rowsley lengths has been moderately good, and several fair-sized creels have been made by anglers there, of which on most days there has been the full number allowed. A few fishermen have had some pretty sport on the High Peak tributaries of the Derwent, in Edale, Hope, and Ashop Dale. Small creels only have been made, as a rule, but they required both patience and skill. On the upper reaches of the Derwent, between Derwent Hall and Yorkshire Bridge, several fairly good baskets have been made both by fly and bottom fishers, and some nice lots of fish have been killed on the Wood-lane and Bamford lengths. The Sicleholme, Hathersage, and Grindleford waters have had numerous visitors, some of whom have had tolerably good sport, and made fair baskets; and on the open and the private reaches between Stoke, Calver, and Baslow fly anglers have, on the whole, done pretty well. Most of the lengths of the Chatsworth waters have been well patronised, and the angling has been fairly good both on the Park lengths and on the lower lengths by Calton Woods, Beely, and Rowsley. With one or two exceptions—one of eight brace—no particularly good baskets have been made there by any of the anglers. Lower down, on the Darley and Matlock waters, most kinds of angling has been of a moderate description; a few fair baskets have been made, but not much, as a rule, has been done. Several decent lots of trout, roach, dace, and other coarse fish have been killed on the Holmesford, Watstanwell, Ambergate, and Belper reaches by fly and bottom anglers. Angling prospects continue good.

FROM THE FEN DISTRICT (LINCOLNSHIRE).

Coarse fishing opened last week on the Fen rivers and drains with every prospect of a successful season. The reports to hand show that dace, perch, and bream are very forward; but roach have spawned later than usual, and a few weeks must elapse before they are in condition. Most waters, however, are teeming with fish, and on some lengths of the Witham—which is the premier river in the Fens—the outlook is the best known for some years. On several of the minor drains the weeds will prevent a commencement of operations for the present; but when these have been cut there should be no hindrance to sport. The waters have suffered during the last week or two in consequence of the drought, but a change has now taken place in the shape of duller weather with congenial showers. There is an outcry amongst subscribers to the Forty-foot for better facilities for capturing eels, which are a veritable nuisance to roach fishermen at the beginning of the season. The present bye-laws of the Black Sluice Commissioners only permit these fish to be taken by rod and line, and the use of hives is now suggested.

FROM HULL AND DISTRICT.

The splendid weather since the advent of the season for coarse fish has caused our local anglers to be out in considerable force, and several streams have been visited, but the results have invariably been the same—a decided disappointment—for, although in most parts the conditions were favourable, yet the fish are too sickly to be allured by our ordinary baits, but very dainty in what they obtain, chiefly feeding upon insect life and the small shoots of weeds at the sides of the streams. It is full early on

our local river, the Hull, for successful operations amongst roach, although a few have already been taken in the top stretches with maggots and straw bait; and on the rivers Ancholme and Ludd with maggots. A nice catch of roach and dace is also reported from the Hull, at Aike Beck-end, with pearl barley, but the best fish were out of condition, being scabby. Some good perch have been taken at the hecks and eddies with the Maiden Dew, and in first-class condition, giving excellent sport; and several small pike have also been taken in the Wawne and Dunsell districts, and flounders and eels continue to be plentiful at the latter named places. The Duke of York Angling Society decided a match in the river at Wawneferry, but only had very moderate sport. The first three prize winners were Messrs. J. Collins, T. Tather, and G. Strond. The Horns Angling and Recreation Society also fished a match at Weelferry, Mr. Kirk Smith taking the first prize, and Messrs. W. Smith and G. Scott the next two. A few very nice trout have been met with in the top stretches above Hempholme Lock during the past week. Mr. G. Schofield, a member of the Central Hull A.S., showed a brace and a half, the heaviest scaling 1lb. 9½oz., and also another of close upon 1lb. Another good fish is reported from Minto Flatts, estimated to weigh about 2lb. A few splendid perch have also been taken whilst worm fishing at both Wawne and in the Dunsell district, scaling from ½lb. to about 1lb. each. Several matches will be decided by our local clubs to-day (Saturday) on various waters. The Albert A.S. and Stoneferry A.S. have selected the river, the former at Hull Bridge, and the latter at Weelferry. The fishing on the Market Weighton Canal from the river head down to the river Humber has, through the combined action of the Hull Amalgamated Anglers' Association and the Hull Preservation Society, been acquired for the Hull anglers, and a joint committee of the two organizations met on Thursday evening last to decide upon the terms of fishing, which I am informed is as follows, viz.: To members of the two organisations, and to residents within three miles of the canal, season tickets, 1s. each; and to all other anglers, season tickets, 2s. 6d.; daily tickets to be issued at 3d. each. The joint annual open match of the River Hull and Excelsior Angling Societies was held on the Ancholme, at Ferry Sluice, on Saturday afternoon last, when about 500 anglers availed themselves of the pleasurable steamboat trip down the river Humber.

FROM THE LAKE DISTRICT.

The lake district fishery conservators, at their recent meeting, had under consideration a petition for an alteration in the close time for trout and char. The memorial was largely signed by residents in Windermere and Ambleside, and asked that the season might begin on March 2, instead of April 1. A deputation was also in attendance to back up the appeal, their reasons being, briefly, that Easter fell in March during a great number of years; that the fish in Windermere were in the very best condition in that month—better almost than at any other time; and that at present there were often not more than ten weeks in the year when fly fishing could be enjoyed, April and May being practically the only two months there were. Other arguments were also adduced, and after considerable discussion the adoption of March 2 was carried, an amendment fixing March 15 as the opening day being lost. Since Sunday some showers have fallen locally. Vegetation has improved thereby; but rivers have not been affected, and are now, as a rule, low and decidedly dirty. Day fishing is almost out of the question, though a few good trout have been secured in the evenings, mostly from the lakes. On the Keswick waters Mr. T. Mayson has been successful in securing fish of 1½lb., 2½lb., and 3lb. apiece, and a couple of 4lb. pike. Other anglers, including Messrs. Spark, Hodgson, Elliott, Coulson, &c., have had trout up to 1½lb. each; and Messrs. J. and M. Stanley a few pounds each from St. John's Beck. On the Eden, the maggot used as an auxiliary to the fly has accounted for six or seven brace to the rods of Messrs. Armstrong, Howe, and others. On the Derwent, Messrs. Minnikin and others have enjoyed good sport, and some good perch are being obtained from the lakes, several fish of nearly 2lb. each having been caught. This weight, however, is much above the average of our lake district perch.

FROM LANCASHIRE.

The season was opened at Leigh with an open event, promoted by Mr. Dawson and his merry men, and partook of a sweep and added money. After a very keen contest the awards were as follows: First, W. Makin, Wigan; second, T. Hnrst, Wigan; third, A. Smith, Leigh; fourth, G. Wilson, Wigan; fifth, J. Makin, Wigan. The Urmston and Flixton Angling Society opened the season on the 17th with a match for Capt. Stott's cup, which was won by Mr. H. B. Spittle. The next contest is at Irlam, on July 1, six to eight. Just now the Flixton reservoirs are fishing remarkably well, and the fish are in good condition. The Lune and tributaries are not in order for good fishing, but, nevertheless, some good baskets are reported with the May Fly. In the Tobay and Sedburgh districts fishes of 5lb. to 8lb. are noted. Sea trout are running better, some getting into the nets. The Irlam and Cadishead waters are fishing fairly well, and some nice fish have been killed. The match fished there last week-end was not the success hoped for, but perhaps the water is not suitable for matches. The Ribble for some time has been so low and clear that good sport was out of the question. Migratory trout for some time have been in the tideway, waiting for a suitable opportunity to ascend. The open event promoted at Liverpool, and fished last week-end on June 18, was noted for two things, viz., that all the prizes go to the East End Association, and that the fish were very small. The first prize, seventeen fish, 8½oz., and the second prize, thirty-one fish, 8oz., amply confirm the latter remark. The

Merry Anglers are due at Althorpe on June 25 to fish their first match of the present season. The Wyre has been sadly neglected, very few rods being out and little sport obtained, the best, in all probability, being on the lower or tidal reaches. The water has been low and clear, but at St. Michael's some large fish are to be seen. From Warrington comes the old story of progress. The roll-call is steadily increasing, and promises to be bigger than ever. The opening of the season did not produce any great excitement, but probably the natives are reserving themselves for the annual holiday next week. The Kingfishers, Salford, are holding their annual piscatorial picnic in Cheshire on the 28th. The Horseshoe Angling Society, Pendleton, have altered the date of their second contest from July 8 to Aug. 19, so as not to clash with the match arranged by their neighbours at the church.

FROM MANCHESTER.

The Openshaw, Bradford, and Clayton Angling Society opened the season with a match, as usual, at Althorpe. The list of prizes was long and the articles themselves both valuable and useful. The amount of fish taken did not cause any undue excitement, being small, but the prizes were all awarded as follows: Messrs. G. Yates, R. Dyson, S. Maude, J. Wright, A. Sylvestre, J. Emmett, D. Renshaw, J. Renshaw, J. Fairclough, G. Shaw, T. Arnold, W. Renshaw, J. Warrender, A. Clark, T. Acton, and R. Duckworth. The event gave great pleasure to all taking part in any way. The Longsight Victoria A.S. fished their first match at Poynton last Saturday, when winners were found for the prizes as follows: First, F. Taylor; second, H. Abbott; third, V. Hothersall. Afterwards a smoker was much enjoyed by the members. Mr. Mayers, their chairman, made a few suitable remarks. The Duke of Cambridge A.S. are due at Althorpe on the 25th inst. to fish the opening match. The old Standard A.S. fished a match at Strines on the 18th inst., some unforeseen circumstances changing the venue from Chester. The following are the winners of prizes: First, Mr. J. Vignerot; second, Mr. Parker; third, Mr. Chadwick; fourth, Mr. Clark; fifth, Mrs. Chadwick. The match programme of this society will be rearranged. The next event is at Poynton, on July 16. The Moss Side Socials for their three days' fixture at Poynton—24th, 25th, 26th—will fish three hours each day; ground-baiting and blood worms not allowed. They are to have a special event at Coombs' reservoir in the near future. The Lancaster Angling Society, Longsight, open the season with a match at Poynton on July 2, for three good prizes; several other contests are arranged. This society is in a healthy condition, and expecting to see some excellent specimens adorning their club-room very shortly. The Bewick and District Angling Society have arranged to fish their first match on July 16, at Althorpe. The Stag Angling Society fish their first match on July 2, for a good list of prizes. The Clarendon Angling Society, now about forty strong, have fixed on Aug. 6 for their first match. The Derby Angling Society, Salford, fished their novice match last Saturday, the 17th, and had no difficulty in awarding all prizes as follows in order: Messrs. G. Hay, J. Bennett, T. Robinson, H. Hills, J. Peel, G. Beardsley, H. Redfern, and J. Walker. The contestants appear well satisfied with their maiden efforts. Mr. Roht. Yates, of Hulme, secured a nice pike at Northwich, in the flashes last week-end. Just now a visit to Poynton Pool will pay; several good catches are reported during the past few days, including large bream.

FROM NORFOLK.

Very little has yet been done on the Yare. A few boats have been out, but the catches have been very small. On the Bure and its tributary, the Ant, however, some nice baskets of roach and bream have been obtained. The fish have recovered from spawning more on the Bure than on the Yare, and in some places have fed very well. The May Fly season on the Wensum has been quite an average one, and some very nice trout up to 3½lb. have been taken. At Fakenham, on the Wensum Preservation Society's water, the limit catch has been obtained on two or three occasions, and the fish have been in excellent condition. All the waters of this district are in good condition, except, perhaps, that some rain would benefit the upper waters, but for the lower waters the roach and bream fishers do not want anything but a continuance of this fine warm weather.

FROM NOTTINGHAM.

Rain has fallen, and on Wednesday the Trent rose a few inches, though the rise was evidently destined not to last long. Anglers have, since my last, been out in force, and scores of chub have been creeled, chiefly with the fly, heaviest from Kelham and Sawley. Barbel were killed on Friday and Saturday at Wilford, with the caddis grub and worm, and admirers of the grub regret the scarcity of the supply. At Shardlow, on Tuesday, Mr. F. W. K. Wallis, Mr. S. Wallis, and Mr. T. Large caught a nice lot of dace with gentles, and the first named speaks highly of his recent angling holiday in Scotland. He bagged numbers of trout besides one salmon. Mr. H. Spray, Mr. E. S. Edgar, and Mr. T. O. Jones have used the fly with success at Shardlow, where, too, a friend of the president of the Wellington Society is reported to have (whipping) hooked and landed a handsome trout of 2lb. Chub are backward in condition, and barbel will show more sport later on. The rain has replenished the markets with lobworms, and these have done wonderful execution amongst eels. Several sweepstakes are in course of arrangement.

FROM SHEFFIELD.

The weather during the past week has been very favourable for angling generally, and with the occasional rainfalls the various waters have been kept in excellent condition for fly fishing. The Drake or May Fly season is to all intents and purposes at an end, and on several occasions anglers have had good sport with them. Amongst

the visitors to Derbyshire during the past week have been the Marquis of Granby, Col. Hardy, and Lord Rowley, who have been having first-class sport on the upper Lathkill. The upper reaches of the Derwent have been fishing in a first-class manner. The Chatsworth Club waters have furnished a lot of sport to the members, and the club waters of Darley Dale, Matlock Bridge, and the Bath have been well attended to with satisfactory results, a lot of nice fish having been killed, the most effective flies being Yellow Duns, Ash Duns, and Black Gnats. On Tuesday morning, Mr. G. James Eaton, of Matlock Bridge, had a very nice take on fishing at Matlock; the four I saw were splendid specimens of speckled beauties, the heaviest being 18in. or 20in. long, and just touching the scale at 3lb. A finer fish the most ardent angler could not hope to get. The other three ranged from ½lb. to 1lb., and are in excellent condition. Prospects for harbel fishing in the Derwent are said to be very rosy, for there have been a lot averaging from 5lb. to 7lb. each. Locally, trout anglers have had the best sport in the old Bradfield dam and in the Loxley river. The Damflash reservoir has been regularly visited, anglers going after the big fish it is known to contain. Lately some very good ones have been secured. The upper portion of the Sheaf has been yielding a fairly good amount of sport, the evening anglers accounting for two or three brace of fish generally weighing about ½lb. each. The coarse fishing season opened last week, and has been warmly welcomed by the thousands of Sheffield anglers, and the opening trips of the season last week-end were extensively patronised, numbers going to the well-known resorts in Lincolnshire and the neighbourhood of the Wash. In some places the season has not opened as nicely as could have been wished, and so far the best sport in the Witham has been obtained amongst the hream. Prospects for the Trent are of a first-class description, the spawning season having been a very successful one, and already roach, chub, harbel, and dace are in a very forward condition.

FROM WORCESTER AND DISTRICT.

On Friday numbers of coarse fish anglers lined the banks of some of the streams, Severn, Teme, and Avon being about equally patronised. The close season was over, and they were anxious to try their luck. On the 17th and 18th inst. there were several competitions. On Saturday afternoon the Crown Inn Club fished their first contest of the season at Kempsey, in the Severn. Nearly all the members turned up. The weather was exceedingly hot, the take of fish small, and not all the prizes won. A capital smoking concert finished up the evening. On the 18th inst. the Nag's Head Club fished their contest in the Avon at Twynning Fleet. A large number of the members competed. Fish quite off the feed, but the eels were biting freely, and nearly all returned home with weighty creels, some of the eels large. All the prizes were won. — Dolphin, first; A. Glover, second; C. Palfrey, third; H. Robinson, fourth; W. Palmer, fifth; A. Clark, sixth. The York House Club fished their contest in the Severn at Lenchford, whither they journeyed by steamer, the latter part of the contest being fished in pouring rain. Here, again, eels were well on the feed, and but few fish taken. Mr. W. Young was first, and with others weighed in a fine perch, 1lb. 4½oz.; Mr. Cotton second, with a nice lot. The Teme is very low and clear, but the weather up to Sunday last so hot and sunny that fishing between 9 a.m. and 6 p.m. was almost useless; in the evening fair sport was had all up the river with fly and maggot, and some very nice trout were captured, and one angler told me the grayling rose well at the Wickham. A few coarse fish, chiefly chub, were taken, but roach and dace seem quite off feed, not having yet recovered from their breeding duties. The Evesham Fish Preservation Society, which has done good work in that portion of the Avon, held their annual meeting in the Town Hall on Friday evening, the chair being taken by Mr. E. H. Wadams. E. Rudge, Esq., was elected president for the coming season; Messrs. Jas. Faulkner, J. Swift, and J. W. Hopkins, vice-presidents; Mr. A. H. Sharp, treasurer and hon. sec. Matters of interest to the association were discussed and complaints made of the way the boats were constantly occupied by strangers last season—persons who were friends of non-resident members—and it was proposed to exclude anglers from Birmingham and other places, and confine membership to the district. The matter was discussed at some length, and finally referred to the committee. The angling clubs of the town are both in a flourishing condition, and some important contests are being arranged for. Salmon fishing has been somewhat better. A large fish or two and some nice gillings have been taken by the nets between Worcester and Tewkesbury. The water in the Severn was very stale, but the heavy rain we have had since Saturday has freshened it up considerably, and we may expect better sport all round in the coming week.

FROM YORK AND DISTRICT.

The rivers had run low and clear, and the abundant rain-falls which have occurred these last few days have done good all round, and reports show that the rivers generally are now in excellent condition. At the week-end trout were rising to the fly in all directions on some waters, and good baskets were secured on Friday and Saturday by expert anglers. These remarks, however, apply only to a few favourite haunts, but the rains of Sunday and still more recently have improved the conditions all round, and encouraging accounts are to hand from the Harrogate Club waters, the Nidd, Wharfe, Ure, Derwent, and Esk, where something like remunerative sport is being enjoyed. Fresh run salmon and salmon trout have long been waiting to ascend the upper reaches of the Esk, and there seems promise of abundant sport. Fishermen out during the past week have made good catches. One great advantage of the rains has been to clear the weeds away from the

shallows. Morning and evening fishing is most successful at present, as the fish are then well on the feed. During the day it has been very warm. There is every prospect of good sport with coarse fish. There was a favourable spawning season, and chub, barbel, and dace are numerous and in fine condition. A number of York angling clubs have fished their first matches, and results are satisfactory.

ANSWERS TO CORRESPONDENTS.

W. GOLDSWORTHY.—The fish you sent us for identification is undoubtedly a dace.

Correspondence

[We do not hold ourselves responsible for the opinions expressed by our Correspondents.]

A BLACK VOLE.

SIR,—Whilst fishing in the Onny at Plowden, Salop, a few days since, I saw a perfectly black water rat or vole. I had ample opportunities of watching it, and am quite sure as to its species.

It was the same size as the ordinary water rat, but absolutely distinct from the small black water shrew which I have occasionally seen. Is not this a rare occurrence?

On the same day I also saw a pair of birds, which, on reference to a book on birds, I found to be "Pied Flycatchers."

I have never seen these birds before, and I believe they are rare visitants to this country—anyhow, to Shropshire.

Thanking you in anticipation for inserting this letter.—Yours truly, JAMES M. ETCHES.

FISHING QUERIES ANSWERED.

DEAR SIR,—“Tyro” will find plenty of fishing at Keswick; in fact, it is the best location in Lakeland. Rivers Derwent, Greta, and St. John's. Derwentwater also fishes well, I believe. Of course, he does not need to be told that July is the poorest month for trout, unless he knows how to fish the clear water worm; then it's about the best.

“C. W. R.” could not do better than take his boys to this district, for the reasons stated. I should recommend him to advertise in the *Carlisle Journal* for farmhouse accommodation. The distance, travelling by Leeds, Carnforth, and Tebay, or per North-Eastern, through Bishop Auckland, will be just about the 150 miles limit from York.

Alfred H. Law's friends will not find any coarse fishing nearer Grauge than Windermere, where they will be able to get a stone or two of perch. For sea fishing they would be better fixed at Morecambe, soon reached via Hest Bank. I don't think, however, they will get much beyond plaice (tasty enough when quite fresh), as the mackerel, which are very lively at the time named, do not seem to patronise the bay in any great numbers. The Furness Railway are enterprising, and issue tickets on their system at single fares for double journey. I don't know that they concede more to fishing folks.—Yours, &c., H.

A YOUNG FRENCH FISH BREEDER WANTS A PLACE IN THE UNITED KINGDOM.

MONSIEUR,—Excusez moi de prendre la liberté de vous écrire. Je suis pisciculteur, cette partie étant très peu développée en France, je me trouve en ce moment sans occupation.

J'ai pensé que je ne pourrai mieux m'adresser qu'à vous, sachant que vous êtes en relations avec les pisciculteurs étrangers.

Je vous demanderai, Monsieur, si vous connaissez un pisciculteur ayant besoin d'un employé, ou quelqu'un désirant créer un établissement de pisciculture.

J'ai 18 ans, j'ai reçu une bonne instruction. J'ai suivi en 1897 les cours de Pisciculture de Monsieur Jousset de Bellesme, le directeur de l'Aquarium du Trocadéro. J'ai pris quelques leçons dans cet établissement.

Je sors d'un établissement que j'ai créé et dirigé avec la collaboration de Monsieur le Baron de Crépy, dans le département de l'Yonne.

J'y suis resté six mois. Je m'intéresse beaucoup à la pisciculture, je vous donne l'assurance Monsieur que je ferai tout mon possible pour bien faire et que mes efforts tendront à remplir convenablement l'emploi qui me sera confié.

Ayant étudié l'anglais au Lycée, je crois que je ne serai pas long à me familiariser avec la langue.

Ayez donc la bonté, Monsieur, si toute fois cela ne vous dérange pas de me répondre en m'indiquant où vous pensez que je pourrai m'adresser.

Recevez, Monsieur, mes remerciements, ainsi que l'assurance de mes sentiments dévoués. E. BEAUMÉ.

9, Rue Vauvilliers, Paris.
[We think it quite likely Mr. Beaumé's experience might be very useful.—Ed.]

TROUTING ON THE AMBLÈVE.

DEAR SIR,—Having a week to spare I thought I would pay a visit to an old haunt of mine in the Ardennes; so, bringing with me a friend, I paid a surprise visit to my old friend, M. Lagasse, of the Hotel de la Grotte, who is an enthusiastic angler and a first-rate host.

It was quite a pleasure to see again the hoary walls of the old Chateau of Monjardin rising on a pinnacle over the clear, sparkling waters of the Amblève, and anticipations of glorious struggles with the speckled monsters of that lovely river filled my breast.

To-day the May Fly was supposed to be up, but to me it seemed pretty well a failure. The trout rose in a half-

hearted sort of way, as if they really did not care whether they secured the fly or not. They seemed to have already gorged themselves to the utmost before my arrival on the scene, and although I secured a few nice fish I was not quite satisfied. Swarms of voracious dace seemed everywhere, running in size to about 2lb., and many of these fell victims to my trusty rod. The day has been a bright and oppressively hot one, and as the trout did not seem in a good humour I finally put up my rod, and my friend (who had been patiently reading on the bank during my angling operations) joined me in a glorious bathe in the clear, cool water, and we finally returned with an only partially filled creel, but with enormous appetites, to a really good dinner, to which we did ample justice.

I mean to be even with the trout before I leave. There were some huge ones, especially, resting contentedly beneath the shadow of a bridge which I mean to have out, even if I have to descend to the common or garden worm.

If any reader of yours wishes for a few weeks' quiet trouting in ten or twelve miles of stream, I can heartily recommend this place. It is a favourite resort in August, and is then crowded, but just now there is no one else here, and the river is at its best. M. Lagasse can put anyone up very cheaply (pension 5 francs, or 4s. 2d. per day), and the place can be reached from London for under £2; in fact, I only wonder that more anglers have not discovered it. Being in the heart of the Ardennes, with a wonderful grotto at the back of the hotel, with glorious hills to climb, and lovely drives all round, it is just the place for the angler who is also a family man to dump down his *ménage* and pursue his favourite avocation without any qualms. It is, besides, a paradise for the botanist and entomologist, and fireflies are actually to be seen now dancing through the myrtle boughs. It is, besides, very near to Spa (only about ten miles), and one can easily take the morning train to that gay place when paterfamilias finds it necessary to conciliate the other members of the family.

I am hoping that the weather will not be quite so bright to-morrow, and now beg to remain,—Yours faithfully, FRANK LEY, JUN.

RUBBER TUBE FOR SEA FISHING.

DEAR SIR,—Will you be kind enough to give me the names and addresses of the manufacturers of rubber tube for fishing bait? I have applied to several of the largest rubber manufacturers in the kingdom, and have failed to obtain what my customer requires, which is $\frac{1}{16}$ in. rubber tube, in light red, bright red, and blood-red colours, for sea fishing. I may say that I have also applied to Messrs. Allcock and Sons, of Redditch, without being able to obtain the article required.—Yours faithfully, GEO. G. BULLMORE.

A FISHERMAN'S PARADISE WANTED AND FOUND.

DEAR SIR,—In reply to “C. W. R.” in your last week's issue. I have been staying at a place which I consider a perfect spot for anyone fond of sea and coarse fresh water fishing; indeed, I do not know of any place in England which comes up to it. The lake, or ley, is about a mile and a quarter long, and the breadth varies considerably from about half a mile to a few hundred yards, and the depth from 1ft. to 10ft., the large reed beds forming splendid cover for the pike. The water is very clear just now, and one can often see immense eels swimming near the bottom; some I have seen must have weighed at least 3lb. to 6lb., and I am told there are some much larger. They are excellent eating, and afford good sport to those who like to fish for them. The shooting and fishing on the estate is let each winter, and no fishing is allowed after the end of October till the end of March, as the ley is famed as a duck preserve.

There is no other close time on this water, and fishing begins on April 1, and, strange to say, the pike are in very fair condition and fight very hard, the large fish often jumping right out of the water.

My best day I have had here was twenty-nine pike, hooked (with John Pepperell as boatman); greatest total weight, 49lb.; best fish during visit, 12 $\frac{1}{2}$ lb. I have taken several of 8lb. and 10lb., and a large number of about 5lb. and 6lb.—all spinning. No fish are retained under 3lb.

The largest fish are taken live baiting, and pike of 25lb. have been caught.

The largest fish taken spinning this year was by a lady, weight 17lb.

I consider it a very poor day if I do not get nine or ten pike.

The perch fishing is first-rate, and any number can be caught, either spinning with a minnow or fishing with worm.

The Rudd are very numerous, and are caught up to 2lb., with bait and fly, but are useless for eating, although the sea fishermen are glad of them for bait for their crab pots. The Rudd and perch give great sport for ladies and young people, and the pike and perch are excellent eating.

The fishing belongs to Mr. Cobley, of the Sands Park Hotel, near Kingsbridge, Devon, who provides most comfortable boats, and first-rate men, at 5s. a day. The fisherman is allowed some beer, but finds his own lunch. Most visitors, I believe, give them something extra, which is well earned. Fishing from the bank is 1s. a day, and I have taken fish up to 10lb. this way, but a boat is the best.

The Sands Park Hotel is the perfection of cleanliness, and Mr. and Mrs. Cobley do their very best to make their visitors comfortable. The cooking is excellent, and the charges are very moderate. Mr. Cobley was in the Yeomanry for over twenty-five years, and his father for thirty-five years before him. Mr. Cobley has a very nice pony and cart, which he lets, and will allow visitors to shoot rabbits on the ley shore, where they are very numerous.

A coach passes the hotel three times a day from Dartmouth and Kingsbridge, about seven miles either way, but the Kingsbridge road is less hilly and the roads are good for cycling.

The hotel is on the seashore, and a stone could be thrown into the sea on one side and into the ley on the other. It has been recently done up and the sanitary arrangements looked to.

I know of no place where one can get such good fresh water fishing close to the sea. There is always a breeze on the water, and it is indeed a delightful spot to spend a holiday at.

The sea fishing off the Start is often very good for bass, which are now very numerous, also pollack.

The mackerel and whiting are caught in great numbers, and there is nice boating and bathing. Good apartments are to be got at Torcross, the other end of the ley to the hotel, but people staying there have to take their chance of a boat on the ley, should there be one free, the visitors at the hotel, of course, having prior claim, or they can fish from the bank or in the sea.

I can thoroughly recommend Miss Beel, Bay View, Torcross, and Tom Hutchings as a sea fisherman. I enclose my card, and remain,—Yours truly, B. L.

TO TOUGHEN WASP GRUBS.

DEAR SIR,—I think “Joe” will find the following a simpler and better method of toughening wasp grubs:

Place the cakes as taken from the nest in any kind of inclosed box (tin preferred). Bake them in an oven (not too hot) from twenty to thirty minutes—in a baker's oven, after the bread has been withdrawn, gives the desired result. Should “Joe” bake the cakes himself (which I always do in a kitchen range oven), he should take out the cakes after baking about twenty minutes, open the skin covering of one or two of the grubs with a pin, and when they have cooled try them with a hook or otherwise. Return the cakes if not sufficiently tough.

When cooked the cakes should be placed separately on a slab or any convenient surface until they have done steaming.

Finally, they should be kept separated in a box in a cool dry place. They will keep for two or three weeks. “Joe” will find them most deadly when quite fresh.

The little pillars between the cakes should not be broken off for obvious reasons.—Yours truly, D. HANCOX.

CUMMINS'S BRASS OIL BOTTLE.

DEAR MR. EDITOR,—I send you a line to say that I used the above bottle during the few days I was out May Fly fishing. I carried it loose in a side pocket, and did not find any disagreeable leakage. Of course, it is necessary to screw it down carefully after using, but this operation is as simple as possible. I shall always use it when I go a-fishing, for I find it preferable to any glass bottle I have heretofore used. THE AMATEUR ANGLER.

[We gave “The Amateur Angler” one of the haudy little brass tube bottles for oiling dry flies brought out by Mr. W. J. Cummins, of Bishop Auckland, and are glad to publish his favourable report on it.—Ed. F.G.]

A QUIET PLACE FOR FISHING.

DEAR SIR,—If “J. H. D.” wants a quiet place, I think that this would suit him. Lostwithiel is on the river Fowey. He could have boating, fishing for trout and salmon, and, down the river, bass, pollack, &c. Fowey—i.e., the town—can be reached by boat when tides suit, by train in a few minutes; and I think that the shooting can be managed. If he would like to communicate with me direct, I shall be pleased to give him any information that I possibly can.—Yours truly, J. T. GEACH.

Fore-street, Lostwithiel.

FISHING AT TEIGNMOUTH.

DEAR SIR,—In reply to Mr. J. B. Reed, I see no reason why angling from the shore should not succeed at Teignmouth, and more so, in fact, than at many other places along the coast, owing to the large number of sand-eels which enter and leave the harbour. A special fishing for sand-eels has existed from time immemorial, and, my grandfather having owned a small house at Shaldon for years, mackerel and sand-eels (the latter known as “sprats”) have been from early childhood amongst my earliest recollections, and I have since those days made a sojourn of several years at Teignmouth. No less than six “sprat” seine nets were owned by Teignmouth master fishermen when I last resided there, these nets being about forty fathoms long (or 240ft.), 18ft. deep in the bunt or middle part, and tapering in depth towards the ends.

These nets require at least seven or eight men to work them, and if J. B. Reed is on the beach between the lighthouse and the Ferry Point one and a half hours before high water he will see the sprat seines at work, and if he has a jack bait kettle, can obtain a supply immediately the seine nets are hauled on shore.

These nets being landed near the Ferry Point, he should fish the last of the flood tide and the first part of the ebb with a large float on his line, able to carry a 3oz. or 4oz. lead, of the boat shape, cigar shape, or *Fishing Gazette* form, the lead 5ft. above the hook, the float about 8ft. above the hook. The bait kettle must be provided with a stout cord about 15ft. long, and be placed inside the point under water, the end secured on shore to a boat aground, or to half a brush handle or stont stick stuck into the sand.

Sand-eels are scraped from the “sprat sand” extending from Ferry Point seaward, and on the coarse gravel many mussels can be gathered, also on “salty” shoal. The pier nor the point fishing were neither of them developed

when I lived at Teignmouth, but I see no reason why they should not be by sea anglers. One very important matter is always to keep the bait kettle in the water, the cover, of course, carefully secured with a peg, or the action of the water may burst open the kettle. The ledger plan, with one hook only, may be used when the tide runs too hard for the float; weight of lead not less than $\frac{1}{2}$ lb., shape of a flattened pear, or fig, or tombstone, with one or two large nails driven through it. This combination converts the lead into a kind of anchor, good for a sandy bottom. Boat fishing is, of course, to be preferred to fishing from the land or pier. The Cox family were instructed by myself personally in the Channel Island method of pollack fishing many years since, charges reasonable, and as I applied the same method for the bass in Teignmouth Harbour, and hundredweights of bass have been taken, "J. B. D." can receive instruction from them in the use of the living bait, from boat or pier. The rod has been much used with success.—Yours truly, J. C. WILCOCKS.

HELP FOR OLD MERCHANT SEAMEN.

DEAR SIR,—As a consequence of the generous response which friends of the Royal Alfred Aged Merchant Seamen's Institution have made to the sympathetic and touching appeal of our patron, H.R.H. the Duke of York, at the late festival dinner of this charity, the committee to-day decided to signalise the occasion by increasing from thirty to 100 the number of aged seamen who, at the coming election before the end of this month, will be admitted to the Home at Belvedere, Kent, or to the benefits of an outdoor pension. This number has never before been reached, or even approached, in the annals of this truly national institution.

This will materially reduce the list, but will still leave out in the cold 138 approved and deserving cases of destitute seamen, between sixty-five and eighty-five years of age—applicants for this charity.

The committee, however, are encouraged to hope that, as a consequence of the lead taken by H.R.H. the Duke of York, a new era may have dawned upon our institution, when the liberal support of a generous public will enable it to deal effectually with the destitute and neglected condition of hundreds among our poor worn-out old British seamen.—I am, sir, very faithfully yours,

F. LEOPOLD MCCLINTOCK (Admiral),
Chairman of the Royal Alfred Aged Merchant Seamen's Institution, 58, Fenchurch-street, E.C.
8, Atherstone-terrace, Gloucester-road, S.W.,
June 14, 1899.

FORMALIN.

DEAR SIR,—In reply to "Salmo," formalin is not a good preservative for prawns.

I have experimented with this preparation very largely for all kinds of baits, and, though I have arrived at a mixture which preserves minnows, gudgeon, &c., retaining their natural appearance and colour, I find in every case that prawns lose their colour where formalin is used. "Salmo" cannot do better than wash the prawns in salt, drain thoroughly, and bottle in pure glycerine.—Yours faithfully, J. E. MILLER.

Northern Anglers' Depot, Leeds.

FISHING WANTED.

DEAR SIR,—In reply to "C. W. R.," there is no occasion for going 150 miles. Askern should answer his purpose well. There is good lake fishing to be had there; boats, beautiful scenery, and good accommodation to be had on reasonable terms. The Swan Hotel is all one can desire, and most of the inhabitants cater for visitors. I shall be pleased to give "C. W. R." any further information.—Yours faithfully, J. E. MILLER.

Northern Anglers' Depot, Leeds.

LOCH SHIN AND ITS SALMON.

DEAR SIR,—The "remarks" of "W. B." in your number of June 17, in which he criticises the article by "J. W. W.," seem to call for some comment.

The gist of "W. B.'s" argument appears to be, so far as one can make out, that it is not the case that the rivers Fiag, Terry, Carr (not "Curry"), &c., were originally destitute of salmon; that they were doubtless originally tenanted by them, but that they had been entirely destroyed by the operation of sheep washing, subsequent to the introduction of sheep farming in the Highlands early in the present century.

Passing over the obvious confusion in the mind of the writer between "sheep-smearing" and "dipping," and the peculiar idea that the latter had any effect in enabling sheep to withstand the rigours of winter, let me ask "W. B." whether he asserts that these rivers were absolutely destitute of all fish life. Apparently he does assert this: "Every living thing was killed outright." Then, according to "W. B.'s" theory, there was not a brown trout left in these streams below the washing places, which, as Euclid hath it, is absurd. He next assumes for the purpose of his argument that with the decadence of the sheep farming industry these operations ceased, and so the rivers regained their pristine purity; but surely he is aware that, with the exception of such lands as are now under deer—and this involves only a portion of the area in question—this industry, with its concomitant dipping, goes on to this day.

Again, why was this particular region of very limited extent the sole example of this extraordinary extinction of the *Salmonidae*? Surely "W. B." knows that the sheep farming industry extended, and extends, over the whole length and breadth of Scotland, and yet we do not find their wide-reaching and disastrous effects elsewhere. It is not the case that "that class of farming had therefore

to be to a very large extent abandoned." If "W. B." takes the trouble to ascertain the acreage still under sheep in Sutherland he will find it still a very large industry, and this, too, in the very district to which he refers.

In conclusion, let me once more emphasize the necessity of absolute exactness in scientific discussion. "W. B.," for example, mentions the Inver among the rivers which are "unique" (*sic*) "as regards their falls." I have fished every yard of the Inver for twenty years and more, and I have never seen these falls yet; and as far as the Inver is concerned it is not "the feeders of those great lakes which are the breeding grounds of the *Salmonidae*" (if by the latter he means *Salmo salar*), for by far the greatest number spawn on the well-known redds of the Inver itself, those passing through Loch Assynt to the Loanan being a very small proportion of the whole.—I am, &c., ALIT-GARREH.

[As elsewhere noted there were some errors in the printing of "W. B.'s" article last week, for which he was not responsible, as there was not time to send a proof.—Ed.]

FISHING AT NEWQUAY, CORNWALL.

DEAR SIR,—I am not aware that anyone has ever done much, if anything, with rod and line at Newquay from pier or rocks, acquaintances having always fished from a boat. There is no lack of fish, large pollack being taken with the Plymouth spinning-eels on the rocky ground, and the usual flat fish on the smooth ground. Bass might be caught occasionally, I doubt not, if anyone persevered after them; but for bass and pollack fishing to be combined with smooth ground fishing, Padstow, in Cornwall also, is a much better station, for, being situated on the embouchure of the Camel estuary, inhabited by myriads of sand-eels, bass fishing especially is worthy attention. The "Pocket Book" of general information, first compiled by our former secretary, Mr. H. Ball, and carried up to date by our present hon. secretary, Dr. C. Patterson, gives us the subjoined information: "Padstow, jetty and boat fishing; agent, Mr. R. Lobb, Commercial Hotel; pollack, cod, bream, gurnard, grey mullet, bass, skate, codfish, turbot, mackerel, smelts, sea bream. Boatman to the B.S.A.S., Tom Eddyvean, 10s. 6d. per day; seine net, boat, and two men, 12s. 6d. per day. Fish from July to September; mackerel in quantities; bass, mullet, smelts, plaice, sole, ray and turbot. Good sport off the rocks or in boat for pollack, bream, lobsters, crabs, crayfish, and salmon peel in large quantities."

I hope some portion of the above information may suit "Rod and Line." We have no special information from Newquay as to rock fishing, but I know something about it through a yachting friend. I have visited "Rock," opposite Padstow, but have not fished the locality. If "Rod and Line" or any friends would like to join our society, the hon. secretary's address is, Dr. C. S. Patterson, M.B., F.G.S., 11, Queen Victoria-street, London, E.C.—Yours, &c., J. C. WILCOCKS (V.-P. B.S.A.S.).

SALMON PRESERVATION.

DEAR SIR,—In these days of hatcheries for the artificial incubation of salmon and trout ova, it is perhaps high treason to suggest as a cure in time for some of our almost depopulated streams in Ireland that the fish be allowed to spawn naturally, and that they be properly protected while in the act.

Excessive netting during the spring and summer in the tidal and lower reaches of a river, particularly in dry seasons, have a great deal to do with the scarcity of salmon; but the winter slaughter of spawning fish is, in Ireland, something terrible, for in the upper tributaries of many a river well known to me not a single fish escapes.

One river in the north, celebrated now as being the best cared for stream in the island, used in my time to be very much poached, and at a fishery inquiry held by H.M. Inspectors it came out in evidence that the farmers whose land bounded the stream were in the habit of combining for the purpose of netting the water at the right moment, and brought forward a witness who swore he had been offered a ton of old fish for salting.

Another little stream, in Kerry this time, a most tempting notice of which appears weekly in another paper, once had 2000 gravid fish (salmon) taken from its lower pools in one winter by an old man and two boys.

Tim McCarthy is an "ould frind," and he knows the goings on of Killarney "purty well." I see he has turned fish hatcher in his old age. Is this an attempt on Tim's part to restore the balance of nature? To take a river in the south (the Laune), salmon drop back from the lower lake and spawn in it, and escape, thanks to the almost always prevailing high water. Others there are that never leave the river, and they spawn and escape, for they are now turned out of the nets at Killorglin when intercepted by them on the return journey to their hospital—the sea. The majority of the Killarney Lake salmon ascend the Flesk far beyond Headford, and will Tim McCarthy say that half or a quarter of the ascending thousands were ever allowed to return? I will answer for the little river Loe, which enters the Laune below Dunloe Castle. Not a fish that ever went up ever came back to say what the country was like. The attempts made to preserve and multiply the fish of the Killarney Lakes are too spasmodic ever to have any good effect (what has become of the launch given by the Baroness Burdett Coutts to enable the authorities to stop poaching at the mouth of the Laune in Cromarne Harbour?); whilst for anyone to attempt to manage a hatchery for salmon without the absolutely necessary years of experience, is equivalent to killing so many spawning fish.

So it is on every river in Ireland; the slaughter goes on when the days are cold and frosty, and the river, deserted by all honest men, and when those interested in the rod fishing are shooting and hunting in England; they know

nothing and never hear of the goings on, for when they return the river is flowing along bank-high once more, and the birch, mountain ash, and holly are as beautiful, and the bog myrtle and the heather as sweet as ever, and there is no trace to the unpractised eye of the murderous work enacted but a few weeks ago, but to me there are no signs of redds on the gravel reaches. Yes, here's one, but it's at the tail of a pool within a yard of deep black water, into which the fish could dart for safety at once, and such redds as these it is that keep the salmon from becoming extinct in some rivers of Ireland. It is a foolish policy when nature has confined the fish to safety to destroy that barrier to danger and allow them into miles of streams in which they cannot be protected.

Had I a river, from an impassable fall to the sea, I would sooner a thousand pair of fish spawned in the stream naturally than have the salmonidic contents of the two largest hatcheries in the world turned into its pools, and if the Flesk, and all the other tributary waters up which the Killarney salmon ascend to perpetuate their species, could be properly watched by trustworthy men stationed, not less than three together, in tents opposite the reaches most frequented by the fish, it would be found that the number of salmon killed by the nets below Killorglin would be doubled in a few years; there is no doubt of this, but it need not be expected of a hatchery for many reasons.—I am, &c., E. LATOUR.

A NOTE FROM YALDING.

DEAR SIR,—I am sorry to say that most anglers who, after waiting so long for a day's outing, and proceeded to the Yalding district for it on June 18, met with disappointment. After arriving there we were informed by inhabitants that the river had been emptied for a number of miles for the purpose of repairing the locks. Had this been known beforehand no angler would have thought of visiting Yalding for his first outing of the season. Is there not one of your numerous readers that could kindly furnish a small weekly report from the Medway, which would greatly benefit all anglers wishing to find sport in that direction?—Yours truly, W. A. R.

BASS AND POLLACK FISHING.

DEAR SIR,—I noticed in your issue of June 17 a short paragraph from a gentleman signing himself "J. H. D.," inquiring for a suitable place for bass, pollack, and conger fishing. I am myself a very old fisherman, and keep two boats and man with all requisites for long line, spiller, &c., and rough shooting along shore can be had.

I shall be pleased if you will bring this to the notice of the gent. making inquiries in your paper, by which you will greatly oblige me.—Yours very truly,

CECIL N. BEVAN.
Lyn Valley Hotel, Lynmouth, Devon.

HOW TO BREED BLUE BOTTLE FLIES.

DEAR SIR,—I shall be very glad if you or any of your readers could give me any information how to breed Blue Bottle flies, or the best method of catching them.—Yours truly, J. E. HUNTER, Durham.

TESTIMONIAL TO BEN ABRAHAM.

DEAR SIR,—We are pleased to acknowledge the following sums with thanks:

Amounts previously received		£	s.	d.
Battersea Friendly A.S.	...	4	3	6
South London A.S.	...	0	4	0
A. G. Carter, Ye Lion, corner Queen and Friday-sts., Henley-on-Thames...	...	0	1	0
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H. Slack (Allason United Brothers)	...	0	2	0
Mr. Davis	...	0	1	0
	...	0	0	6

Trustees: J. W. Harris (Western District Visiting Officer), G. Bence (secretary Jubilee Angling Society). Secretary: E. Jackson (Chairman Allason United Brothers Angling Society), 2, Bulmer-place, Notting Hill-gate, W., where all communications are to be addressed.

NEW PISCATORIAL PATENTS.

The following particulars are compiled by Messrs. Hughes and Young, Patent Agents, 55 and 56, Chancery-lane, London, W.C.

- 30,533. Fishing. Patentee: G. J. Kirby, of Kensington-park-road, London. Paternoster tackle. The projecting arm is made in one, with an 8-shaped loop, to one end of which the running line is attached, and to the other the lead. By this arrangement bending of the bar is prevented when a fish is hooked.
- 10,418. Augustus William Parker, Leadenhall-street, London. "Improvements in fishing tackle."
- 10,419. "Improvements in reels or winches for use on fishing rods."
- 15,004. Drying fishing lines. Patentee: C. C. Bethune, of Denne Park, Horsham, Sussex. The wet fishing line is wound, for the purpose of drying by exposure to the atmosphere, from the reel on to a winder which consists of a number of skeleton arms, some of which are hinged to or socketed in the hub, the spindle of which is provided with a detachable handle, and is mounted in the frame between the arms of which the hub is normally held centrally by springs. As the line is wound upon the large winding-surface, its coils are spread by applying a side pressure to the handle, and thereby imparting a transverse motion to the spindle. A cleat may be provided to hold the end of the line.



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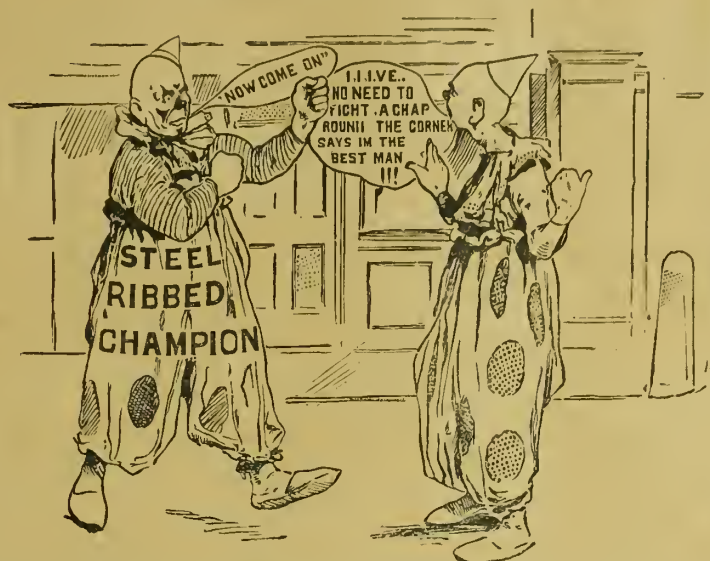
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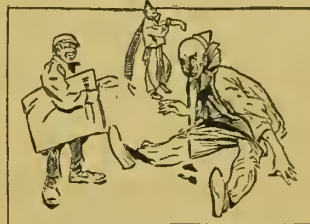
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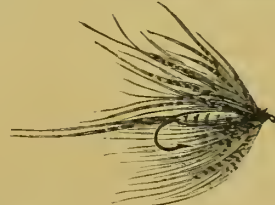


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VERY FINEST BROWN TROUT FISHING up to end of August. Excellent SALMON and SEA TROUT FISHING from April 1 on to end of season. Very good SEA FISHING. Handsome newly furnished Drawing and Smoking Rooms. Hot and Cold and Salt water Baths. Posting. Boats on all lochs. Daily Mails, and Telegraph Office at hand. Excellent Golf Course within a short drive from Hotel.

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THE Proprietor of the above Hotels has much pleasure in informing his numerous customers and friends that he has secured on lease the large and commodious establishment known as Gortnor Abbey House, situate on the best fishing ground on the northern shore of Lough Conn, which he has fitted up for Tourists and others visiting that picturesque and beautiful locality. There is a good Lawn Tennis Court, and Golf Links are being laid down. Carriages, Boats, and Fisherman can be always had on hire at the most moderate charges. Visitors staying at the Imperial and Royal Hotels will be conveyed to and from the "Lake View Hotel" at a low rate.

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Telegraphic Addresses: "FLYNN, BALLINA," and "GORTNOR ABBEY HOTEL, CROSSMOLINA."

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Free Fishing on Loch and River.

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ANGLERS should visit this fine fishing centre. Numerous good TROUT LOCHS, Excellent SEA TROUT FISHING in Estuary of the famous River Naver; and Good SEA FISHING.

Splendid sands and sea bathing. Romantic coast scenery, and beautiful drives and walks in Strathnaver and neighbourhood. Apply:

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Under the Distinguished Patronage of the Crown Prince of Siam, &c., and the Nobility and Gentry.

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FAMOUS ANGLING RESORT. SALMON and GRILSE ANGLING on Garbetbeg and River Inchard by arrangement.

FREE TROUT FISHING on upwards of twenty lochs, abounding with Brown Trout, some with Sea Trout, and some with Grilse. Unlimited SEA FISHING. Picturesque views of marine and mountain scenery. Posting, Boat, and Vehicle Excursions. Fishing Tackle, &c. All communications promptly attended to. Route—Rail to Lairg, thence Mail Coach or Hire. Glasgow steamers call weekly.

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By CALLANDER, N.B.

IS conveniently situated for these romantic Lakes, which all afford splendid Angling, the Trout running a large average. BOATS AND BOATMEN. Special terms arranged with parties staying a week or longer. Posting. Excursions.

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CHARGES MODERATE.

Carriages and Horses kept for Hire. Mrs. MUNRO.

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GOOD TROUT FISHING FREE.

SEASON April 1st till end of September.

Also Deep-Sea Fishing Boats and steady boatmen for the use of Anglers. Billiard Room, Lawn Tennis, and all conveniences connected with hotel. Families Boarded by the Week or Month. No accommodation for servants. Charges according to Board and Apartments required. Luncheons and Teas always ready on arrival of coaches to and from Oban, Ford, and Loch Awe. Route—Per Steamer "Columba" from Glasgow, Greenock, and Gourock daily to Ardrishalg; thence Royal Mail Coach or by Callander Railway to Oban thence daily Coach in season, or hire, 18 miles.

The hotel-keeper has been stocking his lochs annually for the last fifteen years with the famous Loch Leven and Highland Railways. The roads from both Stations pass through scenery which for grandeur can scarcely be surpassed in Scotland.

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MODERN House, refurnished and decorated. Appointments, accommodation, cuisine unexcelled. Baths; Billiards; Suites of Rooms. Vehicles; boats. New Fish Hatchery in operation. Anglers' board and fishing leave, 11s. per day.

THE BUTLER ARMS HOTEL,

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SALMON and SEA TROUT FISHING

free on the well-known Lough Currane. Visitors at this hotel have also the right to FREE Fishing on the River Iney and Lake Derriana. Hotel comfortable. Terms moderate.—P. McELLIGOTT, Proprietor.

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ANGLERS' HOTEL, Cloghans, Ballina, Mayo.

FREE SALMON, Trout, Pike, and Oar FISHING on four Loughs—Conn, Onnien, Derrymannin, and Lough Alick. Board and lodgings, with boat and two men, £4 per week; and two gentlemen fishing from the one boat, £3 6s. each per week; that includes boatmen's luncheon. No charge on Sundays for boat or men.—Apply to the proprietor, T. O'ARKE.

ROSSSES WHITE AND BROWN TROUT FISHERY.

Croly and Loughanure Salmon Fishery.

HAVING obtained a lease of above excellent SALMON FISHERY, and the sole rights of fishing, anglers can now fish the Croly and Loughanure. Splendid salmon and sea trout fishing can be had on the Croly and Owenator rivers as well as on Loughanure lake, three miles in length, and three miles from Dungloe. There are over 100 lakes in the Rosses Fishery alone, with about twenty boats and first class gillies. Sea trout run to 6lb. and brown trout to 4lb. Large numbers of Loch Leven and Rainbow trout turned out of hatchery every season. Dungloe, in the Highlands of Donegal, is centre of fishery, ten miles from Fintown railway station (Donegal Railway Company). Best fishing lakes within easy reach of the three hotels in Dungloe, where excellent accommodation can be had. Travellers can leave London at 8.30 p.m. and reach Dungloe at three o'clock next day. Mail and day car to and from Fintown station. Good sea fishing, rock pigeon and seal shooting. Telegraph office, bank, post office, &c. Fishing terms: Rosses Fishery, April 1 to June 30, 2s. 6d. daily; 12s. 6d. weekly; 30s. monthly. July 1 to Oct. 31, 3s. 6d. daily; 16s. weekly; 40s. monthly. Croly and Loughanure, March 1 to Oct. 31, 5s. daily; 20s. weekly; 50s. monthly; and 5s. per day man and boat, which holds two anglers. All information can be had from

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DUNGLOE, CO. DONEGAL.

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AND RUNAGRY HOUSE, LOUGH CONN.

PATRONISED by the Prince and Princess of Saxe-Weimar, Earl and Countess of Lucan, Nobility and Gentry. The Proprietor wishes to bring under the notice of Anglers that the privileges of fishing the tidal waters of the Moy are still conceded on application to the owners of the fishery; salmon caught therein have to be returned or paid for at trade prices. Above the tidal waters the Proprietor of the Moy Hotel has secured for guests the exclusive privilege—any advertisement to the contrary notwithstanding—of fishing from the east bank of the Moy free of charge. This half of the river embraces the best casts, including the Scorrof Pool, which can not be reached from the west bank. Anglers can retain their fish. Terms £2 10s. per week for board; boats and attendance £1 5s. per week. Runagry, a charmingly situated residence, picturesque gardens and grounds, close to best fishing grounds on Lough Conn; free salmon, trout, char, and pike fishing. Under same management.—For further particulars apply
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GOOD FREE FISHING.
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SALMON, Trout, Perch, and Pike on Loughs Neagh and Beg, Rivers Bann and Moyola. Every accommodation for anglers and tourists.

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Thirty miles from Belfast on B.N.C.R.

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MOST reliable information as to Salmon, Grilse, and Trout Fishing in free and preserved waters, river, and lake, at this station; also as to accommodation and board in private cottage close to river. Expenses, shortest route from England and Scotland, on application to S. J. HUBLEY, Killaloe Co. Clare, Ireland. N.B.—The Green Drake season on lake commences about last week in May, when the big trout are about in thousands.

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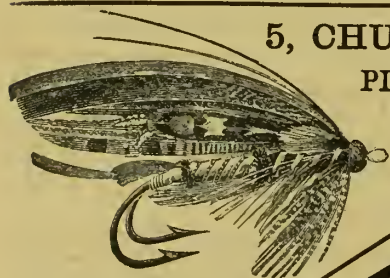
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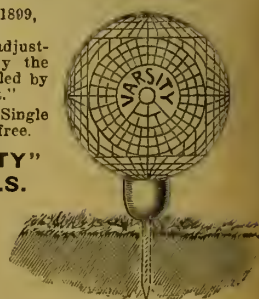
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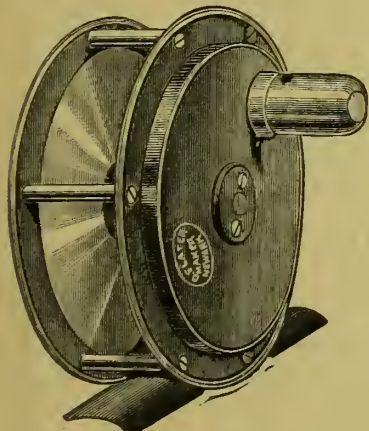
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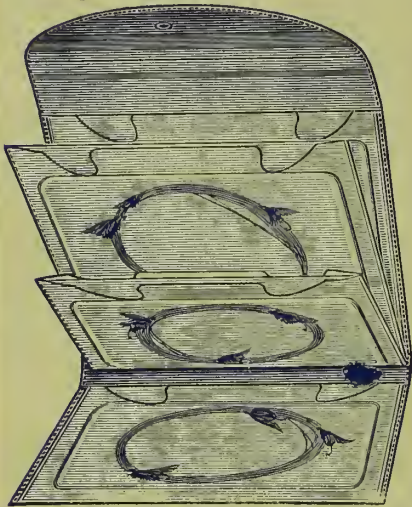
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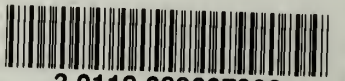
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Printed and Published for the Proprietors, Sampson Low, Marston & Co., Ltd., by Horace Cox, Windsor House, Bream's Buildings, London, E.C.—Saturday, June 17.



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Q. 639.05 FIH C001 v.38 JA-JE(1899
Fishing gazette devoted to angling riv



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